



## District 27-B1 Cabinet MINUTES

Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Van Dyne Lions Park

700 Lone Elm Rd, Van Dyne, WI 54979

### “LIONS LEAD the FIGHT”

Questions? Reply to this email: [dajach@yahoo.com](mailto:dajach@yahoo.com) or call 920-684-0115

Cell: 920-860-6162

1. **Call to order @ 1:00 pm** by DG Tom Wendt
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** led by IPDG Michael De Baere
3. **Song & Prayer** led by Song Leader & Chaplain Lion Barb Leichtfuss – “GOD BLESS AMERICA”
4. **Welcome** by DG Tom Wendt. Time has gone along quickly. The TIME has ARRIVED ! Clubs remember to setup our club visits. DG Tom introduced all the PDGs present. DG Tom commented “We have all agreed to take on another year. Thank you for stepping up!”
5. **Installation of Cabinet Members** by PID Wayne Heiman was delayed until his arrival.
6. **Roll Call** conducted by Cabinet Secretary/Treasurer Lion Dave Holschbach. There are 33 cabinet members, 24 in attendance. Other guests were PDGs Merle Strelow & Marv Henke, Diane Henke, Roxanne Wendt, Monica De Baere, Deanna Korth and Vince Teague-President Neenah Lions.
7. **Virtual Cabinet Minutes** from June 28, 2020 emailed. Lion Dave H noted one change to the minutes sent out, it should read Winnebago East Shore Lions and NOT Winnebago Lakeshore Lions. Motion to accept the corrected minutes by 1st Vice DG BJ Blahnik, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDG Ken Rohde.

#### **MOTION CARRIED**

8. **August 9, 2020 Agenda** – PDG Fred Gebhart asked to have “District Bean Bag” added to Old Business on the agenda. DG Tom approved the addition. PDG Fred also asked to have his Vision report extended to 5 minutes and IPDG Michael De Baere asked for an additional 10 minutes at the end of the agenda. So approved by DG Tom. Motion by Lion Dick Karl, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDG Ken Rohde to accept the agenda with the additional approvals. **MOTION CARRIED.**

9. **2019-2020 Financial Statement** e-mailed to cabinet members by Cabinet Secretary/Treasurer Lion Dave Holschbach. DG Tom discussed the highlights. The year was cut short due to COVID 19 which did affect our financials. Tail Twister Lion Helen had a short fall due to the cancellation of the state convention and our district cabinet meeting. The district did purchase 2 Birch Sturm Fellowships. We are showing an excess funds of approximately \$3,800. PDG Merle asked if there was any way to use the excess to reduce convention costs and improve attendance. 2020 convention pricing has been set. There is plenty of training funds available. Lion Dave H did mention that PDG Gary Colton has agreed to do a final audit on the books for the year 2019-2020 and will have a report at the next cabinet

meeting. DG Tom mentioned approval of the financial statement will be done at the next cabinet meeting.

**10. 2020-2021 Budget** e-mailed by Cabinet Secretary/Treasurer Lion Dave Holschbach. Lion Dave H mentioned the district currently has a membership of 1850, which is the basis for the 2020-2021 budget. Discussion by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice BJ about the funds set aside for USA/CANADA forum, which has been cancelled. Asked for any suggestions to use the funds Recommendation by Lion BJ to relabel the funds as TBD. So noted by Lion Dave H. Lion BJ made a motion to accept the budget with the change mentioned, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDG Ken. **MOTION CARRIED**

**11. Tail Twister** – Lion Helen Mork explained the 3-minute rule for reports and fines to be accessed. The 1<sup>st</sup> click is the 2-minute warning, 2 clicks, your 3 minutes are up. The fine is \$ 1.00 per minute of overtime unless approval by DG Tom. 3-minute time allowed per report.

**12. Communications:** DG Tom Wendt received information about the Wisconsin LIONS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE training to be held on October 24<sup>th</sup>&25<sup>th</sup> in Stevens Point. He has signup forms, limit 40 people. Training funds are available to be used. Also THANK YOU letter received from WI Lions Missions for our donation last year.

### **13. Old Business:**

**A. Birch Sturm candidates** update by IPDG Michael DeBaere. He has received 5 nominations so far, due date is September 30<sup>th</sup>, notice is posted on the district website. \$2000 was set aside from last year's convention proceeds. Qualification are a 5-year minimum Lion member, club president at least 1 year, must attend the district convention and not a previous recipient. Committee will meet in October for their selection.

### **14. New Business:**

**A. 2020-21 Cabinet Meeting Dates** – they will be held Friday November 13-District Conv-Blue Harbor Resort, Sunday January 3<sup>rd</sup>-Van Dyne Lions Park & Sunday March 7<sup>th</sup> Van Dyne Lions Park

**B. Audit Financial Books** for 2019-2020 will be conducted by PDG Gary Colton, report at next cabinet meeting.

**C. Operating Excess funds** for the yearend 6/30/20 are in excess of \$10,000. Lion Dave H asked if there were any recommendations for the district to use these funds. 1<sup>st</sup> Vice BJ commented that with the current COVID 19 pandemic, we need to be frugal with the money. The cancellation clauses in the convention contract could cost the district in excess of this amount. Motion by PDG Ken Rohde, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lion Dick Karl, that we hold funds until after the convention. **MOTION CARRIED**

**D. LCI COVID-19 Grant** of \$10,000 was received by IPDG Michael De Baere. 6 Districts through the help of PDG Clarence Harris have received the grant. IPDG Michael explained the rules are very specific on who can receive this money. First Responders. Clubs can not get reimbursed for their donations. Lion Dale Counihan explained there are nursing homes who directly need help. IPDG Michael will work with his committee on approvals.

**E. 990 N** online report-clubs link via District web site was explained by Lion Dave H. He reminded zone chairs to get all clubs to file the report by November.

**F. Training and funds** available. Lion Mary Jo Abler questioned if Lions are using the online training, does anyone know? DG Tom: "Everyone Needs Training" and asked if anyone is willing to step forward and conduct onsite remote training? Plenty of funds available. He would love to see more training. PDG Merle & Lion Bonnie & PDG Tom and Lion Rose did an excellent job 2 years ago and may consider doing it again on the west side of the lake. DG Tom also commented the problem is

there are so many repeat officers in clubs that do not go through any additional training, they've done it once and nothing changes !!! Is it possible to do some officer or other training at the convention? The timing may be too late. DG Tom will work with Lion Rose and GLT Lion Ken Rivers and try to coordinate something in the future.

**15. Committee Reports** (Written reports for distribution or 3 minutes or less verbal per report))

A. **1st Vice District Governor** Lion BJ Blahnik reported that this year's Leader Dog training tour has been cancelled. They do plan to have a virtual summer visit to Leader Dog. Council meetings will start his Wisconsin training. He is working on developing his cabinet for 2021-2022. He is also working on developing the 2021 district convention in Sheboygan. **TEAMWORK** will be his theme.

B. **2nd Vice District Governor** Lion Dave Brinkman has been having monthly ZOOM meetings. Currently working on Forms training and Partner in Service training.

C. **GLT** chair Lion Ken Rivers did not have a lot going on !

**GMT** chair PDG Fred Gebhart reported that both the State and District have goals for membership. LCI will not be charging a \$25 enrollment fee until 2021. So, get your enrollments in before yearend. Due to COVID 19, Lions seem to be losing connection with their communities. GMT is working on Lioness conversions.

**GST** DG Tom mentioned it is IMPORTANT NOW to serve the community. Lion Ellen Cheney sent the following information. She has focused her time on updating her email list and forwarding information about service and training opportunities to clubs. She has also attended MD GST monthly meetings online.

**NAMI (North American Membership Institute) "Its all about MEMBERSHIP"** per DG Tom. PDG Fred Gebhart MD27 uses NAMI to help promote membership. Use your Club Administrators. Zone chairs work with secretaries to stay up to date. Retention is what it is all about. PDG Merle mentioned clubs should get their EX Presidents and Secretaries to be Club Administrators, they know the system and can access MYLCI and reports.

D. **WLF** – PDG Fred Gebhart reported WLF operations are week to week due to the virus. Events have been cancelled. There has been a change in maintenance. WLF hopes everything will be back to normal next year. Smores and Kids raffle will still continue this year. Remember to donate, expenses still continue.

E **Constitution and Bylaws** chair PDG Jerry Post had nothing to report at this time. Maybe some updates after convention.

F. **LCIF** chair Lion Mary Jo Abler reported our \$40,000 donation mark has been surpassed. 49 of 66 clubs donated. Our district did receive a \$10,000 COVID 19 grant from LCI, it does show our donations do come back to us. Please use the online donation link, International office is still not working in their building. Online donations are processed much quicker.

G. **Lions Pride** chair Lion Myra Schneider reported the clay shoot was cancelled along with other events. There has been a decrease in donations, however they still plan to reach their \$10M goal by state convention. Encourage individuals to donate, they account for 70% of the donations.

H. **LEO** chair Lion Gary Roehrig reported the New Holstein Leos are currently at 20 members. COVID 19 like everything else has caused a Wait and See attitude. They are still collecting plastic bags for benches. Consider giving a bench "IN HONOR of LEN QUINN." Reedsville Leos are still functioning under the guidance of the schools teachers. Lion Gary has been trying to get in contact with

someone from Reedsville. Festival Foods are now collecting plastic bags, it takes approximately 6 months to collect enough for a bench.

**I. Leader Dog** update by PDG Jerry Post, Mid-March saw the shutdown of Leader Dog operations, staff worked at home and inhouse dogs were taken care of by staff. May 24<sup>th</sup> operations resumed and July 31<sup>st</sup> first class of 8 graduated. Leader Dog is using ZOOM for virtual meetings with Leader Dog chairs, club meetings and all 1<sup>st</sup> VDG. Leader Dog is currently not recommending in-person speaking, so we may not have a speaker at our convention.

PDG Len Quinn update given by Lion Helen. He had a heart attack and diabetes flair-up. He currently has hospice care. PDG Len and Lion Kay were given a "Repurpose" Career Change dog by Leader Dog for their dedication. He currently can go home 1 day a week. They are planning on coming to the convention.

**J. Pin Chairman** Lion Laurie Sasada has placed the order for district pins. They will be available at the district convention. Next year's theme is "TEAMWORK", plan your pin design.

**K. Peace Poster** kits are available online per Lion Laurie Sasada. It will be an interesting year with the schools and whether we will get any posters. This year's theme is "PEACE through SERVICE".

**L. Diabetes Awareness & Action** IPDG Michael De Baere reported like other diseases, they are hoping for a cure. Plans are for a STRIDES walk during our convention to benefit diabetes. Information is in the convention packet given to zone chairs.

**M. Youth Cancer** chair PDG Dave Lee reported there are 3 child cancer centers, Milwaukee Medical College, Madison Carbone Cancer Center and Marshfield Clinic. Both Milwaukee and Madison have a flow cyclometer due to donations and matching grants. PDG Sri Vasudevan is asking for the Council of Governors to support his grant request to LCI for \$30,000 to purchase equipment, update and renovate the "Solarium" in the inpatient unit for children at Marshfield Clinic. "Lions Healing Space"

**N Youth Exchange /Youth Outreach** representative Lion Bonnie Strelow reported all camps were cancelled this year. Hopes are to restart in January. The district did not send in their annual camp donation, everything is being handled virtually. They need donations to support the camp.

**O. Special Olympics** April vision screening was cancelled. See what next year brings per Lion Samantha Rivers

**P. Environment** chair Lion Rose Berendes reminds everyone to plant trees to help the environment.

**Q MY LCI** Chair Lion Rose Berendes passed the word on to all clubs to "Keep up the GOOD Work" on reporting membership and activities.

**R. Hearing Preservation Awareness & Action** chair Lion Wendy Hartmann had no report.

**S. Eyeglass Recycling** chair Lion Wendy Hartmann had no report. They continue to collect a lot of eyeglasses at WLF.

**T. Lions Eye Bank of WI** rep Lion Chuck Keifenheim reported COVID 19 has delayed a lot of eye transporting activities. In June they started case by case transport. They are planning a new schedule and rules. WI Eye Bank office remains closed for visitors, go online to get any information. They continue to import from other states. Need donations.

**U. Vision Screening** has reached 100,000 per PDG Fred Gebhart. Schools currently are struggling with whether to be open or not. Lions vision screening will work with the schools to keep everyone SAFE and use proper protocol and guidelines. Lions are flexible and will work when needed. He currently has 2 schools requesting vision screening. We have insurance on the cameras to cover loss and damage.

**V. Missions of Wisconsin** Chair Lion Pat Knier sent the following: All Wisconsin Lions missions are temporarily in a holding pattern pending COVID 19 development. PID Bill Taubman is still planning to take donated goods and money to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. However tribal officials are restricting entry due to the virus.

**W. District Convention** chairs PDG Jerry & PDG Meg Post have been working hard with DG Tom to put together a fun filled weekend. Things may change by November, but they will be ready. They are working with the hotel for virus safety and will provide face masks and sanitizer. Possible entertainment for Saturday banquet. Convention packets were distributed to the zone chairman to give to their clubs. DG Tom mentioned Friday's hospitality theme will be "SAFARI" - dress appropriately. PDG Meg & Jerry are doing a fantastic job.

**District Raffle** chair Lion Dave Brinkman has the club raffle tickets in the convention packets given to the zone chairman. Sell to LIONS only. Tickets based on club membership and prior sales history.

**District Bucket Raffle** Lion Dave Brinkman needs prizes and help to run the raffle.

**District and State Bowling** – The state bowling committee plans to run the tournament as always in January & February. Lion BJ report our district Beanbag tournament which replaced the district bowling was cancelled and any money was refunded. We are looking for a club to volunteer for February or March. PDG Fred reported we have the equipment and would like a central location. The interest is there. There will be an informational table at the convention. Also, the voting will have a ballot for site selection. The district did replace Bowling with Bean Bag as a district tournament.

**X. Elections & Nominations** Lion Irv Korth asked Zone chairs to push for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor, there currently are no nominations. We need someone to step up !! Also open for voting is a convention site for November 2022 and Bean bag site. Nominations need to be in by mid-October.

**Y. State Lions Convention** for 2021 will be held in Green Bay and will be WI Lions 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. There will be NO parade per PDG Ken Rhode.

**Z. Newspaper Editor** PDG Jerry Post thanked everyone for their articles. This month's edition will be dedicated to the district convention. There are only 6 issues a year.

**AA. IT & Publicity** PDG Tom Clausen has added the new officers to the district mailing list. There are still a lot of Lions emails addresses not updated in MYLCI, therefore they and their clubs are not getting any Lions correspondence. Zone chairs be sure to get club secretaries to update their information. 25 of 64 clubs do not have a website, it s FREE !! 17 clubs do not have a Facebook account. No website or Facebook is doing your community a DISSERVICE by not communicating. We need to keep our name out in the community so we can flourish. In January the website moved from Godaddy to WIX. This will allow anyone to continue Tom's work on the website. He would like to have the district be billed directly for all expenses which should be around \$ 200 annually.

**BB. Historian** PDG Tom Clausen is working on getting fellows names posted on the district website. Birch Sturm and Melvin Jones are up to date through December 2019. He is currently working on Eye Bank and Ray Hampel fellows.

## **16. Zone Chairmen Reports:**

1. Zone 1 PDG Fred Gebhart introduced Lion Greg Kubichka who will be taking over as Zone Chairman for PDG Fred. The zone is in limbo due to the virus. Some clubs have had a slow start and others are waiting to start.

2. Zone 2 Lion Al Kanaugh will have a zone meeting September 28<sup>th</sup> hosted by Maribel Lions. His zone lost 2 clubs, the Two Rivers Lions and Two Rivers Lioness. Some of the

members have transferred to other clubs. Manitowoc Lions had 11 new members. The Manitowoc County Fair was cancelled, the zone would sell tickets as their major fundraiser. Some of the clubs have been having fundraisers. Lion Al is looking for a replacement.

3. Zone 3 & 4 Lion Dick Karl has taken over for 1st Vice DG BJ as zone chairman, he is a member of the Sheboygan Noon club. He is still getting organized. September 21<sup>st</sup> will be his first meeting. He extended an open invite for all to attend. His main concentration will be membership.

4. Zone 5 Lion Don Mitchell reported that with the COVID 19 all his clubs are revamping their schedules and programs.

5. Zone 6 Lion Dale Counihan clubs have been shutdown due to the virus. Not a lot of activity. Larson Winchester is still doing ramps but there are some limitations.

6. Zone 7 & 8 Lion Barb Leichtfuss is a member of the Van Dyne Lions and this is her first year as zone chairman, she is an ex Van Dyne Lioness. Her first meeting will be October 1<sup>st</sup> and should be a 'RIPPIN GOOD" meeting. She has some ideas for the upcoming meeting. Thank you to the cabinet for their support. Van Dyne has an increase of 26 members (new and former Lioness).

