MD27B1 District Cabinet Minutes

Date: Sunday, July 25, 2021

Location: Reach Forward 1901 S. 8th St. Sheboygan, WI 53081

Virtual Option: Yes – Meeting Only - Please see additional Email.

If Questions: Reply to this email – dajach@yahoo.com or call – 920.684.0115

1) **Call Meeting to Order** by DG Lion BJ Blahnik @ 1:00 pm
2) **Pledge of Allegiance** led by IPDG Lion Tom Wendt
3) **Prayer** given by Chaplin Lion Myra Schneider
   DG Lion BJ mentioned there will be no songs for the year
4) **Motion for Approval of Agenda** as presented made by IPDG Lion Tom Wendt, 2nd by PDG Lion Gary Silah. MOTION CARRIED
5) **Individual Introduction** of Lions present with name, cabinet position and club. Special guest MD27 Endorsed ID Candidate PDG Lion Lee Vrieze and spouse Past WLF President PDG Lion Mary Vrieze.
   DG Lion BJ thanked everyone for being on the cabinet this year. His theme this year will be **TEAMWORK**, we as Lions can not due this alone. His Vision will be to promote Healthy and Impactful clubs. He is HUMBLE to be our District Governor.
6) **Installation of Cabinet** was done by MD27 Endorsed ID Candidate PDG Lion Lee Vrieze. PDG Vrieze thanked everyone for stepping up this year. He installed the District chairs, Zone chairs, Secretary/Treasurer, 1st & 2nd Vice District Governors for the current Lion year. He reminded IPDG Tom Wendt that "This is Not your Year". District Governor BJ was officially installed virtually along with the other MD27 governors. PDG Lee mentioned there is no official LCIF installation for GMA or LCI coordinators, however MD27 has one and duly elected PDG Fred Gebhart as GMA and Lion Vince Treague as LCI District 27 B1 rep. Lion Vince will be reviewed by LCI for acceptance. PDG Lee declared the cabinet duly elected. DG Lion BJ thanked PDG Lee & Mary for being his backup throughout the years.
7) **Roll Call** was conducted by CST Lion Dave Holschbach during the individual introductions earlier. 18 of 28 cabinet members present. Guests PDG Lee & PDG Mary Vrieze and Lion Amy Kubichka district bucket chair.
8) **Honors & Recognition** is something new this year. DG Lion BJ wanted to honor PDG Len Quinn with a special "LION SPIRIT AWARD" to be done on a club level. Each club will select a member, not the president for the special award. There will be 7 nominees, 1 from each zone to be awarded at the District meeting at WI Lions State Convention. A special award was presented to IPDG Tom and Lion Roxanne for their past services. They demonstrated how we can operate as a TEAM. Thank you for your leadership. IPDG Tom admits it was a challenging year.
9) **Tail Twister** Lion Wendy Williams was not present, her and Lion Andy were celebrating their 25 years together. Lion Vickie Blahnik filled in. Same 3 minute rules and fines as in previous years.
10) **Secretary's Reports** by CST Lion Dave Holschbach
    a. **Approval of March 7, 2021 Cabinet Minutes** which were Emailed by CST Lion Dave motion made by Lion Dick Karl, 2nd by Lion Fred Gebhart. **MOTION CARRIED**
    b. **Approval of May 15, 2021 District Meeting Minutes** which were Emailed by CST Lion Dave motion made by Lion Vince Treague, 2nd by Lion John Stephen. **MOTION CARRIED**

c. **Correspondences** received from Fond du lac Eagles Club thanking the district for their $ 100 donation to the Kids Fishing Outing. CST Lion Dave explained the district officer training was held at the Eagles Club and they did not charge any rental. In thank you, the district made a donation.

11) **Treasurer's Report** by CST Lion Dave Holschbach

a. **2020-2021 District Financial Report** final report was emailed by CST Dave. We are showing a profit of $ 190 for the yearend. Cumulative carryover profits for the last few years is $ 9,631, we continue to show a profit. If the convention shows a profit, the district ends up being positive. Motion by PDG Gary Silah, 2nd by Lion Myra to accept. **MOTION CARRIED**

b. **2021-2022 District Budget** was emailed to cabinet members by CST Dave. Motion to accept by Lion Dick, 2nd by Lion Laurie Sasada. Discussion points by DG Lion BJ, some new items included in the budget. Centennial Tree planting of $500, will be done at the new park in Sheboygan in commemoration of 3 Lions clubs in our district celebrating 100 years. Also, a new item is the Lion Spirit Award previously discussed. The district raffle revenue has increased, the raffle ticket price will now be $5 instead of $2. **MOTION CARRIED**

c. **Audit of 2020-2021 District Financial Books** will be conducted by Lion Blaine Priebusch from Appleton. CST Lion Dave has been in contact with him. He is again willing to do the audit, he has worked with PDG Gary Colton in the previous year. Hopes to have a report by next cabinet meeting. There is no charge.

12) Old Business

a. **Reading Machines** update by IPDG Lion Tom Wendt. New to him, thanks to all the clubs from both sides of the lake that purchased them, 45 machines purchased. IPDG Tom and Lion Roxanne personally delivered some of the machines and described their experiences with the recipients. The machines really do make a difference in people's lives.

13) New Business

a. **LCIF Community Grant** update by DG Lion BJ & Lion Gary Roehrig. St. Peter and Winnebago East Shore Lions Clubs have been working with the Holy Family Food Pantry in the Holy Land area. They have outgrown their building. They anticipate a new building by late fall and are requesting district help to purchase new coolers and freezers. DG Lion BJ looked at grants available, the project does not meet the requirements for a LCI grant. There is however a certain percentage for the district from Campaign 100 funds that can be used by the district. The district would have approximately $8800 available. The clubs are looking for $5000, DG Lion BJ asked if the clubs would support $3000 from the district and they would raise the remainder needed. Motion by Lion Mike Helmke, 2nd by Lion John Stephen to proceed with the process of requesting for a community grant. Discussion to follow, DG BJ would like to see only $3000, about 1/3 of what is available. Question if other clubs know the community grant is available, answer NO, it is kind of been a LCIF secret. Do not need to spend all at once. No dollar amount requested in the motion, would need an amendment to the original motion. Would we want to delay until October cabinet meeting? The sooner the better. Lion Mike made a motion to amend his previous motion to now be approval to proceed with a request for $3000 for the community grant. Lion John agreed to the 2nd. No further discussion. **AMENDED MOTION CARRIED.** Paperwork will proceed.

b. **Discussion – Standard Matching Grant for Above & Beyond Children's Museum Adaptive Playground** in Sheboygan by DG Lion BJ moved to end of meeting.

c. **Packwaukee Lions Club Potential** Reopening held a town meeting on July 17th, where 29 people showed, 20 were non-Lions. There will be a 2nd meeting on July 31st, more to come. DG Lion BJ looks forward to another club joining our district.

d. **Future District Cabinet Meetings** dates are as follows per DG Lion BJ
   i. Sunday, October 3, 2021 at Reach Forward & Virtual Option
   ii. Sunday, November 14, 2021 at Blue Harbor(No Virtual Option)
   iii. Sunday, January 23, 2022 at Reach Forward & Virtual Option
   iv. Sunday, March 6, 2022 at Reach Forward & Virtual Option
   v. Final at State Convention - TBD

14) Break later

15) **First Vice District Governor Reports** by FVDG Lion Dave DG Lion BJ commented that our format is different than previous years. He wants to involve leadership and assign more responsibility to the Vice District Governors. Need to get the leadership in front of the clubs. FVDG Dave is also the District Administrator taking over what Lion Rose Berendes use to do for MyLCI/MyLION. FVDG Dave will also be working with the zone chairs for more involvement in clubs reporting. Chairs must submit written reports prior to cabinet meetings at least 10 days prior and only highlighted items will be discussed. Don't read written reports only bullet points or special recognition. Zone chairs are limited to 2 minutes for reports. Send reports to DG Lion BJ and CST Dave, 10 days prior, who will send to cabinet members to be read prior to meeting. Zone chair template will be 3 items. ACTION ITEMS – OPPORTUNITIES - CHALLENGES SVDG Greg would like to see a footnote of the club activities to help promote clubs. SVDG Greg will send an outline to the zone chairs to follow.

   a. **FVDG Dave Update** that we are not doing too bad on reporting, there is room for improvement. Various clubs have not even reported activity for 24 months, 1 club has not reported officers yet. Also zone chairs let PDG Tom Clausen know when your zone meeting is and also any club upcoming activities, so he can get them on the district calendar.
   b. **Committee Reports**
      i. **Pediatric Cancer** – PDG Lion Dave Lee sent a report on file with CST Dave
      ii. **Leader Dog** – PDG Lion Dave Lee sent a report on file with CST Dave
      iii. **LEO's** – Lion Gary Roehrig present, however nothing new at this time.
      iv. **Youth Exchange** – Lion Ben Wiley not present, no report sent.
      v. **Pride** – Lion Myra Schneider was present, no report at this time.
      vi. **Restoring Hope Transplant House** – DG Lion BJ was present, no report at this time.
      vii. **Birch/Sturm** – Lion Victoria Blahnik was present, no report at this time.
      viii. **IT/Historical** – PDG Lion Tom Clausen & Lion Andy Williams. PDG Tom reminded the zone chairs to get their meeting dates to him. As far as history, all is posted on website.
      ix. **District Raffle** – Lion John Stephen reported the tickets are in the zone chair packets. Reminder that the raffle laws state tickets can not be sent in the mail, Lions Members only. DG Lion BJ reported the raffle price is now $5 and each club given 30 tickets. Crucial that the Zone chairs have packets delivered by August 31st. Introduction of Lion Amy Kubichka as the district bucket raffle chair.

16) **Second Vice District Governor Reports** – SVDG Lion Greg Kubichka

   a. **SVDG Greg** is working on a couple of changes with zone chairs. He will get an outline to help, he is there to HELP. What's working ?? What's not ?? **SERVICE** will be his focus. Please be sure to report your service activities.
   b. **Global Service Team (GST) Committee Reports**
      i. **Environment** – Lion Roxanne Wendt gave a visual presentation, Focus will be for all 63 clubs to due roadside cleanup, goal of 500 miles by November 1st, even if you take a walk and you pick up garbage would qualify. Report as a club activity. Get your family involved. Let her know your club mileage.
      ii. **Vision/Special Olympics** – Lion Fred - Vision screening starting to take hold, schools are starting to open up now. Special Olympics have been busy. April will be the Lions vision screening for the Special Olympics Basketball tournament.
      iii. **Diabetes** update by Lion Vince, he would like to see our district display more visible. He would also like to see a diabetes fair, possible in March which is Diabetes Month. Also has children's diabetes books available for the taking and put in school libraries. He is available for presentations.
      iv. **Hunger** – Lion Katie Karls was not present, no report sent.
      v. **Hearing/Eyeglasses** – WLF Director Lion Wendy Hartmann was not present, no report sent.
      vi. **Wisconsin Lions Missions** – Lion Pat Knier called and reported that due to the death of the Lion that ran the missions to the Indian reservation, nothing is new at this time. They will be meeting August 15th at which time they will reorganize the mission to the reservation.

17) District Governor Reports

a. DG Lion BJ has received great comments on the building for our meeting. He appreciates everyone's flexibility.

i. **Council of Governors (COG) Meeting** was held July 24th. 1st & 2nd VDG also had their training then. They have a good set of District Governors for this year. Worked on setting up the committees for the upcoming year. Potentially another LCI Pediatric Cancer grant. PDG Lion Lee talked about the changes to Global Membership Approach recommendations.

b. Committee Reports

i. **LCIF Coordinator** – Lion Vince had nothing to report at this point, waiting for confirmation.

ii. **GMT/GMA** – DG Lion BJ wants to be involved in the membership. Work on retention, don't let anyone escape. Exit interviews are very Important, Point scale system to develop statistics. More to come in the future. PDG Lion Fred asked to involve other people with your services and activities. Good way to get membership. RETENTION – Keep them involved, they won't leave. If not involved the LION spirit will die.

iii. **Newspaper Editor/PR** – Lion Mike Roberts is new at this and learning everything. He has some articles. 2/3 of the space filled. Thank you, Lion Fred for getting him organized. August 1st deadline for articles.

iv. **Constitution & Bylaws/Policies & Procedures** – PDG Lion Gary Silah is in the process of reviewing all documents. We need to purge any mention of Lioness, we are doing things that are not written into the policy and bylaws or not properly following the guidelines. Also need to update to reality and update the convention policy. Does not need help at this point, first has to read everything. He will need help later to rewrite, 2006 is the latest version update. PDG Lee was state chair for 3 years. There are certain policies that come from LCI and can not be modified. Things in Constitution and Bylaws that need to be changed must be presented 30 days prior as a resolution to be voted on at the district convention. Policies can be changed, bylaws must be voted on. DG Lion BJ recommends setting up a working meeting at a later date.

v. **District Convention** – DG Lion BJ

1. **Convention Budget** was handed out, given to cabinet to show transparency and explain what is all involved.
2. **Bucket Raffle** – Lion Amy Kubichka would like to get 2 bucket raffle from each club, special on Friday and also Saturday. Letter enclosed in zone chairman club packets along with district raffle tickets, ads and registration forms. 3 day convention, live entertainment Friday and Saturday. He has received confirmation of speakers. Lots of FUN ! Not traditional seminars, all about building relationships and working with service organizations.

vi. **Elections & Nominations** – Lion Mike Helmke is just getting organized and will reach out for information. Positions to be filled this year are, Eye Bank Director (3 year term), 1 WLF Director (3 year term), convention site for 2022, 1st VDG, 2nd VDG, Pin design, peace poster, bean bag tourney site and any resolutions. Some officers are already in the pipeline. He will contact if needs to fill positions.

vii. **MyLCI/MyLion/Reporting** – FVDG Lion Dave is the ROSE 2.0, he is the contact, just ask. He is trying to get clubs caught up, trying to improve the reporting. Contact zone chair first then the 1st and 2nd DG. DG Lion BJ would like to see 1st and 2nd VDG available for zone meetings.

viii. **Wisconsin Lions Foundation** – WLF Director PDG Lion Fred mentioned August 14th Hustle S'more and see the camp, September 10th drawing for Kids Raffle. 2 weeks of diabetes camp just concluded which WLF ran. Things going well at camp, 100 campers per week, parents are still skeptical with sending their kids. PDG Fred plans to run for WLF treasurer.

ix. **Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin** – LEBW Director Lion Chuck Keifenheim was not present, no report sent. DG Lion BJ is the district rep on the Council. Transporters service is up and full running as previously.

x. **Pins/Peace Poster** – Lion Lori Sasada Peace Posters are for sale. This year's theme is **"We are all Connected"** District pins are for sale for $3 see Laurie or DG Lion BJ. FVDG Lion Dave does not have a theme so far for next year, will let everyone know so we can submit a pin design.

xi. **GLT –** IPDG Lion Tom Wendt is excited about being in this position. State chair is PCC Jeri Schlender, he has worked with her in the past.

