



1st District 31-O Cabinet Meeting Minutes August 14, 2021 Julian Lions Club



Attendance was 64 Lions total (including twelve by Zoom)

Call to Order & Welcome

District Governor (DG) Barbara Thompson called our Cabinet Meeting to order promptly at 1:00pm.

Lions received a very warm welcome after a delightful meal prepared by the Julian club.

Special Fundraiser

Just before the meeting officially started, a creative fundraising idea surfaced. A reclining chair just happened to be sitting along the side wall near the Cabinet Officers panel. The idea was to auction off the honor of sitting in that chair for the duration of the Cabinet Meeting. 1st VDG Lacy Petty was the official auctioneer and opened the bid at \$5.00. The winning bid of \$20.00 was placed by our guest Kathy Videtto and she will soon be installed as a Lion member of the Eden Club!

Kathy revealed her genuine humbleness by declining to take her seat and Lion Troy Jordan of the Jamestown Club accepted the honor on her behalf and a big thank you was extended for the generous donation that will go to Brighter Visions.

Blessing of Food

Lion Juanita Brown was appropriately recognized to bless the food that we had.

Introduction of our International Family

DG Barbara recognized PIP Sid Scruggs III and PID Harvey Whitley and wife PCC Diane. All were sincerely thanked for taking time away from their club activities and personal events to be in attendance.

Appointment of our Parliamentarian

PID Harvey Whitley was asked to serve as Parliamentarian today and he accepted.

Administrative Business

Reading of the April 10, 2021, Cabinet Meeting Minutes

Council Secretary Bob Gwyn was recognized to read the minutes. A motion to accept the minutes as previously published was made by PDG Paul Silverman of the Durham Lions Club. Dr Coy Rahman of the Eden Club seconded. The motion carried.

Presentation of the Final 2020-2021 Treasurer's Report

Council Treasurer (CT) Laraine Dupree was recognized to present the Treasurer's Report.

- Copies of the Treasurer's Report were distributed prior to the presentation.
- We ended the year with a \$20,563.85 Administrative Budget, a Contingency of \$7,511.58 and Restricted Funds of \$16,999.31 for a total of \$45,074.74.
- At the end of the year, there was a transfer of the balance of the Convention Fees of what was collected and what was spent. A ledger entry was made to transfer from the Unrestricted Budget to the new line item 915 that was created. This simply transferred the unused money from last years' Mid-Winter Convention to the Restricted Budget. Part of this was used for the Awards Banquet as will be explained below.

At a previous Cabinet Meeting, approval was given to transfer any of the available Restricted Account Funds as a donation to Brighter Visions.

- The amount \$2,000 was also transferred from the Contingency Fund to Brighter Visions to also help in reaching our goal.

Approval of Banking Relationship and Security Bond

- We will be billed by the Council of Governors Secretary/Treasurer for the Security Bond. The fee will be approximately \$65.00.
- We will continue to use First Citizens Bank in Marshville, NC as our Banking Relationship for 2021-2022.

Presentation & Approval of the 2021-2022 Budget for District 31-O

- The Budget is based on 1,115 members as of July 1, 2021. Member dues and District Convention dues are based on that figure.

Administrative Income-lines 100-180

- The amount of \$500.00 was transferred from line 911 in the Restricted Fund to the Contingency Fund for the International Convention. This offset the \$500.00 allocated for DG Barbara to attend her first International Convention.

Administrative Expenses-lines 200-300

- We will be billed for \$700 for the 350 NC Trading Pins that we have received.
- We have received an invoice from the Council of Governors Secretary/Treasurer for our Council Dues for \$6,132.50(\$5.50 per member) and for our NC Promotions Fund for \$1,115(\$1.00 per member).
- An amount of \$480.00 was budgeted for our District Directories since we printed ten above what we did last year.
- Postage for this year will be minimal due to the diligence of PCST Ron Kelly passing along an abundant supply of stamps.
- Office Supplies and Printing was reduced by \$100.00.
- District Awards was brought down to \$300.00.