7. Zone 9 Lion Dave Brinkman reported a lot of cancelled events and fundraisers in the zone. Some clubs have been doing curbside services. No date set for his next zone meeting, most clubs do not want in person meetings. Activities are limited to park and roadside cleanup.

8. Zone 10 Lion Carl Rasmussen's clubs are struggling with the virus situation and rules. All the clubs have been challenged by the virus not only for meetings but the summer fundraisers of which most have been cancelled. Conversations have been about raffles and what is the future for fall and winter activities.

9. Zone 11 OPEN – Need a Lions to step forward for zone chairman.

**17. Other Business** - DG Tom Wendt asked to be sure to be invited to zone and club meetings. USA/CANADA forum has gone virtual this year.

IPDG Michael gave a wrap up for his year since there was no physical meeting. He gave out his cabinet appreciation gift. Van Dyne Lions received a Club Excellence Award for the 2018-2019 year. He also present PDG Dave Lee with a special recognition award from WLF for his year of service.

PDG Fred received a 2020 convention pin event though it was not held.

DG Tom also gave special appreciation to PDG Tom and Lion Rose and PDG Merle for being Guiding Lions for the district. He thanked IPDG Michael for his guidance during last year and future help. DG Tom presented all the cabinet members with a welcome gift. Next cabinet meeting will be on Friday November 13<sup>th</sup> at the District Convention.

"THANK YOU for being PATIENT with him for his 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting" Thank you to the Van Dyne Lions and Lioness for their assistance.

Lion Helen collected \$ 90 as Tail Twister. WEAR SANDALS to the next cabinet meeting.

Motion to Adjourn at 4:12 pm by PDG Ken Rohde, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lion Mary Jo Abler.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted: Lion Dave Holschbach, 27B1 Secretary/Treasurer



**District 27-B1 Cabinet Minutes**  
**Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
**SALON B-C - Blue Harbor Resort – Sheboygan**

**Questions? Reply to this email:** [dajach@yahoo.com](mailto:dajach@yahoo.com) or call 920-684-0115 Cell: 920-860-6162

1. **Call to order @ 6:05 pm** by DG Tom Wendt
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** led by IPDG Michael De Baere
3. **Song & Prayer** led by Song Leader & Chaplain Lion Barb Leichtfuss and Lion Jim Patt
4. **Welcome** - DG Tom Wendt. Thanks for being here. Good turnout. Stay Healthy. Unfortunately,

ID Michaels Banks called two days prior to apologize that he could not make the trip. He will join us virtually during the convention. PID Art Marson is the host PID and will fill in for ID Banks. PID Marson commented that Masks and Hearing do not work together. PID Marson has his roots in Fond du lac and always like to return home.

5. **Installation of Cabinet Members** was performed by PID Art Marson of the La Crosse Lions. It is a TOUGH year, and more EFFORT will be needed. We have a great cabinet so District 27 B1 will survive. DG Tom's year has not started as planned. PID Marson declared the Cabinet has been officially installed.

6. **Roll Call** was taken by Cabinet Secretary/Treasurer Lion Dave Holschbach. 22 members in attendance and PDGs Marv Henke Dawn Christensen.

7. **Approval of Cabinet Minutes** from August 9, 2020 motion made by PDG Ken Rohde, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lion Dale Counihan. **MOTION CARRIED**

8. **Approval of Agenda for Cabinet Meeting on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020** motion by IPDG Michael De Baere, 2<sup>nd</sup> by VDG BJ Balhnik. **MOTION CARRIED**

9. **2020-2021 Financial Statement** through October 31, 2020 dispersed by Cabinet Secretary/Treasurer Lion Dave Holschbach. Motion by PDG Ken Rohde, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lion Greg Kubichka to accept as presented. **MOTION CARRIED**

10. **Tail Twister** Lion Helen Mork was unable to attend. IPDG Michael De Baere filled in for her. Lion Helen does a great job! Let's support her. Report rules the same as always – 3-minute rule.

**11. Old Business:**

A. Audit Financial Books for 2019-2020 was performed by PDG Gary Colton. PDG Colton submitted a letter to DG Tom, that he has examined the books compared to bank statements. In his opinion, the reports are free of any material misstatement. The financial position of District 27-B1 are in conformity with good bookkeeping practices. Motion by VDG BJ Blahnik, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lion Wendy Hartmann to accept the financial reports as of 6/30/2020. **MOTION CARRIED**

B. Financial Expense – TBD -Website Cost – PDG Tom Clausen commented that he has changed website provider and has been paying the fees for the District Website out of his cabinet reimbursement. He would like to be reimbursed \$ 200 for the Website expense. Lion Dave Holschbach

reported that this year's current budget does allow for \$300 TBD due to the USA Forum being virtual. Motion made by IPDG Michael De Baere, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDG Ken Rohde to reimburse PDG Tom up to \$ 200 for the cost involved for our district website. **MOTION CARRIED** DG Tom thanked PDG Tom for a great job with our Website & IT.

C. Covid-19 LCI Grant of \$ 10,000 has been disbursed by IPDG Michael De Baere. There were 4 recipients for PPE. He explained the process and rules involved. THANK YOU and CONGRATS to IPDG Michael for taking control and finalizing the grant. There are a lot of hoops go through. Lion Mary Jo Abler commented this is proof that we DO GET SOMETHING BACK for donations to LCIF. That's why we should donate.

D. Eye Bank representative term for District 27-B1 has changed. PDG Jerry Post needs to change the term to be a 3-year term starting 7/1/21, this means we would have a 1-year term from 7/1/20 to 6/30/21. Motion made by PDG Jerry Post to have the District Eye Bank Representative term be 3 years commencing on 7/1/21, 2<sup>nd</sup> by VDG BJ Blahnik. **MOTION CARRIED** Lion Charlie Kiefenheim is more than willing to do the 1-year term to fill the gap.

### **New Business:**

**LCI Grant for Marshfield Clinic - Lion Sri update - DEFERRED TO GENERAL SESSION**

### **12. Committee Reports** (Written reports for distribution or 3 minutes or less verbal per report)

A. **1st Vice District Governor** Lion BJ Blahnik has had a lot of changes for training. Many of them have been changed to virtual. The Leader Dog tour was changed to virtual. He has been working with DG Tom and learning many things.

B. **2nd Vice District Governor** Lion Dave Brinkman has also had many training classes changed to virtual. He does have a class scheduled for Wisconsin Rapids.

C. **GLT Chair** Lion Ken Rivers did not have a report.

**GMT & NAMI Chair** PDG Fred Gebhart reported that MEMBERSHIP is an ongoing effort. They too have gone to virtual meetings. We need to have all the members' support.

**GST Chair** Lion Ellen Cheney did submit a report. Since July she has updated her email list, forwarded information about services and training and encouraged clubs to report their activities and do what is realistically safe and possible to continue service. She has been working with Lion Rose Berendes for the west side of the lake and update her email and information to include those clubs. With the COVID situation, she has not been available for zone meetings. She is available remotely.

D. **WLF** – PDG Fred Gebhart & Lion Wendy Hartmann PDG Fred did note that WLF is brainstorming and adding Diabetes for 2 weeks on the camp schedule. Financially we can do this. Remaining report **DEFERRED TO GENERAL SESSION.**

E. **Constitution and Bylaws** Chair PDG Jerry Post mentioned earlier about the change in term of service for Eye Bank representation. Lion Charlie Kiefenheim has agreed to stay on for the additional 1 year. Since District Bowling has shown little interest, a district Bean Bag tournament will take its place. They will follow the rules of the District Bowling policy as close as possible. A policy will be developed after the event. Sheboygan Noon Lions has agreed to host this year.

F. **Newspaper Editor** PDG Jerry Post - Send articles and pictures.

G. **Leader Dog** - PDG Jerry Post - **DEFERRED TO GENERAL SESSION**

H. **LCIF Chair** Lion Mary Jo Abler reported donations are very low. Few clubs have sent donations. We need to still encourage donations even in these tough times. Campaign 100 has been extended for 1 year. See her display table with information.

- I. **Lions Pride** – Lion Myra Schneider - **DEFERRED TO GENERAL SESSION**
- J. **LEO** - Lion Gary Roehrig Not present – no report
- K. **Pin Chairman** – Lion Laurie Sasada - **DEFERRED TO GENERAL SESSION**
- L. **Peace Poster** – Lion Laurie Sasada - **DEFERRED TO GENERAL SESSION**
- M. **Diabetes Awareness & Action** Chair IPDG Michael De Baere had no report.
- N. **Childhood Cancer** Chair PDG Dave Lee reported on the LCI Grant for the Marshfield Clinic “LIONS HEALING SPACE” cost \$ 60,000 would like all clubs to donate \$100 for our district share. He is available for club and zone visits.
  - O. **Youth Exchange /Youth Outreach** Chair Lion Bonnie Strelow was not present by submitted a report. The camp will NOT be accepting international student groups this year. They are checking out their options. Not sure if youths will be able to get a visa to enter and leave. There is no need to pay our annual district Youth Exchange Fee.
  - P. **Special Olympics** Chair Lion Samantha Rivers had no updates at this time.
  - Q. **Environment** Chair Lion Rose Berendes was not present but did submit a report. There have been 21 Environmental projects so far this year. Environmental projects are one of the areas that lends well to social distancing, so clubs can still have an activity, i.e., park and roadside cleanup, tree planting and craft products to donate or sell. The 3 R’s – RECYCLE, RESTORE, REUSE. Be sure to record your club activities on MYLION and share it.
  - R. **MY LCI** Chair Lion Rose Berendes reported the clubs are doing well reporting membership online, we are holding at 99-100%. **MYLION** reporting however, we have a way to go, but are making progress. She printed out “QUICK Guide to Activity Reporting” and are available on Mary Jo Abler’s LCI display table. 33 of our 63 clubs have reported 299 activities to date. Encourage members to create their LION account and log in to see their club activity in case something is missed. Lions now have a ZOOM style meeting site called CONNECT, access it through your Lion Account. Its FREE and can have 75 people. TEST it and let her know what you think. She is always available for any questions.
  - S. **Hearing Preservation Awareness & Action** chair Lion Wendy Hartmann reported applications have been SLOW.....only 4. Medicaid does cover hearing aids.
  - T. **Eyeglass Recycling** Chair Lion Wendy Hartmann reported the WLF van is at the convention for eyeglass collection. She will also take them when she goes to WLF in early December.
  - U. **Lions Eye Bank of WI** – Lion Charlie Keifenheim - **DEFERRED TO GENERAL SESSION**
  - V. **Vision Screening** Chair PDG Fred Gebhart has had some vision screenings. Not as many as they would like. So far, they have done 1,876 students with 117 referrals. Valders just did 228 and Mishicot 559 screenings. Lions screeners are always there to HELP, the schools know who to call. With the COVID-19 access into schools is very limited for Lions and even the students. PDG Dave Lee reported the Appleton Schools are on hold. They have been working with Ascension and also Optical outlets for glasses.
  - W. **Missions of Wisconsin** via Lion Pat Knier are asking for donations to the WI Lions Missions backpack program for the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The reservation is currently on lockdown. WI Missions is sitting on the sidelines wondering when they can get back to serving those in need. The backpack program is the only current project, all other missions are on hold. Any donations, feel free to contact Lion Pat.
  - X. **District Convention** – PDG Jerry Post - **DEFERRED TO GENERAL SESSION**  
**District Bean Bag Tournament** - **DEFERRED TO GENERAL SESSION**  
**District Raffle** – Lion Dave Brinkman - **DEFERRED TO GENERAL SESSION**  
**District Bucket Raffle** – Lion Dave Brinkman - **DEFERRED TO GENERAL SESSION**
  - Y. **Elections & Nominations** – Lion Irv Korth - **DEFERRED TO GENERAL SESSION**

Z. **State Lions Convention** chair PDG Ken Rhode reported WI Lions state convention is still scheduled for May in Green Bay.

AA. **IT & Publicity** Chair PDG Tom Clausen reported the district directory no longer exists due to the privacy laws. District Governors, Lions organizations and state committees are still listed on the page.

AB. **Historian** PDG Tom Clausen reported the website is up to date.

### **Zone Chairmen Reports:**

1. Zone 1 Lion Greg Kubichka reported they have done 18 ramps. 7 Lions clubs and 10 other community groups are participating in the DRIVE THRU Holiday Lights show.

2. Zone 2 Lion Al Kanaugh had Maribel Lions host his 1<sup>st</sup> zone meeting. Francis Creek made over \$4,500 donated to local groups. Manitowoc has suspended meetings due to COVID but still collecting eyeglasses. Mishicot has done vision screening. Newton, Whitelaw, Francis Creek and Mishicot have done scholarships. Clubs working on Christmas Wreaths, Toy and Food collection, Lions Giving Tree and Christmas decorations. Zone is in need of a Zone Chairman. Only meeting scheduled is the Zone Social.

3. Zone 3 & 4 Lion Dick Karl reported many clubs had to cancel their fund raisers but are still operating. Plymouth is actively collecting deer hides and Sheboygan Noon and Town of Sheboygan have purchased \$1,200 gift cards for Salvation Army CARDS FOR KIDS. Next zone meeting is January 4<sup>th</sup>.

4. Zone 5 Lion Don Mitchell NO REPORT

5. Zone 6 Lion Dale Counihan's clubs have not been meeting. There has been some club zoom meetings. Larsen-Winchester has new hours for their medical warehouse. He is working on his next zone meeting.

6. Zone 7 & 8 Lion Barb Leichtfuss is experiencing the same challenges as the other zones with club meetings. Some clubs are meeting, others zoom meetings and others not at all. PDG Dave Lee was zone speaker on the Childhood Cancer Challenge. Next 2 zone meetings are set. Eldorado, Pickett and Van Dyne have done Drive Thru activities.

7. Zone 9 Lion Dave Brinkman zone has lost 3 members. A lot of things are up in the air like other clubs. Clubs are still actively trying to do fund raisers, a lot of Drive Thru activities.

8. Zone 10 Lion Carl Rasmussen was not present, no report.

9. Zone 11 open – Lion Vincent Treague from Neenah Lions has offered to accept.

### **13. Other Business - Communications:** DG Tom Wendt & Lion Dave Holschbach.

Thank You notes received from Agnesian Health Care Foundation and Brewster Village for Lions LCI Grant donation for PPE. VERY MUCH NEEDED

IPDG Michael De Baere made a special award presentation to Lion Mary Jo Abler for the International Chairperson Medal for her work with LCIF.

PDG David Lee of the Appleton Noon Lions mentioned that the City of Appleton is honoring Appleton Noon Lions ex-President Lion Ronald C Dunlap for his community support by renaming one of its schools in his honor. Well-deserved member of the community. Donations are being accepted, contact him.

Lion Dale Counihan reported the Larsen-Winchester Lioness will be disbanded by 12/31/20. Another chance for clubs to pick up membership.

**14. Next Meeting - Sunday January 3<sup>rd</sup> - Van Dyne Lions Park.** DG Tom mentions the last 5 weeks have been very trying, getting to clubs and getting ready for this convention. Five of his other District

Governors are at our convention. Thank you to PID Art and Lion Jo Marson for being hosts.