1. **Trainings** – There will be a Guiding Lion training on Sunday of the convention. Become an information expert. We are also looking at May 1st for district officer training in Fond du Lac again. IPDG Tom is waiting to confirm the date. DG Lion BJ is requesting the zone chairs to attend the trainings.
2. **USA/Canada Forum** is in Des Moines on September 9-11th. Still can enroll.
3. **State Convention** was May 11-13, 2023 at Stevens Point, dates changed to May 6-8th.
4. **International Convention** for 2022 will be back in Montreal. MD27 Endorsed ID Candidate PDG Lion Lee Vrieze has opportunities for anyone to help at International Convention and his campaign.

xii. District/State Events

1. **District Bowling** – DG Lion BJ was present, no report at this time.
2. **State Bowling** – DG Lion BJ was present, no report at this time.
3. **District Bean Bag Tournament** – Lion Dick Karl reported Sheboygan Noon Lions are interested in coordinating the tournament. Will check policy for information. PDG Fred constructed the boards and donated them to Sheboygan Noon Lions.
4. **State Curling** – DG Lion BJ was present, no report at this time.

xiii. **District Long Range Planning** – DG Lion BJ held their 1st meeting in a long time. Talked about service, membership and leadership. Hope to have another meeting prior to cabinet meeting.

18) **Zone Chair Reports** DG Lion BJ expectations for zone chairs is to let us know what needs to be discussed. Refrain from mentioning all of the clubs individual activities. Just things that need to be addressed.

a. Zone 2 – Lion Al Kanaugh was not present, no report sent.
b. Zone 34 – Lion Dick Karl present no report at this time.
c. Area 51 – Lion Pat Knier was not present, no report sent.
d. Zone 6 – Lion Dale Counihan was not present, no report sent.
e. Zone 78 – Lion Barb Leichtfuss's zone has recovered from the quarantine. Oakfield has a celebration for the 25th anniversary recovery from the tornado. Zone meeting September 29th. Discussion will be history and level of Lions by CST Lion Dave.
f. Zone 9 & 10 – Lion Lori Sasada was present no report at this time. Getting to know the clubs. DG Lion BJ thanked Lion Laurie for stepping up and taking over Zone 10 also.
g. Zone 11 – Lion Vince Treague had a President meeting with the clubs to see how they are doing and how to help each other. Well received meeting. Possibly looking at setting up a zone foundation and the technicalities. Also going to work on club quality initiative. Clubs starting to do projects and setting a zone meeting schedule. DG Lion BJ mentions there are differences between 501C4 and 501C3, pros and cons. Extra steps and rules for establishing foundations.

19) Other Business

a. Discussion – Standard Matching Grant for Above & Beyond Children's Museum Adaptive Playground by DG Lion BJ " **The Purple Octopus"**. $500,000 budget, $300,000 already raised. Possible LCI grant, DG Lion BJ is working with 3 clubs, Town of Sheboygan, Sheboygan Noon and Sheboygan Evening. A donor will match district amount up to $ 20,000. Thought process to ask for a $40,000 LCI grant. District would need to raise 50% of $20,000 by January and donor donate of $20,000. Great opportunity for a district project which would qualify for an LCI grant. Request action to proceed with Due Diligence for this project. Motion by Lion Gary Roehrig, 2nd by Lion Mike Helmke to gather more information for the October meeting and have a grant proposal ready for signature and any other Due Diligence. **MOTION CARRIED** Discussion to follow.

b. Comments & Questions –SVDG Greg also mentioned clubs should work with community organizations on projects not only to benefit themselves but also the community. FVDG Dave asked about the district

STUFF the BUS. Some districts still do carry on the state project. Raise school supplies for the area schools. It is up to individual areas to proceed.

MD27 Endorsed ID Candidate PDG Lion Lee Vrieze thanked the cabinet for the invite. He also mentioned that a Lions Club cannot be a 501C3, must be totally separate bylaws, constitutions etc., get legal involvement. Make sure Lions Clubs file 990 EZ to maintain club tax exemption status with IRS. THANK YOU

c. **Next Meeting** – Sunday, October 3, 2021 (In-Person & Virtual Option)

20) **Meeting Adjournment** motion made at 3:58 PM by IPDG Tom Wendt, 2nd by Lion Roxanne Wendt. **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted by CST Lion Dave Holschbach August 5, 2021

MD27B1 District Cabinet Minutes

Date: Sunday, October 3, 2021

Location: Reach Forward 1901 S. 8th St. Sheboygan, WI 53081

Virtual Option: Yes If Questions: Reply to this email – dajach@yahoo.com or call – 920.684.0115

Open Discussion (Voluntary): 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM (In Person Only)

Lunch & Social: 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Meeting (In-person & Virtual): 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Preliminary Agenda updated sent 9/27/21 with attached reports.

1) **Call Meeting** to Order by DG Lion BJ Blahnik @ 1:05 PM
2) **Pledge of Allegiance** led by IPDG Lion Tom Wendt
3) **Prayer** given by Chaplin Lion Myra Schneider
4) **Approval of Agenda** motion made by IPDG Lion Tom Wendt, 2nd by Lion John Stephen. **CARRIED**
5) **Welcome** to second cabinet meeting of the year by DG Lion BJ Blahnik. Special Guests IPDG Tammy Rockenbach who is the Co-Chairperson of MD 27 Global Membership Approach and her partner Lion Greg Clark along with PDG Jerry Post.
6) **Roll Call** physically taken by CST Lion Dave Holschbach for backup to LCI Grant. 20 cabinet members in attendance, 2 virtual attendees and 7 excused.
7) **Honors & Recognition** by DG Lion BJ Blahnik. This year our district will award a special recognition to a club member. The award is called "SPIRIT AWARD" to be given at the district meeting at the state convention in May. The award is new this year and includes a $500 donation to the recipient's choice of a recognized program. It will be presented to a club member not a past or current president. Each club will be asked to write an essay why this Lion is deserving. Final rules have not been finalized. Zone chairs will make sure their clubs submit a Lion by March 1. A committee will make the selection. DG Lion BJ Blahnik will create rules and update.
8) **Tail Twister** Meeting Rules: Introduction of Lion Wendy Williams from the Town of Sheboygan Lions. DG Lion BJ Blahnik explained the 3-minute rule and fine structure. Lion Wendy also has a Black Forest cake to present for a special number selected.
9) **Secretary's Report** – CST Lion Dave Holschbach
    a. **Approva**l of July 25, 2021 Cabinet Minutes which were emailed motion was made by Lion Dale Counihan, 2nd by IPDG Tom Wendt to accept as presented. **MOTION CARRIED**
    b. **No Correspondences** received by CST Lion Dave or DG Lion BJ Blahnik.
10) **Treasurer's Report** – CST Lion Dave Holschbach through September 30, 2021, Report **# A1 and A2** were emailed to all cabinet members. Motion by Lion Dale Counihan, 2nd by Lion Wendy Hartmann to accept as published. **MOTION CARRIED**
    a. **2020-2021 Audit** & Form 990 Report **# A3** are complete. CST Dave read the letter from Lion Blaine Priebusch from Erickson and Associates stating the books have been reviewed and he found no errors or misstatements. The financial position and cash flow of Lions of District 27 B1 as of June 30, 2021 are in conformity with good bookkeeping practices.

11) Old Business

a. **Reading Machines** update by IPDG Lion Tom Wendt, there will be a newer model coming out for any future orders. Very successful project.

12) New Business

a. **LCIF Community Grant** of $3000 update by Lion Vince Treague for the cooler purchase for the Holy Land Food Pantry. Paperwork complete awaiting signatures. Community grants are available based on the contributions to LCI from the district. 15% is available which is approximately $11,000. The total project cost is $12,000.

b. Discussion of Standard Matching Grant for Above & Beyond Childrens Museum Adaptive Playground by DG Lion BJ Blahnik. DG Lion BJ Blahnik thanked all the cabinet members for their prompt reply to the email request for approval of the LCI Grant. An electronic vote was needed since the cabinet did not meet until October 3rd and the deadline was October 1st. The Above and Beyond project is a $500,000 amount of which District 27B1 Lions were asked to donate $105,000 for the rubber safety surfacing, we accepted it as a Centennial Project. A matching grant request for $ 50,000 was made to LCI. To date three sponsor clubs have committed $12,500 and a non-Lion named Jay Christopher donation of $ 25,000. The district needs to raise the remaining $12,500. Donation requests will be sent to the clubs. The electronic voting results were: Of the 29 cabinet members, 25 votes YES, 1 vote abstain (grant writer) and 2 no response votes. **Motion made by Lion Vince Treague, 2nd by Lion John Stephen to accept the electronic submission as validation of cabinet voting for acceptance of the LCI grant submission in the amount of $50,00. MOTION CARRIED** A request will be made to the clubs to donate $400 or more. In celebration of Wisconsin Lions centennial year, Above & Beyond Children's Museum will plant 2 trees dedicated to the LIONS.

c. **Packwaukee Lions Club** Potential Reopening update by FVDG Lion Dave Brinkman. They will have a meeting on Monday Oct. 4th. Montello Lions club has agreed to be the Host Club, Packwaukee will open as a Branch club. Pewaukee had lost their Lions club in 2013. Welcome Back.

d. **Future District Cabinet Meetings** updated by DG Lion BJ Blahnik

i. **Sunday, November 14, 2021** at Blue Harbor cabinet meeting has been cancelled. We have the required meetings scheduled and there normally is no additional business to cover except the convention updates. The other 3 dates remain, with a change in location for January 23rd.

ii. **Sunday, January 23, 2022** meeting is tentatively planned to meet at Eagles Club in Fond du Lac, pending date confirmation. FVDG Dave Brinkman will run the meeting focusing on Global Membership Approach. This program will be in full operation next year. IPDG Tammy Tammy Rockenbach who is the Co-Chairperson of MD 27 commented this is now WORLDWIDE. More to follow.

iii. **Sunday, March 6, 2022** at Reach Forward & Virtual Option

iv. **Saturday May 7, 2022** – State Convention @ Grand Geneva Resort

13) First Vice District Governor Reports – FVDG Lion David Brinkman

a. **FVDG Update** Report **# B 1** He also added to remind clubs they are required to file Form 990 which is due by November 15th.

b. Committee Reports

i. **Pediatric Cancer** – DG Lion BJ did not have any new updates.

ii. **Leader Dog** – PDG Lion Meg Post Report **# C** Lion Meg added 27 B1 donated $22,521 to Leader Dog and was #1 in the state. PDG Jerry was given permission to donate Puppy Dogs at the district convention.

iii. **LEO's** chair Lion Gary Roehrig was not present and had no report.

iv. **Youth Exchange** rep Lion Ben Wiley is under the weather. DG Lion BJ Blahnik reported Youth Exchange Camp plans to be held in 2022. They meet October 21st.

v. **Pride** – Lion Myra Schneider had nothing to report.

vi. **Restoring Hope Transplant House** update given by IPDG Tammy Tammy Rockenbach. They are currently adding 6-16 bedrooms. A $2.7 million project with NO supplies to furnish them. Please continue to DONATE. 30% of Lions donations cover the operating expenses.

vii. **Birch/Sturm** – Lion Victoria Blahnik had no updates.

viii. **IT/Historical** – PDG Lion Tom Clausen reported everything as usual with IT and noting new in the Historical area. Be sure he gets updated for the Service of Remembrance at the district convention.

ix. **District Raffle** – Lion John Stephen will pick up any tickets as needed on the eastside and FVDG Dave Brinkman will pick up the westside. Getting prepared for district convention, has 5 clubs return check or tickets.

14) Second Vice District Governor Reports – SVDG Lion Greg Kubichka

a. **SVDG Greg** update has 13 clubs that have reported service activities. Zone Training is on-going. Please be sure clubs report the fund raisers and any other activities to PDG Tom Clausen to get on the district website calendar.

b. **Global Service Team** (GST) Committee Reports

i. **Environment** – Lion Roxanne Wendt Report **# D** Reminded everyone to get their challenge environmental mileage reported to her by October 31st. Challenge is 500 miles, already at 403. **GREAT IDEA**

ii. **Vision/Special Olympics** – Lion Fred Gebhart reported that Special Olympics is active in the state and has added Bean Bag to their activities. Waiting to confirm April date for vision screening. KIDS SIGHT program has issued a challenge to get 1 million kids screened by December 31. District 27B1 has screened 3,321 along with 1,000-1,500 by the Appleton Noon Lions. They screened 26 schools in September. The demand is there this year! With the high demand, he is in need of more cameras, the district owns 7. Our Vision account has $6,600 but the need is now, cost of new cameras are about $7,500. Markesan Lions have volunteered their camera for use, there are a few other clubs that own their own cameras and are available also. Motion by PDG Fred to request a LCIF Community Grant of $3,000 for the purchase of a SPOT camera with a cost of $7,000 and a minimum 4 week., 2nd by SVDG Greg Kubichka. Discussion followed. DG Lion BJ said 1 in 10 children have vision problems, this as a perfect candidate for the community grant. Motion to **RESCIND** the above motion by PDG Fred, 2nd by SVDG Greg. He feels he can raise the additional monies from the club. **MOTION CARRIED**

iii. Motion by Lion Wendy Hartmann that District 27 B1 purchase an additional camera and deplete the current Vision Undesignated Funds current balance with any additional monies to be replenished from club solicitations. 2nd by SVDG Lion Greg Kubichka. **MOTION CARRIED**

iv. **Diabetes** – Lion Vince Treague Report **# E** Updates from Lion Vince are that October 15th is White Cane Day. ZC Dick Karl talked about what his club does to promote diabetes awareness. Lion Vince is available to speak.

v. **Hunger** – Lion Katie Karls had no report. There will be a collection table for non-perishable items at the district convention to be distributed between food pantries.

vi. **Hearing/Eyeglasses** – WLF Director Lion Wendy Hartmann had no updates. There have been no requests for hearing aids. Lion Wendy was instrumental in getting the hearing aids requirements established.

vii. **Wisconsin Lions Missions** – Lion Pat Knier reported a mission is planned for the Indian reservation the end of April. Possibility of a mission to Dominican Republic in the works with a missionary group also possible Haiti. There will be a mission to Fort McCoy for the Afghanistan refugees in November. Lion Myra Schneider added that Lion Bill Taubman is working on that mission and trying to get through all the government hoops and requirements. Looking at November 11-14 and December 2-5. Volunteers need to be experienced and vaccinated to qualify. Lion Vince Treague made a motion to allow expenses to be reimbursed with the amount approved at the discretion of the District Governor. **Motion failed** due to lack of a second. If discussion needed will be done electronically.

