

Lions International

Multiple District 11

(Lower Michigan)



"We Serve"

**Official Minutes
Second Council Meeting
October 9-10, 2009**

**COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS MEETING
ST. IGNACE, MICHIGAN
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Quality Inn. Governors present were: John Daoud, 11 A1; Ron Holler, 11 A2; Terry Walters, 11 B1; Al Vredberg, 11 B2; Robert Schalow, 11 C1; Kevin Storberg, 11 C2; Keith Cregar, 11 D1; Robert Ryan, 11 D2; Wayne Kreitner, 11 E1; Beverly Bodem, 11 E2; and Don Wojakowski, SD 10. Vice District Governors in attendance were: Linda Tate, 11 A1; Jim Bone, 11 A2; Barbara Treichel, 11 B1; Don Brown, 11 B2; Fran Osborne, 11 C1; Marion Ramer, 11 C2; Dr. Gary McCray, 11 D1; Jerry Howard, 11 D2; Laura Johnson, 11 E1; and William Stenback, 11 E2. Also present were: PID Bill Hansen; PID Chuck Weir; Council Chair Bob Jenkins; and Executive Director Mary Brown.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

MOTION – Ryan, seconded, to approve the proposed agenda. Motion carried.

MOTION – Holler, seconded, to approve the minutes of the August Council Meeting and the phone conference meeting of August 24. Motion carried.

AUDIT REPORT – Robert Heemer, CPA

The audit report covers two corporations: Lions of Michigan and Lions of Michigan Publication. Mr. Heemer issued an unqualified opinion, indicating that the financial statements are correct in all material respects and records are kept in accordance with accepted accounting standards. The two most substantial changes in the financial position of the Lions of Michigan are reflected in inventories and accounts payable.

Investments are shown at market value. The losses shown are “unrealized” because nothing was actually sold. Dividends and capital gains are reinvested. Since June 30, investments in the Grace Lange Fund are up 13% and other investments are up 11%.

Postage increases continue to impact the bottom line for the magazine, which ended the year with a net profit of \$624.

MOTION – Kreitner, seconded, to accept the audit report. Motion carried.

LEADERSHIP REPORT – Esther LaMothe, PDG, Chair

A training session for 1st Vice District Governors was held that afternoon. PDG Tom Doyle is Vice Chair of the Leadership Committee, and he is working with Esther on training sessions. The next session will be held on December 4th.

The VDGs were challenged to build future leaders in their districts. LCI sent them a Power Point presentation and asked them to take a 25-question test. LCI is finding that communicating via electronic media doesn't always work well because not all VDGs have the appropriate software or don't know how to use it.

A training session/breakfast for 1st and 2nd VDGs will not be held during the MD Convention this year. In the future, it will be scheduled every other year in order to reduce costs and repetition.

There were 107 participants at the MERL Chair training session in Memphis. They were asked to work closely with their GMT person because a number of changes in the MERL concept are anticipated in the future—changes that are likely to be implemented next year. This year’s MERL Chairs will meet with PID Cobler on October 28 to discuss plans for 2009-10. They will report back to the Governors at the December Council Meeting.

Esther is working with her committee and FDI graduates to develop topics and obtain presenters for the Michigan Forum and the MD 11 Convention.

MOTION – Holler, seconded, to approve an increase of \$500 in the Leadership Development Committee budget. Motion carried.

GMT REPORT (Written) – Dennis Cobler, PID

Several districts are working on new clubs; however at the end of September, none had been reported to LCI. Two clubs have been dropped. Governors are urged to continue working with LCI’s extension team.

At the end of September, five of 11 districts showed increases in membership. Overall Michigan had a net loss, but PID Cobler noted that numbers were negative at this time last year—yet 2008-09 finished positive in membership.