**15. Adjournment** – Motion by PDG Ken Rohde, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lion Roxanne Wendt to adjourn the cabinet meeting at 7:10 pm. **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted Lion Dave Holschbach, District 27 B1 Secretary/Treasurer



## District 27-B1 Convention Minutes Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Blue Harbor Resort – Sheboygan

### “THE LIONS LEAD THE FIGHT”

1. **Call to order @ 8:35 am** – DG Thomas Wendt Thanks for being here. **WE ARE DOING IT !**
2. **Presentation of Colors** - Sheboygan Fire Department and Bagpipes
3. **Presentation of Flags** – PDG Fred Gebhart - Flags representing Lions International, Wisconsin Lions Foundation, Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin and Lioness
4. **Pledge of Allegiance** led by IPDG Michael De Baere
5. **Recognition of Veterans** – PDG Fred Gebhart – Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy and Merchant Marines.
6. **Recognition of International Director Candidate** Lee Vrieze and WLF President Lion Mary Vrieze
7. **Recognition of all Vision Screeners** who have touched many lives.
8. **Song & Prayer** - Song Leader & Chaplain Lion Barb Leichtfuss and Lion Jim Patt.. Song was “GOD BLESS the USA”
9. **Introduction DG Tom Wendt of head table:** PID Art and Lion Jo Marson, Convention chairs PDG Jerry & PDG Meg Post, Lion Roxanne Wendt, VDGE BJ Blahnik & Lion Victoria Blahnik-Birch Sturm President and Lion Dave Holschbach Cabinet Secretary/Treasurer. Thanks to Cabinet Members present for their help. Welcome to 4 visiting District Governors. Unfortunately, ID Michael Banks had to cancel at the last minute. He will join us via ZOOM.
10. **Welcome to Sheboygan** – Sheboygan Fire Chief Eric Montellano welcomed all attendees to 45<sup>th</sup> convention. Sheboygan is the Brat Capital of the Nation, population 50,000. He recapped what Sheboygan has to offer. DG Tom has been involved with Fire Departments and Fire protection for years.
11. **Introduction of International Director Michael Banks via ZOOM.** ID Banks is from Stillwater, Oklahoma. He talked about football and teamwork. Leaders are **MADE** not **BORN**. COVID-19 continues to challenge the world and LIONS. This does **NOT** change **WHO** we are. LCI is looking at dues increase in 2022. Washington, DC will be the host city for the 2027 International Convention. He reviewed the current proposed changes and suspension of penalties and non-payment. The Montreal Convention will have virtual components. Changes always take time due to conversion to 18 different languages.
12. **Service of Remembrance:** Necrology Service led off by Lion Barb Liechtfuss and Lion Jim Patt with a song. There was 1 PDG and 43 Lions who passed away since last year, recognition was read by PDG Meg Post.
13. **State of the State** address by Council Chair PDG Geri Schlender. This is a different year. Congratulations to clubs still functioning with the pandemic crisis. It is time to think outside the box. Improve communication. 18 clubs have not been reporting activities. We are experiencing a **POSITIVE** growth. Our **STRENGTH** is in the support we give each other. She hopes the New Year will bring **HEALTH** and **HAPPINESS**. Lioness clubs are disbanding **WELCOME** them into your **LIONS** club!
14. **ID Introduction** by PID Art Marson – It’s a strange experience with **NO** introduction of guest! PID Marson has a lot of memory from this district. He started with Fond du Lac Noon Lions. **“KEEP THE FIRE GOING”**
15. **Childhood Cancer** update was given by PDG Dave Lee. District B1 has been one of the most supportive of the cause. In 2018 the Flow Cytometer Challenge, District 27 raised surpassed goal and raise \$178,000. The cytometer has been highly successful on adults. They have received the FDA approval to move forward on children. Lions are looking to build a **LIONS HEALING SPACE** at the Marshfield Clinic. It will cost approximately \$60,000. LCI will match up to \$25,000. The challenge is for each MD27-B1 club to contribute \$100. Mail to WI Lions office by December 31,2020.
16. **Nominations:** Lion Irv Korth, Nomination chair performed the nominations procedure. He reported all nomination were properly received and recorded and read the rules.
  - A: District Governor:** Call was made to the floor for nominations.

A nomination for Lion BJ Blahnik was made by PDG Fred Gebhart. PDG Fred first met Lion BJ at zone meetings when he would talk about Leader Dog. Lion BJ has grown in Lions from then until now with his many speaking engagements. He is more than qualified. The 2<sup>nd</sup> nomination was by PDG Gary Silah. PDG Gary has heard him speak many times. He impressed him as entertaining, intelligent and motivational. He will make a great governor. A call to the floor three times for any other nominations for District Governor. Motion to close nominations for District Governor by PDG Ken Rohde, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lion Dale Counihan. **MOTION CARRIED.**
  - B: 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor:** Call was made to the floor for nominations. A nomination for Lion Dave Brinkman was made by Lion Laurie Sasada. The Markesan Lions and Lion Laurie support Lion Dave. Lion Dave is a **GO GETTER**. He will do good. He knows what it is to be a **LION** and takes on a lot of duties. The 2<sup>nd</sup> nomination was by IPDG Michael De Baere. He has known Lion

Dave since high school. He can't say **NO** like so many other LIONS. **"I'll do Anything"**. A call to the floor three times for any other nominations for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor. Motion to close nominations for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor by Lion Greg Kubichka, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lion Dale Counihan. **MOTION CARRIED.**

**C: 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor.** No nominations were filed. Call was made to the floor for nominations. PDG Fred Gebhart stepped forward, he received a call the prior evening from Lion Greg Kubichka of the Chilton Lions asking, "WHAT DO I NEED TO DO to file for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor?" PDG Fred informed him about the forms, he already had done that! Lion Greg has taken over for PDG Fred as zone chairman. Lion Greg immediately took control, no help needed. He has been involved in various activities and spearheaded a few. PDG Fred is PROUD to nominate him for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor. The 2<sup>nd</sup> nomination for Lion Greg was made by Lion Tim Dier of the New Holstein Lions. Lion Greg is very passionate about LIONS and an All-Around Good Guy! Lion Irv Korth mentioned that Lion Greg will need to be a WRITE IN. List as GREG K. A call to the floor three times for any other nominations for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor. Motion to close nominations for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor by Lion Dale Counihan, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDG Ken Rohde. **MOTION CARRIED.**

#### **CONVENTION SITES BIDS: (alphabetical)**

**PAR 5 RESORT formally FOX HILLS RESORT-Mishicot.** The representative from Par 5 Resort was Lissa Hansen. They would also like to invite the Lions back to Mishicot, they last hosted a district convention in 2012 for PDG Meg Post. Par 5 works with the Mishicot Lions and Lion Dave Holschbach for community needs. They have new owners and have done extensive remodeling in the hotel rooms. They are offering a rate of \$ 99. They have 10-12 meeting rooms available for breakout rooms and are very versatile.

**HOLIDAY INN - Manitowoc** did not have a representative present. They are a 204-room hotel and are offering a rate of \$100. They previously have hosted a district convention in 2017 for PDG Fred Gebhart. In 2020 they experienced an ownership change but will continue to offer what was done in the past. They offer Ballroom & atrium space with flexibility for our banquet and meetings. They have banquet space for 200-400 and will waive any space fees.

**RADISSON – Fond du Lac** The representative was Joan from WISCO Hotels. The Radisson is offering a rate of \$109 which includes breakfast. They will give us some special touches. In 2019 they completed their renovations. They are willing to waive some of their charges. They would be Honored to host the 2022 convention.

Lion Irv also mentioned on the ballot there is 2 sets of voting for the convention site, the first for November 2021 district convention, which was voted on in 2019 and is Blue Harbor, this has been pre-marked. and the 2<sup>nd</sup> for the 2022 district convention selection. It will be an invalid vote if there are 2 or more votes in one set. There is no election for WLF or Eye Bank director. Also, be sure to put a number down for district pin and district peace poster which will be on display outside the voting room. Voting from 4:00 pm to 4:30 pm, don't forget write in for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Governor-nominee Greg K, fold the ballot once.

**WLF** President Lion Mary Vrieze reported there was a limited camper season with COVID 19. B1 had 12%. Our district has screened 1,800 so far. Lion Dianne Henke and PDG Fred Gebhart accepted special recognition award for 2 clubs that donated over \$5,000, those being BERLIN Lions and SHERWOOD Lions. Lion Mary thanked and introduced our WLF representatives PDG Fred Gebhart and Lion Wendy Hartmann for their service. Please consider WLF for donations even if your club funds are low.

**LION PRIDE:** PDG Jeri Schlender spoke on behalf of Lions Pride which is committed to LIONS. Their goal is \$10 million by the 2021 state convention, currently at \$9.1 million. When the goal is met no more club solicitation. Non-profit organizations have taken a hit with the pandemic and have cancelled fund raisers and conventions. Lions Pride generates \$300,000 annually to help WLF. Keep them in mind, it's a gift that **KEEPS on GIVING. WE ARE ALL FAMILY.**

**LIONS EYE BANK OF WISCONSIN:** President PDG Rich Daluge thanked Lion Chuck Kiefenheim for serving on the Eye Bank board. It has been an interesting year, in mid-March they had to shut down due to the pandemic. The did receive a PP loan to continue to operate, the loan has been forgiven. They now are up to a 70% operating level. Much more testing must be done due to COVID-19. Eye transporting needed to make changes due to HIGH risk factor and fewer surgeries being performed. THANK YOU and please remember to support their programs.

**RESTORING HOPE TRANSPLANT HOUSE:** PDG Jeri Schlender spoke their behalf. Hope Transplant House has begun their \$1 million renovation. The demand is great, and the house needs to be updated. They are SPEECHLESS because of the support they receive from LIONS. Times have gotten worse for many guests. Please consider when making donations.

**LCI:** Lion Mary Jo Abler spoke about Campaign 100, which has a 3-year goal of \$300 million by June 2022, they currently are at 50% of the goal. We are all aware that these are challenging times. Mary Jo has information and forms available at her display table. Check with her for your club donation status, you do NOT have to make a \$1,000 donation, any amount is appreciated. Our money comes back to us such as the LCI grant for PPE the district received.

**ACCEPTANCE SPEECHES:** The officer candidates were given time to give an acceptance. Lion BJ Blahnik accepts, he said the journey has been a passion for him. His mission will be "TEAMWORK". We as LIONS are a team. The most important in his life is wife Victoria.

Lion Dave Brinkman accepts the nomination. He considers it his job to support Lion BJ and work with all the clubs, this makes him a better LION. "SERVING ... LOCAL COMMUNITY"

Lion Greg Kubichka is proud to accept the nomination for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor. We do so much as LIONS. He will drive for membership.

#### **LUNCH**

##### **Introduction of head table**

**PID Art Marson** introduced the convention special guest ID Michael Banks from Stillwater, Oklahoma via ZOOM broadcast.

**ID Banks Keynote Address** had a Wizard of OZ theme in reference to what LIONS are. COVID-19 has NOT changed who we are, just **HOW** we have to do things. **THINGS WILL NEVER BE THE SAME.** Just like the Scarecrow, we need to use our BRAIN to continue. The Tin Man uses oil to loosen things up. Get members to listen, loosen up and see what we need. **"ASK"**. Get new members and fresh ideas. The Lion was looking for a heart. With a heart you are part of something BIGGER. Bravery, we show courage as a LION. Courage to SERVE others. Dorothy wanted to return Home. As LIONS we are HOME when we SERVE.

PID Art Marson thanked ID Banks for the inspirational talk. PID Art and DG Tom made some presentations:

**3 International Presidents awards** were given out.

- 1) PDG Jerry Post.
- 2) PDG Meg Post. Both of these were given for their financial and time support and contributions to LIONS, Leader Dog and this year's convention. They helped DG Tom with all the planning and guidance for the convention.
- 3) Lion Roxanne Wendt for her support of DG Tom throughout his term. She has helped tremendously with the convention and the Van Dyne Lioness conversion. She has made numerous phone calls for DG Tom.

**3 Birch Sturm Fellowships.**

- 1) DG Tom presented IPDG Michael De Baere for his leadership to the Lions of 27B1 on behalf of all Lions in 27-B1. He has been a huge support for DG Tom and 27-B1.
- 2) IPDG Michael De Baere had a successful 2019 District Convention and asked the profit be used for 2 Birch Sturm Fellowships. The first was given to Lion Luann Silver of the Random Lake Lions. She has been a member since 2014 and held President and other club positions. She has also been a chair for their fund raisers.
- 3) IPDG Michael De Baere also represented PG Max Harrington of Plainfield Lions with the award. PD Max was DG in 1974-1975 and has been a Lion for 50 years and never received a Birch Sturm for his dedication. He has held numerous club and district offices.

**BANK AUCTION:** The district LIONS bank was auctioned off. Winning donation bid was TREMENDOUS in the amount of \$39,732 from the Van Dyne Lioness.

ID candidate PDG Lee Vrieze thanked everyone for their support and endorsement. He is currently an ID in waiting, he should get the call within 3 years. He also had a special Thank You Appreciation to PDG Tom Clausen for all of his IT work on the district and state level. The Lions International Convention in Montreal is still on. He is hoping this is the year he will be selected. PDG Lee is also the NAMI leader for the state. "Don't forget about each other: **"WHY NOT."**

PDG Ken Rohde also mention that the WI LIONS state convention will be held in Green Bay this year. Try to attend, it is WI LIONS 100<sup>th</sup> year.

**SESSIONS:**

Afternoon continued, they consisted of seminars about Fire Intervention, Leader Dog Puppy Training, and WI LIONS Mission to South Dakota.

**Puppy Raiser** Ashley Klases spoke on the life of a puppy trainer. This is her first puppy. She has had a passion for rescue dogs but that is not enough. She wanted to have more of an impact and became associated with Leader Dog.

**Fire Prevention** - Jason Roberts is a 15-year veteran of the Fond du Lac Fire Rescue and spoke on guide to Fire Prevention.

**WI LIONS Mission** - PDG Fred Gebhart held a seminar about WI LIONS Mission. They have had to refocus their attention to other destinations. Currently they are working on missions to South Dakota for the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. They are extremely POOR !

Voting commenced 15 minutes after the last session ended and lasted for 30 minutes.

**EVENING GOVERNORS BANQUET**

**Banquet called to order at 5:30 pm**

**Song & Prayer** led by District Song Leader & Chaplain Lion Barb Leichtfuss and Lion Jim Patt.

**Evening entertainment** by Julies Touch of Silver Dance Group. DG Tom explained the history and their involvement with the club, their granddaughter is a member.

**Host PID Art Marson** spoke on behalf of ID Banks. Thank you for a wonderful convention. It takes courage to go back and **MAKE a DIFFERENCE.** Great necrology, District 27-B1 lost a lot of great LIONS. **"KINDESS MATTERS"** Encourage all to make a difference, DON'T be complacent!

**PDG Meg had a presentation** of gifts which are usually given to the visiting ID and his wife. She presented Lion Dick Karl with a LIONS picture in appreciation for stepping forward as zone chairman of zone 3-4 and for his work on the convention committee. Gifts were also given to PID Art and Lion Jo Marson for filling in for ID Banks – B1 will always be their home. On behalf of PDG Meg and PDG Jerry they presented DG Tom and Lion Roxanne with a personalize brick at Leader Dog. They are doing a GREAT job as District Governor. They have missed many conventions and their international trip.

**District 27-B1** made a \$100.00 donation on behalf of ID Banks to Campaign 100.

Lion Roxanne commented "Thank You to DG Tom, **WE MADE IT THROUGH"**. She also thanked PDG's Jerry and Meg Post for their help in running the convention with a gift.

**Cabinet Secretary Treasurer** Lion Dave Holschbach started off by saying he will return again next year in the same position for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor BJ, IF he was elected. He also plans to put his name in next year for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor !

**Lion Dave confirmed the bid** for the District Bank of \$39,732.82 by the Van Dyne Lioness Club was valid, but questioned 82 cents ? at which time Lion Roxanne contributed 0.18 for an even amount of \$ 39,733.00 THANK YOU again Van Dyne Lioness for your support.

**There was no official parade of checks**, however 10 clubs did bring checks for donations for 16 Lions programs totaling over \$56,900 if the remaining 53 clubs donate at that pace, our district would donate over \$300,000. The challenge was made for all other clubs. He mentioned that everyone wondered if the convention would be successful the response for the convention was greater than anticipated due to the current pandemic. **THANK YOU** again to PDG's Meg & Jerry and the committee and all who attended.

**Lion Irv Korth, Nominations** chair, gave the voting results. There were 56 certified voters.

**District Governor Elect** Lion BJ Blahnik. Lion BJ thanked Lion Victoria, his spouse as being **BJ's ROCK**. This means so much to him! He is dedicating his year to his mentors, PDG Herb Schneider, PID Carla Harris and PDG Don Hartvig. He plans changes to make things happen and needs all of your support. **"WE SERVE"**

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor** Lion Dave Brinkman. Thanks. He is looking forward to the future.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor** Lion Greg Kubichka.

**Pin design # 2**

**Peace Poster** 1<sup>st</sup> place Brea Pollack sponsored by Van Dyne Lions, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Lena Stanton sponsored by Brandon Lions, 3<sup>rd</sup> place India Boyd sponsored by Elkhart Lake Lions.

**The 2022 District Convention** will be held at Radisson Hotel in Fond du Lac and the District Bean Bag Tournament hosted by the Sheboygan Noon Lions.

**Motion** by PDG Ken Rohde, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lion Vince Teague to have the ballots destroyed. **MOTION CARRIED**

14 First Timers, 2 completed questionnaire.

The bucket raffle had 37 buckets. Thank you to all the clubs and members that donated.

District Raffle winners were drawn previously:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Evett Hartvig
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Maribel Lions
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Mishicot Lions
- 4<sup>th</sup> Coloma Lions
- 5<sup>th</sup> Berlin Lions
- 6<sup>th</sup> Princeton Lions

DG Tom Wendt had the final closing remarks:

Thank you to PDG Marv and Lion Dianne for sponsoring the Friday Hospitality band.

Call DG Tom for your club visits.

**" WE DID IT! " " NOT SURE WE WOULD!"** Families have lost more than we have as LIONS, continue your support. **STAY HEALTHY** ..... A Round of Applause for DG Tom.