15) District Governor Reports

a. DG Updates

i. **Council of Governors (COG**) Meeting was held on October 2nd. They are working on updating the MD27 policies. The "Stuff the Bus" state program has been eliminated, it is now a district option, only two districts participated.

b. Committee Reports

i. **LCIF Coordinator** – Lion Vince Treague Report **# F** No new updates.

ii. **GMT/GMA** – DG Lion BJ focus will be on Membership Retention. Keep what we have and build from there. When you get a new member, the job does not end…..keep them involved and up to date on what you are doing. Where are the GAPS? We need to get to the clubs with what is going on. DG Lion BJ goal is to get an E Club (cyberclub) by 3rd or 4th quarter.

iii. **Newspaper Editor/PR** – Lion Mike Roberts Report **# G** No new updates.

iv. **Constitution & Bylaws/**Policies & Procedures – PDG Lion Gary Silah was not present. DG Lion BJ reported the constitution is out of date. They are working on a resolution to update the district Constitution & Bylaws to align with International.

v. **District Convention** update by Lion Vickie Blahnik, she reported everything is going smoothly. Our ID guest has been confirmed and arriving on Thursday. DG Lion BJ commented that Friday night theme is Roaring 20s and walked through the convention schedule and speakers.

vi. **Elections & Nominations** Lion Mike Helmke **Report # R** Still waiting on a few nominations for 1st VDG, EyeBank Director, resolutions.

vii. **MyLCI/MyLion**/Reporting – FVDG Lion David Brinkman Report **# H** FVDG Dave has helped 23 clubs with their reporting. Reminded all clubs to get membership and activities reported on MyLCI

viii. **Wisconsin Lions Foundation Director** Lion Wendy Hartman reported Deer Hide collection will be starting, Let Lion Liz Shelly at WLF know your collection site. They will also accept deer antlers and tails. WLF Director PDG Lion Fred Gebhart also added the annual golf tournament took in $23,911, the Kids Raffle $38,887, the Smores Walk/Run $9,385 and Pride is currently at 11,011,666. There were 639 campers in the 10 weeks of camp. Next years plans are for 120 campers a week. 50 clubs made donation to WLF programs. Currently there are 4 projects planned costing over $100,000. They are new stairs to the beach, a delivery service dock, additional shade area for the campers and updating trails along the lake.

ix. **Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin** Director Lion Chuck Keifenheim reported the office is still closed to the public. Nothing more to report.

x. **Pins/Peace Poster** – Lion Lori Sasada Report **# J** No additional updates

xi. **GLT** – IPDG Lion Tom Wendt

1. **Trainings**
   a. **Zone Chair Training** was held on August 26. All zone chairs are trained.
   b. **Guiding Lion training** is back on schedule for after our convention on Sunday November 14th, 1 hour after completion of convention program at **Reach Forward 1901 S. 8th St. Sheboygan, WI 53081.** More to follow.
   c. **Officer Training** is tentatively scheduled for May 1, 2022 at the Eagles Club in Fond du Lac. It will be open to ALL Lions not just officers. Good opportunity to learn something new at a central location. Path to Leadership training is October 15-17 in Stevens Point, limited registration for ANY Lion. Motion made by IPDG Tom Wendt to make a donation to Eagles Building Fund in the amount of $ 250.00 for gratis use of their facility for our training. 2nd was made by SVDG Greg Kubichka. **MOTION CARRIED**
2. **USA/Canada Forum** was well attended and next year will be in Canada.
3. **State Convention** will be May 5*7th at Grand Geneva Resort, Lake Geneva.
4. **International Convention** July 1-4 in New Delhi, India

xii. District/State Events

1. **District Bowling** – DG Lion BJ Blahnik no update

2. **State Bowling** update by DG Lion BJ Blahnik will be held in La Crosse with opening week in February.

3. **District Bean Bag Tournament** chair Lion Dick Karl reported Sheboygan has entered a bid for the 2022 tournament.

4. **State Curling** information, check WI Lions website per DG Lion BJ Blahnik.

xiii. **District Long Range Planning** committee will meet 2 weeks prior to the district convention per DG Lion BJ Blahnik.

16) Zone Chair Reports

a. **Zone 2** – Lion Al Kanugh Report **# K 1 - # K 5** Nothing more to add.

b. **Zone 34** – Lion Dick Karl Report **# L 1 – L 3** Lion Dick Karl added they have a +7 membership.

c. **Zone 51** – Lion Pat Knier zone potentially may split back into 2 zones. They may know more this coming week.

d. **Zone 6** – Lion Dale Counihan Report **# M 1 – M 4** Larsen Winchester completed their 1200 wheelchair ramp, taking orders 17 weeks out. Appleton Noon Lions have developed a medical equipment facility.

e. **Zone 78** – Lion Barb Leichtfuss Report **# N 1** Lion Barb zone meeting had 5 of 10 clubs show. Currently working on a zone chair for 7.

f. **Zone 910** – Lion Lori Sasada Report **# P 1 – P 8** Lion Laurie added the Berlin Lions will be holding their Assistive Technology Fair on Tuesday October 5th. She is working on club visits.

g. **Zone 11** – Lion Vince Treague Report **# Q 1** Nothing more to add.

17) Other Business

a. Comments & Questions: Lion Barb Leichtfuss mentioned that there is a 2-year-old in Rosendale with medical problems and has asked for assistance. Pickett Lions are willing to match donations up to $5,000. Contact Lion Barb for more information

Lion Laurie Sasada has a Diabetes Board for display if anyone is interested. Also, if anyone is interested in Youth Exchange sponsorship.

Lion Dale Counihan has brochures on the Berlin Lions Senior Technology Fair.

Lion Wendy Williams has assessed her fines. The winner of the Black Forest cake was Lion John Stephen. She collected $91.00

PDG Tom Clausen is aware of only 27 Lions who passed away this past year for the Service of Remembrance. Please update him by October 31.

b. **Next Meeting** – Sunday, January 23rd, 2022 tentatively scheduled at Eagles Club in Fond du Lac, pending confirmation. More to follow-FVDG Dave Brinkman to concentrate on GMA.

18) Meeting Adjourned –Motion by IPDG Tom Wendt, 2nd by Lion Vince Treague to adjourn at 3:52 pm.

MOTION CARRIED **Great Meeting!**

INDIVIDUAL CHAIR REPORTS RECEIVED & FORWARDED are highlighted in yellow

Respectfully submitted by Cabinet Secretary Lion Dave Holschbach

MD27B1 District Cabinet Minutes **Date: Sunday, January 23, 2022**

Location: Eagles Club 515 N. Park Ave., Fond du Lac

If Questions: Reply to this email – dajach@yahoo.com or call – 920.684.0115

Lunch & Social: 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM Meeting (In-person & Virtual): 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Agenda:

1) **Call Meeting to Order** by DG Lion BJ Blahnik @ 1:00 pm
2) **Pledge of Allegiance** led by IPDG Lion Tom Wendt
3) **Prayer** given by Chaplin Lion Myra Schneider. Moment of silence in remembrance of PDG Howard Heimke who was District Governor from 1967-1968.
4) **Approval of Agenda**, there are two additional items to be added at the end of the meeting as Other Business per DG Lion BJ Blahnik. They are the Western Kentucky disaster and the Afghanistan refugee resettlement. Motion made by IPDG Tom Wendt, 2nd by Lion Fred Gebhart to accept the agenda with the 2 additional items. **MOTION CARRIED**
5) **Welcome & Introduction** of Guest by DG Lion BJ Blahnik.. There were some PDG as guest today, they were PDGs Ken Rohde, Marv Henke and Jerry Post along with the PDGs that are on the cabinet.
6) **Role Call** was completed by CST Lion Dave Holschbach. There were 15 cabinet members present along with 5 more on virtual and 4 guests.
7) **Honors & Recognition** were presented by IPDG Tom Wendt. There were 15 Guiding Lions certified on November 14th and were presented their certificates.
8) **Tail Twister** Lion Wendy Williams was excused, however if DG Lion BJ thinks you need to be fined, you will be!
9) **Secretary's Report** by CST Lion Dave Holschbach
    a. **Motion for approval of October 3, 2021 Cabinet Minutes** which was Emailed October 7th was made by Lion Dick Karl, 2nd by Lion Laurie Sasada. **MOTION CARRIED**
    b. **Correspondences:** DG Lion BJ is waiting for the paperwork for the 2020-2021 Club Excellence Awards.
10) **Treasurer's Report** was reviewed by CST Lion Dave Holschbach through December 31, 2021. The 2nd half dues billing has gone out to the clubs. He is anticipating about $250 more revenue from the district convention for ads. sent **REPORT # A1 & A2**
11) **Old Business**
    a. Lion Laurie Sasada asked for more clarification about the SPIRIT AWARD. There is no set form to fil out, any correspondence to zone chairman is acceptable. DG Lion BG walked through the rules and format. Due by the end of February.
12) **New Business**
    a. **LCIF Community Grant** status by Lion Vince Treague for the Holyland Food project, did not have any updates. Lion Gary Roehrig had thought they had received the grant, they will check further and report later.

b. **Status Update on ABCM Playground** by DG Lion BJ Blahnik. Officially on January 27th the grant will be approved. The grant is for $50,000 and the district will have to match that amount for the rubber surfacing. The district will now begin solicitation. So far, we have commitments of $ 25,000 from a private donor Jay Christopher, $ 5,000 from the Town of Sheboygan Lions and $ 2,500 from the Sheboygan Evening Lions. DG Lion BJ is asking clubs to donate $400, we have received $700 so far. We will be begin to let the clubs know what is needed and also have an article in the WI Lions magazine. He hopes to have the money by the end of April and the project completed by July. This is a district project which a lot of people use this not only for Sheboygan residents.

c. **Future District Cabinet Meetings** updated by DG Lion BJ Blahnik

i. Sunday, March 6, 2022 at Reach Forward & Virtual Option

ii. Saturday May 7, 2022 – State Convention @ Grand Geneva (No Virtual Option) time and place to be determined.

13) **First Vice District Governor Reports** – DGE Lion David Brinkman

a. **FVDG Update** was sent. He is under the weather today. Sent **REPORT # B1**

b. **Committee Reports**

i. **Pediatric Cancer** by PDG Lion Dave Lee. He is happy to be back on the cabinet. The Marshfield Clinic Healing Space should be completed later this year. Lion Sri has been working on potentially having a 501C Lions Cancer Foundation. Cancer now is one of the 5 causes we support. An Ad Hoc committee was created with DG Lion BJ as the chair.

ii. **Leader Dog** chair PDG Lion Meg Post reported that as of December 31, there have been 56 dogs placed. Town hall meetings were held. There currently are 11,247 bricks and the district has donated $6,860, we are still #1 in donations, but others are creeping up. Information will be coming out in the future months about the months of April and May where there will be a donation match from a club in Texas. So please have your clubs donate. Leader Dog now has their own podcasts. Lot of information on their website. Leader dog bricks cost $250 for ½ and $500 for a full brick. DG Lion BJ commented that the success ratio for new puppies is very low and has talked to the trainers due to the change in current life situations. They are changing their training to be more successful. He also commented that the auctioned cowboy hat at the convention will be enclosed and planned as a Founders Tribute Award and auctioned annually with proceed to go to Leader Dog in memory of PDG Len Quinn, similar to the District Lions Bank. More info to follow.

iii. **LEO's** chair Lion Gary Roehrig reported that we currently have one Leo Club-New Holstein. They held a membership drive which potentially generated 15-18 new members from the junior high school. They have been very active in projects. Kiel Lions are potentially working on a new club in their area. If anyone is interested in starting a Leo Club contact Lion Gary. DG Lion BJ also thanked the Leo club for their contribution at the WI Lions state convention and their contribution for the centennial celebration.

iv. **Youth Exchange** chair Lion Ben Wiley was not present, however DG Lion BJ reported there will be no camp this year. There may only be 12-15 students due to stricter COVID rules. Let Lion BJ know if you would like to host a student. New MD 27 state chair.

v. **Pride** chair Lion Myra Schneider reported the webpage has been updated. Continue to support PRIDE.

vi. **Restoring Hope Transplant House** update by DG Lion BJ Blahnik. They are at capacity. Construction has not started, on hold due to price fluctuations. Omicron variance has caused additional changes in transplants.

vii. **Birch/Sturm** chair Lion Victoria Blahnik had no updates.

viii. **IT/Historical** PDG Lion Tom Clausen sent report. Zone chairs should encourage clubs to use Internet, Facebook and e-clubhouse. Send PDG Tom any club history to add to the district webpage. Be sure to let him know of any fundraisers to add to the calendar. LCI is pushing to

have all club members to have an account on lionsclub.org. Club secretaries should update email addresses for members so they receive all the information from International. PDG Tom will update the resolutions approved at the convention.

ix. **District Raffle** report sent by Lion John Stephen. **REPORT # C1** CST Dave reported that prices were $5 instead of $2 which generated $6,150. Concerns were that all clubs were given the same amount, should larger clubs be given more, price structure and no response from some. We did have more clubs participate compared to previous years. PDG Jerry concerned that we CANNOT force a club to purchase the tickets or we potentially could lose our license. The profits are used to help cover the cost of running the district.

14) **Second Vice District Governor Reports** – FVDGE Lion Greg Kubichka

a. **SVDG Update**, we did reach our goal of clubs entering activities and membership, 75% reporting. This makes a big difference, if a club is struggling, he is there to help.

b. **Global Service Team (GST)** Committee Reports

i. **Environment** – Lion Roxanne Wendt sent **REPORT # D1** She thanked every club for participating in the mileage challenge. Surpassed her goal. DG Lion BJ commended her on a GREAT idea. ID Ken was impressed with the idea.

ii. **Vision/Special Olympics** chair Lion Fred Gebhart reported the vision screeners have done 21,504 with 2,709 referrals. **Thank You Screeners**. PDG Fred is a certified vision screener trainer. Prevent Blindness is going to charge Lion members to be trained. We have the Plus Optic and Spot cameras in our district. WI Lions want to be more independent for training. He has not received any update on Special Olympics in April. He will keep us informed. DG Lion BJ asked if we could hold a certified screener training during our district officer training in May. VDGs Dave and Greg are going to become certified trainers. Smaller groups are easier to train, can do one on one, he won't send out a screener with out training. More to come.

iii. **Diabetes** chair Lion Vince Treague will be sending out information on diabetes awareness. March is diabetes awareness month. He is available for speaking. iv. **Hunger** chair Lion Katie Karls had no report. v. **Hearing/Eyeglasses** WLF Director Lion Wendy Hartmann was not present. PDG Fred mentioned that there currently is a bill in Senate to allow Lions to reuse glasses in Wisconsin, now they can only reuse them outside the US due to liability. vi. **Wisconsin Lions Missions** Lion Pat Knier was not present and no report.