STATE OFFICE RENOVATION REPORT

Demolition work was done last Friday. Framing and dry walling in the front office began this week. Mary and Michelle are working from a section of the conference room where they have set up a makeshift office with one telephone. They are able to access files on their office computers via remote control through their laptops. It is anticipated that construction will take 30-45 days.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORT – Duane Goltz, PDG, Vice Chairman

The committee is working on a pre- and post-convention trip to the Great Barrier Reef and New Zealand. The cost is estimated at \$4,325 per person (which does not include hotel, meals and other expenses during the International Convention in Sydney). Pricing will be investigated for the post-convention portion only so DGEs can participate if they wish (the DGE Seminar is scheduled at the same time as the pre-tour trip to Cairns).

The committee is working on ideas for Michigan Night, possibly dinner with Australian foods and a cash bar. They would like to keep the cost around \$25 per person, but this may not be possible due to high costs in Sydney and an unfavorable exchange rate.

In August the Governors voted to change the parade uniform pants from white to tan/khaki, so the committee recommended black shoes instead of white. The Governors feel that white athletic shoes are easier to obtain, and they agreed not to change the color.

The committee is looking into a giveaway for those who march in the parade. A green and gold scarf would cost approximately \$5 and could be obtained in Sydney so it would not have to be shipped.

LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE REPORT – Bill Hansen, PID, Chairman

Reservations are coming in slowly. Sixty people have applied to attend this year’s Leadership Institute. Additional applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

LCI has provided financial support for all ten Leadership Institutes held in Michigan. In return, districts are asked to show their support by paying a share of the costs. Participants are charged \$170, but the actual cost is closer to \$300 per person. Each district is asked to donate \$300, which guarantees that their 1st Vice District Governor can attend at no charge. As of October 8, three districts had contributed.

The committee will be taking a close look at this year's instructional staff. Paul Hemeryck and Dennis Cobler may not be able to participate. Bill will re-confirm arrangements with Carl Burson and Jack Pyle.

Only two individuals signed up for the Senior Lions Leadership Institute. Six more are anticipated. Maximum capacity for this event is 20 people.

A question was raised about handicap accessibility at the MacMullan Center. Mark Buchinger, Facility Manager, advised the committee that the center complies with State of Michigan codes and is able to accommodate individuals with accessibility needs. The large classroom, dining room, lounge, connecting walkways and most lodges are on one level. The MacMullan Center also has an electric wheelchair that can be checked out by guests.

LEADERSHIP AND PRESIDENTIAL MEDALS

President Wirfs sent out a letter in July outlining his criteria for Presidential and Leadership Medals. The Governors requested additional copies of the letter and application form, as well as a list of past recipients. Governors may nominate one Lion for the Presidential Medal and two for the Leadership Medal. November 15th is the deadline for nominations to be received in the State Office—no exceptions.

S.A. DODGE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Criteria for the S. A. Dodge Distinguished Service Award are listed in the MD 11 Policy Manual. The maximum number awarded each year is two. Each Governor may submit one nomination. It is a non-repetitive award—recipients may receive only one. Names are not listed on the nomination forms so nominees are judged on the basis of their service to Lionism at the multiple district and/or international level. November 15th is the deadline for nominations.

PEACE POSTER CONTEST

Rules for the Peace Poster Contest are posted on LCI's website. They include restrictions on the age of contestants and the size of their artwork. Only one entry is allowed per student. The use of lettering or numbering on the poster is not allowed. Entries may not be laminated, and nothing may be glued or stapled to the artwork. The winning Peace Poster from each district in MD 11 will be judged by two District Governors and two art teachers at 3:00 p.m. on December 4, 2009 at the Ramada Inn in Lansing. Governors must (a) deliver their district's winning poster to DG Terry Walters by 3:00 p.m., or (b) mail it to him so it is received by the previous day, or (c) send it to Lansing with their 1st VDG, who will be attending a training session at the hotel that day. The two District Governors who volunteered to judge Peace Posters were Bob Ryan and Beverly Bodem.

FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING DATES/LOCATIONS

Tentative dates for the 2010-11 Council Meetings are: August 6-8, 2010, October 1-3, 2010, December 3-5, 2010, March 4-6, 2011, and May 20, 2011. The May meeting will be held during the MD 11 Convention at the Marriott Centerpoint in Auburn Hills. The 1st VDGs requested bids from at least three

hotels in Lansing for the August, December and March meetings and three hotels in St. Ignace for the October meeting.

