

Lions International

Multiple District 11

(Lower Michigan)



"We Serve"

**Official Minutes
Second Council Meeting
October 3-5, 2008**

**COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS MEETING
ST. IGNACE, MICHIGAN
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Michigan Room of the Quality Inn by Council Chair Terry Bowerman. Governors present were: Jim Williams, 11 A1; Connie Shelton, 11 A2; Roberta Sexton, 11 B1; Mike Johnson, 11 C1; Shirley Marshall, 11 C2; Frank Rivette, 11 D1; Chuck Belesky, 11 D2; Larry Morlock, 11 E1; David Zeller, 11 E2; and Robert Miller, SD 10. Vice District Governors in attendance were: John Daoud, 11 A1; Ron Holler, 11 A2; Al Vredberg, 11 B2; Robert Schalow, 11 C1; Kevin Storberg, 11 C2; George Carter, 11 D1; Robert Ryan, 11 D2; Wayne Kreitner, 11 E1; Beverly Bodem, 11 E2; and Don Wojakowski, SD 10. Also present were: PID Chuck Weir; Council Chair Terry Bowerman; State Treasurer Paul Hemeryck; and Executive Director Mary Brown.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

MOTION – Belesky, Sexton, to approve the proposed agenda. Motion carried.

MOTION – Rivette, Marshall, to approve the minutes of the August meeting. Motion carried.

CC Bowerman noted that the Council did not officially adopt the MD 11 Policy Manual as their governing document at the August meeting.

MOTION – Johnson, Belesky, to adopt the MD 11 Policy Manual. Motion carried.

CC Bowerman also stated that the Legal Department of LCI had clarified that a VDG may not vote in the absence of his/her District Governor. This is considered proxy voting, which is prohibited by the LCI Constitution.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Jim Walls, PDG, MD 11 Membership Chair

PDG Walls presented LCI's year-end membership totals since 2003-04. He noted that discrepancies begin to appear in 2006-07. The year-end totals do not match the next year's beginning figures.

Nine committee members plan to attend the MERL meeting in Lansing on October 11.

The Foundation Membership Award will be presented again this year. Changes in the criteria and selection process have been made. It is a non-repetitive award. Committee members are not eligible to receive it. The recipient will be selected by the MD Membership Committee. Certificates will be presented to nominees who are not chosen.

The committee plans to present more awards this year. The club that brings in the most new members (based on percentage and total number) will receive a plaque. Clubs that show a net increase will receive certificates. In addition, the individual from each district who sponsors the most new members will receive a plaque

The committee hopes to develop a button that says, "Relight the fire" in hope of rekindling enthusiasm in "burned out" Lions.

PROJECT KIDSIGHT – Susan Eisenhardt

Conflicts have occurred in areas of the state where efforts are duplicated by KidSight and the Health Department. Susan Eisenhardt explained that KidSight tries to work cooperatively, but problems occur when funding for the Health Department's screening program is withdrawn and then restored by the state. She pointed out that it is not illegal for the Lions to perform KidSight screenings at schools. George Zarka, the former head of the Health Department, was a strong backer of the KidSight program since its inception. The new department head is not as supportive. However, the Health Department does not have sufficient staff or funding available to cover the entire state. The KidSight program works best in areas where there is a good working relationship with the County Health Department.

The financial records for KidSight have been brought up to date and tax returns have been filed under the name "Michigan Lions Vision Screening Project KidSight." In 2007-08, the program showed a profit of \$25,778. They operated solely on volunteer labor, with no wages paid. Seaway Bank (Susan's employer) has been giving the KidSight program free office space and postage. Their support helps to keep the program alive. The total number of screenings performed since 2003 is approximately 13,000. One district (11 B2) keeps its own records. A new computer is needed to better track the screenings that are being done.

In response to questions about the time required to receive results after photos are sent in, Susan explained that the results are sent to the person named on the forms. They don't have to be shared with the Lions Clubs or districts. Sometimes there is a delay between the time the photos are taken and the time they are sent in. The "normal" time for results is 4-5 weeks. There is a \$1.25 charge per photo for reading of results.

Another challenge has been the cameras and film. Polaroid no longer makes film for the MTI Photo Screener cameras, but film is still available through Fuji. A new digital camera is on the market, which would make it possible to transmit photos electronically for faster results. Replacing the current cameras would require a large expenditure of funds. It might be possible to get grant money from LCIF for this purpose.

When LCIF approved a Core 4 Grant for the KidSight program several years ago, only a portion of the \$200,000 was sent because funding from the districts was not forthcoming and the projected number of screenings was not achieved. The KidSight Board hopes to be able to get the balance of that grant money, but in order to do so, they need to do 10,000 more screenings and they must obtain \$25,000 in matching funds. A lot of the money from the grant went toward buying cameras and holding training sessions throughout the state. At first, film for the cameras was provided to clubs at cost. Thirteen multiple districts are now doing screenings with the MTI cameras, and Michigan has the lowest cost per screening.

Each district is asked to appoint proactive KidSight Coordinators to train people to use the cameras. They should also assist with requests for funding. DG Roberta Sexton asked for a written outline of the process and timelines.

RECOGNITION OF SD 10

CC Terry Bowerman acknowledged the presence of Dr. Sara Doubledee, candidate for International Director. He announced that PCC Sara had accepted an award on behalf of SD 10 at the USA/Canada Forum in Saskatoon for the district with the greatest percentage of members in attendance.

POLICY MANUAL CHANGES

The Governors reviewed the Policy Manual changes that were made at the August Council Meeting, noting that two weeks advance notice of a proposed change is required unless the Governors suspend the rules by 2/3 vote—which they did not. Also, because the Policy Manual was not adopted, the changes became null and void. The Governors agreed that only one change had prompted controversy—the one relating to term limits for MERL Chairs.

When committee chairs were appointed in May, the Governors-Elect reviewed the nominees to determine whether any of them exceeded the 4-year term limit. The only one was Jack Becher, who was nominated for chairman of the Publication Advisory Committee. At that time, they approved a motion to allow an exception to the term limits rule. In recognition of the fact that they were not Governors yet, they placed “changing the Policy Manual to allow for exceptions to term limits for committee chairpersons” on the agenda for their first Council Meeting. In August, the discussion of “term limits” did not address the exception for Jack Becher. Instead a proposal was presented to prevent MD MERL appointees from serving more than one term.

MOTION – Williams, Shelton, to approve an exception to the Policy Manual for the appointment of Jack Becher as Publication Advisory Committee Chairman for 2008-09. Motion carried.

MOTION – Shelton, Rivette, to ratify the Policy Manual changes made in August regarding the State Treasurer position, IRS filing requirements, and the increase in the mileage allowance. Motion carried.

Two weeks ago, Governor Zeller requested an addition to the Council Meeting agenda to rescind term limits for MERL Chairs. The Governors agreed that it was not necessary because their action in August had been nullified.

CC Bowerman pointed out another procedural error that occurred after the August Council Meeting. The Policy Manual requires that the minutes reflect nay votes and abstentions by name.

GMT LIAISON APPOINTMENT

MOTION – Williams, Morlock, to ratify the appointment of Hank Bosma as the MD 11 GMT Liaison. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Paul Hemeryck, State Treasurer

Revised copies of the State Office, Council & Committee, and Magazine budgets were distributed by PDG Hemeryck. They included the changes that were approved at the August Council Meeting.

Treasurer Hemeryck reviewed the financial reports through August 31, 2008. Revenues and expenses are normal for this time of year, which is not typically a high-activity period. The biggest item was the transfer of funds from the Restricted Fund to the Liaison Account.

The Lion Pride Magazine shows a loss through the end of August, but the situation is not as bad as it appears. Nine issues are produced annually, but wages are paid monthly; therefore two months of wages are reflected, but no issues were published during July and August.

The Grace Lange Memorial Fund shows a strong cash position. Two years ago, the stock was sold at a substantial gain, and the proceeds were re-invested. Each year, \$2,000 from the Grace Lange Fund is earmarked for the scholarship that is presented by the White Cane Committee. Treasurer Hemeryck will

present a full analysis of the Grace Lange Fund at the December Council Meeting. It was suggested that some of the money might be used to help pay for cameras for Project KidSight.

STATE OFFICE LEASE NEGOTIATIONS

The State Office lease expires June 30, 2009. Six months notice is required to terminate it; otherwise it renews automatically for one year. Conditions have changed since the Lions of Michigan agreed to rent space in the building owned by the Lions of Michigan Foundation. Initially, they shared space, expenses and a part-time employee on a somewhat equal basis.

The Foundation added more varieties of mints, and they became a distributor for Lions Clubs in the United States and Canada. They have taken over the majority of the space in the front office and they occupy all of the storage room in the back of the building. Space needs for the Lions of Michigan also changed when the magazine was brought in-house; however, the only space available was a storage closet/copy room that became Michelle's office. The Lions of Michigan are paying for 1500 square feet of office space, but their actual square footage is around 1200 (including 700 square feet of "common area"). They occupy less than 38% of the available space, but they are charged for 50% of costs.