Motion by PDG Ken Rohde, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lion Dale Counihan to officially close the 45<sup>TH</sup> Annual District 27B1 Convention at 7:55 PM.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Respectfully submitted by Cabinet Secretary Treasurer Lion Dave Holschbach**



## District 27-B1 Cabinet Minutes Sunday, January 3rd, 2021 Van Dyne Lions Park

1. **Called to order @** 10:43 am by DG Tom Wendt
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** led by IPDG Michael De Baere
3. **Song & Prayer** led by Lion Barb Leichtfuss, Song was "My Country tis of Thee"
4. **Welcome** - DG Tom Wendt Thanks for attending. We hope to try to get things back to normal. Thank you to Van Dyne Lions for hosting and providing lunch.
5. **Roll Call** by Cabinet Secretary/Treasurer Lion Dave Holschbach. 20 cabinet members and 4 guests attending.
6. **Approval of Cabinet Minutes** from November 13, 2020 motion by PDG Ken Rohde, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lion Greg Kubichka. **MOTION CARRIED**
7. **Approval of District Convention Minutes** from November 14, 2020 motion by PDG Rohde, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lion Al Kanaugh. **MOTION CARRIED**
8. **Approval of January 3, 2021 Agenda** by Lion Greg, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lion Irv Korth. **MOTION CARRIED**
9. **2020-2021 Financial Statement** through December reported by Cabinet Secretary/Treasurer Lion Dave Holschbach. Year ½ done and 65% of revenue. Monies available for various non budgeted programs. Please use funds statement.
10. **Tail Twister** Lion Helen Mork was not present. IPDG Michael De Baere stepped up for her. Same 3-minute rules as previous meetings.
11. **Communications:** None received by DG Tom Wendt or Lion Dave Holschbach. DG Tom reminded everyone to be sure to forward emails to all due to the pandemic.
12. **Old Business:**
  - A. **District Convention Wrap up & Financial** - DG Tom Wendt & Lion Dave Holschbach. DG Tom thanked everyone for making an effort to attend. We consider it a success even under trying times and restrictions. Thank you to PDG Meg and PDG Jerry for running the convention. DG Tom had less to worry about! Additional convention booklets are available. Lion Dave H reviewed the financial statement for the convention showing a profit of approximately \$ 2,200.
  - B. **Convention Profit** – DG Tom commented that the profit was less than other years but also more than other years. Blue Harbor Resort did work with us to help cut costs. Lion Wendy Hartmann commented that the rooms and food were excellent, and Friday's entertainment was also EXCELLENT. Thank You PDG Marv and Lion Diane Henke. DG Tom made some recommendations on how he would like the profit spent. Motion by Lion Dick Karl to spend \$ 200 for Julies Dance (Saturday's entertainment), \$ 1,000 for the Childhood Cancer Challenge and \$ 1,000 for a future district Melvin Jones or Birch Sturm to be determined by DG Tom per DG Tom's recommendations. 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDG Ken. **MOTION CARRIED**  
Lion Mary Jo Abler commented that she would like to see the district make an annual commitment to

LCIF. Lion Dave H mentioned that based on the past, at year end the district could make a donation based on any profit for the current operating year. He would have a good idea by the end of May and can be addressed before year close. It is up to the incoming governor to determine if he wants a donation in his budget. PDG Jerry will write up a policy to be considered for district donations to LCIF. PDG Gary Silah asked, "Should the District consider a fund raiser and the proceeds for LCIF?"

- C. Healing Space – Marshfield Clinic LCI Grant** As noted above, the district will make a \$ 1,000 donation to the Childhood Cancer Challenge. Lion Dave H mentioned he is aware of about \$ 2,700 already received before this donation. District 27 B1 will surpass their portion. PDG Dave Lee was not present by sent the following information. Lion Dr. Sri said there has been encouraging progress. The total cost of the project has been reduced to \$ 40,000 of which MD27 must raise \$20,000. Currently we are more than ½ way. Any surplus that is raised will go into a fund specifically targeted for future childhood cancer needs. Continue to send donations.

### 13. New Business:

- A. Training** – DG Tom is looking at doing training for East & West clubs. He is in need of some training officers whether in person or via Zoom. Covid-19 has hampered a lot of training and personal contact. Lions Leadership Training is still unknown. Lion Mary Jo said we need some incentive or reason to go, maybe a requirement for 100% awards. Lion Dave H said there is plenty of monies available, part of every club's dues is for training. We as a district need to provide training, make it specific, organized and detailed and hold after clubs have submitted their new officers. Have trainers the clubs know and respect for their knowledge. DG Tom will follow up and check with the council for ideas. We all realize how hard it is to get officers for clubs.
- B. Zone Meetings** – Enforce setting up meetings. How do you get clubs to participate and attend? Zone Chairs make it interesting. **JUST DO IT !**
- C. Bean Bag Policy** was authored by PDG Fred Gebhart, explained by PDG Jerry Post-Cabinet Chair for Constitution and Bylaws. Discussion to create a policy for holding District Bean Bag tournament. Motion by Lion Greg, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDG Ken to accept District Bean Bag Policy with any changes discussed. **MOTION CARRIED**

### 14. Committee Reports (Written reports for distribution or 3 minutes or less verbal per report))

- A. A.1st Vice District Governor** Lion BJ Blahnik was not present but sent the following. He has been attending all trainings required. The DGE training has been changed to virtual. He will be contacting everyone on the cabinet to form his team for next year. There will be some changes. He is looking to have an exciting year.
- B. 2nd Vice District Governor** Lion Dave Brinkman's 2<sup>nd</sup> VDG training was switched to virtual. He does have a meeting in January. He has completed his Master's Degree.
- C. GLT** Lion Ken Rivers was not present and had no report.
- GMT** PDG Fred Gebhart reported there has been many issues with membership. THANK YOU to Van Dyne and Manitowoc Lions for converting Lioness to Lions. Hopefully with this conversion, membership will grow and be a PLUS!
- GST** Lion Ellen Cheney submitted the following: She has focused on forwarding information about service and training opportunities and encouraging clubs to continue to report service activities. She has maintained her Eastside emailing and working with Lion Rose Berendes for the Westside emailing. Unfortunately, Covid-19 has made her unable to attend zone meeting or cabinet meetings. She will continue to attend remote meetings.
- NAMI Chair** PGD Fred Gebhart reported a new name change otherwise nothing new.

- D. **WLF** rep Lion Wendy Hartmann mentioned the state Lions Conventions is still scheduled for Green Bay in May. WLF Rep PDG Fred mentioned the deer hide program ran into a hitch. The broker handling the sale of last years hides send them to China and Pakistan. He has not been paid due to the pandemic. He is willing to give WLF \$56,000. This years hide collection is up. Lions camp will limit attendance to 100 per week. The Diabetes program will have 2 weeks run by our camp staff.
- E. **Constitution and Bylaws** chair PDG Jerry Post reviewed the proper information need on a voting ballot per the constitution and by-laws under the Lions Clubs International constitution and by-laws which refers to Roberts Rules of Order.
- F. **LCIF** chair Lion Mary Jo Abler asked for better participation from clubs. Only 20 clubs have donated so far. Our district goal is \$356,500 and are about 31%. Any amount from clubs or individuals is appreciated. District 27B1 did receive a Covid-19 Emergency Grant which IPDG Mike did disburse.
- G. **Lions Pride** Lion Myra Schneider was not present and had nothing to report at this time.
- H. **LEO** - Lion Gary Roehrig was not present and had no report.
- I. **Leader Dog** chair PDG Jerry Post will remain MD27 chair for another year and also region chair for Leader Dog. He will work with the incoming cabinet representative and keep them informed. PDG Jerry made a presentation to DG Tom of a Leader Dog brick donation that he and Meg made in DG Toms's name.
- J. **Pin Chairman** Lion Laurie Sasada was not present and had no report. We need to sell or pins, need table at convention and DG Tom to sell at club visits.
- K. **Peace Poster** Lion Laurie Sasada was not present and had no report. Our district had the 2<sup>nd</sup> place poster in the state competition. There were 5 posters for voting at the convention.
- L. **Diabetes Awareness & Action** chair IPDG Michael De Baere has attended 2 zone meetings.
- M. **Youth Cancer** chair PDG Dave Lee reported earlier in Old Business about the Childhood Cancer Challenge for the Lions Healing Center.
- N. **Youth Exchange /Youth Outreach** chair Lion Bonnie Strelow was not present but sent the following: She has been attending Zoom meetings. Most countries are cancelling exchanges for this year. Wisconsin is not planning on holding camp this year. No camp donation this year. The zoom group meets several times during the year.
- O. **Special Olympics** – Lion Samantha Rivers was not present and had no report.
- P. **Environment** – Lion Rose Berendes was not present and had no report.
- Q. **MY LCI** - Lion Rose Berendes was not present and had no report. She continues to work with clubs on timely membership and activity reporting.
- R. **Hearing Preservation Awareness & Action** rep Lion Wendy Hartmann had no applications for hearing aids. Medicare and some Advantage programs cover some costs for hearing aids. So far 2643 hearing aids have been collected.
- S. **Eyeglass Recycling** chair Lion Wendy Hartmann reported WLF has received 267,190 eyeglasses from July 1 – November 30<sup>th</sup>, right on schedule with last year. Currently only 1 facility is reading the prescriptions for recycling.
- T. **Lions Eye Bank of WI** rep Lion Chuck Keifenheim handed out Thank you notes to clubs making donations. If anyone is aware of a transporters death, let them know, they will fly their flag at ½ staff in memory. Eye Transporter training is now going on.
- U. **Vision Screening** in 27B1 is still ahead of the other districts per PDG Fred Gebhart. 3450 have been screened so far this year. Continue to make contact with the schools and school nurses for screening even with Covid-19 changes.

**V. Missions of Wisconsin** trips out of the country have been shut down for 2021 per Lion Pat Knier. They have not been idle; they continue to work missions for food and eyeglass to the Pine Ridge Indian reservation. Last year Missions raised \$25,000 for the reservation backpack program. Motion made by PDG Meg Post, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lion Wendy Hartmann to make a \$1000.00 donation to the Lions Pine Ridge Backpack Program. **MOTION CARRIED**

**W. District Convention** chair PDG Jerry & PDG Meg Post had a challenging convention. No one reported any sickness, always worried about that. **WE DID IT !** Many thought we should cancel, but with \$20,000 penalty for cancelling and many emails and phone calls, the decision to proceed was made. In the end the convention was a success for all those in attendance. He hopes the virus is gone for next year and the committee can plan for a normal convention.

**District Raffle** chair Lion Dave Brinkman reported ticket sales down from last year but better than expecting with fund raisers cut back due to Covid-19.

**District Bucket Raffle** Chair Lion Dave Brinkman had 39 buckets. Thank you to all those clubs and Lions that donated.

**District Bean Bag Tournament** will be hosted by the Sheboygan Noon Lions on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Lion Dick Karl reported everything is ready to go.

**X. Elections & Nominations** chair Lion Irv Korth reminded zone chairs to mention positions available for nominations and get forms submitted.

**Y. State Lions Convention** chair PDG Ken Rhode reported the Lions State Convention will be at the Hyatt Regency in Green Bay in May. Still a GO !

**Z. Newspaper Editor** PDG Jerry Post has been getting articles from some clubs but also information from clubs Facebook.

**AA.IT & Publicity** PDG Tom Clausen has a new website provider. He was able to get a huge discount for a 3-year commitment. New URL for the district. **WILIONSB1.ORG** Any clubs need help or want websites get in contact with him.

**BB.Historian** PDG Tom Clausen mentioned this year is WI LIONS 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Fond du Lac and Manitowoc are 2 of the top oldest clubs in the state. PDG Tom will gladly update or add clubs HISTORY on the district website. Go to the website for info. Send him reminders of club activities for the district calendar.

#### **15. Zone Chairmen Reports:**

Zone 1 - Lion Greg Kubichka's clubs worked on Lights for Calumet, it was a HUGE success for the zone. He does have a zone meeting coming up.

Zone 2 - Lion Al Kanaugh's last meeting was in November hosted by Maribel Lions. Currently most clubs are not meeting, however they are working with their communities. Projects some of the clubs have done : Mini Libraries, Christmas wreath sale, Community lights display, annual donations, eyeglass collections, Holiday Giving Tree and Collection boxes, Thanksgiving meals, diabetes doorhangers, highway cleanup and vision screening when possible. March next zone meeting.

Zone 3 & 4 - Lion Dick Karl's clubs have participated in deer hide collection, food and gifts for the needy and supporting local community groups. Plymouth Lions raised \$7500 with a matching funds to purchase an additional 16 Reading Machines with their current 26. These will benefit the entire zone.

Zone 5 - Lion Don Mitchell was not present and had no report.

Zone 6 - Lion Dale Counihan was not present, however Lion Vince Teague of Neenah reported there have been various virtual club meetings. There will be a Rose Sale coming soon.

Zone - 7 & 8 Lion Barb Leichtfuss's clubs have been slowed down by the virus. Clubs are reporting and keeping their Facebook up to date. Clubs have focused on Santa visits, food pantry collections diabetes

awareness, Christmas lighting, deer hide collection and drive thru food sales.

Zone 9 - Lion Dave Brinkman's club's membership has decreased by 9. Activities they have been involved in are, Cheese-Sausage sales, goodie bags for elderly, face masks and lap blankets making, toys for kids, Fisherees and service reporting

Zone 10 - Lion Carl Rasmussen was not present and had no report.

Zone 11 - Lion Vince Treague has talked to his clubs and having board meetings. Wild Rose Lions have been very active. He is trying to do a virtual zone meeting. DG Tom thanked Lion Vince for stepping forward to be zone chairman even though he belongs to a club out of the zone.

**16. Other Business –**

DG Tom Wendt presented Brandon and Markesan Lions club with Club Excellence Award. Markesan has been 3 years in a row. THANK YOU..... \$ 63.00 collected by tail twister IPDG Michael.

Motion to adjourn at 1:10 pm by PDG Ken Rohde, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lion Mary Jo Abler **MOTION CARRIED**

**Next Meeting on Sunday March 7<sup>th</sup> – Van Dyne Lions Park**

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED LION DAVE HOLSCHBACH, District 27B1 Secretary/Treasurer



## **District 27-B1 Cabinet Minutes** **Sunday, March 7, 2021** **Van Dyne Lions Park**

**Questions? Reply to this email:** [dajach@yahoo.com](mailto:dajach@yahoo.com) or call 920-860-6162

1. **Call to order @ 1:02 pm** by DG Tom Wendt
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** led by IPDG Michael De Baere
3. **Song & Prayer** led by Song Leader & Chaplain Lion Barb Leichtfuss. We are all looking forward to Spring, so the song was "Tip Toe through the Tulips"
4. **Welcome** by DG Tom. Thank you to Lion Barb and the Van Dyne Lions for hosting the cabinet meeting. This is our final cabinet meeting for the year.  
**"THANK YOU FOR BEING ON HIS CABINET"**
5. **Roll Call** taken by Cabinet Secretary/Treasurer Lion Dave Holschbach. 27 Lions members attending.
6. **Approval of Cabinet Minutes** from January 3, 2021 motion to accept as emailed by PDG Ken Rohde, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lion Greg Kubichka. **MOTION CARRIED**
7. **Approval of March 7, 2021 Agenda** as emailed, motion made by Lion Gary Roehrig, 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDG Ken Rohde to accept. **MOTION CARRIED**
8. **2020-2021 Financial Statement** sent by Cabinet Secretary/Treasurer Lion Dave Holschbach. Motion to accept financial report by Lion Greg Kubichka, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lion Dale Counihan. **MOTION CARRIED**
9. **Tail Twister** Lion Helen Mork reminded everyone about the 3-minute rules. Fines will be enforced. Green was the color and many avoided fines. Purple is the color for next meeting.
10. **Communications:** DG Tom Wendt and Lion Dave Holschbach. A Thank You letter received from WI Lions Mission chair Lion Bill Taubman for the district donation of \$1,000 to the Pine Ridge Reservation backpack meal program. WI Lions Bowling tournament is in full swing in Merrill. Last weekend DG Tom bowled with the COG to open the tournament. Lots of Fun, some openings available. Not so good bowling. Van Dyne Lions had a team. The Leadership Forum will know in 2 weeks if it will be virtual or on site.
11. **Old Business:**
  - A. **Training:** DG Tom talked to the other District Governors to see what they have been doing. Lot of them hold it during or after their conventions. He is working with cabinet members to possibly have something in Fond du Lac (central location). Lion Mary Jo Abler asked if there was a way to have a virtual training and if it could be monitored somehow. Consider mandatory training for officers to achieve 100% awards. DG Ken says things have changed and it needs to be updated. DGE Lion BJ Blahnik mentioned we need to Focus on

an incentive, such as reimbursement for mileage. There is money available in the training budget. Lion Rose Berendes mentioned we need Internet access and get members to sign up for their own MY LION account. DG Tom guarantees we will do something, but he is not sure what enticement to use. REMINDER club nominations are coming up. Club Excellence Awards form can be gotten online. We had 3 clubs last year. DG Fred Gebhart and Lion Gary Roehrig use zone meetings for training, maybe the first one of the year and bring your laptop. DGE BJ is looking for training at the district convention on Sunday.