WRITTEN REPORTS -

Lion Pride Magazine – During the August Council Meeting, the Governors asked the Magazine Editor to check into the possibility of reducing postage costs by eliminating returns due to incorrect addresses. However, in order to qualify for the periodical postage rate, the magazine cannot eliminate returns.

Public Relations Committee – Committee Chair Evelyn Cooper outlined a number of ideas for increasing publicity for the Lions of Michigan. Several of them would require substantial funding, so the Governors suggested contacting LCI about the availability of grants. They also noted that LCI is planning a publicity blitz in January and recommended that the committee tie into that promotion.

Written reports from the Michigan Eye Bank Committee and Leader Dog Committee were also reviewed and filed.

COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS MEETING ST. IGNACE, MICHIGAN SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2009

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Quality Inn. Governors present were: John Daoud, 11 A1; Ron Holler, 11 A2; Terry Walters, 11 B1; Al Vredberg, 11 B2; Robert Schalow, 11 C1; Kevin Storberg, 11 C2; Keith Cregar, 11 D1; Robert Ryan, 11 D2; Wayne Kreitner, 11 E1; Beverly Bodem, 11 E2; and Don Wojakowski, SD 10. Vice District Governors in attendance were: Linda Tate, 11 A1; Jim Bone, 11 A2; Barbara Treichel, 11 B1; Don Brown, 11 B2; Fran Osborne, 11 C1; Marion Ramer, 11 C2; Dr. Gary McCray, 11 D1; Jerry Howard, 11 D2; Laura Johnson, 11 E1; and William Stenback, 11 E2. Also present were: PID Bill Hansen; PID Chuck Weir; Council Chair Bob Jenkins; and Executive Director Mary Brown

FINANCIAL REPORT (via telephone conference) – Paul Hemeryck, State Treasurer
Treasurer Hemeryck reviewed the financial reports through August 31, 2009. He changed the format to make them easier to read, with fewer columns on each page. Revenues and expenses are normal for this time of year, which is not typically a high-activity period. PDG Hemeryck explained the difference between dues receivable, deferred dues, and pro-rated dues.

The Lion Pride Magazine shows a loss through the end of August. However, nine issues are produced annually, while wages are paid monthly; therefore two months of wages are reflected, while no issues were published during July and August.

Treasurer Hemeryck continues to compile membership statistics by district. He is also tracking student and family memberships to ascertain their impact on dues revenue.

LMSF Report – Mitch Smith, President
Last year the Foundation provided \$118,000 in grants. Their main objective is to provide assistance to uninsured and under-insured individuals with sight and hearing-related needs.

The Foundation has instituted a Hall of Fame and will recognize one living and one deceased Lion each year. They will also honor the oldest living Lion member and the longest serving member.

PDG Smith was asked to explain the legal ramifications of automatically enrolling Lions Club members in the Foundation when they join a Lions Club.

APPOINTMENT OF MD 11 MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON

Two Lions were nominated for MD 11 Membership Chairperson, Roberta Sexton and Al Kelpinski. A hand vote was taken and Al Kelpinski was elected.

YOUTH EXCHANGE REPORT (via conference call) – Jim Ates, Chairperson

Letters about the Lions Youth Exchange program were sent to high school counselors and foreign language teachers. The Governors suggested in the future that printed stationery and envelopes should be used for this mailing to give it a more professional appearance and more credibility. They also suggested that the committee develop a list of commonly asked questions.

MOTION – Storberg, seconded, to approve the 2009-10 Youth Exchange budget. Motion carried.

MOTION – Storberg, seconded, to grant permission for Youth Exchange students to contact clubs about financial assistance. Motion carried.

The Youth Exchange program is a 4-6 week cultural exchange for students between 16 and 21 years of age. When they apply, students list the country they would like to visit (1st, 2nd and 3rd choice). It is recommended that they speak the native language of the country they visit. Deadline for applications is February 1, 2010. Applicants must submit two letters of reference from teachers. Airline ticketing is handled by the Youth Exchange Committee, and payment in full is due by February 28.