PDG Hemeryck presented three options: (1) Do nothing and let the lease renew at a new rate for another year; (2) reconfigure the current space (which would involve construction costs); or (3) move elsewhere. There is currently an abundance of office space available in the Lansing area at a reasonable price due to economic conditions.

A drawing of the current office layout was shown, identifying "Lions of Michigan space," "Foundation space," and common areas. The Lions' need for conference space has declined considerably. Committees are holding more frequent meetings online or via conference call (which saves time and money for committee members). Another drawing showed a possible reconfiguration of the building that would consolidate Lions of Michigan space into one area. (Unfortunately it separates Foundation space to both ends of the building.) Governor Mike Johnson estimated that construction costs to move walls, doors, electric and phone lines, re-carpet, etc. could be \$40,000-\$50,000. Several Governors expressed concern about the Lions of Michigan or the Foundation expending such a large sum for this purpose. They also pointed out that weeks of construction would be disruptive to office routine.

MOTION – Marshall, Shelton, to move at the end of the current lease, and to ask Treasurer Hemeryck to bring back recommendations to the December Council Meeting about alternate locations that meet the price range and the needs of the Lions of Michigan State Office.

MOTION – Williams, Sexton, to amend the motion to research moving at the end of the current lease. Motion carried.

Vote on the Motion as Amended: Motion carried.

PROGRESS REPORT ON COUNCIL GOALS

District 11 A1 has organized one new Lions Club and one branch club. Districts 11 D1 and 11 E2 are working on branch clubs.

**COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS MEETING
ST. IGNACE, MICHIGAN
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. in the Michigan Room of the Quality Inn in St. Ignace by Council Chair Terry Bowerman. Governors present were: Jim Williams, 11 A1; Connie Shelton, 11 A2; Roberta Sexton, 11 B1; Mike Johnson, 11 C1; Shirley Marshall, 11 C2; Frank Rivette, 11 D1; Chuck Belesky, 11 D2; Larry Morlock, 11 E1; and David Zeller, 11 E2. Vice District Governors in attendance were: John Daoud, 11 A1; Ron Holler, 11 A2; Al Vredberg, 11 B2; Robert Schalow, 11 C1; Kevin Storberg, 11 C2; George Carter, 11 D1; Robert Ryan, 11 D2; Wayne Kreitner, 11 E1; Beverly Bodem, 11 E2; and Don Wojakowski, SD 10. Also present were: PID Chuck Weir; Council Chair Terry Bowerman; State Treasurer Paul Hemeryck; and Executive Director Mary Brown.

COMMUNICATIONS – Mary Brown, Executive Director

National Drug Czar, John Walters, will appear at a meeting of the Detroit Renaissance Lions Club on October 14 at 7:30 p.m. He will discuss the legalization of marijuana as Proposal 1 in Michigan from the perspective of the Food and Drug Administration’s finding of no evidence-based clinical studies to support its use. He will speak for 20 minutes and take questions during a 15-20 minute discussion. Michigan Lions are invited to attend.

LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE REPORT – Paul Hemeryck, PDG

Ninety-one Lions have applied to this year’s Leadership Institute. The number of applicants per district is relatively equal. A complete list will be sent to the DGs after participants are chosen.

Handout materials for the Institute books will be scanned into a PDF file. This reduces printing costs and makes it possible to produce a CD. (An electronic file will be transmitted to blind participants who use computer software to “read” such documents.)

LCI has provided financial support for all nine Leadership Institutes held in Michigan. For the past several years, they have contributed \$10,000 annually. In return, districts in Michigan are asked to show their support by paying a share of the costs. Participants are charged \$165, but the actual cost is closer to \$300 per person. Each district is asked to donate \$300, which guarantees that 9 seats will be allotted to them, and their Vice District Governor can attend at no charge. As of 10/3/08, six districts had not contributed.

This year’s instructional staff will include two FDI graduates who will team teach with senior staff members. PDG Hemeryck emphasized the importance of mentoring new people and training them to be future leaders.

Leadership Institute graduates should be put to work right away so they can use what they have learned before they forget. Many of this year’s participants are “new” Lions—members for less than a year.

RETENTION REPORT (written) – Hank Bosma, PDG, MD 11 Retention Chair

Plans are progressing for the MERL Training Session on October 11 in Lansing. PID Dennis Cobler will provide orientation on how the new GMT will interact with district and multiple district MERL teams.

PDG Bosma offered to step down as MD 11 Retention Chair if the Governors felt that it was a conflict for him to serve in this position at the same time that he is serving as GMT Liaison.

MOTION – Marshall, Rivette, to retain Hank Bosma as MD 11 Retention Chair. Motion carried.

GMT REPORT (written) – Hank Bosma, PDG, GMT Liaison

Governors have been contacted by PDG Bosma about their membership and extension goals. They were urged to schedule appointments to bring in the LCI Extension Team.

SD 10 is down 4 members to date, and MD 11 shows a loss of 18. All Governors have projected a net gain in membership by July 1, 2009. If they achieve this goal, they will reverse a membership slide that began in 1976.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION REPORT (written) – Hank Bosma, PDG, Vice Chairman

The inspection trip to Minneapolis by Jesse Arnold and Hank Bosma in September was “less than successful,” due to a change in the Michigan headquarters hotel assignment, resulting in appointments with the wrong people. The Governors questioned the need for another inspection trip, and agreed that subsequent arrangements should be handled by phone, fax and email.

The Council discussed having a Michigan Reception in Minneapolis. If one is held, they agreed that it should be a first-class event. However, they were concerned about creating an expectation that Michigan will host such a reception every year. They also noted that Michigan’s headquarters hotel is 10 miles from downtown and that the shuttle buses don’t run in the evening. It will be very difficult to determine attendance for such an event. In the next five years, three International Conventions will be held outside the United States (Australia, Korea and Germany) and one (Seattle) is on the west coast. Costs for these venues will be higher, and the Convention Committee’s budget will be seriously affected.

MOTION – Zeller, Shelton, to instruct the International Convention Committee not to hold a Michigan Reception in Minneapolis. Motion carried.

The Council would like the committee to concentrate on arrangements for a Michigan Night event. They should consider including a performance by the Lions of Michigan All State Band.

MOTION – Morlock, Shelton, to receive the written reports from PDG Hank Bosma. Motion carried.

2010 STATE PIN

Three potential pin designs were presented. One depicted the Sydney Opera House; one showed a kangaroo; and other one incorporated both. The Council requested modifications that would include both design elements, but changed the size of the kangaroo. They also wanted a design with the Opera House in the background instead of the foreground. Michelle will develop new artwork and email it to the DGs and VDGs.

Governor Johnson advised the VDGs that pins are very important during the Governor-Elect Seminar at the International Convention. They will receive 25 complimentary pins, but he recommended that they obtain an additional supply of old pins. The Governors shared additional observations regarding the convention, such as bringing business cards or small gifts to share with other DGEs. They also suggested developing a means of identification to help the Michigan delegation sit together during Plenary Sessions. Governors were asked to send additional ideas to DG Zeller. He will compile a list to be incorporated as part of the VDG training.

EXTENSION REPORT (via conference call) – Bob Jenkins, PDG, MD 11 Extension Chair

The Extension Committee is active on several fronts. Most of the committee members plan to attend the MERL Training Session on October 11.

An "Extension Model" is being finalized. It will compliment the Membership Model and Retention Model and will be posted on the Lions of Michigan website.

One new club has been organized to date—Madonna University in District 11 A1. Several districts have held or scheduled LCI Extension Workshops. Districts 11 A1 and 11 B1's joint workshop will take place on October 6-8. District 11 A2 will bring in the LCI Extension Team on October 13-15; they are working in Troy and Berkley. District 11 B2 held a workshop on September 28-30. During this workshop, trainers provided information about what should and should not be done when organizing new clubs. The Extension Team worked on a new club in Eau Claire and a branch club in Fruitbelt. District 11 C1 has trained 31 Guiding Lions. Their LCI Extension workshop is scheduled for October 6-8. Districts 11 C2, 11 D1, 11 D2, 11 E1, and 11 E2 have dates pending. Districts 11 C2, 11 D2 and 11 E1 are each targeting two areas. District 11 D1 is working in Bridgeport and Carrollton. District 11 E2 is working on new clubs in West Branch and Gladwin.

Governor Sexton reported that District 11 B1 is working on clubs in Clinton and Tecumseh, as well as a campus club at Eastern Michigan and a family club in Adrian.

LEADERSHIP REPORT (Written) – Esther LaMothe, PDG, Chair

PCC Esther is an instructor at the Senior Lions Leadership Institute in Toronto this weekend. Seven Lions from Michigan are scheduled to participate.

PDG Tom Doyle will chair the leadership portion of the MERL Training Session on October 11 while Esther is on vacation. She has assisted with the planning of the meeting, secured speakers and submitted the required paperwork to LCI. Dr. Doyle will obtain participant signatures on October 11.