Training/Conventions-lines 400-610

- We left \$700.00 in the budget for our 2VDG to attend the Advanced Lions Leadership Institute (ALLI) for incoming District Governors. LCI will hold the ALLI training in the Chicago, IL area. However, transportation will not be covered. This training is also available to any Lions aspiring to become a District Governor, but the expenses will not be covered by the District.
- We left in \$500.00 for the current District Governor to attend the USA/Canada Forum and \$500.00 for the current District Governor to attend the International Convention in Montreal, Canada. The budget also includes \$500.00 to cover part of the expenses for the spouse of our District Governor Elect, Lion Gail Petty.

Officer Expenses-lines 700-840

- The budget includes \$750 for District Governor's travel and other expenses not covered by LCI.
- The budget for our 1st VDG is \$500.00.
- The budget for our 2nd VDG was elevated to \$550. The reason is that Zone Chair Susan O'Brien is currently acting as our 2nd VDG on behalf of our District Governor. After January 2, 2022, Lion Susan will be officially seated and budgeted line item 720 will be activated for her use in this Lions Year.
- The Council Secretaries budget was dropped to \$200.00
- The Council Treasurer's budget was dropped to \$100.00.
- Our Global Membership Team budget is \$500.00.
- Our Global Leadership Team budget is \$1,400.00. This amount includes covering some of the cost for sending Lions to the upcoming Regional Lions Leadership Institute (RLLI) that will be held at Camp Dogwood next month.
- Global Service Team budget is \$100.00.

- Our Committee Chair Expenses budget is \$300.00. Funds are available to any Chairperson for travel expenses on a first-come-first-served basis.
- Our District 31-O Reimbursement Guidelines for travel in 2021-2022 are as follows:
 - o Milage (*after* 50 miles round-trip)is \$0.31 per mile
 - o Meals-\$25 per day total (includes breakfast @ \$5.00, lunch @ \$8.00, and dinner @ \$12.00)
 - o Overnight stay at hotel-\$70.00 per day.
- The District Convention Budget amount of \$3,345.00 is also based on our opening membership of 1,115 Lions.
- The 2nd VDG Elect is expected to attend the State Convention and be present at the General Meeting. A total of \$150.00 was budgeted to help cover some expenses.
- State Convention Ad budget will remain the same at \$300.00 and will cover a full page.
- State Convention Hospitality Room is \$200.00 and is mandated by the State.
- District Web expenses were moved up to \$500. Last year we spent \$209.86 for Zoom meetings. If we need to update the domain for our website or buy other equipment this year, our budgeted amount should cover those.
- Bank Service Charges and our Brighter Visions Kickoff were both dropped down to \$50.00 each.
- Cabinet Meeting Hospitality and Reimbursement is budgeted at \$50. If a club will be hosting a Cabinet meeting, the \$50.00 is there to help cover expenses for refreshments if they choose to use it.

Upon completion of a clear and concise explanation of Income and Expenses, CT Laraine stated that the District 31-O 2021-2022 Budget was balanced at \$20,187.50 in income and \$20,187.50 in expenses.

PDG Paul Silverman of the Durham Club moved that both the Final Treasurer's Report of 2021-2021 and the 2021-2022 Budget be approved as presented. President Gene Hassell of the Jamestown Club seconded. The motion carried.

Presentation of the Treasurer's Report through July 31, 2021.

Income

- Collected \$50.00 for State Trading pins.
- Transferred \$500.00 to balance the budget.

Expenses

- Spent \$442.11 for new District Directories.
- Spent \$42.27 on office supplies for printing the programs for the Awards & Installation.

- From line 915 District Convention Fees from 2020-2021, we paid \$1,294.70 to cover the catering cost for the Awards Luncheon in Sanford, NC.
- The balance remaining in the Mid-Winter Convention Fees is \$1,269.90 available to use in January 2022.
- The Bank Balance as of July 31, 2021 is \$43,345.66.