WI Lions Leadership is offering an Evening of Inspiration and also Guiding Lion training. PDG Tom Berendes mentions that a GUIDING LION helps to mentor a club per the club request to make sure they are operating properly by Lion guidelines whether successful or not.

**B. Healing Space – Marshfield Clinic** LCI Grant update by PDG Dave Lee, the challenge was successful. Lion Dr. Vri exceeded the \$25,000 request matched by LCI. The Lions Healing Space will be completed in 2021. Excess funds collected will be set aside in the Childhood Fund to be dispersed by the COG. District 27-B1 raised over \$6,100. 23 clubs donated \$100 and 9 others gave more, for a total of 31 clubs contributing.

**C. Covid-19 Grant finalization** updated by IPDG Michael De Baere. It seems there was one page with a signature missing. IPDG Michael has resent all the information on Thursday March 4th. Motion by Lion Dave Holschbach, 2<sup>nd</sup> by DGE BJ Blahnik for the cabinet to accept and approve the disbursement of the LCI Grant funds and sign off on the grant as now completed. **MOTION CARRIED** IPDG Michael commented that if he had known COVID 19 would last so long, he would have asked for a larger grant.

## **12. New Business:**

**A. Reading Machine:** DG Tom borrowed a reading machine from the Plymouth Lions Club who recently purchased 40 machines. PDG Dave Lee demonstrated the machine. The district would like to see more clubs involved, possibly a district project?? They cost approximately \$1,000 if buying in volume. A follow up email will be sent to clubs.

**B. 2021 District Pin** design proof was presented by Lion Laurie Sasada. Motion by PDG Ken, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lion Dale to accept pin design proof. The pin cost will be \$1.95 each based on an order of 200. We sell for \$3.00. Motion by DGE BJ, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lion Greg to approve an order of 200. **MOTION CARRIED** Should take about 3-4 weeks.

**C. District Annual LCI Donation Policy** presented by PDG Jerry Post. Being that no policy exists for a district annual donation, he composed the following:

**1) As monies collected from the tail twister are currently designated to various entities, a minimum of \$100 will be set aside for a yearly donation with the option of the District Governor along with his or her cabinet to donate more if desired.**

**2) If there is an excess of District funds left at the end of the year, an amount may be added to that figure with the discretion of the District Governor and his or her cabinet.**

**3. All monies donated will be donated to an LCI entity that will accumulate to \$1000 for a Melvin Jones Fellowship to be awarded by the District.**

Motion by DGE BJ and 2<sup>nd</sup> by PDG Gary Silah to accept the policy as read.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**13. Committee Reports** (Written reports for distribution or 3 minutes verbal per report))

A. **District Governor Elect** Lion BJ Blahnik is currently working on his cabinet. He has had meetings with his convention committee. He is working on ongoing training.

B. **2nd Vice District Governor** Lion Dave Brinkman has had virtual and onsite training. There has been a lack of communication with members due to Covid 19, we need to improve on that, are there members not in contact with their clubs and other members? He questioned "Why don't we have Region Chairs?" Answer from cabinet members, hard enough to fill Zone Chair and other Cabinet positions now!

C. **GLT** chair Lion Ken Rivers was not present, NO REPORT sent. The incoming State GLT coordinator will be PDG Jeri Schlender. 2<sup>nd</sup> VDG Lion Dave B asked if we have a district service project? DG Tom had one at the last convention and VDGE BJ will be having a food drive at the convention.

**GMT/ NAMI** Chair PDG Fred Gebhart says membership is the **LIFELINE** of Lions. Our district currently is -12. Gain membership through **SERVICE. ASK** a friend when doing your fund raisers. NAMI will be having a name change for better recognition and better communication and education.

**GST** chair Lion Ellen Cheney was not present but sent the following. Since January she has focused on forwarding information about service and training opportunities to clubs. She has completed her spreadsheet to now include East and West clubs, presidents, secretaries, and service coordinators. Special **THANK YOU** to Lion Rose Berendes for handling the west clubs while she was updating her spreadsheets. She has been attending monthly GST meeting virtually. At the January meeting it was noted STUFF the BUS is a MD27 project. With the likelihood school being in person next year, the need is even greater for school supplies. Zone Chairs try to organize an event and let others know.

D. **WLF** rep Lion Wendy Hartmann updated us on Lions Camp. There will be 460 openings this year. Lions Camp will also be running diabetes for 2 weeks this year. WLF has applied for a LCI Grant of \$197,000 for establishing the diabetes program. The statewide deer hide collection was successful with 18,000. There will be NO visitor days this year. PDG Fred also added that Shopko is again offering vision certificates. Camp workday is planned for April 24<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>.

E **Constitution and Bylaws** chair PDG Jerry Post commented that 8 years ago he started writing changes, there have been many to the constitution. It has been a PLEASURE to serve on the cabinet these last few years. **Thank you** to all of the PDG's he served for. He will continue to be on MD27 Bylaws and constitutions committee.

F. **LCIF** rep Lion Mary Jo Abler reminded members that we recently completed our COVID-19 LCI grant. Funds **DO** come back to us. Campaign 100 is the fundraiser currently being done and encourages individual to make donations. They will be holding a Tell-a-Thon on April 11<sup>th</sup> with a goal for every Lion member to donate \$20. If all in our district did this, we would have \$36,740. Our district is behind in our donations. DG Tom thanked Lion Mary Jo for a GREAT JOB done!!

G. **Lions Pride** chair Lion Myra Schneider reminded everyone that PRIDE has their annual PRIDE SHOOT in June and volunteers are needed.

H. **LEO** chair Lion Gary Roehrig reported the Husky Hands of Heart Leo Club has 20 members. Due to Covid-19, Lions have not been able to visit them. They anticipate 12-14 new members but will be losing 9 seniors. They have been active in plastic collection but are in need of volunteers for Habitat for Humanity. The Leo Club will be donating a bench for the 100 Centennial at the WI State Lions Convention. Reedsville Leo Club seems to be functioning. IPDG Michael had received a \$500 donation from LCIF for a success story he submitted on behalf of the Leo Club. Lion Mary Jo questioned where the money was applied. Lion Dave H. confirmed the money was deposited into our training funds. He feels it is deserving to give the money to the Leo Club since the article was about their success and since fundraisers are temporarily suspended. Motion by PDG Ken, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lion Dale to give the \$500 donation to the Leo Club. **MOTION CARRIED**

I. **Leader Dog** PDG Meg Post reported Leader Dog did start to hold training classes in October. Their last zoom meeting was 2 weeks ago. They have been restrained by the COVID Protocol. Virtual contact has been successful. Currently they cannot have any volunteers. They are hoping in March to proceed with more training.

J. **Pin Chairman** Lion Laurie Sasada also added that there are about 60 pins left from the current year. She has some available from previous years and will send an email with photo and quantity.

K. **Peace Poster** theme for the current year is "WE ARE ALL CONNECTED" per Lion Laurie Sasada. Peace Poster kits are available until October.

L. **Diabetes Awareness & Action** chair IPDG Michael De Baere is available for zone meetings and will talk about sugar content in various things.

M. **Youth Cancer** rep PDG Dave Lee reported earlier in New Business.

N. **Youth Exchange** /Youth Outreach – Lion Bonnie Strelow was not present, NO REPORT sent. Youth Exchange Camp has been cancelled for this year.

O. **Special Olympics** – Lion Samantha Rivers was not present, NO REPORT sent.

P. **Environment** chair Lion Rose Berendes reported our district has 35 environment projects completed by 18 clubs.....**SO Plant a TREE ! Enter as Environment Project!**

Q. **MY LCI** update by Lion Rose Berendes has 2 clubs not reporting membership. Activities can include donations, fund raisers and meetings. A lot of clubs are not reporting any kind of activity, potentially 4 club members have the capability to log on and report. 40 clubs have reported at least 1 activity. **GOOD GOING !**

R. **Hearing Preservation Awareness & Action** rep Lion Wendy Hartmann has received 6 applications with 3 being approved and 5 have been ordered YTD.

S. **Eyeglass Recycling** staff is on furlough per Lion Wendy Hartmann. From July to January, Lions have collected 298,870 glasses. Walmart recently has started collection eyeglasses they send to 4 recycling centers. She will try to find out where these 4 sites are.

T. **Lions Eye Bank of WI** Rep. Lion Chuck Keifenheim, was not present but sent report. LEBW is always in need of donations. The facility remains closed. The Eye Tissue Transport Meeting will be May 1<sup>st</sup> @ 10:00 am, or May 13<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 am or May 28<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00 pm. Information to follow.

U. **Vision Screening** PDG Fred Gebhart has screened only 780 with 82 referrals due to schools not being open or limited access. Eslers Foundation is a source for free glasses and lenses; however, provider must be in their network.

V. **Missions of Wisconsin** rep Lion Pat Knier reported the only current activity is the Pine Ridge Backpack Program. **Thank You** to the district for the donation.

W. **District Convention** for 2021 will be November 12-14 at Blue Harbor Resort in Sheboygan. DGE BJ Blahnik's committee has had on going meetings.

**District Bean Bag** Chair Lion Dick Karl of Sheboygan Noon Lions unfortunately had to report the CANCELLATION of the tournament. Only 7 teams registered, we will consider again for next year. PDG Fred commented that there may need to be a policy change. We may plan to have a demo at the district convention. There has been concern about the handling of the bean bags due to COVID. Thank you for your support. Lion Dave H will send an email to clubs to cancel.

X. **Elections & Nominations** chair Lion Irv Korth reminded Zone Chairs to mention there will be open nominations for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor, 1 WLF and Eye Bank representatives at this year's convention.

Y. **State Lions Convention** is still on in Green Bay May 14 & 15, however there will be a 400 limit for attendance per PDG Ken. Lion Wendy also reported there will be a Strides Walk and Scavenger Hunt at the State Lions convention.

Z. **Newspaper Editor** PDG Jerry Post's final year. We all know it is hard to put your story and thoughts in your mind on paper. **BUT TRY**. Articles were always appreciated. PDG Jerry used PDG Fred as an example to talk about the life cycle of a LEADER DOG puppy. 1<sup>st</sup> exposure to Lions to growing up and being a LION Leader. **STOP BEING CHICKEN** and become **LION LEADER DOGS** and **TELL YOUR STORY !**  
DG Tom: Thank You Jerry for your many years of support to the cabinet.

AA. **IT & Publicity** PDG Tom Clausen reported 26 clubs do **NOT** have a website. Why have a website? There are people out there that need your help or would like to join. Having a website is like having the YELLOW PAGES of long ago, great source of information. LCI will provide a **FREE WEBSITE**. If not a website, consider a Facebook page. 46 clubs have one. We can't grow unless someone knows about us. Publicity is the KEY.

BB. **Historian** PDG Tom Clausen sent this report. The History page on the district website is up to date. Thank you to PDG Orv Doede for getting the groundwork for the history of clubs. Send PDG Tom C your club anniversary information. 17 clubs have no history on file. Send any information to PDG Tom C and he will update your club history.

#### **14. Zone Chairmen Reports:**

1. Zone 1 Lion Greg Kubichka reported that DG Tom attended his meeting. Clubs are participating in drive thru fundraisers. Clubs have been partnering with other clubs for activities. They participated in the Christmas Lights. Sherwood Lions have done 24 wheelchair ramps.

2. Zone 2 Lion Al Kanaugh clubs are starting up on their projects and meeting in a safe way. Due to COVID the next zone meeting will be June 16<sup>th</sup> hosted by Mishicot. Clubs are participating in rose sales, fry outs at community rummage sales and summer ball parks. Zone project cancelled in 2020 hope to sell tickets for County Fair in August 2021.

3. Zone 3 & 4 Lion Dick Karl had a zone meeting January 4<sup>th</sup>, 7 clubs attended. Speaker was Niki Zorhab from Big Brothers Big Sisters. PDG David Lee and Lion Wendy Hartmann attended. Clubs are doing limited activities and making plans for future fund raisers. Plymouth Lions purchased 40 reading machines. Next zone meeting April 5<sup>th</sup>.

4. Zone 5 Lion Pat Knier has taken over for Lion Don Mitchell. They held a

Zoom zone meeting. New Holstein Lions have been very active. Clubs participated in the light show for Christmas. Many clubs will be awarding scholarships.

5. Zone 6 Lion Dale Counihan's zone has not had a meeting. Some clubs have taken "A Better Safe than Sorry" attitude. Larsen Winchester has built 10 new ramps, but other activities suspended. Various clubs participating in Rose Sale. Neenah continues their plastic bag recycling. Clubs hope to resume fund raisers and activities in spring.

6. Zone 7 & 8 Lion Barb Leichtfuss has been checking club's websites and Facebook pages to see what they have been doing. Activities are being planned with modifications. Next zone meeting March 31. Pickett has 6 new members.

7. Zone 9 Lion Dave Brinkman reported membership is down by 9 in the zone. All clubs are now meeting but in smaller numbers. Covid vaccinations should make a difference in the numbers. Clubs continue with eyeglass collection, scholarships, Fisherees and making face masks for school kids.

8. Zone 10 Lion Carl Rasmussen was not present, however PDG Tom Berendes gave an update. Clubs have held successful Fisherees. Oxford will participate in the fireworks. Various clubs involved in community parks projects.

9. Zone 11 Lion Vince Treague was not present. Clubs have been meeting. Some participate in indoor rummage sales. DG Tom **thanked Lion Vince** for stepping up and filling the zone position even though he belongs in another zone. **HE IS A GREAT LION.**

#### 15. Other Business:

VDGE BJ would like to get club historical articles for the centennial celebration at the WI State Lions convention.

PDG Fred will be stepping up as editor for the district and would like to start receiving articles for the 2021-2022 year.

Cabinet Appreciation by DG Tom Wendt: **WE DID WELL** Thank you to the cabinet for assistance and answers to his questions. **KEEP YOUR MEMBERS INVOLVED** ..... give a phone call, see how they are doing. Special **THANK YOU** to Lion Roxanne for her support and keeping DG Tom on schedule. It's been a **GOOD** year even though there were limitations. DG Tom is available at any time.

Thank you to the Van Dyne Lions for their support. Cabinet Gifts are backordered. DG Tom will be awarding a Melvin Jones Fellowship to a deserving Lion.

**Adjournment by DG Tom Wendt** at 4:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Lion Dave Holschbach, 27B1 Cabinet Secretary/Treasurer

**THANK YOU TO ALL CABINET MEMBERS for YOUR SUPPORT on another SUCCESSFUL YEAR.....Lion Dave**

**Next Meeting District Wrap up @ WI State Lion May 14<sup>th</sup> - Green Bay**



**District 27-B1 State Convention Minutes**  
**Saturday May 15, 2021**  
**KI Center Green Bay**  
**Meeting to start at 10:15 am to 11:30 am**  
**Meeting Room B 1**

CERTIFICATION TOOK PLACE PRIOR to SCHEDULED MEETING TIME  
By CST Lion Dave Holschbach

1. **Call to order @ 10:15 am** by District Governor Tom Wendt
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** led by IPDG Michael De Baere

3. **PID Connie LeCleur-Meyer** introduced **International 2nd VP Brian Sheehan** from Minnesota. VP Brian spoke to the group about **RETENTION**. Retention is VERY IMPORTANT to maintain membership in clubs. Things are changing and clubs are losing members. VP Brian present DG Tom Wendt and DGE BJ Blahnik with his symbolic **STRESS** Penguin and also gave DG Tom his personal Friendship banner. He thanked both for their leadership.

**ID candidate Lee Vrieze** and CC Mary Vrieze also made an appearance and thanked everyone for their support. He is being held back one year for that position.

**Representatives of the Menomonie Lions** also stopped and made a bid for their club to host the State Lions Bowling tournament for the 2023 site.

4. **Song & Prayer** was led by Lion Barb Leichtfuss. In appreciation of our country, the song was "My Country Tis of Thee"

5. **Welcome:** District Governor Tom Wendt welcomed all the Lions in attendance to the convention and district meeting.

6. **Old Business:**

**A. District Reading Machines update:** DG Tom thanked Lion Mike Roberts of the Plymouth Lions for demonstrating the Proigi Humanware Reading machine. Over 40 machines have been ordered previously and working on another order of 25. We have an opportunity to purchase the units which normally sell for \$1595.00 plus shipping for a reduced Lions only cost of \$895.00 including shipment. Delivery and training will take place at a to be determined date and location, deadline to secure a Reading Machine will be May 27, 2021. Don't miss out on this terrific price as we will definitely never get a price comparable again.