Many of the district Leadership Chairs are busy preparing and hosting fall conferences. Club officer training venues are being explored for this spring and preparations are underway.

As MD 11 Leadership Chairperson, PCC Esther has been working with the Michigan Forum Committee, the MD 11 Convention Committee, the Leadership Institute Committee and the Faculty Development Institute Committee.

Several Michigan Lions traveled to Saskatoon for the USA/Canada Forum. PCC Esther was the presenter for one of the breakout sessions. The 2009 Forum will be held in Memphis. The bid for the 2013 Forum was awarded to Overland, Kansas.

MOTION – Zeller, Rivette, to receive the written report on the activities of the Leadership Committee. Motion carried.

LEO COMMITTEE REPORT (Written) - Laurene Homsher, Chair

At least five new Leo Clubs are in the process of being organized. In 11 D2, four Lions Clubs are working together to form a Leo Club.

The date for the annual Leo Conference has not been set. Committee members are checking with their local Leos to identify potential scheduling conflicts. March was a suggested month. Camp Tuhsmeheeta was suggested as a site. The cost is a \$25 custodial fee. Laurene is checking on availability. The District

Governors recommended that the Leos avoid scheduling their annual conference at the same time as a district convention or the Michigan Forum.

Monetary donations from Lions Clubs help to support the Leo Conference. A contribution of \$25 or more earns a banner patch for a club. Contributions of items for the conference goody bags are also appreciated.

With rising gasoline prices, the committee is moving toward phone conferencing, emailing and online chatting to conduct business. Their remaining meetings will be conducted in this manner.

MOTION – Morlock, Williams, to receive the Leo Committee Report. Motion carried.

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. All media are accepted, but chalk, charcoal and pastel entries must be sealed with fixative spray to prevent smearing. Entries may not be laminated, and nothing may be glued or stapled to the artwork. The winning Peace Posters from each district in MD 11 will be judged during the December Council Meeting.

MOTION – Zeller, Johnson, to include the VDGs in the voting process in December. Motion carried.

Districts will be able to display their winning Peace Posters at the MD 11 Convention in Lansing in May.

FUTURE COUNCIL MEETING DATES/LOCATIONS

Tentative dates for the 2009-10 Council Meetings are: August 7-9, 2009, October 2-4, 2009, December 4-6, 2009, March 5-7, 2010, and May 21, 2010. The May meeting is conducted during the MD 11 Convention, which will be held at Mission Point Resort on Mackinac Island. A decision on meeting locations for the August, October, December, and March meetings is pending until a decision is made regarding the attendance of the Second Vice Governors. A larger meeting room will be required if there are 10 additional people in the room.

The Governors discussed role of the 2VDG. Should he/she attend Council Meetings? Should he/she concentrate on district matters? Governor Williams felt their attendance at Council Meetings should be optional, and they should not be seated at the Council table or participate in discussions. VDG Wayne Kreitner felt that the Council should set one meeting where the 2VDGs are invited, and further recommended that a training session be incorporated with that meeting. The International Board is slated to discuss training of 2VDGs at their October Board Meeting.

MOTION – Morlock, Sexton, to place this topic on the agenda for further discussion at the December Council Meeting. Motion carried.

Governors were asked to contact their candidates for 2VDG to obtain their input. The information gathered might help to develop a consensus. PID Chuck Weir suggested contacting the Lions of Ohio to find out how they handle the 2VDG position (which they have had for years).

Input was sought from the VDGs regarding their preference for the location of the October 2009 meeting. They suggested holding it at the Quality Inn in St. Ignace.

APPRECIATION PARTIES/DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

Governor Connie Shelton presented the idea of each DG drawing the name of another DG and purchasing a \$100 gift to be presented at his/her appreciation party on behalf of the other members of the Council (rather than each DG buying ten \$10 gifts for the other Governors). She also recommended that they try to coordinate attendance at each other's District Conventions to insure that at least one "guest" Governor appears at each convention.

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

Last year 15 young people came to Michigan through the Youth Exchange program. They were from Finland, Germany, Japan, Italy, Turkey and Peru. Thirteen Michigan students traveled to Australia, New Zealand, Italy, Finland, Peru, Germany, England, Scotland and Ireland. Eight of them attended a youth camp. This year's winter exchange will see one student arriving from Australia and three from Peru.

MOTION – Rivette, Morlock, to allow Youth Exchange students to solicit funds from Lions Clubs to help pay for their trip costs. Motion carried.

Lion Karen presented a proposed budget, based on 17 students from Michigan traveling overseas. The Governors asked how the program is financed. Students pay a fee that includes transportation charges, a backpack, a sweatshirt, pins and banners. Donations are also received from Lions Clubs.

When students apply, they list the countries they would like to visit (1st, 2nd and 3rd choices). They are not allowed to pick individual cities. It is recommended that they speak the native language of the country they wish to visit.

MOTION – Johnson, Sexton, to approve the Youth Exchange budget. Motion carried.

This is Karen's 4th year as chair of the Youth Exchange Committee—her final year under the term limits prescribed in the Policy Manual. She urged the VDGs to begin looking now for another Lion to take on the task. She is willing to train the new chair. She also expressed her willingness to serve for one more year if the Governors choose to approve an exception to the Policy Manual.

MOTION – Morlock, Williams, to receive the Youth Exchange report. Motion carried.

AUDIT REPORT – Robert Heemer, CPA

The 2007-2008 audit report covers two corporations: Lions of Michigan, Inc. and Lions of Michigan Publication, Inc. 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.

Accounts payable are up from last year (\$33,963 versus \$16,208). This is primarily due to outstanding bills relating to the International Convention in Bangkok.

Investments are shown at market value, not cost. Any gains or losses shown are not actual, but paper gains or losses. Dividends and capital gains are reinvested every year.

The Lions of Michigan and the Lions of Michigan Magazine have cash balances over \$270,000 in National City Bank. FDIC insures bank deposits up to \$100,000. On June 30, 2007, only \$135,000 in cash deposits were covered by FDIC. Because there is uninsured cash, the Governors should look at possibly moving

some of it to another bank. Mr. Heemer noted that National City Bank is on the “watch list” during the current banking crisis. He also pointed out that there is talk of increasing the FDIC limit to \$250,000

The Lions of Michigan Publication is a separate corporation. It did reasonably well last year in spite of a large postage increase, and showed a net gain of \$3,191. Bringing it in-house has significantly improved the magazine’s financial position.

As a result of Enron and other scandals, companies are being forced to implement safeguards, such as conflict of interest policies, whistle blower policies, and retention of files policies. Treasurer Hemeryck is working to develop boilerplate documents with standard wording that can be used (or modified as needed) by all Lions Clubs.

MOTION – Morlock, Shelton, to accept the audit report. Motion carried.

INTERNATIONAL UPDATE/LIAISON REPORT (via conference call) – ID Bill Hansen

All of the seated International Directors, Vice Presidents and the President of LCI have endorsed the candidacy of Wing-Kun Tam from China for the office of 2nd Vice President. The Governors signed a resolution of endorsement, confirming the action they took during a telephone conference in August.

PID Hansen urged the Governors to promote incorporation of Lions Clubs. Officers, directors and members may be held individually liable in case of a lawsuit if a club is not incorporated. In most jurisdictions, liability is limited to the capital or assets of the club if it is incorporated.

PID Hansen gave the Governors an update on membership in Michigan (through September 30):

11 A1	+53	11 D1	- 3
11 A2	-30	11 D2	-10
11 B1	- 3	11 E1	+ 5
11 B2	+ 6	11 E2	-16
11 C1	-25	SD 10	- 2
11 C2	+ 1		

There are currently five endorsed US candidates for seven slots on the International Board. Three are holdovers from last year. They are from Maine, Idaho and Michigan. It is anticipated that Arizona and Ohio will have candidates this year as well. There might be more than seven candidates, but there is nothing to suggest that Dr. Sara Doubledee won’t be elected in Minneapolis.

The 2009 USA/Canada Forum will be held in Memphis. All of the hotels are close to the convention center, with the exception of two at the airport. The last set of seminars on Saturday has been eliminated. They are typically not well attended, and there is not much time between their conclusion and the banquet on Saturday evening. Because additional meeting space is available, however, the overall number of seminars to be offered will increase by eight.

LCI has not yet provided any guidelines for training of Second Vice District Governors. It is anticipated that training will be required at the district or multiple district level and that LCI’s Leadership Division will provide instructional materials.

WELCOME HOMES REPORT – Brian Shepard, CEO

Brian Shepard was accompanied by board members PDG Eric Schuman and Lion Rick Walker and Welcome Homes Committee Chairperson Dick Maxwell. Packets containing the following items were distributed: An 8-year financial report and a graph showing of the number of people served. An oral progress report was given on facilities, plans for the future, what is provided, and criteria for homes.