15) Break – 10 Minutes

16) **District Governor Reports**

a. **DG Updates**

i. **Council of Governors (COG) Meeting** was quick due to low attendance. Everything seems to be going in order.

b. **Committee Reports**

i. **LCIF Coordinator** Lion Vince Treague had no update.

ii. **GMT/GMA** update by DG Lion BJ. At the opening session before the cabinet meeting the discussion was about a SWOT analysis of our district. More update on ideas at the March meeting. Membership is down 5.

iii. **Newspaper Editor/PR** Lion Mike Roberts will be stepping down next year to become a zone chairman. Sent **REPORT # E1** PDG Fred asked to commend Mike on a great job done filling our district page, other districts are struggling. Replacement has been found.

iv. **Constitution & Bylaws/Policies & Procedures** PDG Lion Gary Silah had nothing to report for the district. On the state level, any resolutions are due by February 28th.

v. **District Convention** – DG Lion BJ Blahnik

1. **Convention Minutes** emailed 12/1 by CST Lion Dave Holschbach, motion made by Lion Myra, 2nd by Lion John Stephen to accept. **MOTION CARRIED**

2. **Convention financial Report** emailed by CST Lion Dave Holschbach sent **REPORT # F1** Lot more details given compared to past reports, more breakdown of registration and meals to help future convention committees. Surpassed revenue budget thanks to more raffle sales. Bottom line we made $ 257.05 with an additional $150 that just came in. Motion to accept financial report from the district convention by PDG Gary Silah, 2nd by PDG Marv Henke. **MOTION CARRIED** Convention discussion followed. .DG Lion BJ had a great time and was planning this along time, it was everything he hoped for. There were some hiccups but were taken care of behind the scenes. Band on Friday was gift from DG Lion BJ, complaints about pricing, people had a lot of fun. Things to be learned.

vi. **Elections & Nominations** Lion Mike Helmke sent **REPORT # G1** CST Dave read his report for discussion. There is an opportunity to make some changes, what can and cannot be done. This was Lion Mike's first year and mistakes can be made as has been in the past. Very seldom do we have a close contested election. PDG Marv asked why one opponent campaigned and the other did not while voting was going on? DG Lion BJ not aware of that. PDG Jerry mentioned we have a Bylaws and Constitution, why do we have it if we do not follow it? Problems with voting process and convention policy. This will **NOT** happen in the future.

vii. **MyLCI/MyLion/Reporting** DGE Lion David Brinkman sent **REPORT H1** DG Lion BJ mention DGE Dave has put a lot of effort into keeping reporting upto date.

viii. **Wisconsin Lions Foundation** Director Lion Wendy Hartman not present. WLF Director PDG Lion Fred Gebhart mentioned the applications for counselors and campers has been sent out. They plan to have 120 campers per session. Deer hides are still coming in. At the state convention there will be a resolution for a loading dock, trails and shade area near lake for capital expenditures for the camp. The money is there, no solicitation needed, just approval to spend. Other projects planned but not needing a resolution is a new sidewalk & steps. 80 Shopko vouchers in our district. Discussion pursued about who gets them and how they are handled and other sources for people in need.

ix. **Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin** Director Lion Chuck Keifenheim sent **REPORT # J1** Nothing additional to report.

x. **Pins/Peace Poster** update by Lion Laurie Sasada sent **REPORT L1** with 2 different company proofs to vote on. Price has increased however both companies quotes are the same. She recommended design # 2 which is the same company the state uses. Both are easy to work with. Motion by Lion Dick, 2nd by Lion Roxanne to go with design # 2. **MOTION CARRIED** Motion by Lion Laurie authorizing to purchase 200 at a cost of $489.00, 2nd by IPDG Tom. **MOTION CARRIED** She will make sure they are here before PDGE Dave's term begins so he may distribute. CST Dave holds payment until the next year's budget. Peace Poster kits went on sale January 15th. Our district poster won at the state level and will go onto the National competition.

xi. **GLT** chair IPDG Lion Tom Wendt

1. **Trainings**

a. **Guiding Lion Training** – there are 11 new trained district Guiding Lions available to help.

b. **Officer Training** will be May 1, 2022, hope to have at Eagles Club in Fond du lac, adding vision screeners training. IPDG Tom also added that we only had 4 clubs that filed for Club Excellence Award, he was quite disappointed, he knows there are more and reviewed what the qualifications are. Wondering why more did not apply?

2. **USA/Canada Forum** will be in Calgary Canada on September 5-8th.

3. **State Convention** **REPORT # M1** Lake Geneva May 5-8th.
4. **International Convention** in Montreal, Canada.

xii. District/State Events

1. **District Bowling** rep DG Lion BJ Blahnik had nothing to report
2. **State Bowling** DG Lion BJ Blahnik starts February 26th
3. **District Bean Bag Tournament** update by Lion Dick Karl is scheduled for March 20th at 10:00 am at Lakeshore Lanes in Sheboygan. PDG Tom will post on website and remind zone chairs. This is the inaugural event.
4. **State Curling** rep DG Lion BJ Blahnik had no updates.

xiii. **District Long Range Planning** has not had a meeting since last cabinet per DG Lion BJ Blahnik, he plans to have one before our next cabinet meeting.

17) **Zone Chair Reports**

a. **Zone 1** – Lion Wes Grube PDG Fred reported that Lion Wes will have his first zone meeting on February 1st. **Welcome aboard Lion Wes** Appleton Noon Lions will celebrate their 100th anniversary on May 22nd.

b. **Zone 2** – Lion Al Kanaugh sent **REPORT # N1** There will be a new zone chair, Lion Staat Hayward from Manitowoc Lions. Lion Al zone meeting Thursday January 17th. Manitowoc Lions will celebrate their 100th anniversary on May 15th.

c. **Zone 34** – Lion Dick Karl sent **REPORT # P1** He reported there also will be a new zone chair, Lion Mike Roberts from Plymouth Lions. Sheboygan Evening Lions will celebrate their 100th on April 23rd at Sheboygan Yacht Club.

d. **Zone 5** – Lion Pat Knier not present, no report.

e. **Zone 6** – Lion Dale Counihan sent **REPORT # Q1**

f. **Zone 78** – Lion Barb Leichtfuss will have a zone meeting on January 31st hosted by the Pickett Lions. Clubs are all stable and asking them to submit candidates for Spirit Award.

g. **Zone 910** – Lion Laurie Sasada sent **REPORT # R1** next meeting March 10th hosted by the Princeton Lions.

h. **Zone 11** – Lion Vince Treague had his meeting last week and had Dr.Sri as speaker. He does have a potential zone chair for next year.

18) **Other Business**

a. **Kentucky Disaster relief** update from Lion Eye Bank of Wisconsin Director Lion Chuck Keifenheim. He has received a letter from DG Gary Logan District 43K asking for donations for the Mayfield Lions disaster. The number one request is for blood donations. Also direct donations or via LCI, mark it for disaster relief.. DG Lion BJ has seen the letter and verified this is legit. The Valders Lions have coordinated a zone effort for relief and sent $3750 prior to Christmas.

b. **Afghanistan Resettlement** information was received by DG Lion BJ. All districts were sent request to assist in resettlement. LCI is not requesting support, it is up to individual clubs to support. By mid-March they should have all 16,000 relocated. Any questions contact DG Lion BJ.

19) **Meeting Adjournment** - Motion made by IPDG Tom, 2nd by Lion Laurie at 3:15 pm to adjourn the meeting**.** **MOTION CARRIED**

NEXT MEETING Sunday, March 6, 2022 at Reach Forward & Virtual Option

Respectfully submitted CST Lion Dave Holschbach 1/31/2022

- # MD27B1 District Cabinet Minutes from Sunday March 6, 2022

- Location: Reach Forward 1901 S. 8th St. Sheboygan, WI 53081
- If Questions: Reply to this email – dajach@yahoo.com or call – 920.684.0115
- ****Note: No Open Discussion, Cabinet Meeting Only****

Agenda:

1) **Meeting** called to Order by DG Lion BJ Blahnik @ 1:00 pm
2) **Pledge of Allegiance** led by IPDG Lion Tom Wendt
3) **Prayer** given by Chaplin Lion Myra Schneider
4) **Approval of Agenda** motion made by Lion Vince Treague, 2nd by Lion John Stephen. **MOTION CARRIED**
5) Welcome & Introduction of Guests by DG Lion BJ Blahnik. Guest was Lion Sue Lee, President of Appleton Noon Lions. Last meeting before state convention. WELCOME
6) **Roll Call** by CST Lion Dave Holschbach. No Virtual attendees. 20 cabinet attendees, 2 guests and 4 excused.
7) **Honors & Recognition** by DG Lion BJ Blahnik.
   a. **Club Excellence Award** for 2020-2021 There are 4 clubs that received the award, Brandon, Manitowoc, Town of Sheboygan and Van Dyne Lions. **CONGRATULATIONS** DGE Dave Brinkman, CST Dave Holschbach, Lion Wendy Williams and Lion Barb Leichtfuss accepted on behalf of the clubs. Lion DG Lion BJ reviewed what is required and thinks we should have more clubs qualified.
   b. **Lions Spirit Award** has 6 of the 8 districts submitted an entry. Still time to enter. Executive team of DG Lion BJ, DGE Dave, FVDGE Greg, IPDG Tom and CST Dave will review and decide the recipient at WI State Convention. This is the first time we have attempted this and has gone over quite well.
8) **Tail Twister** Meeting Rules given by Lion Wendy Williams. Rules remain the same, 3-minute report with fines for overage. Fine for anyone not wearing GREEN for St Patrick. She had an Easter egg per table to be auctioned to the highest bidder at each table and also a cake to be given to the correct answer for the question for the day.
9) **Secretary's Report** – CST Lion Dave Holschbach
   a. **Approval of January 23, 2022 Cabinet Minutes** emailed February 1, 2022. **(See copies)** Motion made by Lion John Stephen, 2nd by Lion Pat Knier to accept the minutes as presented. **MOTION CARRIED**
   b. **Correspondences** was the delegate cards for voting at the WI Lions Convention were received. They will be sent to all clubs shortly so they can discuss and make their decision and return by April 24th.
10) **Treasurer's Report** by CST Lion Dave Holschbach through February 28, 2022 **Emailed 3/2 (SEE copies)** Receipts for the year have been received no anticipation of any additional. Main items to spend yet are the year end reimbursement for the chairs, they will be sent out in April. DGE Dave asked about the meals, originally 3 budgeted, there will be 4 due to virtual meeting changed to physical attendance. Also had question about district's election of 2-year term on long range planning. Motion to accept the financial statement through February 2022 as presented made by IPDG Lion Tom Wendy, 2nd by Lion Wendy Hartmann. **MOTION CARRIED**
11) **Old Business** - Nothing brought forward
12) **New Business**
   a. **LCIF Community Grant** for the Holyland Food Pantry has been approved per Lion Vince Treague. DG Lion BJ has received the letter of approval. Working with St. Peter and Winnebago East Shore for finalization. DGE Dave added that grant move thru very quickly. Grant was received one day and the next day it was approved. No limitation on the number of community grants. We had $11,000 available this year and $8,000 still remains. Amount is based on 15% of district contributions to LCIF. The balance does carry over to next year. DGE Dave will look at some projects for next year.

b. **ABCM Playground grant** is moving forward per DG Lion BJ Blahnik. The district needs to get an additional $ 12,500. DG Lion BJ is asking all of the clubs to donate $400 and other to promote. Hope to have completed by May 15th, must have money by the end of June. Donations to date are $2,600 from 8 clubs the district.

c. **Future District Cabinet Meetings** – DG Lion BJ Blahnik

i. Saturday May 7, 2022 at State Convention @ Grand Geneva (No Virtual Option)

13) **First Vice District Governor Reports** – DGE Lion David Brinkman

a. **FVDG Update** **Report sent previously** DGE Dave relayed his DENNIS STORY. Dennis is a 84 year old Lion who was having problems with MYLCI reporting. Within 1 hour he understood what to do and had no problem. Leo clubs do count in club reporting. Thank you to zone chairs for the job you are doing, he has seen much progress this year. Still have some clubs not reporting.

b. Committee Reports

i. **Pediatric Cancer** chair PDG Lion Dave Lee has proposed an Ad Hoc committee to review the potential of forming a Childhood Cancer Foundation. DG Lion BJ submitted the request to the COG and all positive results. Foundation would allow tax deductible donations.

ii. **Leader Dog** - PDG Meg Post **Report sent previously** Nothing additional.

iii. **LEO's** chair Lion Gary Roehrig, not present and no report received.

iv. **Youth Exchange** chair Lion Ben Wiley not present and no report received.

v. **Pride** chair Lion Myra Schneider Nothing to report at this time.

vi. **Restoring Hope Transplant House** does have guests in the house per DG Lion BJ Blahnik. They must adhere to strict rules for operating or would have to shut down entirely. PDG Dave Lee asked if the COG would consider having WI Eye Bank and Hope House include financial statements in their reports.

vii. **Birch/Sturm** chair Lion Victoria Blahnik mentioned we will need to add a board member.

viii. **IT/Historical** – PDG Lion Tom Clausen **Report sent previously** DGE Dave asked that clubs use the district calendar more. About 80% of the clubs do not use this. 1VDGE Greg also mentioned that you can download the app and have immediate access to the calendar.

ix. **District Raffle** – Lion John Stephen **Report sent previously** Nothing additional

14) Second Vice District Governor Reports – FVDGE Lion Greg Kubichka.

a. SVDG Update Everyone doing an AWESOME job reporting, over 80% participation. **Great Job DGE Dave !** Zone chairman get your dates reported to PDG Tom to add to the calendar. DG Lion BJ reported the national average is only 46%, DGE Dave thinks we can do better. We are here to help the clubs. Any club member can be the Club Administrator to assist the president.

b. **Global Service Team (GST)** Nothing to report

c. **Committee Reports**

i. **Environment –** Lion Roxanne Wendt **Report sent previously** She did add that at the state convention they will be giving out trees and flowers seed that are butterfly friendly.

ii. **Vision/Special Olympics** – Lion Fred Gebhart **Report sent – Enclosed copy** PDG Fred added that there will NOT be any Special Olympics in Oshkosh this year, therefore no vision screening. Vision screening has completed the bulk of screening in the schools. The program is growing, numbers are beginning to come in. Our district did half of the state total. He handed out some statistics. He can only do so much, but other Lions have taken the challenge. Our district has taken vision screening to another level. Some clubs have received special recognition. They are now looking at virtual reality vision aids. THANKS to all of the vision screeners.

iii. **Diabetes** chair Lion Vince Treague had no more specific information. He is available for speaking and meeting. Lion Vince & PDG Fred have the diabetes display boards.

iv. **Hunger** – Lion Katie Karls Nothing to report

v. **Hearing/Eyeglasses** update by WLF Director Lion Wendy Hartmann. Application for hearing aids is way down and only had 1 approval. From July to January Lions have collected 575,323 pairs of glasses. 86,139 pairs have been sent to 22 missions. WLF's trailer for collecting eyeglasses is in need of repairs or replacement. DG Lion BJ has a contact for new trailer.

vi. **Wisconsin Lions Missions** – Lion Pat Knier **Report sent – Enclosed copy** Most activities have been shut down. Working on eyeglass mission to Pine Ridge reservation. They did a mission for the Afghan

refugees. Zone 5 is collection items for tornado area in Kentucky and will be taking a trailer down the end of April. PDG Meg mention that Zone 2 has additional funds. They need of clothing and appliances for their temporary trailers.

15) **Break** Lion Wendy did the table egg auction. CST Dave had the correct answer and was rewarded the cake.