**B. District training update:** Thank you to all that attended. It was a HUGE success, over 40 attendees. This was one of DG Tom's goals for his year. We hope to continue in the future.

**C. Voting referendums:** There are only 2 things to vote on this year. The current resolution is to clean up the verbiage in the MD27 constitution and bylaws to remove any mention of Lioness. They will officially cease on June 30. This will also change the number of members on the Council of Governors.

**D. DG Tom - Remarks - Year wrap up:** This year has been a **HUGE** success. The convention was a hard decision - Yes or No to have one, the district had a lot of money tied up. His club visits are heavy now, however, he still has some dates open. He plans a smooth transition to DGE BJ's term.

## 7. New Business:

**A. DGE BJ Blahnik:** Lion BJ commended DG Tom on how he managed the year with Covid-19, he had a great year. DGE BJ plans a lot of changes in the coming year. It is a **NEW** century and an opportunity for GROWTH and CHANGE. His theme will be **TEAMWORK** between all Clubs, Zones and Members. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Lion Greg Kubichka will be in charge of Global Service, we need leadership to have direct connect with clubs. 1st Vice Lion Dave Brinkman will be in charge of MyLCI/MyLION. DGE BJ wants to create a ladder system to build leadership. He plans to reactivate the Long Range Planning for the district. **IT'S YOUR DISTRICT !** He intends to create a LIONS SPIRIT AWARD for a club level member to recognize them for their hard work. It's the centennial year, Let's CELEBRATE all year.

**B. 2021 Convention** update by DGE BJ, will be held in Sheboygan at the Blue Harbor Resort on November 12,13, & 14. The committee has been meeting and plans to have FUN for everyone with speakers at all meals and possibly training on Sunday. Let's build Teamwork! THANK YOU for trusting in him and he asks for your support.

**C. 1st VDE Dave Brinkman** was attending leadership training in Atlanta. He did send this information. His plans call for continuing training for his term with emphasis on making clubs better. He will also assist members of the District Cabinet to better serve all the district clubs.

**8. Closing Remarks by DG Tom:** DG Tom reminded all clubs to get their incoming officers recorded in MyLCI. There still are 20+ clubs not reported, Due date is May 15<sup>th</sup>.

PDG Fred Gebhart reported on Vision Screening that since September until May there have been 3,448 screened with 317 referrals. PDG Fred thanked PDG Dave Lee for getting him interested in vision screening. Vision screeners in attendance were recognized. B1 takes the extra step. Thanks to everyone for their support.

DG Tom presented a Melvin Jones Fellowship to Lion Barb Leichtfuss of the Van Dyne Lions. Lion Barb was very helpful to DG Tom for hosting the district cabinet meetings and saving money, she also served on his cabinet.

Lion Bob Newton of the Sheboygan Falls Lions presented DG Tom with a handmade custom bowl in commemoration of his year. Since 2020 was a virtual year, he also presented IPDG Michael De Baere with one also. The wood used in the bowls is from all around the world symbolic of LIONS.

PDG Jerry Post honored DG Tom as being someone who kept everyone FOCUSED this year of the pandemic. **STANDING OVATION**

PDG Dave Lee gave an update on the Childhood Cancer. Lion Sri received a Progressive Melvin Jones from the past district governors for his 4-year commitment to the Flow Cyclometer Project.

DG Tom thanked his Partner in Service Lion Roxanne and all of the PDG's for their support.

## 9. Adjournment - DG Tom Wendt at 11:30 am

**Additional Certification** will be done by CST Dave Holschbach until 2 pm.  
52 Lions in attendance at district meeting  
47 Lions certified and 37 voted.

Respectfully submitted CST Lion Dave Holschbach



# A Great Weekend Of Lionism Is On Tap @ District Convention

November seems a long way off, but after ending the 2019-20 Lion year with the cancellation of the Lions State Convention and so many other Lion fundraisers, everyone should be looking forward to meeting their fellow hard-working Lions and Lioness for some much-needed fun and just being together once again.

Watch for more information on seminars and guests in the next edition of the *Wisconsin Lion*. If you've never been to a District Convention this is a great opportunity to meet other Lions who have the same passion to serve and have a great time. If you've never been to the Blue Harbor in Sheboygan this is a great opportunity to see the

fantastic views and stay at a terrific price of \$109 (for an additional \$10 you can have access to the waterpark).

Highlights: Friday night includes, optional fish fry, raffles, terrific band Starfire, hospitality rooms and dress for our Safari theme.

Saturday, opening ceremony with full honor guard flag presentation,

remembrance ceremony and opening remarks. The day continues with seminars, raffles, lunch and finalizes with a banquet with guest speakers and awards.

You don't want to miss this opportunity to enjoy a fantastic Lions' weekend. Many other surprises hope to see you there.

## 2020 27-B1 Convention Registration Form - November 13th & 14th - Blue Harbor Resort, Sheboygan

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Club \_\_\_\_\_

Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Fees	By 10/30
Registration* (Lions, Lioness & Guests)	\$15
Registration (Leos & Newcomers)	\$10
Friday Fish Fry (optional)	\$24
Saturday Lunch	\$20
Saturday Banquet	\$35

**PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT NEATLY.  
CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.**

**NEVER BEEN TO A LIONS CONVENTION?** Be sure to mark 'NEWCOMER' on your registration & plan to participate in the Newcomer Contest. It's great fun and it will help you get the most out of your Convention experience!

Name	Title:	Registration	Fri. Fish Fry	Sat. Lunch	Sat. Banquet	SUBTOTAL
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Lion <input type="checkbox"/> Lioness <input type="checkbox"/> Leo <input type="checkbox"/> Guest <input type="checkbox"/> Newcomer						
Name	Title:	Registration	Fri. Fish Fry	Sat. Lunch	Sat. Banquet	SUBTOTAL
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Lion <input type="checkbox"/> Lioness <input type="checkbox"/> Leo <input type="checkbox"/> Guest <input type="checkbox"/> Newcomer						
Name	Title:	Registration	Fri. Fish Fry	Sat. Lunch	Sat. Banquet	SUBTOTAL
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Lion <input type="checkbox"/> Lioness <input type="checkbox"/> Leo <input type="checkbox"/> Guest <input type="checkbox"/> Newcomer						
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<input type="checkbox"/> Lion <input type="checkbox"/> Lioness <input type="checkbox"/> Leo <input type="checkbox"/> Guest <input type="checkbox"/> Newcomer						

**BY OCTOBER 30TH**  
Send completed registration form & check payable to:  
District 27-B1 Convention  
c/o Ella Stanelle  
147 E. Rees Street, Fond du Lac, WI 54935

**For Hotel Reservations & Info**  
866-701-2583  
Group Name: Lions Club  
\$109 / night  
Cut Off Date: 10/14

<b>Amount Enclosed</b>	\$
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# The Opportunity To Serve

by DG Tom Wendt

Hello 27-B1 Lions. First of all, I hope everyone is healthy, both physically and emotionally. Who would have ever thought we would see such times?

Since this is my first article, I would like to begin with a little information about myself. I have been a Van Dyne Lion for 25 years and have a long background of Lions and Lioness in my family. I am married to my partner in service Lion/Lioness President Roxanne, we have five children and 15 grandchildren. I retired from the City of Fond du Lac Fire Department after 35 years of service. I began as a basic firefighter, then went on to serve as a paramedic, fire lieutenant and finally, Division Chief. I've always believed my career in the fire service promoted and mirrored my passion for the service we do as Lions.

As Division Chief, my main responsibility was fire prevention. After 30 years of fire fighting, I always thought there has to be a better way to serve our community. I knew that no matter how much we trained, how fast we responded or how good our equipment was, there still was loss of property, loss of treasured belongings and unfortunately, lives were lost. The answer I discovered was prevention and most importantly training and informing people on how they can make our communities safer.

One aspect of prevention is fire investigation. If we can determine the fire's cause, we can better determine

how to prevent fires. I was fortunate to receive the National Registry Certification. My most accomplished leadership position was my two years spent as the Wisconsin Fire Inspectors Association President, again working with dedicated individuals working for a common cause.

Doesn't this seem a little familiar with how we, as Lions, serve our communities? Don't we, as Lions, train our officers and members to assist our communities in whatever is needed?

As a longtime Lion, I had always hoped that when I retired, I would have the opportunity to step up to the next level. Stepping up to serve as your District Governor is truly the most rewarding decision I have ever made. I have met some of the most remarkable individuals in the last few years, individuals I am really excited about and look forward to working with.

I'm sure we all agree, things will never be the same normal we all enjoyed. Hopefully, we all learned to appreciate the many small things we took for granted. I know I have. I believe this pandemic will make all of us better Lions. We will have so many opportunities to serve. We have learned how to do things differently and we have succeeded in staying strong and continuing our motto, 'Where There's A Need, There's A Lion'.

Until next time, stay healthy and always remember those new members: Just Ask!



**WILD ROSE LIONS TEAM TO DISTRIBUTE FOOD** - Lions and Kiwanians gathered in the Wild Rose Lions parking lot to distribute food boxes every Friday in June.



**ST NAZIANZ LION POSTS SIGNS OF HOPE** - PDG Jerry Post posted safe @ hope signs at the St Nazianz Fire Department.



**PLYMOUTH LIONS DONATE FACE SHIELDS** - The Club donated plastic disposable face shields to help protect those that are arguably the most vulnerable to the coronavirus, senior citizens. The face shields were dropped off at Rocky Knoll Health Care Center, Generations, Intergenerational Center, The Waterford at Plymouth, and Kindred Hearts Senior Living. Stay safe everyone! #LionsServe

**CORRECTION:** DG Tom Wendt's name was inadvertently misspelled in the article titled '2020 MD27 Election Results & Council of Governors' on page 4 of the June Wisconsin Lion.

## 2020-21 Cabinet Meetings

August 9th

Van Dyne Lions Park

November 14th

Blue Harbor, Sheboygan (*Convention*)

January 3rd

Van Dyne Lions Park

March 7

Van Dyne Lions Park



# New Convention, New Rules

by *Convention Chairs PDG's Meg & Jerry Post - 920-773-2618 or [mpost7@tds.net](mailto:mpost7@tds.net)*

The COVID-19 crisis may have slowed things down, but it has not put an end to the 27-B1 Convention. DG Tom and Lion/Lioness Roxanne Wendt, along with the Convention Committee have used e-mails and phone calls to create the safest, fun-filled Convention that is possible.

The Committee has been working with the Blue Harbor Resort to ensure all government safety guidelines will be followed. Face masks will be available for everyone, extra hand sanitizer stations and plenty of room space for all guests.

There are two easy ways to make your reservations. You can contact Blue Harbor directly by calling 1-866-701-2583, mention Lions Club or you can reserve your room on-line by going to [www.blueharborresort.com](http://www.blueharborresort.com). Click Book Now and follow the prompts. Enter 7B21KG in the Show Group Booking box. Room rate is \$109 per night. An additional \$9.95 will get you waterpark passes. Cutoff date for this price is October 14th.

Friday night will be fun and entertaining. Wendt's theme this year is 'Lions Lead the Fight' and Friday night's hospitality will be safari themed. Come dressed in your favorite safari costume and enjoy the music of Starfire. Enjoy the music, stop in the bucket raffle room and of course the camaraderie with your fellow Lions and Lioness.

Saturday morning opening ceremony will include flag presentation with full honor guard presentation to honor our Veterans and all flags representing Lions/Lioness. The Service to

Remember will include live bagpipe music this year. Saturday morning will also have a power hour with speakers from WLF, Pride, Eye Bank, Restoring Hope Transplant House and LCIF.

Tentative afternoon seminars will include; Ashley Klaes, from the Van Dyne area and her Future Leader Dog, Laney will share her experiences as a puppy raiser. PDG Fred Gebhart will give us an update on the Wisconsin Lions Mission Trips to South Dakota Indian Reservation. The third seminar will be a Fire Intervention Specialist speaking on fire prevention.

Please remember the weekend agenda and the seminar presenters could change depending on COVID-19 activity.

The Wendt's are excited to announce that the USA team from Julie's touch of Silver will perform a Tarzan number at the banquet. They will be going to the Netherlands in August to compete for World competition and there granddaughter Kiana who is Miss Wisconsin Central Outstanding Teen will be performing with them.

The International Director (ID) guest for the weekend will be ID Mike Banks and his lovely partner in service, Lion Anne, from Stillwater, Oklahoma. He is a second-year Director who will update us on Lion activities throughout the world. When you meet him please give him a warm 27-B1 welcome.

Zone chairs will be distributing Club Convention packets soon. District Raffle Tickets will be included in this packet. All Clubs are asked to donate a raffle prize, \$25 value, for the Bucket Raffle.

The Wendt's have many more surprises for Convention attendees. Hope to see you there.

## Tentative Convention Agenda

### Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>

- 4 - 7 pm Registration / Bucket Raffle / Displays & Vendors
- 5 - 6 pm Certification
- 6 - 7 pm Cabinet Meeting
- 7 - 10 pm Hospitality - Band; Star Fire (Hospitality Rooms Open At 9 pm)

### Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>

- 8 - 11 am Registration
- 7:45 - 8:30 am Certification
- 8:30 - 8:45 am Call To Order
- Presentation of Flags / Veterans Recognition
- Convention Welcome - Sheboygan Fire Chief
- Service of Remembrance
- 8:45 - 9:45 am Lioness Breakout Session
- 8:45 - 8:50 am State of the State Report
- 8:50 - 9:15 am Introduction of ID / ID Mike Banks Message
- 9:15 - 9:45 am Break/Strides Walk/Certification
- 9:45 - 10:25 am Nominations for DG, 1<sup>st</sup> VDG, 2<sup>nd</sup> VDG, Convention Sites
- 10:25 - 11:15 am WLF, Lions Pride, Eye Bank, Restoring Hope Transplant House, LCIF
- 11:15 - 11:30 am Certification
- 11:30 am - 1:30 pm Luncheon - *meal ticket required* - Keynote Address / Awards / District Bank Auction / Parade of Checks
- 1:30 - 1:40 pm Break/Certification
- 1:45 - 2:15 pm Seminar 1 - Leader Dog
- 2:15 pm Bucket Raffle Closes
- 2:25 - 2:55 pm Seminar 2 - Wisconsin Mission to South Dakota
- 3:05 - 3:35 pm Seminar 3 - Fire Intervention Specialist

VOTING WILL COMMENCE 15 MINUTES AFTER LAST SEMINAR

- 4 - 4:30 pm Voting
- 4:30 - 5:30 pm Governor's Reception
- 5:30 pm Governor's Banquet - Voting Results / District Raffle Drawing

**Visit the District Convention Website for all the latest news & to download a registration form <https://lionsof27b1.wixsite.com/website/convention>**



**ENDEAVOR LIONS 65TH ANNUAL BROILER FESTIVAL** - While 20/20 is known for vision, the year 2020 will be known for the year of seeing things differently. This is no different for the Endeavor Lions and their Annual Broiler Festival. This year, there were no softball tournaments or tractor pulls, but the traditional 'World Famous Chicken BBQ' was a success! The Endeavor Lions sold 800 drive thru chicken BBQ dinners. Cars were lined up early, and served to-go meals by Lions and volunteers. Proceeds from the Broiler Festival help to fund annual scholarships for High School seniors.



**MARKESAN LIONS CHICKEN BBQ GOES ON** - The City of Markesan closed down most of what was June Dairy Days weekend, but the Markesan Lions went ahead with a thoughtful Chicken BBQ on Sunday, June 14th at Soldiers and Sailors Park. Because of COVID-19, the Lions did a curbside pickup, practiced social distancing and wore gloves and masks to protect their

customers. The Lions sold 251 chicken dinners in 83 minutes. DG Tom Wendt and his lovely bride Roxanne stopped by to enjoy a meal. Cars were backed up two blocks.



**PLYMOUTH LIONS TAKE ATTENDEE TEMPERATURES** - The Plymouth Lions Club volunteered at Gate 4 at Road America July 11th-12th for the NTT IndyCar Series races. The Lions helped by taking patrons' temperatures and distributing complimentary hand sanitizer and face masks to provide a safer fan experience.



**GREAT JOB ELDORADO LIONS** on making a fundraiser possible and keeping everyone safe. The Lions sold out of all their chicken dinners with drive through and delivery.

# Why Are We Lions?

by DG Tom Wendt

Well, it's official! Myself and fellow 2020-2021 Council are now District Governors. What's the difference? More phone calls, more emails and more Lion activities, club visits and more training. I love it! This is what I've been waiting for.