For the protection of students who are placed with host families in Michigan, the committee checks the Michigan Sex Offender Registry before making assignments.

EXTENSION REPORT – Harry Johnson, PDG, MD 11 Extension Chair

Five districts were represented at the first meeting of the Extension Committee. Districts 11 A1 and 11 C2 reported that new clubs will be organized in the near future.

Training for multiple district MERL Chairs was held in Memphis after the USA/Canada Forum. Michigan's Extension and Leadership Chairs were represented. There is talk of discontinuing the MERL concept after the current fiscal year.

LIONS QUEST REPORT - Harry Johnson, PDG, Chairperson

PDG Johnson attended a Lions Quest workshop in Memphis prior to the USA/Canada Forum. This year is the 25th anniversary of the Quest program.

The Lions Quest Committee met on October 3rd via teleconference. Participation was poor. Packets were given to the DGs for committee members who did not participate.

2011 STATE PIN

Two potential pin designs were reviewed. One depicted a Pacific Northwest totem pole with the Cascade Mountains in the background. The other showed the Space Needle with Mt. Rainier in the background.

MOTION – Ryan, seconded, to select the second design. Motion carried.

ORIENTATION COMMITTEE REPORT – Clem Ruiz, PDG, Chairperson

The committee met in September and reviewed copies of orientation materials currently being used. They plan to develop a generic program that can be individualized by clubs. A brochure entitled “What the Heck is a Tail Twister?” will be updated for distribution to new members, possibly by posting it on the Lions of Michigan website. The committee recommends that each club have an Orientation Chairperson (which could be a combined Membership/Orientation Chair).

MOTION – Walters, seconded, to approve a \$250 budget for the MD 11 Orientation Committee.

MOTION – Storberg, seconded, to amend the amount to \$500. Motion carried.

Vote on the Motion as Amended – Motion carried.

GOVERNORS’ MD 11 CONVENTION ASSIGNMENTS

District Governors volunteered to chair the following convention events:

Saturday Awards Breakfast	Governor Kevin Storberg
Business Session	Governor Al Vredberg
1 st Breakout Session (Lions Topic)	Governor John Daoud
2 nd Breakout Session (Lions Topic)	Governor Bob Schalow
Breakout Session (Non-Lions Topic)	Governor Ron Holler
Memorial Service	Governor Bob Ryan
Candle Lighting at Memorial Service	DGs Terry Walters and Keith Cregar
Saturday Night Banquet	Council Chair Bob Jenkins
Oversight of Credentials & Elections	DGs Wayne Kreitner and Beverly Bodem

DG Bob Ryan agreed to serve as Chaplain and DG Wayne Kreitner will lead the Pledge of Allegiance. PID Bill Hansen will serve as Parliamentarian.

INTERNATIONAL UPDATE/LIAISON COMMITTEE REPORT – PID Bill Hansen, Chairman

Governors were urged to file Speaker Request Forms online for their convention speakers. Confirmations are normally sent out 60 days in advance. 2nd Vice President Wing Kun Tam is the requested speaker for the MD 11 Convention, but he will not confirm any commitments until January.

Actions taken by the International Board at their October meeting included: Expanding the role of the 2nd VDG to work with clubs in financial suspension; and changing the wording on name badges from “spouse of” to “one adult companion.” San Juan, Puerto Rico has been approved at the site of the 2014 USA/Canada Forum.

MOTION – Wojakowski, Kreitner, to endorse PID Wayne Madden from Indiana for the office of 2nd Vice President of Lions Clubs International. Motion carried.

When the Liaison Committee met last summer, they discussed International Director candidates. It appears that 8 to 12 multiple districts in the United States will have candidates for seven openings. There might be two candidates from Michigan—one from MD 11 and one from SD 10.

PROGRESS REPORT ON COUNCIL GOALS

The Governors from 11 A1, 11 A2, and 11 E1 reported on positive efforts in their districts to achieve the retention and orientation goals set by this year's Council.