The 2008 financial report has not been audited. The fiscal year for Welcome Homes ended September 30. Donations from Lions Clubs last year totaled \$85,908. In response to a question from the Council, Brian explained that \$40,000 listed as “permanently restricted” is the Endowment Fund. The property that was located on Monroe Street in Grand Rapids sold in November of 2007 for \$342,357 net gain. He also explained that there had been no mismanagement or embezzlement from the investment account in 2002. Investments had to be sold that year to meet expenses of operating the facility on Monroe Street.

Welcome Homes Residential Services has contracts with six facilities that directly serve 37 blind/visually impaired individuals and indirectly serve another 170 residents. Two of these facilities are in Grand Rapids (Maple Creek and Beacon Hill), and four are Tendercare facilities located in Munising, Gaylord, Frankenmuth, and Adrian. In addition, contracts are pending for Bishop Noah and Christian Park in Escanaba, Devonshire in Lapeer, the Jacobetti Home for Veterans in Marquette, Hyland Nursing Home in Iron Mountain, and United Methodist Retirement Communities in Chelsea, Dexter and Detroit.

Sixty-five percent of people in nursing homes suffer from some form of vision impairment. Training provided to staff members and residents through Welcome Homes Residential Services helps these facilities to serve the needs of their residents, now and in the future. They conduct environmental and facilities assessments. They provide one-on-one mobility training, peer and family support meetings, and identify sources for aids and appliances for the visually impaired.

Welcome Homes Residential Services contracts licensed professionals to work with residents and staff. Orientation and Mobility Instructors are in great demand but short supply. Western Michigan University is the leader in this type of training. Welcome Homes is currently working with WMU to enhance the program.

Welcome Homes has a cooperative relationship with the Michigan Assisted Living Association and is working with the Commission for the Blind. It was noted that services available from the Commission for the Blind are offered only to those who are legally blind (20/200 or worse).

When a facility signs a contract with Welcome Homes, they pay a membership fee. This is a source of funding for Welcome Homes other than Lions donations. PDG Rod Prys is trying to redesign the Strawberry Festival as a means of raising additional funds. The Board is also looking at a Christmas appeal and other potential fund raisers. Banner patches are available for Lions Clubs that donate at various levels of support.

Dick Maxwell emphasized the need to educate clubs about Welcome Homes Residential Services. Many Lions don't realize that the program is not the same as it was when there was a “home” in Grand Rapids. It is no longer called Welcome Homes for the Blind; it is Welcome Homes Residential Services. It has evolved into a service program that benefits a larger number of blind and visually impaired people who live in facilities throughout the state. Members of the Welcome Homes Committee have received program materials and “tool kits” to assist them in making presentations.

PDG Eric Schuman explained that Lions' donations are needed to continue to operate and expand the program. Their contributions are the primary source of funding for Welcome Homes.

Rick Walker noted that people today are living longer and are more likely to suffer from vision problems at some stage of their lives. However, there are voids in care available to those in need. Welcome Homes is fulfilling some of those needs. Local Lions Clubs have a unique opportunity to become involved by forming partnerships with homes in their communities.

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS REPORT – Ed Weessies, Chairman

At the August Council Meeting, the term of office of Leo Club Chairpersons was discussed. An amendment was passed in Sault Ste. Marie, changing the term from one year to two years. It was later discovered that the International Board had adopted a change during their meeting Vienna, Austria, last year which called for a three-year appointment. The following "housekeeping" change was suggested:

By-Laws Article IV (Committees), Sections 6-a and 6-b. Move Leos from Section 6-a to Section 6-b.

MOTION – Williams, Sexton, to approve the proposed change as a housekeeping amendment. Motion carried.

A motion was approved at the August Council Meeting to align the MD 11 Constitution and By-Laws with the Lions International Constitution and By-Laws regarding the Second Vice District Governor position. The wording and positioning of this information is listed below.

Wherever the phrase "Vice District Governor" appears in the Constitution and By-Laws, the phrase "First and Second" will be added in the titles on pages I, III (Table of Contents), 4 and 5 of the Constitution.

Constitution Article VII (District Officers) -

Section 3 – Add "First" in the heading (A candidate for the office of **First** Vice District Governor shall :)

Section 3, sub-section C – Add "First" before the words Vice District Governor

Delete sub-sections (1), (2), and (3) under Section 3, sub-section C and add sub-sections D and E to read:

- D. Currently be serving as the Second Vice District Governor within the district from which he/she is to be elected.
- E. Only in the event the current Second Vice District Governor does not stand for election as First Vice District Governor, or if a vacancy in the position of Second Vice District Governor exists at the time of the district convention, any club member who fulfills the qualifications for the office of Second Vice District Governor as set forth in these by-laws or constitution shall fulfill the requirements of sub-section D of this section.

Section 4 – Remove the current wording and replace with the following:

A candidate for the office of Second Vice District Governor shall:

- A. Be an active member in good standing of a chartered Lions Club in good standing in his/her sub-district.
- B. Secure the endorsement of his/her club or a majority of the clubs in his/her sub-district.

- C. Have served or will have served at the time he/she take office as Second Vice District Governor:
 1. As president of a Lions Club for a full term or major portion thereof, and a member of the board of directors of a Lions Club for no less than two (2) additional years and
 2. As Zone Chairperson or Region Chairperson or Cabinet Secretary and/or Treasurer for a full term or major portion thereof.
 3. With none of the above being accomplished concurrently.

By-Laws Article II (Duties) –

Section 2 – Add “First” prior to the phrase Vice District Governor in the heading and in the language of the section and sub-sections

Add a new Section 3 (Second Vice District Governor) and re-number the rest of the sections.

The new Section 3 will read as follows:

The Second Vice District Governor is subject to the supervision and direction of the District Governor. His/her specific responsibilities shall be to:

1. Further the purpose of this association.
2. Actively participate and inspire other district officers to administer and promote effective membership growth and new club organization.
3. Perform such duties as assigned by the District Governor, including assisting the District Retention Chairperson.
4. Perform such other functions and acts as required by the policy of this association.
5. Actively participate in all Cabinet Meetings and conduct all meetings in the absence of the District Governor and First Vice District Governor.
6. Participate in the preparation of the district budget.
7. At the request of the District Governor, supervise appropriate district committees and participate in the review of strengths and weaknesses of the district.

Chairman Weessies presented a draft of the language for a proposal to reduce by half the MD 11 dues paid by Family and Student Members. Governor Williams explained that he had written the motion that was approved at the August Council Meeting, and he had specifically included language that would allow the Governors to set the amount of dues reduction to be implemented each year, not to exceed the LCI amount. Lion Weessies explained that the wording was written to coincide with the Constitution and By-Laws of Lions International. Several Governors agreed that would not be wise to change the amount from year to year.

Chairman Weessies explained that it was not the role of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee to debate the merits of an amendment proposal. Their job is to prepare the language and insure that it is presented properly for a vote of the delegates at the MD 11 Convention. The following wording was proposed:

Purpose: To encourage membership growth by having the Multiple District’s per capita administrative tax coincide with that of Lions Clubs International.

The Council of Governors proposes the following amendment:

Article IXX – District and Multiple District Revenue

Section 3 – Add sub-section A to read as follows:

That the per capita administrative tax include the provisions for a “family plan” whereby the first family member shall pay a semi-annual per capita tax, a special semi-annual convention fund tax and the annual subscription price for the Lion Pride Magazine. Subsequent qualifying members, not to exceed four additional qualifying members per household, shall pay semi-annual per capita tax equal to one-half (1/2) of the amount paid by the first family member; and that a Student Membership Program as adopted by the International Board of Directors, eligible students members shall pay a semi-annual per capita tax of one-half (1/2) of the total amount of dues.

The Council questioned why the language included reference to “a special semi-annual convention fund tax.” Unlike LCI, MD 11 does not charge a separate convention assessment; it is included in the per capita amount. They also questioned the inclusion of the reference to the magazine. Subscription fees are covered in a separate section of the constitution. Including them here makes it appear that both the per capita AND the subscription fees will be reduced by half.

MOTION – Williams, Johnson, to send the proposal back to the Constitution and By-Laws Committee for clarification of the wording. Motion carried.

Lion Weessies asked the Council to consider the idea of placing committee terms (i.e., 1, 2 and 3-year terms) in the Policy Manual instead of the By-Laws.

MOTION – Williams, Johnson, to ask the Constitution and By-Laws Committee to draft a proposal for consideration by the Council of Governors. Motion carried.

MD 11 CONVENTION REPORT (Written) – Bob Sturgis, PDG, Chairman

The 2009 convention will be held on May 15-16 at the Holiday Inn South in Lansing. The room rate is \$79 for single or double rooms. DGs and VDGs are responsible for making their own hotel reservations.

Second Vice President Sid Scruggs and Judy from North Carolina are the international guests.

PID Bill Hansen approached PDG Sturgis about the possibility of holding his appreciation party on Friday night in conjunction with the convention. The committee rejected the idea because they felt it would detract from 2VP Scruggs visit and PCC Sara Doubleddee’s candidacy. They suggested that PID Hansen consider rescheduling on Thursday night.