With our first Council of Governor's Meeting in the books, I feel it was very productive and a huge thank you to Council Chair Geri Schlender, Immediate Past International Director Connie LeCleur-Meyer, all the Past International Directors, Past District Governors, Wisconsin Lions State Office Manager, Amber Young, and all in attendance for making our Council feel special and official.

Two top priorities that will be high on my list to accomplish this coming year is membership and training.

### Membership

Not only recruiting new members but retaining members, those members who keep paying dues but don't attend meetings or projects.

Getting members to become more active is easy, give them what they want. Make the meetings fun, productive, make them want to attend, give them responsibility and they'll be looking forward to our next meeting.

Although we are all Lions for different reasons, I think there is several common denominators. The desire to serve our communities, near and far, the camaraderie and belonging to the world's largest service club.

Getting new members is even easier. Just Ask! How many times have we asked someone to become a Lion only to hear them say, 'No one ever asked me. What are Lions all about?'

Be more visible. Every chance you

get talk about your club, your district and what Lions do worldwide. Whether you are at church, shopping, out for dinner or at your child/grandchild's sporting event, remember to wear your Lions apparel.

### Training

Training begins with speaking to that perspective member about what we do. Then, when that new member joins, the training really begins. Don't take for granted your new member knows everything about Lions and what we do. Orientation is the key to retaining that new member and making them feel involved and wanting to become leaders.

As we become leaders at whatever capacity our training escalates, whether on-line or in person the availability is endless. MyLCI/MyLion is our greatest resource. Information about any topic is available. Our District MyLion Coordinator, Lion Rose Berendes, is always willing to answer questions. We are hoping to do in-person training in the upcoming year, especially for club officers, watch for more information.

In closing, please check out the information about our upcoming Convention. All plans are continuing. The facility is huge and will allow for a safe and worry-free environment. We continue to expand our plans for speakers, entertainment, hospitality and training. If you've attended Conventions for years, or are a first timer, there will be something for everyone.

Until next time, let's make being a Lion/Lioness fun and rewarding. Always remember those new members, 'Just Ask'.

So proud to be a Lion/Lioness.

## contact DG Tom Wendt ASAP to schedule your official District Governor visit



# Convention Time Is Here

## Tentative Convention Agenda



**GET READY FOR THE SHOW** - The Wendt's are excited to announce that the USA team from Julie's Touch of Silver will perform a Tarzan number at the Banquet. They will be going to the Netherlands in August to compete for World competition and their granddaughter Kiana, who is Miss Wisconsin Central Outstanding Teen, will be performing with them.

Visit the District Convention Website for all the latest news <https://lionsof27b1.wixsite.com/website/convention>

## International Director Banks

Michael D. Banks, from Stillwater, Oklahoma was elected to serve as International Director at the Association's



102nd International Convention, held in Milan, Italy, July 5 through July 9, 2019.

Director Banks has 43 years of experience in the accounting and real estate industries. He is currently president and CEO of Banks & Banks, CPA, PC and managing member of Banks Properties.

He became a Lion in 1990 as a member of the Stillwater Noon Lions Club. Director Banks has held a number of offices within the Association including numerous terms as Multiple District Council Treasurer. He has also served on the State Finance

& Audit Committee and Constitution and By-Laws Committee, as well as part of the Lions Senior Leadership Institute and USA/Canada Forum.

In recognition of his service, he has received a number of recognitions including two International President's Certificates of Appreciation and an International President's Award. Director Banks is also a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow.

In addition to his Lions activities, Director Banks has served his community as treasurer of the Will Rogers Elementary School PTA; treasurer of Community Aids Network; member of the Payne County Sales Tax Oversight Board; and member of the Stillwater Chamber of Commerce.

Director Banks and Lion Anne Matoy-Banks, also a Melvin Jones Fellow, have been married 27 years and have a blended family of seven children and 10 grandchildren.

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- 9 - 9:05 am State of the State Report
- 9:05 - 9:20 am Introduction of ID / ID Mike Banks Message
- 9:20 - 9:30 am Break/Certification
- 9:30 - 9:45 am Strides Walk/LCIF Marshfield Grant
- 9:45 - 10:25 am Nominations for DG, 1<sup>st</sup> VDG, 2<sup>nd</sup> VDG, Convention Sites
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- VOTING WILL COMMENCE 15 MINUTES AFTER LAST SEMINAR
- 4 - 4:30 pm Voting
- 4:30 - 5:30 pm Governor's Reception
- 5:30 pm Governor's Banquet - Voting Results / District Raffle Drawing



# Coping With Coronavirus

by DG Tom Wendt

So excited to see things get a little back to normal... although I'm sure we will never be back to normal as things will always be affected by this pandemic. My close to normal has been my increase in requests for club meeting visits, zone meetings and club fundraisers. It's been so great to see everyone so anxious to do what Lions love to do, serve.

One of my recent club requests; I accepted and asked, as I always do, if there was anything special, they had scheduled or anything special they would like me to speak about. The club secretary answered back, nothing special, no new members, no awards, just maybe some ideas or suggestions on how Lions are dealing with the virus, how are they holding meetings, how can they do fundraisers and service projects? The request made me think a little and as I thought about a recent zone meeting, a couple club visits and a couple fundraisers I've attended. I thought how creative Lions can be when we need to derive new ideas with a little change.

First off club meetings; much different opinions as is with the pandemic itself. Some are very cautious to the point they don't leave home, some are willing to attend meetings with masks and social distancing and some seem oblivious to any concerns. Although we have all used virtual meetings, zoom meetings

or no meetings at all, still nothing replaces an in-person meeting, the camaraderie, the smiling faces and those comments and ideas after the meeting adjourns.

Fundraisers; nothing compares to the camaraderie, feeling of accomplishment and knowing someone is going to benefit from our efforts. Some types of fundraisers I have seen during the pandemic are, drive thru chicken dinners, pig roast, brat fries, ticket raffles, calendar raffles and other efforts that do not include large crowds. Although we all miss our parades, picnics, pancake breakfasts, pizza sales, live music, etc. we still can enjoy working together to do what we do best, serve.

Service projects; lots of great ideas to serve our communities. Some I've heard about and participated in include roadside cleanup, home checks and visits to elderly or home bound including meals or food, lawn care for elderly, scholarships, distributing masks and PPE to those who are there for us and so many more great ways to serve our community and still be safe.

In closing, please check all the information on our upcoming Convention which is coming up faster than we think. Lots and lots of great seminars, entertainment, opening ceremony, great views, great food and a chance for all to be together as Lions and Lioness. Hope to see you all there! Thanks for all you do!

Send your January/February club news, upcoming events & photos of Lions in action to [mpost7@tds.net](mailto:mpost7@tds.net) by December 1st



**VALDERS BEAUTIFIES PARK** - As with most clubs, the Valders Lions are a mixed age group with more of the senior age. One of the projects they took on was the new look coming into Valders. For years, there was a U.S. flag with cedar trees behind. With help from the Village, the Lions paid for the seven flags with the US flag in the center and all the branches of the military equally divided on both sides. All worked on the large V with the flowers in the center. As the Club Board was looking at the display during a meeting in the park, one Lion was heard to say that the Club should change the Valders Lions moto from 'We Serve' to 'We Get A Lot Done For A Bunch Of Old People'.



**WILD ROSE LEARNS ABOUT COVID-19** - Dr. Zachary Baeseman, ThedaCare Physicians, Wild Rose, spoke at the Wild Rose Lions Club, monthly meeting held September 8, 2020. Dr. Baeseman spoke on how COVID-19 is present in our county and communities. Dr. Baeseman talked

about the medical community response to COVID-19 and how it is impacting the ThedaCare affiliates. He also spoke about prevention, best practices for safety and the potential consequences of not following the guidelines. An open forum of questions followed. Many of the questions focused on masks, when and how to wear them and how to take care of them. Testing, how are the tests prioritized and what is the accuracy. What about quarantine how long and why, what activities are high risk and what can people do to further safeguard their health. The Wild Rose Lions Club would like to thank Dr. Baeseman and the ThedaCare Physicians Clinic for taking the time to educate us on the current status of COVID-19 and how it has and will continue to impact our daily lives and the decisions we make regarding our club as we go forward. This was an excellent presentation and the Wild Rose Lions would encourage other service groups and clubs to take advantage of this opportunity.



# Lions Lead the Fight @ The 45th 27-B1 Convention

by PDG's Meg and Jerry Post, Convention Chairs.

District 27-B1's 45th Convention is in the books. Most District Governors have never had as many challenges as District Governor Tom Wendt and his partner in service, Lion Roxanne, have faced this year.

Convention planning started like all others and then the COVID-19 virus tried it's best to throw a wrench into the gear box. With COVID-19 on one end and a huge convention cancellation fee on the other, DG Wendt and the Convention Committee were put between the proverbial 'rock and a hard place. The decision was made to move forward with the Convention for

the Lions and Lioness of the District who felt comfortable attending.

Through it all, DG Wendt's goal was to give the District the best convention possible. The Friday evening hospitality entertainment was provided by the family band Starfire. The theme for the evening was Jungle/Safari. Lions and tigers were seen dancing to the toe-tapping music along with many other jungle animals present.

Saturday's business session opened with Sheboygan Fire Department Honor Guard presenting the flags with Jason Roberts playing bagpipes. The Service of Remembrance honored deceased Lions and Lioness concluding with Roberts on bagpipes. It was a very solemn and beautiful

ceremony.

International Director Michael Banks, from Stillwater Oklahoma, gave his virtual keynote address at the noon luncheon. A huge thank you goes out to PID Art Marson and Lion Jo Marson for stepping in and assisting DG Wendt to present several awards.

The afternoon provided three great seminars; Fire Intervention by Jason Roberts, Wisconsin Lions Mission to South Dakota by PDG Fred Gebhart, and Ashley Klaes with Future Leader Dog Laney.

Julies Touch of Silver dancers opened the evening banquet with outstanding entertainment that anyone in attendance will never forget. It was just amazing that no lights were

broken during their twirling. The girls were thanked with a standing ovation after the last song.

Blue Harbor staff worked very hard with the Convention Committee to make sure all COVID-19 guidelines were followed. More tables were provided, along with hand sanitizer at all tables. Everyone was very vigilant with wearing their masks. The staff was always available throughout the day to make necessary changes to ensure everyone was comfortable and safe.

Hopefully next year COVID-19 will be in hibernation and more Lions will be able to enjoy the Blue Harbor Resort at the 46th District Convention. Hope to see everyone there.



**PICKETT LIONS CELEBRATE THEIR BLESSINGS**

Plans were all set before the virus shut-downs in spring, and the Club was able to move ahead and hold their biggest annual fundraiser, the Lions Summer Ride, in late August. It was completely outdoors with some modifications and was well attended.

Members were also able to sell food at community events, such as the Demolition Derby, and auctions throughout the fall. We will be staffing the Country Breakfast at the Pickett Community Center in early December.

In addition to their usual activities, an eight-member team donated a day of labor to the Oshkosh Celebration of Lights to help with the construction of this year's holiday lights show.

The Club has also welcomed three new members in the last few months, and is very thankful for their eagerness to lend a hand.

ABOVE: Pickett Lions Norm Reichenberger, Ken Rivers, Pati Theabow, and Mike Hintz assisted with set up of the Oshkosh Celebration of Lights display in mid-November.



**SHEBOYGAN FALLS INVESTS IN LOCAL PARK**

The Lions donated \$50,000 to the city of Sheboygan Falls to renovate the large shelter building at River Park in Sheboygan Falls. The electricity will also be updated to meet the demands for the Club's Oktoberfest event, which is held at this park. ABOVE: Lions Al Mayer, Jerry Benzschawel, Tim Lillesand, President Jeff Romanoski, Scott Neerhof, Park Board president Chuck Otte, and Mayor Randy Meyer.



**LARSEN-WINCHESTER LIONS LATEST ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN PROJECT**

The Lions prepared 25 hospital beds for shipment and then loaded and delivered 25 bed frames, 25 headboards, 25 footboards, 27 mattresses and 20 bed rails. This equipment is destined for a new clinic/hospital in Ukraine. In 2020, Larsen-Winchester Lions club delivered four trailers full of new and used medical equipment and supplies totaling \$144,500. The Lions provide the supplies and equipment from their medical equipment loan locker.



**WILD ROSE LIONS RECENT ACTIVITIES**

TOP: Lions Pat Karasek and Laura Scheifelbein with baby food items to be donated to the Waushara County Food Pantry. BOTTOM: Scout leader Amanda and members of Pack 3650, gave a presentation at the Lions October meeting. The Wild Rose Lions support the Scouts and their meetings are held in the Lion's building.

**New Year: New Opportunities**

by DG Tom Wendt

Impossible to believe we are half way through our Lion's year, and half way through my year as District Governor.

First off, I need to thank everyone who helped with our 27-B1 Convention, beginning with ID Michael Banks who did a great job virtually inspiring us all. PID Art and Jo Marson for stepping in as our International leaders; fantastic Co-Convention Chairs PDG Jerry and PDG Meg, all our Cabinet Members, Convention Committee. Special thanks to our home club, the Van Dyne Lions and Lioness. Lastly, I would like to thank my Partner in Service, Lion/Lioness Roxanne, for your hours and hours of preparation and all your support. You definitely made our endeavor a success.

I also would like to thank all my fellow 2020-2021 Governors and CC Geri Schlender, those who were able to attend and those that couldn't but supported us from home. Along with our DG duties, one common and unfortunate issue we have all shared has been our decision pertaining to our Convention. We truly found this to be one of the most difficult decisions we had to make thus far. The constant pro and con e-mails and phone calls pertaining to whether to cancel or continue were both constructive and appreciated, but at times frustrating. The decision to continue with our main goal to keep everyone safe and healthy was always our priority. Fortunately, the size of our venue, the assurance for social distancing, mask requirement and all other precautions all factored in.

In retrospect, I think the 45th Annual 27-B1 Convention was a success. So

many personal and meaningful events, from the fun filled Friday night live band entertainment (thanks PDG Marv and Lion Diane Henke). An opening ceremony including a full honor guard flag presentation, a remembrance ceremony including so many great Lions and Lioness, including my own mother and so many great friends.

For Lion Roxanne and myself we are so blessed by the support from all our immediate family and are so proud of their involvement in our endeavor. Special thanks to granddaughter Brea for our booklet cover and granddaughter Kiana for her participation in our fantastic banquet entertainment by Julie's Touch of Silver Dance and Twirl Team.

Well, with our Convention in the rear-view mirror, we are so looking forward to the second half of our Governor year... we will continue with our club visits, zone meetings, service projects and fundraisers. We truly hope and look forward to possible other District Conventions and our State Convention for an opportunity to spend time together.

On a positive note, I see so many incredible new ideas and so many new ways Lions are continuing to do what we do, serve. I see a positive growth in membership, donations locally, state wide and internationally continue even without fundraisers. Somehow, Lions find a way. Example, Van Dyne Lioness donating almost \$40,000 to the Lions Camp to purchase our prestigious 27-B1 Bank. Thank you all.

In closing, we hope everyone had a safe and blessed holiday and wishing everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

Thanks for all you do!

**Invite Leader Dog to Your Meeting**

Contact Lion Kathleen Breen at KBreen@Leaderdog.org or 248-218-6407 for more information & to schedule



**CORNEA TRANSPLANT RECIPIENT & FAMILY DONATE TO CLEVELAND LIONS**

Allen Kracht, a resident of Newton, Wisconsin was diagnosed with an eye disease in late 2018. Doctors told him that he would need a cornea transplant in both eyes. In the fall of 2019, Kracht underwent three separate surgeries. The first surgery on one eye was not successful and Allen underwent a second surgery the following week. The third surgery on his other eye was done a month later. He was amazed at how well the surgeries worked and is grateful to have his vision restored.

One eye is at 20/20 and the other is 20/40.

Kracht had heard of Lions involvement in transporting eye tissue from Cleveland Lion, Hank Schwinn (now deceased) and Charlie Kolb. Kracht and his wife, Bonnie, were so impressed with what the Lions do for eye transplants/transporting that they made a personal donation of \$5,000 to the Cleveland Lions Club.

While presenting this generous donation Kracht and his wife learned about how Lions of Wisconsin do the transporting of the tissue and how the Cleveland Lions Club handles the local transporting; they also learned about other activities that Lions are involved in, including eyeglass recovery, deer hide program, Lions Camp, Leader Dogs for the Blind, etc.

The Club plans on using the money to buy two reading machines (at a great price with the help of the Plymouth Lions Club), and will also be making donations to other vision programs such as Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin and Leader Dogs for the Blind.



**HUSKY HANDS & HEART LEO CLUB CELEBRATES 4TH SUCCESSFUL TOY COLLECTION**

The Leos collected 233 toys at the schools and local businesses in New Holstein. The toys were delivered to Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin in Milwaukee after the holidays. ABOVE: Leo President Abby Voss and Past President Annika Damkot.