16) District Governor Reports

a. DG Updates

Council of Governors (COG) Meeting update by DG Lion BJ. It was a very good meeting. There was some policy verbiage changes made. There will be some resolutions on the state ballot to be voted on. DGE Dave also commented that there are more constitution and bylaws that are outdated and will be changed in the upcoming year.

b. Committee Reports

i. **LCIF** Coordinator – Lion Vince Treague **Report sent previously** He reminded zone chairs to please encourage clubs to donate to LCIF. DGE Dave reported 25 of 63 have donated. DG Lion BJ reported that LCIF has created an area for refugee and relocation donations.

ii. **GMT/GMA** – PDG Fred Gebhart had no update. DGE Dave talked about Exit Interviews, he uses reverse engineering. Wisconsin stress RETENTION first, International stresses New Clubs, New Members and Retention. He plans to use Guiding Lions more to help increase membership and stop exits. DG Lion BJ was elect state GMT chair for next year.

iii. **Newspaper Editor/PR** – Lion Mike Roberts **Report sent previously** Nothing additional

iv. **Constitution & Bylaws/Policies & Procedures –** PDG Lion Gary Silah **Nothing New to report** State committee is working on changes to present for next year.

v. **District Convention** – DG Lion BJ Blahnik **Nothing New to report**

vi. **Elections & Nominations** – Lion Mike Helmke **Responded – Nothing new to report**

vii. **MyLCI/MyLion/Reporting** – DGE Lion David Brinkman **Report sent previously**

viii. **Wisconsin Lions Foundation –WLF Director** Lion Wendy reported over 10,250 deer hides were collected and there are more, proceeds used for campers. Camper applications are now open. There is a lot of information available for diabetes awareness. WLF has a new Logo to include the Lions logo. PDG Fred added the cost to send a camper is now $1000. PDG Fred talked about the Eyeglass bill in senate and house of representatives. Lion Paul Tittl is an elected house representative and has been working on a bill in support of Lions being able to reuse eyeglasses for missions in Wisconsin. The bill currently has pasted both houses and awaiting Governor Evers signature. PDG Fred would like to have Lions present when he signs the bill. PDG Fred questioned if the district could purchase a Melvin Jones for Lion Paul Tittl from the Vision Fund for his services to get this bill passed. CST Dave and PDG Jerry Post reminded everyone that those funds are specifically for vision screening costs. DG Lion BJ agree those funds are only for vision screening, however there are some discretionary funds available in our current budget to be used. CST Dave confirmed there are and room in the budget and will be no problem for the district to purchase a Melvin Jones Fellowship. We can also use anything above $100 from the tail twister, those funds can be used for anything we desire. Motion made by FVDGE Greg, 2nd by Lion John Stephen to use district funds that are available to award Lion Paul Tittl a Melvin Jones on behalf of the district for services for the vision program. Questions of whether to give, Birch Sturm , Knight of Sight or other award. **MOTION CARRIED** Lion Vince will work on the paperwork to get it by the state convention. Lion Wendy H also added that WLF has received a donation of 15 solar panels and installation as a training program for local students. There will be more added in the future, Total Donation. Lion Dick Karl mentioned the initial savings would be $800 and increase savings as time goes on.

ix. **Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin** – LEBW Director Lion Chuck Keifenheim **Nothing New to report**

x. Pins/Peace Poster – Lion Laurie Sasada **Responded – Nothing new to report** CST Dave mentioned there has been request for more of **27B1** pin. PDG Jerry & PDG Meg would like to donate the cost, no cost to the district. They will handle everything, after their cost profit will be given to the district. Requesting cabinet approval. Motion by PDG Fred, 2nd by Lion Roxanne that we allow PDG Meg & Jerry to go ahead with the pins. **MOTION CARRIED** Thank you Meg & Jerry !

xi. **GLT** – IPDG Lion Tom Wendt

1. Trainings

Officer Training will be April 24, 2022 at the Eagles in Fond du lac. DGE Dave reviewed the schedule. It is 10:00 am – 12:00 pm President and Vice President, working lunch at 12:00-1:00 pm for MyLCI/MyLion, 1:00-3:00 pm Treasurer/Secretary & Club Administrator. Zone Chairs will meet in a separate room.

2. **USA/Canada Forum** September 15-17 in Calgary Canada $285 registration
3. **State Convention** Room rate good until April 1st, filling rapidly. May 5-8th in Lake Geneva. Website being updated due to error in food prices. State convention will honor those that prepaid Rooms going quickly.
4. **International Convention** in Montreal June 24-28th, go online for information. FD Institute-Faculty Development has programs also PCC Geri Schlender was reelected GLT chair state. IPDG Tom is disappointed that only 4 clubs filed for Club Excellence, not hard to qualify, will try to target clubs and remind them they qualify next year.

xii. District/State Events

1. **District Bowling** – DG Lion BJ Blahnik Nothing to report
2. **State Bowling** – DG Lion BJ Blahnik is currently going on. District Governors lost.
3. **District Bean Bag Tournament** has been cancelled per Lion Dick Karl.
4. **State Curling** – DG Lion BJ Blahnik Nothing to report

xiii. **District Long Range Planning** – DG Lion BJ Blahnik Nothing new to report.

17) Zone Chair Reports

a. **Zone 1 –** Lion Wes Grube not present no report sent.
b. **Zone 2** – Lion Al Kanaugh **Report sent previously**
c. **Zone 34** – Lion Dick Karl **Report sent previously** He had 4 candidates that he submitted for the Spirit Award. Zone meeting is on the calendar. Stacy from LEBW is speaker.
d. **Zone 5** – Lion Pat Knier **Report sent – Enclosed copy** His clubs have been very active.
e. **Zone 6** – Lion Dale Counihan **Report sent previously**
f. **Zone 78** – Lion Barb Leichtfuss **Report sent previously** Lion Barb added next zone meeting April 11th. To help retain new members in her club, they plan to issue an annual calendar that lists all of their meetings and activity dates to keep them informed. Also give them the new member printout.
g. **Zone 910** –Lion Laurie Sasada **Report sent previously**
h. **Zone 11** – Lion Vince Treague **Report sent previously** Lion Vince's next meeting will be April 12th. He continues to hold President meetings separately. Clubs have been inter working with each other.

18) Other Business

WLF director Fred stated at the state convention, there will be 3 resolutions for upcoming WLF projects over $100,000 needing Lions approval. Also, approval to change the limits for spending approvals to be over $150,000.

Officer elections from clubs are due April 15th and due by May 15th to LCI. There will be a 2nd officer training in July for those elected after the first training.

April 7th there will be a "Train the Trainer" for training Lions to be Vision Camera Trainers.

FVDGE Greg mentioned that LCI has $500 available annually to the district for any club to "Write a Story" 350 words about any service project. Only 1 district has submitted. We can do this every year.

Lion Myra reported Sheboygan Evening Lions 100th anniversary dinner will be April 23th at the Sheboygan Yacht Club, cutoff April 10th.

Lion Sue Lee confirmed Appleton Noon Lions 100th anniversary will be May 22nd at the Grand Meridian in Appleton. She personally handed out invites.

Lion Wendy Hartmann (with 2 Ns) has been on the cabinet for 12 years, her term ends as WLF director. Thank You everyone, it has been **FUN!** Learned a lot over the years. **STANDING OVATION**

Tail Twister Wendy submitted $69 from the meeting.

DG Lion BJ Thanked Lion Vickie for use of the facility and staff setting up.

19) Motion to adjourn at 3:35 by IPDG Tom Wendt, 2nd by Lion John Stephen. **MOTION CARRIED**

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED by Cabinet Secretary/Treasurer Lion Dave Holschbach 3/14/2022

MD27B1 District Caucus Minutes

Date: Saturday, May 7, 2022

Location: Grand Geneva Hotel – Room: Maple Lawn A Time: 9:15 AM – 9:50 AM

Agenda:

1) Meeting called to Order @ 9:15 am by DG Lion BJ Blahnik. He stated we are short on time, will try to move things along but he gets carried away.
2) Pledge of Allegiance led by IPDG Lion Tom Wendt.
3) Welcome & Thank You by DG Lion BJ Blahnik. It has been a wonderful year. He apologized for the convention on Mother's Day weekend but also acknowledged all mothers in attendance. This year we utilized our Vice District Governors more, thank you to his cabinet members. He is humble to be our District Governor and in front of us. He was a person that was lost and did not have a purpose in life. Lions have changed that. We tried new things this year, some worked some did not, but at least we tried.
4) At this time PID Connie LeCleir-Meyer entered the room and introduced our International guest ID Alan Hunt from Canada. He thanked us for all the good work we do and keep it up. We need to continue having Fun and Friendship.
5) DGBJ also had special thanks to Cabinet Secretary Dave Holschbach, he always was available and allowed BJ to ask questions. Greatly appreciated him staying on for BJ's term to be cabinet secretary treasurer.
6) Roll Call by CST Lion Dave Holschbach
   46 District 27B1 members in attendance and 42 certified with 32 voting.
7) Honors & Recognition by DG Lion BJ Blahnik.
   a. **Lions Spirit Award** was created to recognize the GRASS ROOTS LION, the backbone of many Lions clubs. It was meant to not include anyone who has been a president. The 8 nominees are John Murray-Pickett Lions, Sue Trampf-Berlin Lions, Eric Mueller-St Nazianz, Wayne Stroessner-Random Lake, Melvin See-Chilton, Rose Mueller-Winnebago East Shore, Roy Holz-Neenah and Bunny Turcotte of Wild Rose. Each were given a special recognition award. The winner will receive a $500 donation in their name to a Wisconsin Lions approved project. The WINNER is Lion Rose Mueller of Winnebago East Shore Lions. Lion Rose was present and was honored and humble to be recognized, she wishes to have the donation given to Wisconsin Lions Camp.

b. **Other Recognitions**: The district received a special plaque from Kids USA in recognition for our district being 3rd in the nation in the vision screening challenge. We

ended with 26,000+, and our Multi District was 4th in the nation. In recognition of his support of vision screening, PDG Fred Gebhart was given the plaque on behalf of the district. PDG Fred also thanked all the vision screeners and especially PDG Dave Lee for his support in the Appleton area. DG BJ talked about the Helmer Lacy award and why he nominated Lion Sue, without people like her, his life would have been totally different.

Lion Bob Newton of the Town of Sheboygan presented DG BJ with a special custom hand-crafted bowl in appreciation of his term as District Governor.

8) Secretary's Report – CST Lion Dave Holschbach
    a. Delegate Certification will continue until 2:00 pm, see Lion Dave at any time up until then.
9) New Business
    a. LCIF Community Grant update by DG Lion BJ Blahnik. Our district applied for a community grant from LCI in the amount of $3000 for the Holyland Food Pantry in the community of Winnebago East Shore and St Peters Lions. Community grants are based on 15% of a district's donations. There was some controversy as to club donations, Clubs are here to serve and it does not matter if a club donates to LCI or Not to qualify.
    b. Status Update on Above and Beyond Children's Museum Playground was given by DG Lion BJ Blahnik. Due to one of the centennial clubs being from Sheboygan he felt this was a great opportunity for a district centennial grant. The district received a LCI grant for $50,000 which we had to match. We as a district need to raise $25,000 with a $25,000 personal donation. We currently are about $5000 short. He has full confidence this will happen. THANK YOU!
    c. District Governor Elect Lion David Brinkman
    1st cabinet meeting will be Sunday July 24 at Eagles Club Fond du Lac, and the District convention will also be in Fond du Lac at the Radisson November 11th & 12th. His theme for next year will be "TELL YOUR STORY "
    He has been working with all the clubs and their MyLion/MyLCI reporting. Get out there and tell the people WHO you are! Use Twitter-Facebook- Instagram and get your events on the district calendar. He is in need of 2 zone chairman to complete his cabinet. Looking forward to working with all Lions and having 1st and 2nd vice district governors for club visits.

Special **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** sang for incoming district secretary Lion Roxanne Wendt. PDG Jerry Post will the incoming district treasurer.

Motion to adjourn meeting @ 9:54 am by Lion Mike Helmke, 2nd by PDG Ken Rohde.
MOTION CARRIED Respectfully submitted Cabinet Secretary/Treasurer Lion Dave Holschbach

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Building a Vision

BY DISTRICT GOVERNOR BJ BLAHNIK

I want to thank all of the Lions from District B1 for allowing me to serve as your District Governor for this year of 2021-2022. It was back in 2006 when I truly became a Lion by helping a family out during a difficult time through a small but very impactful conversation which changed not only their lives but mine as well. This moment was truly when I became a Lion and whether you are new to Lions or if you have been with our organization for many years, I ask you to think about when you became a Lion and why you still remain a Lion. Over the past 100 years our great Lions of Wisconsin have been through times of disaster, community crisis, helping feed the hungry, providing the opportunity for an individual to see again and most importantly, providing service when a need presents itself by simply giving our time to help someone you may never know.

Many people may not know, I am visually impaired and by having supportive relationships is the main reason why I am able to be successful in life. Hellen Keller once said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." This message remains in my heart all of the time because I may still be able to accomplish something if I work on it by myself but when all of us work on something together, not only will we get more done, but we will also build more relationships, more friendships and stronger communities. Therefore I have chosen my theme to be "Teamwork." Assembling the proper teams throughout our District will provide a united front and we, as Lions, will do so much more.

Over the past couple months, all of us have begun assembling our teams. One may ask, now we have our teams, what do we do? To have direction, we need to build a vision. When I look at our horizon, the vision I see is promoting healthy clubs providing impactful service. There is a reason why our clubs exist in their respective communities because there was a need and we, as Lions, are there to help. Building teams, not only in our club but within our communities as well. There may be projects we can partner with other organizations and together we can accomplish so much more. It may be as simple as inviting other organizations to our meetings so they can learn more about who we are and how we can help each other. For example, I live in the Sheboygan area and there is an organization, Meals on Wheels, and many of our local members help deliver food which has created a wonderful relationship and together both organizations have been able to serve more of our community and this service project only costs time and what is received in return is providing impactful service to our community.

I look forward to serving with you, building long term relationships and memories of making a difference when lending a helping hand. Many times I will say to my friends, you do not need sight to have vision and what I see for the future for the B1 District is comforting to know you are helping someone you may never meet but know from the bottom of their heart, they say Thank you. It is a great time to be a Lion.

Plymouth Lions Reading Machine Program

LION MIKE ROBERTS, PRESIDENT,
PLYMOUTH LIONS CLUB

Over 20 years ago, the Plymouth Lions Club began a Reading Machine program by purchasing their first machine to loan to a local citizen with a low-vision ailment. Over the last 20+ years, the club's fleet of machines had grown to over 25 machines with another ten machines being used for spare parts. Lions **Jason Covaleski** and **Mike Dimig** co-chair the program.

In 2020, the club wanted to upgrade their machines and began searching for a new partner which led them to Adaptive Information Systems (AIS). AIS is a Wisconsin-based distributor for Humanware who manufactures a variety of equipment for low-vision and blindness. The list price of the Humanware Prodigy-20 was $1,595, but president, Roger Behm worked with Plymouth to get the cost below $900 for an order of 10 or more machines.

Like most clubs last year, fundraising events were devastated by the pandemic so they had to think differently. Expanding their reach to the other 13 Clubs in their Zone, they decided to give crowd-funding a try with the help of FlipCause.com. Their campaign was able to raise $15,000+ which included a generous corporate match of $7,500 from Masters Gallery Foods, a long-time advocate of the Plymouth Lions Club and allowed them to order 40 machines for themselves and 5 other clubs. They hosted a "pick up party" in February and invited the other five clubs to pick up their orders and get some training and sharing of best practices.

