



District 27-B1 Convention Minutes Saturday, November 14th, 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 45th 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 2nd 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, 2nd by Lion Dale Counihan. **MOTION CARRIED.**
 - B: 1st 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 2nd 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 1st Vice District Governor. Motion to close nominations for 1st Vice District Governor by Lion Greg Kubichka, 2nd by Lion Dale Counihan. **MOTION CARRIED.**

C: 2nd 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 2nd 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 2nd Vice District Governor. The 2nd 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 2nd Vice District Governor. Motion to close nominations for 2nd Vice District Governor by Lion Dale Counihan, 2nd 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 2nd 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 2nd 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 2nd 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 100th 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 1st Vice District Governor BJ, IF he was elected. He also plans to put his name in next year for 2nd 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"**

1st Vice District Governor Lion Dave Brinkman. Thanks. He is looking forward to the future.

2nd Vice District Governor Lion Greg Kubichka.

Pin design # 2

Peace Poster 1st place Brea Pollack sponsored by Van Dyne Lions, 2nd place Lena Stanton sponsored by Brandon Lions, 3rd 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, 2nd 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:

- 1st Evett Hartvig
- 2nd Maribel Lions
- 3rd Mishicot Lions
- 4th Coloma Lions
- 5th Berlin Lions
- 6th 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, 2nd by Lion Dale Counihan to officially close the 45TH Annual District 27B1 Convention at 7:55 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted by Cabinet Secretary Treasurer Lion Dave Holschbach