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS REPORT – Ed Weessies, Chairman

There is language in Section 3, Article XI of the MD 11 By-Laws that allows proxy voting, which is prohibited under LCI's constitution. Because the MD 11 By-Laws cannot be in conflict with LCI, the wording in question must be removed ("or by a representative duly appointed by the Governor unable to attend in person"). In accordance with the MD 11 By-Laws, "In the event of a conflict, the conforming of these By-laws to Lions Clubs International's Constitution and By-Laws shall be automatic."

MOTION – Cregar, seconded, to make the housekeeping change to delete the wording that is in conflict. Motion carried.

Chairman Weessies noted that a Governor unable to attend *could* be allowed to participate and vote via conference call *if it is provided for in the Constitution and By-Laws*. The Governors suggested using this procedure in emergency situations only—not in lieu of attendance.

MOTION – Daoud, seconded, to ask the Constitution and By-laws Committee to draft the language for such an amendment for presentation at the MD 11 Convention in May. Motion carried.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

MOTION – Kreitner, seconded to appoint PDG John Johnson as conciliator. Motion carried (11 B2 abstained).

Four names were suggested as Third Party Conciliators: PID Art Woods, PID Dave Fiant, PID Bud Wahl, and PID Bill Moody.

WHITE CANE COMMITTEE REPORT – Jean Klug, Chairperson

Every year the White Cane Committee presents a sight-related session at the Michigan Forum in February. Committee member Charis Austin has received confirmation from Michigan Braille Transcribing that they will present a session on Technology and Braille.

The application form for the White Cane Scholarship will be printed in the November issue of the Lion Pride. It is also available on the Lions of Michigan website, and copies will be mailed to Intermediate School Districts. The deadline for applications is December 31. The winner will be selected in January.

Last year the committee phased out the miniature metal canes because the manufacturer doubled the price. Three new products were introduced—a white cane appliqué, stickers on a roll, and butter mints. Sales have been encouraging as clubs switch from metal canes to "something new."

INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR CANDIDATE(S) FROM MICHIGAN

Liaison Committee Chairman Bill Hansen was asked to clarify what happens if both SD 10 and MD 11 endorse a candidate for ID. Because SD 10 and MD 11 are separate entities, each may endorse a candidate. They do not have to run off against each other. Both SD 10 and MD 11 Lions contribute 50-cents per member per year to the Restricted Fund. This is the account that pays for campaign expenses. The Liaison Committee will meet to sort out how the funds will be allocated if there are two candidates from Michigan.

ALL STATE BAND REPORT – Brian Shepard, PDG

Band members pay only for their direct tour costs (transportation, meals, lodging, admissions, travel uniforms, etc.). All administrative expenses are paid for from Lions donations. Additional funding comes from the band's performances in the flag ceremony and plenary sessions. The number of staff members who travel with the band is limited to one per ten students. (Staff includes the music directors and EMTs). When Brian travels with the band, he pays for his own tour expenses. He has also used personal airline miles to reduce the cost of inspection trips for the band.

Last year 287 Lions Clubs donated \$31,264.50 to the band. Operating costs totaled \$26,724.69. Over the past 12 years, donations have averaged \$36,700 and operating costs have averaged \$44,800. With more International Conventions being held outside the United State, more support is needed from clubs. It is anticipated that costs will increase further and that additional cuts will have to be made. Hotels and airlines are offering fewer or no comps at all. The band became a separate 501(c)(3) corporation several years ago in an effort to obtain grant funding and charitable donations, but the economy has made it very difficult to obtain this kind of support.

The band has worked hard to negotiate a tour price that is less than \$4,000 per student for the 2010 trip to Sydney (9 days on tour, plus a 3-day band camp at Adrian College). The band size will be limited to 50 students and five staff (four music directors and one EMT). Tubas and percussion instruments will be rented in Australia to avoid paying freight charges on oversize equipment. Tour highlights include performances at the Sydney Opera House and a National Rugby League game. Application forms have been mailed to 936 high school band directors and 50 of last year's band members who are eligible return.