The committee adopted an All Sports theme for the convention. Friday night’s dinner/welcome reception will feature a tailgate party. Attendees are encouraged to wear jerseys and hats of their favorite pro or college team, and room decorations will reflect the theme.

PDG Shirley Hoffman volunteered to serve as Vice Chair of this year’s convention. The committee agreed to offer meals at cost again this year and to cover comps from equity.

PDG Esther LaMothe contacted members of the Leadership Development Committee and graduates of the Faculty Development Institute to obtain program ideas for breakout sessions at the convention. The following topics were approved: “Healthy Eating on a Budget” (spouse program) presented by Lion Cheryl Schneider, “Proud Past, Bright Future” (breakout session) by PDG Pete Lapka, and “Everything I Needed to Know as a Lion I Learned in Kindergarten” (breakout session) by PDG Tom Doyle.

Arrangements for the golf outing on Friday morning will be handled by the Holt Lions Club.

Two complimentary suites are available at the hotel. One of them will be assigned to 2VP and Mrs. Scruggs. The committee plans to use the second suite as a hospitality room, to be hosted by Sara Doubledee or by the Convention Committee. Sara has indicated that she has no personal funds and no budget allocation from the Liaison Committee budget to stock a hospitality room.

MOTION – Shelton, Sexton, to use the second suite as a hospitality room for Sara Doubledee and to ask the committee to host it (including manpower and food) on Friday and Saturday nights. Motion carried.

The District Governors volunteered to chair the following convention events:

Friday Night Dinner/Reception	Governor Connie Shelton
Open Discussion of Amendment Proposals	Governor Linda Bosma
“Proud Past, Bright Future” Forum	Governor Robert Sexton
“Everything I Needed to Know” Forum	Governor Jim Williams
Saturday Lunch	Governor David Zeller
Business Session	Governor Mike Johnson
Saturday Night Banquet	Council Chair Terry Bowerman
Oversight of Credentials & Elections	DGs Roberta Sexton, Larry Morlock and Frank Rivette
Candle Lighting at Memorial Service	DGs Shirley Marshall, Chuck Belesky And Frank Rivette

PDG David Bennett will be asked to serve as Chaplain and Lion Ed Weessies agreed to be the Song Leader. Lioness Deb Kreitner will introduce the presenter at the spouse program on Saturday afternoon. CC Terry Bowerman recommended obtaining a Registered Parliamentarian to officiate at the Business Session.

MICHIGAN FORM REPORT – Paul Hemeryck, Vice Chairman

The Forum has a new location this year, so the first meeting of the Forum Committee was held at the Holiday Inn West in Lansing so they could see the facilities. A second meeting was held via internet/conference call. This meeting format works well for them and saves time and money for committee members.

The 2009 Michigan Forum will be held on February 20-21. This year is the 10th anniversary of the Forum. The new location can accommodate a larger number of attendees. The cost is still \$30 per person. There is a bonus session (How to Have Fun at Lions Meetings) 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 on Saturday. Four sessions will run concurrently in four different time slots. Two state projects have been invited to make presentations this year—Eye Bank and Welcome Homes. A complete list of topics will be available at the December Council Meeting. DGs and VDGs who attend will be asked to serve as moderators and introducers.

In addition to the breakout sessions, a room is available during the Forum where Lions can go to get one-on-one computer training from members of the Information Technology Committee.

The White Cane Committee will not have a supply room for white cane merchandise sales during the forum. They will have a display table where they will take orders and distribute merchandise that was ordered in advance.

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

A number of changes have been made to the evaluation form. A question will be added to find out whether attendees would prefer to receive the Forum Book on CD or in paper form.

WHITE CANE COMMITTEE REPORT – Flo Kelpinski, PDG, Chairperson

The committee had a very productive first meeting that was well attended. They established two goals—to revamp the application form for the White Cane Scholarship and to develop new white cane products.

Last year, concerns were expressed about the process used to select the recipient of the White Cane Scholarship. Members of the White Committee have sometimes made choices in the past based on an applicant's connection to the Lions organization (i.e., attended Bear Lake Camp, worked with a Lions Club on a white cane fundraiser, etc.). Lawsuits are a strong possibility, based on claims of discrimination. It was suggested last year that a representative from the Commission for the Blind or the Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired should make the decision on behalf of the Lions of Michigan, but neither agency would accept this responsibility. The committee decided to tighten up the criteria to require proof that the applicant is legally blind, a minimum GPA of 2.5, and an essay outlining why they deserve the scholarship. The actual scholarship check will not be issued to the recipient, but to a school, university or equipment manufacturer upon receipt of documentation.

The assistance of committee member Charis Austin (who is blind) was invaluable in revamping the scholarship application form. Copies will be mailed to Intermediate School Districts, and it will also appear in the November issue of the Lion Pride Magazine. The deadline for application is December 31. Selection of the winner takes place in January.

Three new products will be introduced this year—a white cane appliqué, stickers on a roll, and butter mints. The miniature metal canes will be discontinued after the current supply has been sold because the price has skyrocketed.

WRITTEN REPORTS

The following written reports were submitted: All State Band, Bear Lake Camp, Lion Pride Magazine, Public Relations, Leader Dog, Hearing, Sight Conservation/Diabetes and Michigan Eye Bank. Copies of these reports are included in the back of these minutes.

All State Band Committee

Governor Sexton noted that the written report was submitted before the committee met on September 27, so she contacted Diane Schweda to obtain updated information. The tour cost for the 2009 tour to Minneapolis will be \$1,850 per student. The bus trip will include Independence Day performances in Mackinaw City and Escanaba and in the Cherry Festival Parade in Traverse City. Committee goals include adult participation in programs presented by band members at Lions Club meetings and developing methods to improve the visibility of the band.

MOTION – Williams, Morlock, to accept the update on the All State Band. Motion carried.

Bear Lake Camp Committee

The committee is working on a statewide raffle for Bear Lake Camp. Sales begin after the first of the year, and the drawing will take place prior to the MD Convention.

MOTION – Williams, Shelton, to receive the Bear Lake Camp report. Motion carried.

Lion Pride Magazine

The magazine absorbed a \$500/issue postage increase last year (\$4,500 per year). The Publication Advisory Committee is looking at ways to offset the price hike. Options include raising advertising fees or eliminating an issue. Getting photos, stories and news from districts is an ongoing problem.

MOTION – Zeller, Shelton, to receive the Lion Pride Magazine report. Motion carried.

Public Relations Committee – A meeting was scheduled in September, but only two committee members showed up. With five new people on the committee, there is much to be done; but it is impossible to do anything without participation.

MOTION – Williams, Belesky, to receive the Public Relations Committee Report. Motion carried.

Leader Dog Committee – District Chairpersons were invited to a training session at Leader Dog School on September 13. Four districts from MD 11 were represented, plus SD 10. Those who did not attend received a packet of information. VDGs are scheduled to visit Leader Dog School on October 10-12, where they will hear about the “Growing the Dream” program.

Governor Rivette stated that there was a plan to combine Big D Night with the annual December Kickoff. There was opposition to the idea, and it was agreed that separate events should be maintained. Big D Night will take place in October, and the Dinner of Dreams will replace the Kickoff Luncheon.

MOTION – Zeller, Williams, to receive the Leader Dog Committee Report. Motion carried.

Hearing Committee – A meeting was held on September 6, with three committee members present. They reviewed hearing aid programs in those districts and discussed a statewide policy for hearing assistance. The committee plans to submit articles for publication in the next 10 issues of the Lion Pride.

MOTION – Morlock, Shelton, to receive the Hearing Committee Report. Motion carried.

Sight Conservation/Diabetes – The committee will meet in Lansing on October 25. Members have received a packet of information about Juvenile Diabetes.

MOTION – Williams, Morlock, to receive the Sight Conservation/Diabetes Committee Report. Motion carried.

Michigan Eye Bank – The newest initiative for the committee is “I Joined!” The program is a joint effort of the Secretary of State, Gift of Life, and the Michigan Eye Bank. It emphasizes the importance of the Donor Registration Program and the goal is to increase the number of registered organ and tissue donors.

MOTION –Williams, Johnson, to receive the Eye Bank Committee report. Motion carried.

Governor Sexton noted that there was no report from the Strategic Planning Committee. She would like to have them report at the December Council Meeting.

**COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS MEETING
ST. IGNACE, MICHIGAN
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Michigan Room of the Quality Inn in St. Ignace by Council Chair Terry Bowerman. Governors present were: Jim Williams, 11 A1; Connie Shelton, 11 A2; Roberta Sexton, 11 B1; Mike Johnson, 11 C1; Shirley Marshall, 11 C2; Frank Rivette, 11 D1; Chuck Belesky, 11 D2; Larry Morlock, 11 E1; and David Zeller, 11 E2. Vice District Governors in attendance were: John Daoud, 11 A1; Ron Holler, 11 A2; Al Vredberg, 11 B2; Robert Schalow, 11 C1; Kevin Storberg, 11 C2; George Carter, 11 D1; Robert Ryan, 11 D2; Wayne Kreitner, 11 E1; Beverly Bodem, 11 E2; and Don Wojakowski, SD 10. Also present were: PID Chuck Weir; Council Chair Terry Bowerman; State Treasurer Paul Hemeryck; and Executive Director Mary Brown.