Dr Coy Rahman of the Eden Club moved that the District 31-O July Treasurer's Report be approved. PDG Karl Ernst seconded. The motion carried.

Closing Remarks from CT Laraine Dupree

All clubs were reminded that they will not be invoiced for the District Governor's Goals, this contribution is voluntary, and the suggested donation is \$20 per member.

The District Dues Invoices have been sent to all clubs and clubs were reminded to submit their payment to the Council Treasurer. Dues checks must be received no later than **September 10, 2021**.

A motion was made to approve the Banking Relationship & Security Bond by President Gene Hassell of the Jamestown Club. 1st VP Troy Jordan of the Jamestown Club seconded. The motion carried.

Clubs were also reminded to file their Income Tax with the IRS no later than November 15, 2021. Most clubs can file by using the e post card. CT Laraine will be happy to assist clubs as needed.

New Business

District Governor Barbara stated that we are required to do an annual audit on our Treasurer's Report. PDG Randal Clapp will be asked to chair the committee again this year. Acting 2nd VDG Susan O'Brien has agreed to serve on the committee. DG Barbara will seek a third member from our clubs.

Our theme for our Mid-Winter Convention on January 28-29, 2022 will be one that honors our veterans in a very special way. The location will once again be at one of our longtime favorites, the PTI Airport Marriott Hotel in Greensboro, NC. Registration forms are being planned for distribution in October. Committee formation is in process and more information will come later.

An important training session will be conducted at Camp Dogwood next month. It is called the Regional Lions Leadership Institute(RLLI). The deadline for registration is August 28, 2021 and the fee is \$25.00. These sessions present an opportunity for aspiring Lions to seek higher offices in leadership. Emphasis is on District level positions. Each of our five(5) districts will receive five(5) applications. Meals and lodging is paid.

PDG Susie Dailey is the Chairperson for our Centennial State Convention. She is quite honored in having the opportunity to coordinate such a special event. The committee is currently comprised of over 60 people. The Convention date is April 22-24, 2022, and at the PTI Airport Marriott Hotel in Greensboro, NC.

The Friday Fun Night will have a 1920's theme and attire will be of that era and wearing Black & White outfits are encouraged.

A parade is being planned in Downtown Greensboro on Saturday, April 23, 2022.

Ten clubs were chartered in North Carolina in 1922 and eight of them are still in existence! Each of these clubs will have an opportunity to present their Grand Marshals.

A main feature of this Grand Celebration will be a one-on-one chat between PIP Sid Scruggs III and PID Lacy Presnell. Lions, you do not want to miss this!

A Centennial Museum of our state's Lions History will be open at the Marriott. PDG Laraine is searching for memorabilia to borrow that dates back to the beginning if possible. Items predating 1950 are in the highest demand. All items on loan will be well cared for and returned in the same condition as when received. Anyone who has talent in creating dioramas is asked to please contact CT Laraine Dupree.

Mark your calendars to save the date!

North Carolina Lions District 31-O Cabinet Meeting

Global Action Team Reports

Global Leadership Chair - PID Harvey Whitley

PID Harvey opened his remarks by thanking the District Officer Instructors for training our club Presidents, Club Secretaries and Club Treasurers. The team consisted of PDG Randal Clapp and PID Harvey Whitley (presidents), CS Bob Gwyn (Secretaries) and CT Laraine Dupree (treasurers). The training was conducted on Jun 30, 2021 by Zoom. Secretaries were granted 30 days to review the available recorded session and report it to CS Bob Gwyn for credit towards being a 100% Secretary.

District 31-O is planning to offer Zoom Training as well as Orientation sessions for our New Members each quarter. Dates have not been set but these are both important to the development of our newer Lions.

The USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum is scheduled for September 9-11, 2021 in Des Moines, IA. So far, 1,600 have registered and 80 different seminars will be offered. All levels of training will be available. The registration fee includes four

(4) meals. Lions may register at lionsforum.org. DG Barbara Thompson and PDG Susie Dailey will make presentations there.

PID Harvey is optimistic that the event will go on as scheduled this year.

The Regional Lions Leadership Forum will also benefit Lions that may not want to pursue roles in leadership. One of the courses being offered is entitled “Issues and Opportunities of Service”. This will address local matters. Positions and applications are still available.

A written report from PID Harvey is on file with the Council Secretary.

Global Membership Chair - PDG Susan Dailey

PDG Susie stated that our membership growth in District 31-O made a huge impact on the State of North Carolina last year. We are off to another great start this year with plus 15 members!

Our strength and dedication held our clubs together during the past 18 months and clubs that survived were thanked.

- If clubs went outside of their bubble, they would find people that want to help and be a part of what we do.
- We were encouraged to expand what we do by telling our club’s story.
- We were also challenged create friendly competition to add new members.
- Our Global Membership Chairperson is thankful for the Membership Team and they are working hard to benefit our Lions, our District and the State of North Carolina.

In closing, Lion Susie stated that membership grows through Service and Leadership. Her encouraging words were delivered from the heart, as usual, and her true desire to help those in need has never waned.

A written report from PID Harvey is on file with the Council Secretary.

Global Service Chair-PCC Diane Whitley

PCC Diane proudly reported figures that demonstrated the dedication that District 31-O has in serving others.

- Our District lead in every category for every month starting July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021. We were the top in the state even though only 16 of our 53 Clubs reported for the month of June. Our achievement is remarkable, and we are to be commended.
- We served 109,374 people during that period.
- So far this Lions Year, Lions have reported these services: 110 for Diabetes, 2,579 for the Environment, 0 for Cancer (this category will be addressed for improvement with a task force), 889 for Hunger, 622 for Vision and 889 for Other. Our total this year is 13,168!

A written report from PCC Diane is on file with the Council Secretary.

Committee Reports

Lions Clubs International Foundation-PDG Paul Silverman

PDG Paul Silverman opened his remarks by expressing the importance of contributing to the Lion Clubs International Foundation. He noted that the charitable arm of LCIF reaches far. The State of North Carolina has been the recipient of Disaster Relief Funds in the past mainly due to us being in the path of hurricanes, floods and tornadoes.

- Our state raises a lot of money for LCIF but we also receive a lot back.
- Our own Camp Dogwood received over \$100,000 a few years ago to help in paving the driveways.
- We are currently in the midst of “Campaign 100”. This 3-year project is supposed to end in June 2022. However, the end date may be extended. District 31-O has a goal of \$152,922. To date, we have raised \$71,299 which leaves a balance of \$81,623. Our goal is achievable if each member from District 31-O could raise or contribute \$72.25 towards it.
- Because of donations made last year, District 31-O is eligible now and for the next 15 years to take a grant in the amount of \$1,937 to support local Humanitarian Services & Activities. The District can apply for the grant.
- If *all members* of any club donates \$500 each, that club will become a “Model Club” in the Campaign.
 - Pamphlets were available for details on becoming a Model Club or an Individual Donor to the foundation. Melvin Jones Fellowships are also applied towards our goal.
 - DG Paul Silverman is available to give programs to clubs about LCIF.
 - Currently, only 9 of our 53 clubs have an LCIF Chairperson. Clubs were asked to designate someone within their club that will encourage club or individual support to LCIF.
 - It was also noted that if an Individual makes a Campaign 100 pledge, District 31-O would get credit if a Lion were identified as being from our district.

Zone Chair Reports

- PDG Gary Greene, Zone 4 Chairman, reported that he loves developing new clubs.
- We have 5 counties in District 31-O that currently do not have a club: Alamance, Caswell, Hoke, Person and Scotland.
- Lion Gary is available to speak with anyone who would like to start recruiting members from either of the first 4 counties just mentioned. Activity is already underway in Scotland County. The membership base is

there to support clubs in each of the 4 counties since there is an incorporated town in each of them.