WELCOME HOMES REPORT – Brian Shepard, PDG

Welcome Homes provides services to individuals with all levels of vision impairment who live in retirement communities, assisted living facilities and individual homes. They teach life skills and provide aids and appliances. Through orientation/mobility training and vision rehabilitation therapy, they help individuals perform daily tasks and navigate safely in their own living environment. Training is also provided to caregivers in assisted living or nursing care communities. Over 400 people have received training to date.

During the MD 11 Convention in May, Welcome Homes announced a new affiliation with six residential communities of Porter Hills Retirement Services. Porter Homes also has 1500 residents in their in-home care program, offering great potential for expansion of the services offered by Welcome Homes. Affiliation with the Commission for the Blind led to Welcome Homes' first "at home" client.

Welcome Homes currently has contracts with eight homes and serves 86 one-on-one clients. The cost per client is \$127 per session, and three sessions are normally needed. Most of the contracted facilities are in the Grand Rapids area because that is where the service providers are located. Negotiations continue with homes in Escanaba, Munising and Sault Ste. Marie.

Welcome Homes hopes to offer continuing education units (CEUs) for homes seeking credit hours for certification or recertification of their staff.

MICHIGAN FORUM REPORT – Jim Pettinato, Chairman

The 2010 Michigan Forum will be held on February 20 at the Ramada Inn in Lansing. The cost is \$35 per person. Once again, there is a bonus session and a hospitality room on Friday night for those who arrive early.

Saturday morning begins with breakfast refreshments. Sixteen breakout sessions, which include Lions and non-Lion topics, are scheduled during the day. DGs and VDGs who attend will be asked to serve as moderators and introducers. International Director Richard Sawyer from Arizona will be this year's special guest.

Fifteen percent of the Forum budget comes from advertising in the Forum Book. Clubs can buy small congratulatory ads, or future RCs, VDGs and DGs can promote their candidacy through ads in the book.

MD 11 CONVENTION REPORT (Via phone conference) – Bob Sturgis, PDG, Chairman

The 2010 convention will be held on May 21-22 at Mission Point Resort on Mackinac Island. Hotel reservation forms are available on the Lions of Michigan website. Four dollars per adult is automatically added to the \$89 room rate for round-trip transfer of luggage from the ferry dock.

Mission Point Resort consists of several buildings. Sleeping rooms are located in the Main Lodge and the Straits Lodge. Individuals with mobility problems should request rooms on the ground floor. The resort will make their wheelchairs available to transport people who have trouble walking between buildings.

An inspection trip was conducted in September. Results included negotiating a group rate of \$14 per person for the round trip ferry ride on the Star Line. (The normal rate is \$24.) It is a 10-15 minute walk from the docks to the hotel, or the horse taxi costs \$4.50 per person. A discounted group rate for the Island Carriage Tour was also negotiated. Pickup at the hotel can be arranged for groups of 20.

There won't be a traditional Golf Outing at this year's convention due to high costs on Mackinac Island (exceeding \$100 per person). The committee is investigating the possibility of setting up a different type of tournament on the 18-hole putting course at Mission Point.

The convention schedule has been modified to allow more free time for people to enjoy the island. Instead of dinner and a mixer on Friday evening, the committee is looking into an ice cream social and/or a night at the movies. There will be a breakfast instead of lunch on Saturday. The business session and voting are scheduled after breakfast. Afterwards, conventioners are free until the banquet that evening. PDG Sturgis has contacted Bob Bloenk to entertain on Saturday night. The committee is also recommending "resort casual attire" for the entire convention, including the banquet.

MOTION – Holler, seconded, to wear formal attire (white coats) at the banquet. Motion defeated (aye votes cast by 11 A1, 11 A2 and 11 C2).

The Leadership Development Committee and graduates of the Faculty Development Institute were asked to recommend topics for breakout sessions at the convention. The two that were suggested were considered too "heavy." The committee would like to have subjects that are light-hearted and fun.

Meeting adjourned.