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 removed from the nomination forms, and they judged by the Governors on the basis of each nominee’s service to Lionism at the multiple district, state, and/or international level.

LEADERSHIP AND PRESIDENTIAL MEDALS

President Al Brandel sent a letter in July outlining his criteria for Presidential Medals. Nominees for the Presidential Medal must distinguish themselves with exemplary service that significantly strengthens their community and/or the Association. Nominees for the Leadership Medal must make significant contributions to leadership development and results within the Association.

A list of past recipients was distributed. Lions who have previously received a medal should not be nominated again. Governors were asked to limit their nominations to one for the Presidential Medal and two for the Leadership Medal.

Presidential Certificates (usually 2 per district) are available through District Convention speakers, who must account for all certificates presented. Governors should advise their convention speakers in advance if they are expected to present any medals or certificates during their District Conventions.

MOTION – Belesky, Sexton, to set a deadline date of November 15 for nominations for the S. A. Dodge Distinguished Service Award. Motion carried.

MOTION – Shelton, Williams, to amend the motion to set the same deadline date for nominations for the Presidential and Leadership Medals. Motion carried.

Vote on the Motion as Amended: Motion carried.

Copies of all nominations will be mailed to the Governors for review prior to the December Council Meeting. They will be asked to select and prioritize recipients at the meeting. The final list will be presented to PID Bill Hansen, whose endorsement is required prior to submission to President Brandel.

POLICY MANUAL

Concerns have been expressed about International Convention Committee costs. Is an inspection trip to the convention site necessary when the convention is being held in the United States? Can arrangements be handled via phone, fax, email and the internet? Is it equitable to pay for all of the expenses of the International Convention Chairman and spouse to attend the convention and pay nothing for committee members who attend? Should the money be spread amongst all committee members who attend? CC Bowerman asked the Governors to read the entire section of the Policy Manual relating to the International Convention Committee and to be prepared to discuss it at the December Council Meeting.

The materials on Youth Exchange that were sent to high school foreign language departments were not printed on letterhead. Concern was expressed that this did not reflect a professional image for the program or for the Lions of Michigan. It was suggested that all written matter disseminated to the public by a Lions committee should be reviewed for appearance, spelling, grammar, etc. before it is released. Proposed wording for the Policy Manual will be put together for presentation at the December Council Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

The following written reports were submitted. They are included as part of the minutes of this meeting.

Retention	Lion Pride Magazine
International Convention	All State Band
GMT	Public Relations
Leadership Development	Leader Dog
Leos	Hearing
MD 11 Convention	Sight Conservation/Diabetes
Bear Lake Camp	Michigan Eye Bank

MD-11 RETENTION REPORT TO COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

There is not much to report, but much is being done. Plans are progressing nicely for our MERL Training Day, October 11 in Lansing at 812 East Jolly Road. Lions being Lions, reservations are a bit slow, but the deadline for our caterer isn't until Tuesday, the 7th. PID Cobler has agreed to give us an orientation as to the new GMT interaction with the District and MD MERL teams.

We were not aware of the VDG commitment to visit Leader Dog, when planning, so most of them will not be available. If any governor doesn't have representation planned, it would be good to remedy that situation.

Some of you requested that I not continue as MD-11 Retention Chair if accepting the GMT Liaison position. This would be a good time to proceed with choosing my replacement.

PDG Hank Bosma, Retention Chairperson

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION (SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT)

You will have heard from Chairman, Lion Jesse Arnold that our inspection trip was less than successful, due primarily to LCI having changed the Michigan Hotel, simultaneous with our travel. We arrived in MN with appointments to see all the wrong folks. In my opinion there is still some hope and I expect we will proceed in that direction until we are successful.....or permanently blocked, subject to your approval, of course.

Hank Bosma, Vice Chair, International Convention Committee

MD-11 GLOBAL MEMBERSHIP TEAM LIAISON REPORT

As you have all experienced, we have been in touch with the Governors and Vice Governors relating to the goals LCI has recorded from your Bangkok commitments. We have made sure each of you knows exactly where your "line in the sand" is number-wise and urged you to make an appointment with the LCI Extension team. Recently we have accumulated a list of your newsletter editors, at PID Cobler's request and are waiting his direction on what to send them.

Also, I have had meetings with District 10 leaders, MD-25 Liaison and received the newsletter used by MD-1 (missing only Kentucky, so far). Without exception, we are ready to proceed with President Brandel's program as soon as we have some clear direction, beyond reminding you of your membership and new club goals.

SD 10 is doing the best of our 5 groups with a cumulative total down only 4 members year to date, followed by MD-11 with only 18 members less so far this year. You have all indicated that being positive is well within your district's ability and that would surpass our old MERL goal of zero cumulative losses by July 1, 2009. Governors, that would break a membership slide that began in 1976! An exciting concept!!

Hank Bosma, GMT Liaison for MD-11

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Esther LaMothe, MD 11 Chairperson

I am attaching the MD-11 Leadership Development Committee Report for the October Council of Governors meeting. I will be out-of-the-country during the COG meeting teaching for Lions Clubs International at the Senior Lions Leadership Institute. Our MD has 7 Lions in addition to me who will be participating in this Leadership opportunity. This item is addressed in the report.

CC Terry and VCC Dave will facilitate the VDG training on the afternoon of Friday, Oct. 3. We have been in communication in this regard and everything is all set. The VDGs will be in very capable hands.

In addition, when the Oct. 11 combined MERL meeting date was determined, all responsible parties knew that I would be out-of-the-country on a personal vacation during that time. It was agreed to move ahead with the plans with the understanding that PDG Dr. Tom Doyle would represent the Leadership Committee on that day. I have assisted with the planning and organizing of this training and have submitted the required paperwork to LCI's leadership division for approval. Our agenda received that approval and the remaining paperwork has been endorsed by me and forwarded to Mary Brown and Dr. Tom Doyle for submission to LCI.

I leave for Toronto September 30 in the AM and will be home long enough to change suitcases for our personal vacation to the Mediterranean and Black Sea. We will return from this vacation October 26. I wish each of you a very successful Council weekend and continuing successes in your districts.

District chairpersons are busy preparing and hosting fall conferences. Club officer training venues are being explored for this spring and preparations are well underway for that. Some of the district highlights are:

A1 Chairperson Lion A. Maxine O'Keefe is helping with the newly chartered Madonna University Club and is working with her sister and LCI to establish a club in West Africa. She is encouraging participation in our Regional Lions Leadership Institute.

A2 Chairperson Lion Jim Pettinato's district committee is in place and they have been promoting both the Leadership Forum and Faculty Development Institute. Their annual Passion/Everyday Hero workshop is being planned for this winter.

B1 Chairperson PDG Shirley Frederick has developed a PowerPoint that clubs can use for membership and for training leaders. LEO club officer and advisor training was held.

B2 Chairperson PDG Hank Bosma is happy to report *Membership Is UP!* Clubs are responding to the membership drive, an extension workshop is planned and new member orientation begins the end of September. It looks like a full slate of candidates will be ready for their annual convention.

C1 Chairperson PDG Kyle Austin is busy getting the fall conference scheduled for Nov. 1 underway. He is helping rebuild two clubs. Club officer training will be held in May 2009.

C2 Chairperson PDG Dr. Tom Doyle is working with the district convention committee to hold club officer training during the convention. This will be a cost savings to the participants and will hopefully increase attendance at the convention.

D1 Chairperson PDG Alice Zajac, along with DG Frank and VDG George, has been working to change the format of their annual fall conference in the hopes of getting more members to attend. The sessions will center on leadership in the clubs and district and committee reports will be shortened to give more time to attend the breakout sessions.

D2 Chairperson PDG Peter Lapka reports that the district's annual club officer training is complete and went well. Club officer manuals and program materials are available to his clubs. Each club was given an updated district constitution and by-laws.

E1 Chairperson Lion George Whyte has been recuperating from a very serious auto accident and hopes to be back on his feet soon.

E2 Chairperson PDG Wayne Schultz continues to work with the District MERL team on membership and extension. He is optimistic they will extend new clubs this year.

Plans for the October 11 combined MERL committee training in Lansing are set. Meeting notices have gone out to all committee members, speakers have been secured, and the agenda has been approved by LCI's Leadership Division. PDG Dr. Tom Doyle will chair the leadership portion of this meeting.

As chairperson, I have been working with the MI Forum, the MD-11 Convention, the Leadership Institute and the Faculty Development Institute committees. The October Vice District Governor training agenda has been set. A general overview of the remaining training has been shared with the Council Chairperson. We are waiting to hear from the Leadership Division of LCI in regards to this year's 1st Vice President's International Program, which will help to solidify the agendas. All of our MD VDGs have registered for Higgins Lake.