- Three active initiatives currently exist for recruiting new clubs. Clubs are encouraged to contact PDG Gary for details on the next step forward.
- We all appreciate his passion and determination in assuring that recruiting stays on track for any new club to earn their charters.

The Council Secretary also keeps a file on all submitted Zone Reports as a part of our District Records. Our website will contain our Zone Reports as well.

Zone 1 Chairperson Susan O'Brien is also our District Historian and was recognized for a few remarks.

Lion Susan expressed how honored she is for being asked to serve as Historian and Chairperson of the committee. Her goal is to change things up a little this year and would like for clubs to express how proud they are of our Lions Club organization.

- We are doing a great job now of posting on Facebook and putting information in our Bulletins but we must think about where that information will be 10 years from now.
- As you collect information on activities that you do throughout the year, think about how to promote the idea of being creative, memorable, and how to preserve those stories.
- It is suggested that if there is someone in a club that takes pictures or posts club information on Social Media, that person can think about preserving club information for the long haul throughout the year.
- It would be great to present a memory book at the end of the year to the Club President or someone else that is deserving. There are several ways to create a preserved record including Digital Scrapbook Applications or 3-Ring Binders.
- The time to start is now since the year is young.
- If you are interested in preserving your history, Lion Susan has collected some thoughts about what the role is, the scope of the duties, the required skills and what the expected outcome is.
- Our wonderful District & State photographer Dr Coy Rahman has an abundance of photographs. He has very generously offered to send them to Lions upon request at no cost.
- The details of how to get you club involved in this Historical Initiative will be on our District Website.

District Governor Barbara shared a few remarks about our District's Performance so far this year.

Service Reporting

- As of the end of June 2021, 47% of our clubs were reporting.
- Our goal this year is to increase that percentage significantly and on a monthly basis.

Membership

- We opened the new year with 1,115 members. At the time of this report, we were at 1,130 or plus 15. This is an excellent start!
- Clubs are encouraged to continue our Services since this is the best way to grow our membership. When the community sees the good in what we do, others with hearts of service will want to join us. We should keep doing what we do!
- Ten clubs were recognized for their positive growth so far this year and were commended for their accomplishments.

Club Excellent (a club goal)

- Applications were made available for clubs that may qualify for the Club Excellence Award. Clubs were encouraged to apply for the award if they felt that the metrics had been met.
- Members were also reminded that clubs are defined by what they do in the community and not by awards.
- All 53 clubs in District 31-O are extremely important and their service is very much appreciated.

Pen Pals

- Lions Clubs have established "Pen Pals" as a way of keeping in touch with fellow Lions and communicating about common interests.
- DG Barbara will soon make available some General Guidelines in her Newsletter pertaining to its purpose and any restrictions that may apply. The District Website will include information as well.

Nominations Committee Report

PDG Paul Marth's report stated that the committee is currently seeking nominations for District Governor, 1st VDG and 2nd VDG for 2022-2023.

- At this point a Letter of Intent has been received from Acting 2nd VDG Susan O'Brien to run for the position of 1st VDG.
- Interested candidates need to send their Letter of Intent and an Endorsement Letter from their club.
- Qualifications for 2nd VDG includeing Service as a Zone Chairperson, Service as a Club President and two terms on the club's Board of Directors.

- Nominees should submit their Letters of Intent as soon as possible so that candidates can be vetted to verify that all qualifications have been met.
- DG Barbara reminded those in attendance of the importance of filling positions with qualified candidates and Lions were encouraged to step up.