We're excited to see the success of this program spread throughout District 27-B1 and beyond. At the time of article, an additional order of 35-45 machines are being placed, spearheaded by District Governor Tom Wendt. The Plymouth Lions will again host another "pick up party" and hope to expand even further in the future.

Plymouth Lion Jason Covaleski (bright blue jacket) and Plymouth Lion Mike Dimig (Harley Davidson jacket) provided training to clubs from Sheboygan Falls, Town of Sheboygan, Cleveland, Random Lake, and Appleton. District Governor Tom Wendt is in the background.

For more information about the Plymouth Lions Club and their Reading Machine program, visit plymouthlionsclub.org/reading-machines

27-B1 DISTRICT GOVERNOR: **BJ Blahnik**

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WAYMORR LIONS CLUB *will be hosting their summer Music in the Park from 6-8pm at Brown County WayMorr Park (3832 Park Road in Greenleaf). Free music and ice cream along with food to purchase from the local youth sports group. Bring your own chairs and sit back and relax.*
Wed, June 16 - Green Bay Picklers
Wed, July 14 - CRS
Wed, August 11 - Bent Grass

WAYMORR LIONS CLUB *hosted their annual children Easter Egg Hunt at Brown County WayMorr Park on Saturday, April 3. Over 360 children all under the age of 10 years old enjoyed hunting for eggs throughout the park with their family and friends. They then each received a treat bag that might contain a prize or a winner of a bigger prize. So many big and happy smiling faces that morning!*

THE STOCKBRIDGE LIONS *worked to assemble and launch multiple piers into Lions Lake on April 24. This is the only lake in Wisconsin that the is not controlled by the DNR. The task takes about 4 hours starting at 8 o'clock to be completed. Many stories have come out of this with people getting wet and dealing with icy conditions. This spring marks 14 years that the Stockbridge Lions have ventured to our Lions Camp for the spring and fall workdays.*

Tree and Bench Dedication Ceremony

Husky Hands and Heart Leo Club participated in a Tree and Bench Dedication Ceremony

As part of the Lions International Environment Improvement Project that plants one million trees worldwide, the New Holstein Lions planted their own tree and the local Leo's club donated one of the benches they received from Trex for collecting plastic the past 2 years, and placed it next to the tree. Present at Heritage Hill State Park in Green Bay, were representatives from Lions International, the 10 Wisconsin District Governors, and other state and local Lion representatives.

Representing the local club were, left to right, Cami Guelig, Leah Steffen, Annika Damkot and Abby Voss.

Thanks to the local businesses, schools and individuals, this project has kept 15,000 lbs. of plastic out of the landfills and has provided 11 benches to date around New Holstein and Green Bay.

THE STOCKBRIDGE LIONS *conducted their annual community road side clean up on April 21. A total of 8 members and a number of family members partook in the clean up of 9 miles in and out of the community roads.*

THE 30TH ANNUAL BEER FEST IN CHILTON *was a go on Sunday with the support of the Chilton Lions and fire department. There were 17 micro breweries taking part in the event. The Chilton Lions handled the entry tickets and handed out a beer mugs to everyone coming in. They shared the duties of parking the buses and vehicles with the fire department.*

Lions handling the entries (left to right): Lions Jim, Dick, Mel with grandson Tyler, and Greg

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The Roaring 20's – Celebrating A Century of Service

BY DISTRICT GOVERNOR BJ BLAHNIK

- **WHERE:** The Blue Harbor Resort
- **WHEN:** Friday, November 12 through Sunday, November 14, 2021
- **HOW TO REGISTER:** Download Registration from wilionsb1.org or Contact Lion Ellen Cheney at echeney@charter.net

The 46th Annual MD27B1 District Convention will celebrate both old traditions and new during this year's exciting convention. Through your requests learned via surveys and word-of-mouth, we have been listening. This year, the District will have a throwback which means a three-day convention. There will be multiple keynote speakers, additional meals, evening snacks and a focus on building partnerships to ensure the Lions do not need to serve alone.

After our dinner on Friday evening, our Keynote Speaker will be Lion **Malcolm Kerwin** from Miami, Florida. He will be speaking about the importance of Leadership. A statement from Lion Malcolm reads: "*All Lions believe that Lionism is a cause worth serving. But suppose we also believed that Lionism is a promise to the future of every community that our clubs are worth preserving. Suppose we believed that the greatest legacy we can leave behind as Lions is not our past accomplishments, but Lions Clubs in good health that continue the work we started to make the future better. How then would the future of Lions Clubs in our communities be different, if this is what we believed?*"

Our Friday evening will continue with a Speakeasy theme set from the 1920's with dancing, drinks and a fundraising casino night hosted by the Kiel and Winnebago-Eastshore Lions Clubs. Our music and dancing will be provided by "Frank and the Rat Pack Jazz" from Chicago.

Our special guest will be International Director Lion **Ken Ibarra** from San Bruno, California. District B1 has many great causes which will be on display during his visit. We will also be excited to learn about any new details from Lions Clubs International from ID Lion Ken.

Before our Saturday night entertainment of more music and dancing, provided by CW Music, our next keynote speaker will be **Walter Raineri** from San Francisco, California. Walter is an amazing athlete and a two-time World Champion Bronze Medalist in Blind Sailing. He's a special inspirational speaker by challenging your mind to believe anything is possible. His message is: "Welcome to the Anti-Pity Party," presented by Walter T. Raineri JD/CPA, a blind man with more vision without sight. Ever experience a truly challenging moment in your life? Try waking up and being blind. In his presentation, Walt will explore and share some fundamental human concepts which, together with a little teamwork, will keep you moving towards your vision, *"for it doesn't matter what your vision is, just that you have one and are moving towards it."*

Our convention will close Sunday morning after our final keynote speaker. The session will be a tribute to Past District Governor Lion **Len Quinn** who passed away earlier this year. A famous speech of his which is titled: "I Have a Dream" will be played with the addition of a few guest speakers. We know PDG Lion Len hoped for one more speech and the District would like to honor his last request. Rest in Peace PDG Lion Len Quinn.

This will be a time of celebration, remembrance and a time to create new friends. The District ensures an event filled with fun, fellowship, and fulfillment. It's a great time to be a Lion - may all of you know only happiness.

Meet Our New Editor

Our new 27-B1 Newspaper Editor is Lion Mike Roberts, Past President of the Plymouth Lions Club. Over the years, he has submitted numerous articles to the Wisconsin Lion publication. He is also the primary contributor to their club's Facebook page: facebook.com/PlymouthLionsClub

Mike is available to help all B1 clubs promote their activities in the WI Lions newspaper, whether it be full stories or pictures with a caption. Service projects, community events, and fundraisers all make for interesting content. Your stories will encourage and inspire other clubs, possibly even touch non-members. You might also get some new ideas for your club.

If you need help writing your article, Lion Mike will be glad to help. Submit your stories or ask for advice by emailing Lion Mike at mroberts6659@gmail.com. Don't be surprised if you see an article or picture from your club that you didn't submit – he's always watching his Facebook feed for other club activity.

ENVIRONMENT PROJECT CHALLENGE – *This year, Lion **Roxanne Wendt**, District Environmental Chair, has chosen to challenge all clubs in District 27-B1 to participate in a Districtwide roadside cleanup. Lion Roxanne has set a District goal of 500 miles, including parks, streets, and roadways, by November 1. Remember to include family members, friends, and, so importantly, perspective new Lion members. Please email, or text completed miles to 920-948-7787 or roxanne_wendt@hotmail.com.*

VAN DYNE LIONESS CONVERTING TO LIONS – *On June 21, 2021, the Lioness had a "38th-year Finale Banquet" at the Radisson Hotel in Fond du Lac. They presented 33 Birch-Sturm Fellowships and celebrated their history, including donations of over $580,000 over 38 years. The 47 Van Dyne Lioness members will now become Van Dyne Lions and continue serving their community and so many more.*
We shared and we gave in our own fashion,
The love of being a Lioness, the time and compassion.
It was a special opportunity, as you can see,
To share our gift----so worthily.

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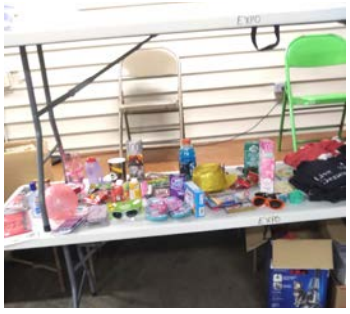
THE STOCKBRIDGE LIONS *held their annual Walleye Tournament on June 5th at the Stockbridge Harbor and Park. There were 115 two-person boats registered for the 7-hour, two-flight fishing tournament. Anchor Marina of Appleton sponsored demo boat rides and any prizes to the tournament. Walleyes For Tomorrow handled the fish release, and the Lions also provided food and refreshments.*



NEWTON LIONS CLUB – *For over 30 years they have been having a picnic for the disabled members of Manitowoc called Special People's Day. This year's event had over 150 attendees, BINGO, cookie decorating, bean bag and music by Delta Dawn and the Karaoke Cowboy. Wiggles the Clown entertained everyone, and two Newton First Responders took blood pressures and handed out necklaces . Everyone attending got either a door prize, t-shirt or hat. Many come every year and proudly wear their hats or t-shirts from previous years. Thanks to the many volunteers and vendors helping with the event.*

THE STOCKBRIDGE LIONS *entered their float in the annual Stockbridge Fireman's parade, where they handed out beanie babies and Hawaiian leis to the young children. Pictured from left to right are Lions* ***Clarence****,* ***Steve****,* ***Marv****,* ***Marty****, and* ***Wayne****. The young ones enjoyed the hand-outs, and so did their moms and dads. The float and the club members provided great exposure of the Lions to the community.*

THE SHEBOYGAN FALLS LIONS CLUB *celebrated a ribbon cutting of the newly updated pavilion at River Park. This comes just in time for their annual Oktoberfest fundraising event on September 10-11. Come out to enjoy their handiwork and view the fountain as well.*

THE BRILLION LIONS CLUB *has planted flower boxes on Main Street to beautify the city since 1960. Club members planted the flowers on June 1st for the 61st and final year. Next year, hanging baskets will replace the flower boxes.*

THE PLYMOUTH LIONS *were one of dozens of organizations and vendors that participated in the annual Mill Street Fest on July 10. A record crowd turned out this year after last year's event was canceled due to the pandemic. The Plymouth Lions shared numerous community projects with attendees and conducted a 50/50 raffle, raising over $600 that will be reinvested in the community. Pictured are Lions* ***Jeff Zarembka*** *(left) and* ***Scott Shaw*** *(right).*

READING MACHINE CAMPAIGN PART 2 – *A life-changing experience to those with Macular Degeneration or other low-vision ailments. An additional 45 Reading Machines from Humanware were recently purchased by 15 clubs from B1 in addition to the 40 machines purchased by 6 clubs in January, led by the Plymouth Lions Club. This most recent initiative was spearheaded by IPDG* ***Tom Wendt****. He spread the word to all of the clubs he visited the last few months and continued to socializing the idea during the State Convention. "This campaign represents what Lions is all about," said IPDG Tom. Participating clubs in the most recent purchase include Chilton, Cleveland, Elkhart Lake, Kiel, Manitowoc, Markesan, Montello, Neshkoro, New Holstein, Sheboygan Noon, Sherwood, Van Dyne, Van Dyne Lioness, Wild Rose, Winnebago East Shore and individuals* ***BJ Blahnik*** *and* ***Tom & Roxanne Wendt****. The Plymouth Lions Club hosted an event for the 15 clubs to pick up their machines and receive some training and coaching on best practices. Contact the Plymouth Lions Club for more information. plymouthwilions@gmail.com*

THE CALUMET COUNTY LIONS CLUB *put together a booth at the Calumet County Fair on Labor Day weekend. The clubs consist of Brillion, Chilton, Hilbert, Kiel, New Holstein, Sherwood, and Stockbridge. Vision screening was conducted at the booth for kids and adults. There were 105 kids and 17 adults screened where 13 kids were referred and 3 adults. At the booth a table was set up for diabetes information and handouts. Lions Camp, Leader Dog, and club activities were on display along with an eyeglass bucket for used eyeglasses.*

THE WILD ROSE LIONS CLUB *hosted a BINGO Bash on September 30 where they used the opportunity to spread some Diabetes Awareness. Lots of winners and smiling faces.*

THE PICKETT LIONS CLUB *Food Sales Team worked in support of the Berlin Boat Club, funding the Eureka Locks, in August. Pictured are Lions **Dawn Holmes**, **John Murray**, **Nancy Reichenberger**, **Sami Schultz** (volunteer), **Norm Reichenberger**, and **Bob Messerschmidt**.*

VISION SCREENING – *PDG **Fred Gebhart**, from the Stockbridge Lions Club, and Lion **Dan Weber**, from St Peter Lions Club, had the opportunity to train the Fond du Lac school nurses on the use of the Welch Allyn SPOT device to screen students this year. They all know the importance of students' vision and were happy that they could be part of the vision screening program.*

THE ROSENDALE LIONS CLUB *hosted a brat fry to benefit the Rosendale Fire Dept. and EMTs and were able to donate $400 to this great community service.*

An Unusual Donation

BY LION MARY JO ABLER B1 LCIF DISTRICT COORDINATOR

As we enter the last year of Campaign 100-Empowering Service, Lion **Mary Jo Abler**, B1 LCIF District Coordinator, wants to thank all the Clubs that have supported this major LCIF Endowment Fund project, and the many Lions that have given personal donations.

A Huge thank you goes out to Zone Chair and Sheboygan Noon Lion, **Dick Karl**, and his wife and partner in service, **Kris**. They recently purchased a new car and unbeknown to them, their Credit Union, United One Credit Union, was running a *Show the Love, Loanapolooza Vehicle Loan Sale*. The winner could name a charity of their choice for a $1,000 donation.

What a surprise when Dick called Lion Mary Jo to get details on how to send this unusual donation to LCIF! Once she got him the details, they were off to the check presentation along with a photo opportunity.

This is the largest personal donation our District has received. Lion Mary Jo wants to thank Dick and his wife for considering this donation to LCIF. Truly they have Lions hearts.

As Campaign 100-Empowering Service enters its final year of fundraising, Lion Mary Jo hopes clubs will continue to give. She urges those that have not given yet to please understand the importance of their donation and hopes all Lions will consider a personal donation - not as large as the Karl's gave, but some personal contribution to your legacy as a Lion.

Lion Mary Jo Abler is available to speak at Zone and Club meetings and she hopes that each club LCIF Chair is passing along her informational emails.

Our District has benefited greatly from LCIF grants. Most recently the COVID-19 grant, Plymouth's handicapped playground, and the Blind Sailor system, just to mention a few recent Grants.

State Lions projects have benefited greatly from LCIF grants, especially our Camp facilities, Lions Eye Bank, the Eye Glass Recycling program, and the Childhood Cancer Grants for Milwaukee, Madison and Marshfield. It is likely LCIF grants have paid half of the many Wisconsin Lions projects throughout the years through 50/50 Grant programs.