LCI's Leadership division has informed me that the International Board will be discussing the training of the 2nd Vice District Governor position during its October Board meeting. Following this, our MD will be informed as to whether we will conduct our own training or work in correspondence with LCI like we currently do for the VDGs.

Several Michigan Lions traveled to Saskatoon and the USA/Canada Leadership Forum. Plans are underway for the September 2009 Forum to be held in Memphis. Grand Rapids did not receive the 2013 bid.

Lions International Senior Leadership Institute is to be held in Toronto, Canada Oct. 2-6, 2008. Including me, we have 8 Michigan Lions who will be representing our MD. They are: Lions A. Maxine O'Keefe and Harold Stephens from A1; Lion Norm Stutesman from B2; Lions Jerry Howard from D2; and Lions Carl Hawkins, Laura Johnson and John Monahan from E1. This is a great representation for our MD! It is interesting to note that the following Lions attended LCI's Senior Lion Leadership Institute in recent history: DG Jim Williams, DG Linda Bosma, DG Roberta Sexton, DG Larry Morlock, DG Charles Belesky, PDG Margaret Anderson and PDG Bill Raymor. See a pattern? Institutes, such as this plus the ones we sponsor in our MD, are helping to build future leaders.

In conclusion, our MD Leadership Committee members continue to work diligently to help their respective district leaders and are willing to help our MD in whatever capacity we can. I commend them for their hard work and dedication to our Association.

LEO COMMITTEE REPORT

Laurene Homsher, Chairperson

I have included the minutes of our most recent meeting. Our Leo committee is anxious to share within each district the wonderful opportunities Leo Club can provide for our youth. The challenge I presented to each committee member is to grow by ONE NEW LEO CLUB in each district. *This can be done and our committee can do it!*

The key ingredient to beginning, maintaining and supporting Leo Clubs is an enthusiastic advisor. This seems to be the most challenging element, but I know that those people DO EXIST in each town...we just need to look around and find that person that loves youth and the positive attributes they can bring and share as WE SERVE.

Due to rising gasoline prices, our remaining meetings will be shared ON LINE. All members have agreed to this format and promise to remain active and respond in a timely fashion.

I am excited for this year. If my numbers are correct, we have at least 5 new Leo clubs forming within the state and possibly more. We are so excited to share the good news with our Lions Clubs that Leo Clubs can only HELP the community. Please support with your financial gifts (*\$25 or more sent to support our State Leo Conference earns a banner patch for your club!*). You may send your contribution directly to Mary Brown and she will see that you receive your patch.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you have questions or concerns.

M I N U T E S

Members present: Kim Thiede (11-A2); Jeff Eineder (11-B1); Shirley Ashley (11-B2); Aversa Radford (11-C2); Jim Blaschka (11-D1); Laurene Homsher (11-E1). **Guest present:** Debbie Carlson (11-B2)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Laurene Homsher at 1 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

I. 2008-2009 Goals and Objectives

L. Homsher outlined areas of importance for the committee. Enthusiastic discussion was shared by all.

1. Understanding our role as a LEO District Chair

a. To be familiar with the fundamental principles and procedures for sponsoring a LEO Club

- b. To promote and publicize the LEO Club program within our own district
- c. Encourage Lions Clubs to sponsor and support LEO Clubs
- d. Contact advisors of new LEO Clubs offering encouragement, support and program/service ideas
- e. Know how to contact the YOUTH DIVISION of LCI for available LEO Club materials/resources
- f. Share the Homsher/Rodenbeck brochure with prospective LEO Club sponsoring clubs—each chair was to take 5 or more as a promotion tool along with materials/resources from LCI

2. Growing LEO Clubs in each of the districts

- a. Growth goal of at least one new LEO Club in each district
- b. Securing an enthusiastic ADVISOR is the key to all LEO Clubs successes
- c. Clubs may be formed within schools, places of worship or within the general community

3. Encouraging, Supporting and Sustaining LEO Clubs

- a. Service project ideas were shared -- kids need to keep the activities stimulating and FUN
- b. Fund-raising project ideas were shared -- try ideas to see what works for your club
- c. Chair persons need to make direct contact with local Lions Clubs to encourage a new club and must contact/visit current LEO clubs to offer physical support and encouragement

4. State LEO Conference

- a. Date was discussed. The committee tabled setting a date until checking with their local LEOS to see what conflicts we might run into. March was a suggested month.
- b. Location—Camp Tuhsmehta (Greenville) was suggested as a central site and the cost is a mere \$25 custodial fee. L.Homsher will check on available dates.
- c. Pins—it was decided that we would keep the design of the 2007 LEO pin, but change the colors to maroon and gold (official LEO colors). Date will be 2009. Decision to have the —new□ pins created to attach YEAR for a progressive pin. The thought was to help keep the cost down and not have to reinvent the pin under economically difficult times.

5. State LEO Officers

- a. Discussion was shared as we clarified the need of State officers. Since none were elected in April 2008, the committee will re-visit this topic at the next meeting.
- b. With rising gasoline prices, committees are moving to phone conferencing, emailing and/or on-line chatting to conduct business. There would be little opportunity to —lead□ a meeting. We will revisit this issue at our next on-line meeting.

6. Youth Exchange Program

- a. The chair of Lions Youth Exchange (Karen Ates) requested that all LEO chairs be aware of the YEP and seek Lions and LEOS to become host families or youth exchange to another country
- b. Information was shared and chairs may contact Karen directly.

MD 11 CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORT

Bob Sturgis, PDG, Chairperson

The Multiple District Convention Committee met on Saturday, Sept. 27 at the State Office. Past District Gov. Shirley Hoffman agreed to serve as Vice Chairperson of the committee. A review of the 2008 Convention in Sault Ste. Marie was presented. \$2664.56 was taken for equity to cover comps, as we charged the hotel cost of meals to attendees.

The 2009 Convention will be held at Holiday Inn South in Lansing on May 14-16. The room rate is \$79 single or double. April 14, 2009 is the deadline for reservations. Our International guest will be Second Vice President Sid Scruggs from North Carolina.

Before further discussion of agenda items, I told the committee I had received a call from PID Bill Hansen asking if he could possibly hold his appreciation dinner/party on Friday night of the convention. I told him I would present his proposal to the committee on the 27th. After much discussion, the committee decided this wasn't a good idea for several reasons. It might distract from 2VP Scruggs as well as our Director candidate Sara Doubledee. We also felt that our format of a fun night on Friday, which has been well accepted, would be missed by attendees. We feel this has been a factor in getting new Lions to the convention and don't want to impede the progress we have made in the past few years. A motion and second to allow PID Bill to hold his dinner on Thursday, May 14, was approved by the committee.

Many ideas were discussed for a Friday night theme. The committee decided to adopt an All Sports Tailgate theme. Tailgate foods, such as hot dogs, brats and burgers will be served at different stations around the hall. Attendees will be asked to wear jerseys of their favorite pro or college team. I will attempt to get a coach from MSU, such as Tom Izzo, to speak and Brian Shepard will see about a pep band from MSU.

The annual golf outing will be hosted by the Holt Lions Club. Site and other details will come later.

We will have two breakout sessions: "Proud Past, Bright Future" presented by Pete Lapka and "Everything I Needed to Know as a Lion I Learned in Kindergarten" by Dr. Tom Doyle. We will also have a spouse program, "Healthy Eating on a Budget" presented by Cheryl Schneider.

A hospitality room will be provided for Sara Doubledee if she desires. If not, the committee will host it.

There will be a Saturday lunch, a Memorial Service, and the Saturday Night Banquet.

Bids for the 2011 Convention will be accepted until December 30, 2008. The 2010 Convention will be held at Mission Point Resort on Mackinac Island.

BEAR LAKE CAMP COMMITTEE REPORT

Buck Juengel, Chairperson

The Bear Lake Committee is working on getting prizes for a raffle we will be putting on state wide for Bear Lake Camp. We are looking to buy needed and wanted items for the camp from a wish list that is out. This raffle will start after the beginning of the year and will be drawn just prior to the multiple district convention. Each member of the Bear Lake State Committee will receive an allotment of tickets for their district to sell.

Also I have proposed that each committee member get with their respective district representatives and zone or region reps and have them put on a presentation of Bear Lake for each club in the state. We ask for their donations we owe them a report and explanation as to where and what the monies go to.

LION PRIDE MAGAZINE REPORT

Michelle Fields, Editor

State of the Magazine

This year promises to be an interesting ride. As many of you know, the US Postal Service posted a \$1.1 billion dollar loss in the third quarter. Officials blamed the loss on reduced mail volume in the slowed economy, coupled with rapidly rising transport costs because of high fuel prices. The post office is working to deal with its losses by cutting costs. The agency has reduced its staff and is offering early retirement to some clerks, mail handlers and supervisors. However, if they are unable to make enough cuts there will be another postage increase on the horizon. How much it will affect bulk postage rates remains anyone's guess.