**VAN DYNE LIONS & LIONESSE TEAM FOR POLAR EXPRESS**

Snow, high winds and COVID-19 didn’t keep the Van Dyne Lions and Lioness from having a drive through Polar Express. theme to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus Plenty of masks, layers of cloths and that Lion/Lioness drive to serve allowed for a successful event.



**SHEBOYGAN NOON LIONS SELLS OUT DURING CHEESE FUNDRAISERS**

The Lion assembly line worked well and they sold out!

Send your club news, upcoming events & photos of Lions in action to mpost7@tds.net



**WILD ROSE LIONS ANNUAL GIFT GIVING FOR THE SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN**

This is an annual gift giving we do every year. The Lions normally make lunch and malts for them at the Lions Club House, but due to the COVID-19 that wasn’t possible this year, and Santa was not able to pass out the gifts this year either.



**LARSEN WINCHESTER LIONS CLUB PLASTIC RECYCLING PROGRAM PAYS OFF**

The Lions collected plastic over the past year and then turned in over 500 pounds which made them eligible to receive an incentive award through Trex Company recycling program. After turning in the plastic, the Club followed the directions on the Trex website (trex.com/recycling) to apply for a bench. Their bench will be donated to the Town of Clayton Trailhead Park Playground which the Lions built and donated in 2000. “We hope to continue this recycling program and provide more benches to the local community,” said Club Recycle Co-Chair Barry Christianson. The Club has a collection container outside its warehouse located two buildings behind the Clayton Town Hall and Fire

Department in Larsen. The program includes all clean soft plastic such as bread bags, grocery bags, garbage bags etc. but does not include hard plastic such as milk jugs or plastic water bottles. This Lions recycling project is another excellent example of the Lions motto, ‘We Serve’.



**PLYMOUTH LIONS RECENTLY DELIVERED 500+ DEER HIDES TO WISCONSIN LIONS CAMP**

This is nearly 100 more hides than the previous year. All proceeds generated by the hides and tails go straight to the Camp in Rosholt. The Plymouth Lions invested over 80 work hours to painstakingly prepare each hide by hand prior to the delivery to Camp. This included thawing frozen hides, salting the hides to preserve them, stacking and storing the hides, and transporting the hides to Camp.



## Larsen-Winchester Lions 2020

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, 2020 was a very busy year for the Larsen-Winchester Lions. According to Club information manager, Lion Gerry Arens, the Club provided services, equipment, and cash donations totaling \$1.3 million, a \$128,000 increase from 2019. The Club focused on two main service projects greatly needed during the pandemic, in addition to numerous smaller projects.

One of the Club's signature service activities was constructing handicap ramps. The Club built 67 handicap ramps in 2020 according to Ramp Chairman, Lion Bruce Stowe. The dedicated ramp team also removed another 46 ramps that were no longer needed, reusing some of the materials. The cost savings to customers for ramp installation and removal exceeded \$500,000 in savings to the families who would have otherwise either hired a costly contracted ramp installation but more likely the family would have done without a needed ramp.

The other signature activity the Club provided to the community was the loan of needed medical equipment and supplies from the Lions warehouse in Larsen. The Club loaned 3,100 pieces of equipment free of charge to 1,615 customers saving \$428K over the cost of them having to buy or rent the items at their own expense. The Medical Equipment Loan Locker was shut down for six weeks due to the pandemic. The resulting impact caused by the virus resulted in a decrease of 23% of

both customers served and equipment loaned, according to Loan Locker Chairman, Lion Gerry Arens. Here is a summary of some of the equipment loaned out: 494 wheelchairs, 487 shower chairs and bath benches, 286 4 - wheel walkers, 71 hospital beds, 76 lift chairs, and over 1,700 other pieces of equipment, including, commodes, two - wheel walkers, canes, grab bars and toilet assist items.

The Club also donated over \$37,222 to 35 different organizations. Locally, the Lions wrote checks to two food pantries, two American Legion Auxiliaries for Badger State Girls, a school Trap team, American Legion youth programs, local youth softball, local Historical Society, 3 local Fire Rescue Departments, a Boy Scout Council, an ATV/UTV club signage project and \$6,000 in scholarships to two school districts.

Finally, club members together volunteered over 4,600 hours of community service. "We are proud of the support the surrounding community gives us", said club president, Bruce Stowe, "and we are very honored to be a service club that for the fifth year in a row was able to provide over one million dollars in cash and services back to the community."

Anyone interested in being part of this wonderful service organization or just want to volunteer building ramps or handing out medical equipment to the public can contact the Larsen - Winchester Lions at 920 - 427 - 3244. Where there's a need, there's a Lion!

## New Year: New Opportunities

by DG Tom Wendt

As we continue on our second half of our Governor's year and with our January COG Meeting completed, we can't help but wonder what might have been, what memories we would have made and accomplishments and goals we wanted to complete. But in retrospect, I look at what we did accomplish and how we did make a difference in our communities, our State and Internationally. Our accomplishments are not always measured financially, but more importantly, how we served individuals in need.

Although our District Governor Club visits have been compromised by the pandemic, I fortunately have had some opportunity to visit or communicate with many of my District Clubs and there always is one common denominator; the desire to serve and the desire to fill the need. I have witnessed so many new ideas for fundraising, membership initiatives and service projects.

Membership: Even with the lack of or abbreviated number of face to face meetings, and with the cancellation of so many fundraisers and Lion projects, our District membership has grown. My personal perspective is people are looking for opportunities to connect with other individuals with the same drive and camaraderie Lions have always exhibited. Now more than ever, 'Just Ask'.

On a personal note, and can't help but brag note, I received a phone call last week from PID Jerome Thompson to congratulate my home club, Van Dyne Lions on being fourth in North America on acquiring new members, 'Just Ask'!

Fundraising: There are so many creative ideas by so many Lions and Lioness clubs. From drive thru chicken dinners, breakfasts, holiday light shows and Santa visits to calendar raffles, Lions continue to prove if there is a way, we will make it happen.

Lion Projects: Again, Lions have continued to proceed with so many projects; childhood cancer grant, collecting glasses, vision screening, shut in visitation (with poinsettias at Christmas), deer hide collection and the list goes on and on.

So, keep those ideas coming, if you have had an idea for a fundraiser project now is the time to bring it forward to your club, zone or district, I know I am always looking for input.

Lastly, I would like to discuss training, something we have an increasing need for in our District. An item I have promised to provide for our club and zone officers. My request from all members: Instructors, dates, venues and most importantly speak to your clubs, promote the need and the knowledge so many officers have been requesting. If you are a qualified instructor, I would like to hear from you. If you have an idea as to what would entice officers to attend, I would like to hear from you. With the new Lion year approaching and new officers will be taking on new roles, I would like to see training scheduled prior to their new positions.

In closing, as things improve with the pandemic, my request from all 27-B1 Clubs, please save us a date to visit your club meeting, zone meeting, fundraiser or service project, I look forward to spending time with all of our Lions and Lioness.

Thanks for all you do.

## Invite Leader Dog to Your Meeting

Contact Lion Kathleen Breen at  
KBreen@Leaderdog.org or 248-218-6407  
for more information & to schedule



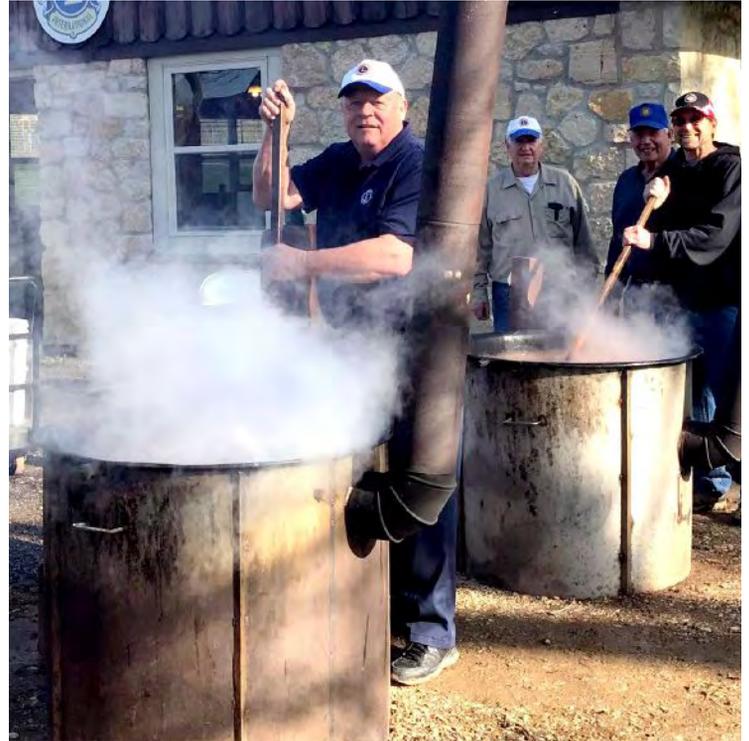
**WILD ROSE LIONS RECOGNIZED**

- District Governor Tom Wendt presented awards to a number of deserving Lions including 15 year Chevrons to Nancy Chavez and Beverly Butzlaff who also received a Key Award. TOP: DG Wendt presents Sandy Dickson with Diamond and Gold Centennial pins. MIDDLE: DG Wendt presents a 35 year Chevron and a Key Awards to Jack Dickson. BOTTOM: Charlie Bell receives a 30 year Chevron Pin from DG Wendt.



**PLYMOUTH LIONS CELEBRATE ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL BLOOD DRIVE**

- The Lions, in partnership with Versiti and the Blood Center of Wisconsin, collected a total of 87 units and helped save up to 261 patients in need! Despite Spring Break, they were able to surpass January's collection. The May blood drive will be held 5/24 and 5/26 from 11:30 am-5:30 pm. Complete details at: <https://plymouthlionsclub.org/blood-drives/>



**WAY-MORR LION DRIVE-THRU BOOYAH SALE** - Sunday, May 2nd from 10 am until it's gone. Drive-thru Booyah sale along with burgers & brats at the Brown County WayMorr Park, 3832 Park Road, Greenleaf. Only \$3 per bowl, burger or brat. Bring your own containers for booyah. Also collecting eyeglasses, eye cases, hearing aides, empty clean label free prescription pill bottles along with food items for our two local food pantries (Morrison & Wayside).

**St. Nazianz Lions Bicycle Tour 2021**

**June 26, 2021**

Tour starts at Oschwald Park in St. Nazianz on Hwy C

16 & 30 mile routes will start at 9 am

5 & 10 mile routes will start at 10 am

Social distancing will be observed as a precaution for everyone's safety. Riders under 16 must be accompanied by a responsible adult over 21.

Registration Fees (includes t-shirt(s):

- 5 Mile: Individual - \$20 Family\*/Couple - \$35
- 10 Mile: Individual - \$25 Family\*/Couple - \$40
- 16 Mile: Individual - \$35 Family\*/Couple - \$50
- 30 Mile: Individual - \$35 Family\*/Couple - \$50

*\*Family in same household*

The St. Nazianz Bicycle Tour shirts are free to all levels of participants. No guaranteed sizes after June 15 registrations.

Please contact route coordinator, Steve Noworatzky, 920-684-4025 or [snovoratzky49@gmail.com](mailto:snovoratzky49@gmail.com) for any concerns or to register.



# But It's Just A Ramp! Celebrating Triumph Over Adversity

by Lion Pete Christianson

True, it looks like a ramp to most people, but to a handicapped person, it becomes a chance to get into life again. I spent about an hour with a wheelchair bound person several years ago while the Larsen-Winchester Lions were building a ramp for her. She cried the whole time. For her, the ramp was so much more than getting back into life; it meant that she didn't have to have her brother and a neighbor over to help her get herself and her wheelchair into the car. It meant that she didn't have to worry about them hurting their backs or falling while they helped her or that she might be asking for help too often. And it meant a savings of about \$10,000 that she could not afford to otherwise have a contractor install a ramp for her.

Now, if you can, multiply that woman's joy times 60 or 70, because that is how many ramps the Larsen-

Winchester Lions built in 2020, you can begin to understand the impact ramp building has in the community.

The Larsen-Winchester Lions have been building wheelchair ramps for the handicapped since March 1989 with 1,152 ramps built to date. That is 1.152 smiles and many more, tears of joy by those people we have served.

The Club has also helped other area clubs build ramps, including Grand Chute Lions and Sherwood Lions. The Larsen-Winchester Ramp Program Manager, Lion Bruce Stowe is willing to teach any Club how to build a wheelchair ramp using a standardized, repeatable ramp building process that saves time and money.

Clubs that care to learn how to construct handicap ramps in their area can contact Lion Bruce at [brucestowe@new.rr.com](mailto:brucestowe@new.rr.com) or call the Club ramp number at 920-427-3236.

## District Governor-Elect Blahnik

District Governor-Elect (DG-E) BJ Blahnik is originally from Seymour, Wisconsin. He is the youngest of five children and was raised around farming.



Blahnik married his wife, Victoria, in 2010 and they live in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. The Blahniks have three children, Emmitt, Trevor and Harvey. Outside spending time with his family, Blahnik enjoys camping, wood working and is a member of the USA Blind Sailing Team.

Blahnik has been a Lion since 2006, when he discovered the power of 'We Serve' through Lionism. Since that point in his life, he has been involved in his community helping try to make a difference. He started as a member of the Ashwaubenon Lions Club then transferred to the Sheboygan Noon Lions Club. For a short period, he started the Sheboygan Community

Lions Club. Unfortunately, that Club folded, and Blahnik transferred to the Town of Sheboygan Lions Club.

After being Zone Chair for two years, Blahnik was elected for 2nd Vice District Governor and is now currently the 1st Vice District Governor. At the 2020 27-B1 District Convention, he was elected 27-B1 District Governor for the 2021-2022 Lionistic year.

The Blahniks own their own business, Reach Forward, which works with special needs individuals through day services and a residential program. He is also an inspirational speaker, helping individuals, schools and organizations adapt to change through teamwork by creating a positive mindset.

Blahnik's theme is teamwork, because like Helen Keller once said, "Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much."

Please join DG-E Blahnik helping make a difference for those who surround us and for those who we will never meet.

by DG Tom Wendt

As I reminisce on the last year, I can't help but wonder what things would have been like... what things we might have done and how many fellow Lions we would have met and shared our desire for what Lions do.

Rather than focus on what could have been, we all need to dwell on what we did do. What Lions/Lioness we did spend time with? Most importantly, the accomplishments we did accomplish even in difficult times.

As Lions/Lioness we all belong for different reasons. Some enjoy the fellowship, some enjoy helping others. No matter why you joined, we have one common thread that ties us all together, belonging to the largest service club organization in the world.

Although we didn't get to see Singapore, vote for a new International President or spend time with Lions from across the globe, we did certainly meet so many Lions and Lioness. So many wonderful dedicated individuals. So many with the same enthusiasm we all share and the same motto, 'Where There's a Need, There's a Lion'.

As we look back, I consider our year as a huge success.

Beginning with our Convention, although it was definitely a time of uncertainty and concern, we managed to accomplish a great Convention and more importantly showed me what support I could expect from everyone. A huge thank you to my home club, the Van Dyne Lions and Lioness, our Convention Committee, my Cabinet members, and my fellow Governors. A special thank you to PDG Jerry and PDG Meg Post. We couldn't have done it without you. An extra special thank you to my partner-in-service, secretary and pin salesman, Roxanne.

As our year continues, I see more and more success, I see more club activities, I see more meetings, I see

more opportunities for us to spend time together and do what we do best, serve our communities, State and internationally. I see new ideas and old ideas. I see more and more ways clubs have found ways to accomplish service projects and fundraisers even in this time of uncertainty.

So, what's in our future?

Personally, I plan on finishing my year as District Governor with as much activities as possible. I hope to see as many of you as time allows. I hope to spend time with my fellow Governors as we have become such close friends. So please let me know if you have a fundraiser, service project or a club meeting. We would love to visit and spend time with you. As far as my extended future, I would like to think I've only just begun. I will always be around to help in whatever capacity needed.

What's in our future for District 27-B1? I think we are so fortunate to have such depth with our upcoming District Governors.

Beginning with District Governor-Elect, BJ Blahnik. If you know BJ, you know he is very dedicated and he has some new and exciting ideas.

1st Vice District Governor Elect, Dave Brinkman is one of the most enthusiastic Lions I have ever met.

Our 2nd Vice District Governor-Elect, Greg Kubicka also will be a great District Governor.

We also have some up and coming Lion leaders who will be taking that step as our top district leaders. We are truly blessed to have such a group of upcoming Lions to lead our District.

In closing, a huge thank you to all District 27-B1 members for the opportunity and support to allow me to represent our District as your 2020-2021 District Governor.

Hope to see you all soon!

Thanks for all you do.