LCIF has been able to write those Grants because of Lions past donations. Campaign 100-Emposering Service is the future of our Grants. It is an endowment fund. The interest will be able to keep our Lions legacy going far into the future. Please consider donating.

THE CASCADE LIONS CLUB *were in the Cascade Fire Dept and First Responders Picnic Parade. Pictured are Lion **Madonna Schneider**, Lion **Augie Grahl** and Lion **Lowell "Windy" Wynveen**.*

PICKETT LIONS CLUB *held their 8th Annual Summer Ride, with record success! Lion **Ann Schultz**, Ride Chairman, is pictured with this year's grand prize winners.*

A Purple Octopus is Coming to Town

BY DG BJ BLAHNIK

District B1 is very excited to announce a Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) Grant has been submitted for a total project of $100,000 with $50,000 to be raised by the Lions of District B1. This project will be to support the construction of the Purple Octopus Playground at the Above & Beyond Children's Museum (ABMC) in Sheboygan, WI. You may ask yourself, why would Lions Clubs outside of the Sheboygan area support a project like this when it is not close to my town? Our answer is… this is MORE than a playground!

ABCM is a location where children can go to learn, explore, interact, and make memories with their families. This encourages the development of fine motor skills, the art of learning how something works, and a safe area to just have fun. Many schools outside the Sheboygan Area will bus their students to this location for field trips which truly makes ABCM open to everyone. The Purple Octopus Playground will be available 24/7 at a location for all abilities to play and open to the public for no charge.

The overall cost of the project is $500,000. Lions will be contributing $100,000 which will be used to provide the final "rubber stamp" and give the Purple Octopus its home. Rubber surfacing will provide safety for all while children and families are playing. Varying colors will help the visually impaired to know, for instance, how far the swings come out to avoid being hit or kicked. The rubber surfacing is the most important part of the playground. Without it, the playground would not meet the requirements to be disclosed as an "all-abilities" playground and achieve a 5-Star ADA Accessible rating.

LCIF matching grants works like this… Lions clubs within a District apply to LCIF for supporting a project, before it begins, based on specific criteria. The Lions then raise half of the money and if approved, LCIF will donate the remaining half. This money comes from your yearly donations to LCIF. When a club or individual donates more than $1,000 you may receive a Melvin Jones recognition plaque, a very personal recognition. Your gift will echo into the future and help make our world a better place.

The Sheboygan Evening, Sheboygan Noon and Town of Sheboygan Lions Clubs have committed to be the primary sponsors of the Purple Octopus Playground as well as a donation from a private donor to support the cause. The B1 District is asking all Lions Clubs to consider a $400 donation to the ABCM with checks made payable to "Lions of 27B1" with the memo line stating "Purple Octopus" to the address of 402 N. 5th St. Manitowoc, WI 54220. Please send your donations before December 31, 2021.

Thank you in advance for all your support and helping the B1 District showcase our Centennial project.

THE WAYSIDE-MORRISON (WAYMORR) LIONS CLUB *hosted their 2nd "Music in the Park" night at WayMorr County Park in Southern Brown County with the "CRS Band" plus 250 people and free ice cream sundaes!*

PICKETT LIONS CLUB *President, Todd Messerschmidt, presented a Milwaukee Sawzall to Utica Fire Chief, Tim Oliver, at their July meeting.*

FROM THE 27-B1 DISTRICT GOVERNOR

BJ BLAHNIK

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DISTRICT CONVENTION – The 27-B1 District Convention begins Friday November 12 through Sunday November 14 at the Blue Harbor Resort in Sheboygan. You can still register at our B1 District website: wilionsb1.org The cost is $20 unless you are a First Timer or LEO - then your cost is $10. Meal options have been closed however you can still participate. You can also bring a non-Lion friend or a family member to show them the amazing things Lions do. Please bring a non-perishable food item which will be distributed to the local food pantry.

DISTRICT ENVIRONMENT CHALLENGE – You still have time to send in your miles to help the environment. When you go for a walk, bring a garbage and recycling bag with you. If you see any litter, please pick it up. Keep track of these miles and send a summary to Lion Roxanne Wendt at roxanne_wendt@hotmail.com

LIONS RECRUITING AND ORIENTATION VIDEOS – Please visit wilionsb1.org or wisconsinlions.org to explore our new Lions Videos which have been created to celebrate our Centennial Anniversary by helping showcase the many projects the Lions help with. Hint: you may see your District Governor in the video labeled "Why Be A Lion?".

B1 DISTRICT LIONS SPIRIT AWARD – New for the 2021-22 Lions Year is a special recognition that will be announced at our District Convention. One nominee per club can be submitted by your current and immediate past club president. Submit an essay towards a Lion who has never been a Club President but is there to help in any way they can. Each Zone Chair will select one essay to become a finalist which will be recognized at the State Convention in May of 2022. One Lion will be recognized from the finalists and can choose a State Lions Project where a $500 donation will be made. Questions? Please contact DG Lion BJ at bj.blahnik@gmail.com

HAPPY 100TH ANNIVERSARY – The District will continue recognizing the Lions of Appleton Noon, Manitowoc, and Sheboygan Evening who are celebrating their Centennial Anniversary. Please reach out to them and wish them a Happy Anniversary.

Thank you to all Lions for making accomplishments like this possible and continue changing lives.

THE SHEBOYGAN FALLS LIONS CLUB, *along with KPAL, hosted their 9th Annual Oktoberfest at River Park in Sheboygan Falls. The event provided fun and entertainment for people of all ages, while raising funds to support charitable organizations like: Sharon S. Richardson Hospice Community, Sheboygan Falls School District, Visions Screener, Reins, Sheboygan Falls Food Pantry, SANE, Sheboygan Falls Police Department, and Wisconsin Lions Camp.*

BERLIN LIONS CLUB – *In October 2021, the Berlin Lions Club held an Assistive Technology Fair for the Visually Impaired. They had 42 people registered with 20 of them being visually impaired.* ***Chuck Fehl****, Berlin Lions Club President, spoke to participants as well. Visual independence is near and dear to his heart because he, himself, is legally blind.*

WAYMORR LIONS CLUB – *A meal for teachers and administrators from two local schools at VanAbels of Hollandtown with the Principals from Morrison Zion Lutheran School and Wayside Zion Lutheran School who each received donations presented by Lion* ***Diane Blashka****. Guest speakers were Lions* ***Jerry and Meg Post*** *who shared insights on behalf of Leader Dog for the Blind.*

THE STOCKBRIDGE LIONS CLUB – *Two hours of providing healthy treats of fruit juice, string cheese, and an apple were given out to all costumed kids. Pictured are Lion* ***Denny*** *and President Lion* ***Marv*** *who made sure everyone received their own bag.*

STOCKBRIDGE LIONS CLUB – *In 2007, a lion statue was created for the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in anticipation of The Lion King show. The statue was originally painted green and gold for Vincent Lombardi's Steakhouse, then was repainted red after the hotel changed its name to Red Lion Hotel in 2018. When it needed a new home in 2021, PDG* ***Dave Lee*** *of the Appleton Noon Lions worked with PDG* ***Fred Gebhart*** *of the Stockbridge Lions to repaint it and display it at the Calumet County Fair, overseeing the Stockbridge Community Trick-or-Treaters, and most recently at the Delightfully Calumet Christmas Light Show. Standing with the Lion statue is Stockbridge Lions' president Lion* ***Marv Thiel****.*

CHILTON LIONS CLUB – *The 38th Annual Thanksgiving Turkey Express food program returns! Volunteers came together for this event including families with their kids, area fire departments, VFW, Lions clubs, and teachers. Meals were prepared and delivered to all who signed up, totaling 364 meals. Local businesses donated most of the food and supplies. Pictured are Chilton Lions* ***Todd Weber****,* ***Steve Mueller****,* ***Bruce Alten****,* ***Bob Olson****, and Second Vice District Governor* ***Greg Kubichka****.*

SHERWOOD LIONS SPOT CAMERA – *Clubs were in the process of donating to the district's vision screening account when the Sherwood Lions approved to cover the cost of the SPOT camera at $7,150 as a memorial to the passing of Lion* ***Jim Knecht****. Lion Jim was a member for 14 years and involved the club activities including the all-important cornea transportation. Pictured (l to r): 1st Vice President Lion* ***Dave Vukosich*** *and presenting the check, Secretary Lion* ***Joe Thiel*** *to WLF Director Lion* ***Fred Gebhart****.*

WAYMORR LIONS CLUB – *held their annual Fall fundraiser at VanAbels of Hollandtown at the beginning of October to benefit a free Easter egg hunt for children, wheelchair ramps, Music in the Park nights, etc. Pictured are: (back row)* ***Bob Fritsch****,* ***Daniel Vercauteren****,* ***Diane Blashka****,* ***Jim Blashka****,* ***John Schmidt****,* ***Tom Smits****,* ***Todd Leiberg****,* ***Bill Kempen****; (front row)* ***Marjorie Fritsch****,* ***Carrie Knutson****,* ***Christy Hettmann****,* ***Lloyd Lemke****,* ***Gary Leick****,* ***Sarah Vercauteren*** *&* ***Dan Natzke****.*

SHEBOYGAN NOON LIONS – *Participating in the White Cane Drive with the help of Festival Foods in Sheboygan. Thanks to* ***Jason*** *(not pictured),* ***Nicole****, and* ***Zach*** *from Festival Foods for their help!*

THE SHERWOOD LIONS – *With the increased demand for ramps, the need to recycle ramps that are removed, and the need to store lumber that has been donated to their club, the Sherwood Lions have built elaborate storage racks for lumber and ramps. Lumber is measured and marked before storing making it easier to build new ramps. The Club has built and installed 25 ramps this year!*

Together We Can Do So Much

BY LION MIKE ROBERTS, B1 EDITOR

On a brisk October morning, dozens of volunteers arrived at Firehouse Park in the Town of Sheboygan to execute a project that took 3 years of planning. Spearheaded by the Town of Sheboygan Lions Club, over 50 trees were planted that replaced a devastation of trees caused by Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) disease. Town of Sheboygan President, Lion **Wendy Williams**, shared why her club felt this was such an important project: "The Town of Sheboygan Lions Club not only loves helping our parks and our community… it's a part of all of us that provides a better life".

*Town of Sheboygan President, Lion **Wendy Williams** ; Town of Sheboygan Lion, **Andy Williams**; District Governor, Lion **BJ Blahnik***

Arguably the most compelling part of this project was the collaborative nature of it. Along with the Lions, volunteers from the local Rotary Club, Boy Scout Troop 801, and Sheboygan High Schools worked together to bring this vision to reality. A non-profit organization called Restoration Of Our Trees Sheboygan (ROOTS) played a key role in the initiative and provided an $8,000 grant. In addition, the Town of Sheboygan Lions provided a grant of $5,000 for the project. In total, community groups contributed in over $30,000 of labor, equipment, material, and cash.

Town of Sheboygan Lion, **Andy Williams**, had the original vision for the project. "This was a dream of mine back when I was our club president 3 years ago", he shared with the volunteers. The Township EAB mitigation effort is the first of a series of ROOTS collaborative cooperative projects to follow in 2022 and 2023 involving township lands throughout Sheboygan County. The Town of Sheboygan Lions Club will continue to be on the front line as the initiative spreads through the county.

Before the volunteers were released to start the planting, District Governor, Lion **BJ Blahnik**, inspired everyone by sharing the significance of this project: "The beauty about planting trees is that even though each leaf is individual, together they create nothing but beauty and free art". He closed with a quote from Helen Keller – "Alone we can do so little, but together we can do so much".

FROM THE 27-B1 DISTRICT GOVERNOR

BJ BLAHNIK

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Celebration of 100 Years of Wisconsin Lionism Continues in B1

*International Director (ID) Lion **Ken Ibarra**, Immediate Past District Governor (IPDG) **Tom Wendt**, District Governor (DG) **BJ Blahnik***

A password of "We Serve" was used to kick off the 46th Annual District Convention at Blue Harbor Resort in Sheboygan. The theme was The Roaring 20's and we celebrated an amazing weekend for a Century of Service. Thanks to the Convention Committee and all volunteers who made this event a huge success!

There were great seminars, keynote speakers, and a time to learn from one another. There was also some important business voted on with the following results: FVDG Lion **David Brinkman** was elected as DG Elect, SVDG Lion **Greg Kubichka** is now FVDG Elect, CST Lion **Dave Holschbach** is your SVDG Elect, Lion **Chuck Keifenheim** as B1 Eye Bank Director Elect, and Lion **Richard Karl** as B1 WLF Director Elect. Resolution 1 & 2 passed to bring our District Constitution & Bylaws in alignment with Lions Clubs International. Our 2023 District Convention will be at the Par 5 Resort in Mishicot.

Everyone was awakened Saturday morning with a bang [literally] with an amazing performance from the Sheboygan North HS Drumline. A video is on the B1 District Facebook page. Saturday lunch started with singing Happy 100th Birthday to Appleton Noon, Manitowoc, and Sheboygan Evening Lions Clubs. IPDG Lion **Tom Wendt** was presented a Ray Hempel Fellowship for his year as our B1 DG. With help from visiting International Director, Lion **Ken Ibarra**, I presented Lions **Wendy Hartmann**, **Laurie Sassada** and **Vincent Treague** with the International President's Certificate of Appreciation - the 4th highest award in Lions. Congratulations to all for their outstanding accomplishments!

On Sunday, we were able to hear Past District Governor Lion **Len Quinn** one last time through a video titled "Lions Dream". Lion Len Quinn spoke on his journey and how Lions and Leader Dog changed his life and of many around him. Rest in Peace PDG Lion Len! We all miss you and thank you for all you did to help those in need.

My final thought on this Convention…Our District is strong in our passion to serve and help those in need. The ability for having fun, building fellowship, and being fulfilled in how we serve, can grow our organization so we can help someone in need. I'm so very proud of all of you and thank you for allowing me to serve next to you - this truly is a great time to be a Lion!

Deer Hide Collection a Success!

Lions Clubs from all over the state, including several from 27-B1, collected thousands of deer hides this season. Proceeds from the sale of the hides benefit the Wisconsin Lions Camp in Rosholt, WI. The camp serves children and adults who are blind or visually impaired, deaf or hard of hearing, children with intellectual disabilities or educational autism, and children with diabetes. The quality camping experience is provided free-of-charge to eligible children and adults from Wisconsin.

The camp was founded in 1956 when a key individual overheard a chance remark: "Blind kids can't go to outdoor camps and stuff like that..." The Wisconsin Lions Camp and the Wisconsin Lions Foundation (WLF), Inc. administer the camp program. From that humble beginning with 26 campers, the 440 acre Wisconsin Lions Camp now proudly serves over 1,000 campers every summer.