The magazine absorbed a \$500/issue mail increase last year, which equates to \$4,500/year. The Publication Advisory Committee is looking at options to offset the price-hike. They include raising advertising costs or eliminating an issue. It has been several years since the magazine has adjusted advertising rates and it has become imperative to do so. The committee plans to exhaust all other options before decreasing the number of issues printed.

Continuing Concerns

Certain district's send in little or no news. Larger pages means it's imperative District Editors educate clubs about submitting material and keep them excited about the magazine. They need to call clubs when an article doesn't make sense, or when more information is needed about a photo. It is impossible to look at a photo and magically know what the event is, or why it was held. The magazine does not employ reporters to attend club events. If clubs want their information published, they have to send stories and photos to their district editor.

As you visit clubs, please tell them how to get their stories and photos published in the magazine. If you would like copies to take with you I have promotional packets available.

The magazine is looking for general information articles; please send any you come across. The magazine will print these stories when club news is sparse.

If you have any questions or concerns, I am more than happy to help in any way I can. Please contact me at 517-887-6640 ext. 15 or mfields@lionsofmi.com.

Future Goals

Advertising Goals:

1. More consistent advertisement in the magazine.

Magazine Goals:

1. Get articles from more clubs.
 - a. Receive more stories and fewer captions from clubs
 - b. Encourage clubs to send articles and photos about community service projects, and things they are doing, rather than people giving out plaques.
 - c. Attempt to get photos that give the story more impact and presence.
2. Educate clubs on the kind of stories the magazine is looking for.
 - a. A story is more than two sentences
 - b. It says something about what the activity is for, what it supports, and why the club participates.
 - c. A photo with the names of the people in it is not an article.
 - d. Say something about the event, not "A good time was had by all."
3. Increase the amount of state news in the magazine.

LIONS OF MICHIGAN ALL STATE BAND COMMITTEE REPORT

Diane Schweda, Chairperson

I am sending in this report in compliance with your request that all reports be submitted no later than September 25, although I have little to report at this time.

We will have our first joint meeting of the Lions All State Band Committee and the All State Band Board of Trustees on Saturday, September 27, 2008 at the Michigan State Office.

Some of the items that are on the agenda are a review of the Bangkok tour and the audit report and a look at our financial support program. We will be given information about the pre-tour trip to Minneapolis. The committee will also work toward finalizing our goals for the coming year.

As the committee member from District 11 B1, I have been calling on the Band Directors from my area schools to set up times to meet with them as a follow-up to the letter that they will all receive from the Lions of MI All State Band. One of my goals for the coming year is that District Committee Members contact local band directors to ensure that the LMASB poster is displayed in their rooms and answer any questions that the director or students may have about the trip.

Important Dates: November 9 – Auditions (Location TBD)
 January 10 – Rehearsal
 April 18 – Rehearsal
 May 16 – Rehearsal and Performance at MD 11 Convention
 June 30 thru July 3 – Band Camp
 July 4 thru July 11 – Minneapolis Tour

Information from the meeting on September 27 will be sent ASAP.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

David Bennett, Chairperson

The MD 11 Public Relations Committee tried to hold a meeting at the Lions State Office on Saturday, September 20, 2008. Only two people responded and showed up, from 11 C2 and 11 D2. Letters of this meeting were sent out by the State Office one month before the meeting and an email reminder was sent out several days before the September 20th meeting. Only two people responded. It was also pointed out that if you cannot attend, please send a replacement.

September 24, 2008 I sent out a second letter about re-scheduling another date and meeting, but as of today only two people have responded. We have five new people on the Public Relations Committee this year and it's hard to get anything done when committee members do not respond or show up for meetings. Your help in reaching a solution would be greatly appreciated.

LEADER DOG COMMITTEE REPORT

Frank Cunningham, Chairperson

All District Leader dog Chairpersons were invited to a training session held at Leader dog on Saturday September 13, 2008. Four Districts from MD-11 and District 10 were represented; those who did not attend will receive a packet of information shortly.

Once everyone receives their information packet I will schedule a conference call or meeting. On October 10-12 the Vice-Governors are scheduled to visit Leader Dog. This will be similar to your visit back in August as Governor. They will be presented with the "Growing the Dream" program as Leader dog celebrates 70 years of service.

Attached is a flyer on the Leader dog Dinner on December 4, 2008. This will take the place of the Annual Leader Dog Luncheon and Big "D" night and all Lions are welcome

HEARING COMMITTEE REPORT

Gayle Morlock, Chairperson

Hearing Committee Minutes – September 6, 2008

Meeting was called to order by Lion Gayle Morlock, Chair, at 10:02 a.m. Introduction of members present and new member Lion Jerry Kamrath.

Members Present: Lion Carlton Stanley (B1), Lion Jerry Kamrath (D1), Lion Gayle Morlock, Chair (E1), DG Larry Morlock (E1) Liaison to Council of Governors, Lion Nan Asher, and statewide (MADHH)
Members Absent: Lion Cheryl Bragg (A1), Lion Jim Johnson (A2), Lion Roger Smith (C1), Lion Toby VanRiper (C2), Lion Richard Roose (D2), Lion Kim LaCross (E2)

Minutes: **Motion** by Lion Carlton Stanley and seconded by Lion Nan Asher to accept the minutes of May 3, 2008, as presented. Motion carried.

Summary of district activities

B1—Lion Carlton reported on the Hearing and Speech Picnic on September 13th in Bedford. The Marshall Lions Club is sponsoring the door prizes. They are getting many requests for hearing aids. They have a problem finding audiologist and this is taking time. Distance a person has to travel is also a problem. The district has increased its donation to MADHH.

MADHH—Lion Nan reported that they hearing aid program is free for kids. There is a \$50 charge for adults. Their sales are up for assistive listening devices. You can still repair the analog hearing aids.

D1—Lion Jerry reported that 20-30 hearing aids have been distributed. They recycle hearing aids through STARKEY and purchase their hearing aids through HEAR USA. He has received several calls in the last month. He stated that the district has approved \$2000 for next year for the purchase of hearing aids.

E1—Lion Gayle reported that the EarLab will be sending a report on the referrals and number of screenings they did in the past year.

Review of last year's goals – Lion Cheryl Bragg is still working on the brochures and fact sheet.

Discussion of statewide policy for hearing assistance—Lion Nan volunteered to write articles for the Lions Pride on several issues. The procedure will be sent to the clubs and a statement that the Lions are the last resort for help.

The committee decided to do an article for each of the next 10 issues of Lions Pride.

- #1 – Facts about hearing loss/audiogram
- #2 – Club procedures
- #3 – Brochure/club requests
- #4 – Hearing Impaired Camps/Leadership
- #5 – Prevention of a hearing loss
- #6 – The Aging Ear
- #7 – Assistive Listening Devices
- #8 – Interpreter Law
- #9 – Helen Keller
- #10 – Reasonable Accommodations

The next meeting of the committee will be Saturday, November 1 at 1:00 p.m. at the MADHH Office. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

SIGHT CONSERVATION/DIABETES COMMITTEE REPORT

Robert Bobee, Chairperson

I am PRC Robert L. Bobee, State Chairperson of Juvenile Diabetes. I have contacted 7 of 8 of my committee people. We have agreed to meet on October 25, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. at the State Office.

I have given all my Committee a packet about Juvenile Diabetes to distribute among their District. I am looking for a Juvenile Diabetes Information Board. Some of the committee members have inquired regarding one to use during their Club reports.

I have spoken to Pat MacFarland to see what was done last year, what ideas his committee had or was working on for the upcoming year.

As soon as we have our meeting, I will give the Council an update of what was decided.

MICHIGAN EYE BANK COMMITTEE REPORT

Terry Gebhardt, Chairperson

The Michigan Eye Bank is looking forward to another successful year as one of the top leaders in their field. During the 2007 year, 1067 corneas were distributed to patients in the state of Michigan. Many of these patients were helped financially because of the support of Lions Clubs throughout the state.

With its 50 year anniversary behind it, the Michigan Eye Bank is now working on ground-breaking advances in information technology and cornea transplantation. The newest and most exciting project for our Lions committee chairs is the implementation of a new program titled, "I Joined!" All committee chairs have or will receive training that will enable them and their sub-chairs to visit all Lions Clubs in the state of Michigan and inform them of the importance of signing up in the Donor Registration Program. This program is a joint effort between the Michigan Secretary of State, Gift of Life of Michigan and the Michigan Eye Bank. This program is the main project that the Michigan Eye Bank Committee will be concentrating on in 2008. Our main goal is to dramatically raise the number of participants on the Michigan Donor Registry.

It is my hope that the 2008 Council of Governors will remind their clubs about the many great successes that the Michigan Eye Bank has been involved in. The continued support of our clubs will enable the Michigan Eye Bank to continue as a leader in cornea distribution, research grant awards and organ and tissue donor awareness.