*The Plymouth Lions along with Cleveland and Sheboygan Falls clubs collected over 550 hides this year. Pictured are (l to r): Plymouth Lion **Jeff Zarembka**, **Quentin Kleiber**, **Ryan Henschel**, **Nick Kleiber**, and Plymouth Lion **Jerry Baltus**.*

PICKETT LIONS CLUB – ***DuWayne Jensen***, ***Ken Rivers***, *and* ***Chad Lisowe****, along with family members pitched in for the fall cleanup of our local highway.*

PICKETT LIONS CLUB – *Emberly is two years old and was born with FEVR (Familial Exudative VitreoRetinopathy) - a rare, genetic condition in which both retinas are detached, leaving her blind. There is hope that when she has grown more, procedures for gaining some sight may be possible. Her parents are working with a clinic in the Detroit area that is researching this rare condition, as well as Children's Hospital in Milwaukee. They live in Rosendale, are building an adaptive play area in their basement, and anticipate needing to change the entry to their house as well as a fence in their yard in the future. The Pickett Lions Club brought Emberly's story to their Zone and kicked off donations for her with $5000. This was also supported by Lions Clubs from Campbellsport, Eden, Eldorado, Fond du Lac Evening, Oakfield, Rosendale, and Van Dyne for a total contribution of $8250 for Emberly's future. Thank you all for your generous donations! Pictured are (l to r): Lion **DuWayne Jensen**, **Emberly** and her parents, Lions **Chip Lovell** and **Chad Lisowe**.*

PICKETT LIONS CLUB – *256 hides were collected this year! Pictured are Lions **Chip Lovell** and **Eric Schultz**, picking up their bins at the end of the season.*

STOCKBRIDGE LIONS CLUB – *The Club took part in the Delightfully Calumet Christmas Light Show located at the Chilton fairgrounds. The Stockbridge Lions were one of 13 light displays which were choreographed to Christmas music. Every organization worked one night handing out 2022 calendars and taking in food and monetary donations. Pictured are (l to r): Lions **Rick**, **Denny**, and club President **Marv**.*

SHERWOOD AND STOCKBRIDGE LIONS CLUBS TEAM UP – *With the deer hide collection nearing its end, the Sherwood and Stockbridge Lions put together their 80-mile trip to the Lions Camp. 15 pallets of deer hides were loaded up on three trailers and delivered to camp with an estimate of 450 hides. Pictured are (l to r): Lions **Clarence** and **Marv** from the Stockbridge Lions and Lion **Mike** and his two sons and grandson from the Sherwood Lions.*

BERLIN LIONS CLUB – *President **Chuck Fehl** presented four $500 scholarship checks to: **Josie Bartol**, **Hannah Mertens**, **Lily Sonnentag**, and **Samuel Hooper** (grandparents, **Chuck & Jean Fehl** accepted on his behalf).*

NESHKORO LIONS CLUB – *(Top photo) Neshkoro Lions Eye Bank Transport Team (l to r):* ***Bob Hanson***, ***Joan Booth***, ***Jim Schurk***, ***Don Booth***, ***Len Roloff***, *and* ***Katie Krupinski****. (Bottom photo) Dispatcher Lion* ***Katie Krupinski*** *coordinates tissue transportation between Westfield and Madison (sometimes Plover).*

BERLIN LIONS CLUB – *Members* ***Sandy and Bill Bartaszewicz*** *received a heartfelt Thank You for their recent vision screening. They served 733 local elementary students since the beginning of this school year, including three schools, Clay Lamberton Elementary, All Saint's Catholic School and St. John's Lutheran School.*

FROM THE 27-B1 DISTRICT GOVERNOR

BJ BLAHNIK

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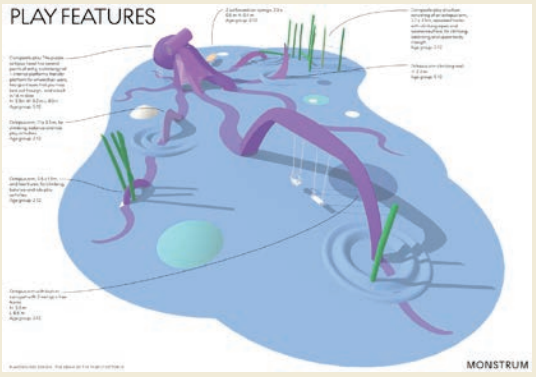
There is very exciting news buzzing around the B1 District! In early October, our District applied for a matching grant from Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF). This grant is to help fund a playground connected with the Above & Beyond Children's Museum (ABCM) as a first-ever all-abilities playground in the downtown area within Sheboygan. The specific item to be assisting with is for the rubber surfacing to ensure a safe and healthy playing area. The LCIF Board of Trustees approved our matching grant during the January 2022 meeting. With this $100,000 portion of an overall $500,000 campaign, the Lions are being recognized as a major sponsor and will showcase our commitment to our communities for years to come.

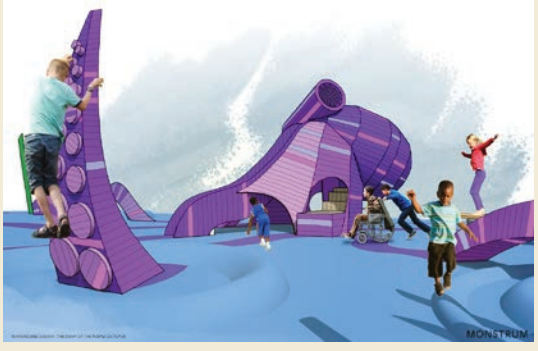
All Governors of Wisconsin were asked to create a Centennial project if they had a club or clubs celebrating 100 years of service. There are six clubs celebrating this milestone. District B1 has three of those clubs: Appleton Noon, Manitowoc, and Sheboygan Evening. The District chose the ABCM Purple Octopus Playground project for a few reasons. The Sheboygan Evening club, one of the clubs celebrating a century of service, resides in the same community. Our 2021 District Convention was held in the city of Sheboygan, also. This playground cements a legacy of community support. This support also showcases that working together with other organizations can build great relationships and help provide a safe environment for our future youth.

To ensure the completion of this playground, we still need support from all of our Lions Clubs. We are asking each club in the B1 District for a $400 donation to complete the final funds required and match the $50,000 from LCIF. A local Sheboygan community member, Jay Christopher, sponsored the first $25,000 as a match to all funds raised by the Lions Clubs of District B1. This means, we need to raise $25,000 from Lions directly. We have received major support from the local clubs in Sheboygan to help get us started but, for this project to be successful, we need all the Lions Clubs in District B1 to help support this Centennial Legacy Project.

You may ask yourself, why would I support a project which is not within my own community. I believe ideas like these can help answer the question of "Why?". People from many places visit the Children's Museum through different school field trips and those families may be from communities near you. When people are visiting Sheboygan, simply as a tourist destination, events like the summer farmer market is nearby, which, draws interest and time to spend as a family. There are many reasons and ideas we can share for why to support this effort and I hope you will visit and enjoy the Purple Octopus Playground when you come into Sheboygan.

Having the Lions as a sponsor of the project keeps reminding everyone the Lions are here to help those in need and wherever there is a need, there is a Lion. I ask for your continued support and if you and/or your club would like to send a $400 donation, no later than May 15 2022, please mail the donation to "Lions of 27B1 with memo stating Purple Octopus" and use the address of B1 District Treasurer Lion Dave Holschbach 402 North 5th Street Manitowoc, WI 54220. If you have any questions, please contact District Governor Lion BJ Blahnik at 920-980-6317. Thank you for all of your support and it is truly a great day to be a Lion.





The All-Abilities Purple Octopus Playground is expected to be installed in Above & Beyond's green space in the spring of 2022. Photo provided by MONSTRUM and Above & Beyond Children's Museum

FROM THE 27-B1 DISTRICT GOVERNOR ELECT

DAVE BRINKMAN

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To all the great Lions of Multiple District 27 and more specifically in District 27-B1, just a short note about myself and things to look forward to in 2022-23. I joined the Lions in 2008 and currently am a member of the Brandon Lions Club. I may be your District Governor (Elect), but I am also a Club Service Chairperson. I have been married for just short of 40 years. I am a 25-year Army Veteran and military retiree. I think joining the Lions was a natural extension of service but now it's to our communities and beyond.

As your incoming District Governor(E), I will help the clubs in 27-B1 in any way I can. Some of you know me as the MyLCI and MyLion Chairperson from this year to which I served many clubs in the district getting their club reporting improved. Thanks to all of you, our club reporting is up. I extend to you that the District Cabinet will assist the 60+ clubs and 1800+ members in whatever is asked from us. The district is only as good as our clubs, and we will endeavor to make our district better after our one year is up.

Lastly, our theme for this upcoming Lions year is TELL YOUR STORY! We want to improve our reporting of all the great things our clubs do. It's been said that the Lions Club is the best kept secret in town. Let the world know who you are and be proud for what you do. Look for the next issue of the Wisconsin Lions Magazine for the official start of the new Lions year.

OXFORD LIONS CLUB – *The annual Fisheree was held on February 19th. Although it was a brisk day, a lot of fun was had out on the ice and some nice fish catches were recorded. The club also held raffles and food was served by a local bar and grill. The Fisheree has been held annually for 67 years, and is one of the club's largest fundraisers.*

CHILTON LIONS CLUB – *Secretary **Stephen Mueller** presents **John Kost**, Director of the Calumet County Salvation Army, a $1,000 donation for food assistance. The donation was announced by Lion **Greg Garton** to attendees at the Chilton Lions Community Cares "Big Bucks" fundraiser on March 10. Over the past year, the Chilton Lions donated more than $22,000 to several community initiatives and projects that focus on health, education, nutrition, public safety, recreation and community well-being.*

SHEBOYGAN EVENING LIONS CLUB – *On February 1st, the club gathered for its regular 1st Tuesday of the month meeting on the exact 100th anniversary of its charter! President **Dennis Ketterman** read a proclamation from Sheboygan Mayor **Ryan Sorenson**. The club celebrated with an anniversary dinner on Saturday, April 23rd at the Sheboygan Yacht Club.*

SHEBOYGAN EVENING LIONS CLUB – *On January 4th, Lion **Bernie Beimel** was awarded a 50-year chevron by Lions Clubs International. Six days later, he passed away at the age of 87. He was 1990-91 President, Zone Chairman, Melvin Jones Fellow, Birch-Sturm Fellow, Ray Hempel Fellow, and Life Member. Lion Bernie's record exemplifies what it means when we say, "We Serve."*

APPLETON NOON LIONS CLUB – *On March 1st, the club celebrated the centennial of its March 1st, 1922 club charter. Members gathered at Houdini Plaza in downtown Appleton, waving to cars, talking with passers-by, and handing out celebratory treats. Several local TV reporters were on hand and multiple newscasts helped to spread the celebration far and wide. Club president, **Sue Lee**, announced that the Appleton Noon Lions will embark on a 100 Days of Service project to help mark the club's 100 years of service to the community. On Day One, goods that had been donated by club members were delivered to Loaves and Fishes in Appleton. Visit the Appleton Noon Lions Club Facebook page to follow the progress of the 100 Days. The club plans to have its Centennial Banquet on Sunday, May 22nd at the Grand Meridian in Appleton where the featured speaker will be Past International Director, **Don Noland**, from Missouri.*

Lions KidSight Challenge

The Lions KidSight Challenge was a nationwide challenge for clubs to provide vision screening for one million students from September 1 to December 31. MD27B1 finished in second place in the entire country during the Challenge, and Wisconsin finished in fourth place as a state. Congratulations to all of the clubs that participated, and a huge "thank you" goes out to all of the screeners.

B1 Club Excellence

Congratulations to the Lions Clubs of Brandon, Van Dyne, Manitowoc, and the Town of Sheboygan for achieving the status of Club Excellence. This was achieved through strong acts of Lionism and growth in the following categories: Membership, Service, Leadership and Organizational Excellence, and Marketing and Communications. These achievements were reported through the MyLCI and MyLion applications.

*Pictured: FVDG Lion **David Brinkman**, Lion **Barb Leichtfuss**, Lion **Roxanne Wendt**, IPDG Lion **Tom Wendt**, Secretary/ Treasurer Lion **Dave Holschbach**, Lion **Wendy Williams**.*

BERLIN LIONS CLUB – *On February 8th, the club welcomed Representative **Alex Dallman** from Assembly District 41 to guest speak at their meeting. Representative Dallman spoke passionately about the current committees he is working on and asked what the club would like to see happen in their district. Pictured are Representative Dallman and Lions President **Chuck Fehl**.*

ST. PETER LIONS CLUB – ***Dennis Compton**, Plant Manager of Graymont Western, Inc. presents a check for $2,000 to Lion **Dick Marion**, vision screener and Lion **Dan Weber** (left), vision screening coordinator for the St. Peter Lions Club. Dennis and Graymont have been sponsoring the vision screening program for several years. This is the fifth year St. Peter Lions have actively screened throughout Fond du Lac County.*

FROM THE 27-B1 DISTRICT GOVERNOR

BJ BLAHNIK
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Although there are still two months remaining in our Lionistic year, this will be the last time I am able to address all of you as District Governor within the Wisconsin Lion. When I began this journey, my plan was to show how important a team is based on working towards a common goal. My goal was to showcase the greatness of our MD27-B1 District through our actions and to demonstrate to our communities that the Lions are beside you and promise to do all we can to help those in need. There is always time to do more, and your district team will continue to support all the clubs and Lions within them to showcase where there is a need, there is a Lion.

Throughout this year, many clubs have begun rebuilding from the pause of the health crisis. Clubs who were able to continue began to adapt to new ideas and think outside of the box. Your district leadership also worked toward adapting to new approaches. We utilized our Vice District Governors more than ever before and brought them to your zone meetings, offering all of you an opportunity to meet them, get to know them, and see them up close before they become your District Governor.

It also has been a year of celebration with three clubs celebrating 100 years of service. Congratulations to **Appleton Noon**, **Manitowoc**, and **Sheboygan Evening** for serving all those in need for so many years. For if it were not for clubs like yours, many of the clubs would not be here today and our world would be much different. Part of this celebration was at our District Convention where a new approach was taken to help our Lions to be motivated to try something new. Remember, if we always do it the same way, how can we grow to make things better?

Our District was also able to celebrate other accomplishments, such as being one of the top districts for reporting. Thanks to District Governor Elect, Lion **Dave Brinkman**, for training anyone, anywhere, and at any time. We celebrate PDG Lion **Fred Gebhart** for his passion for Vision Screening. He helped 27-B1 become the second-highest vision screening district in the country! We participated in our first LCIF Community Grant toward a refrigerated cooler for a local Food Pantry. Our district was approved for a $100,000 LCIF matching grant towards an all-abilities playground called the Purple Octopus at the Above & Beyond Children's Museum in Sheboygan. 27-B1 grew its Guiding Lion program from one participant to 12, which will help your next Governor continue the path toward our district becoming even stronger. Beyond this training, the district has provided more training opportunities and modified curriculum to ensure anyone wishing to learn more has the chance to do so. These are just a few examples of what we have achieved this year alone. There is not enough space in this article to showcase all of the great accomplishments all of you have achieved as well.

CASCADE LIONS CLUB – *The annual Soup-A-Rama fundraiser was held, to the delight of over 200 community members. 17 different soups were served along with grilled cheese sandwiches and desserts. Pictured: Lions **Rick Raab** and **Jim Brusse**.*