Announcements

- Lion Tony Cianchetta, Sr, District 31-O Information & Technology Chairperson, was commended for his excellent work on our District Website. He came on board and immediately started updating information.
- A new feature is called “Fundraising and Volunteer Opportunities”. This is a link where you can submit your upcoming fundraising events. If volunteers are needed, you can put in a request and other neighboring clubs may join you to help.
- Our District Directory is available on the site also but it may be password protected. Lion Tony can be reached at 910-245-7477 if you need his assistance with our Website.
- October is being considered as our month to highlight hunger Districtwide. More information will come soon.
- Or Second Cabinet Meeting will be November 7, 2021. The location and format will be determined at a later date.
- The Mid-Winter Convention is January 28-29, 2022.
- The State Convention is April 22-24.
- DG Karl Ernst announced that a Golf Tournament will at Bull Creek Golf Club. Districts 31-N and S will have their combined event there. Details may be found on their websites.
- Greensboro Hamilton Lakes Club. President Jim Lumsden announced that their club is having their Food Drive outside the Walmart store located at 5611 W. Friendly Ave, Greensboro 27410. The date is August 27-28, 2021. Hours are 9:00am-5:00pm. They welcome sharing information with Lions to help them improve their own food drives.

Closing Remarks

Acting 2nd VDG Susan O’Brien

Lion Susan thanked the Julian Club for their hospitality and hosting a fine First Cabinet Meeting. She has coined the phrase “Shake it Up” as her theme for this year! Every time she is challenged regarding what can we do next, it is best addressed by “thinking outside of the box” and departing from traditions. She continued by saying that everyone has ideas inside and it’s always scary to do something different. Lion Susan looks forward to learning about how clubs are Shaking it up. In closing she also looks forward to visiting new places and meeting everybody.

1st VDG Lacy Petty

Lion Lacy expressed sincere gratitude to DG Barbara for the support she has given to him during this past year. To him, it has been a pleasure being chosen to his position. He wants to visit and help as many clubs as he possibly can. Lion Lacy is proud of our great district and of what we have achieved in past years. He feels quite fortunate to have such experienced members in his club. PDG Karl Ernst and another Club member with 50 plus years in Lionism are there for guidance if needed.

In closing he thanked our district for the opportunity to serve.

District Governor Barbara

DG Barbara opened her closing remarks by sharing that her early ambition was to be a teacher. But instead, her career path took another successful direction and upon retirement, she became a substitute teacher of K-5 kids to fulfill her inner desire of being an educator. That teaching experience was rewarding but heartbreaking as well when she saw such extreme differences in the levels of achievement from one group to another depending on their economic status. The Reading Proficiency statistics she cited of the young kids in our community were alarming. Witnessing the lack of proper nutrition was equally disturbing. After observing their need for attention, she started to access how Lions could get involved and help. Upon realizing that these disadvantaged kids are our future, her theme of “. Be the Bridge of Hope through Youth and Hunger” was born! As Lions, we *can* help and our help is needed in these very positive ways:

Clubs were challenged to identify the disadvantaged schools that are underperforming in their community.

- Adopt one of these schools to help the kids.
- Provide assistance by supplying books, books and more books that are age appropriate and ones that match the ethnic population in a diverse community.
- Assist by providing healthy meals as needed and support their local food banks.
- Encourage teachers by letting them know that you care and will assist them with supplies.
- Setting up eye screening programs where permitted is also a great idea and they may identify kids with learning disabilities.

Statistics have shown that kids have a much greater chance at success if they are proficient in reading by the 3rd grade. Otherwise, they are more likely to fall behind.

We all could clearly see the compassion for kids on display from DG Barbara. The theme on her pin was derived from deep within her loving and caring heart. We Lions must accept the challenge to step in and help with the development of our

kids. Remember our motto.... We Serve and there is a great need now for our service to children.

In closing, DG Barbara recited a quote to describe the need within our community to help young kids. The quote belongs to Dean Jordan, the wife of our own Lion Pinkey Jordan of the Jamestown Lions Club. The quote was in an article written about her and it reads verbatim: "Every time you help somebody else, it puts a tiny stitch in the hole. There was a big hole there, it had to be stitched and it still isn't done"

We have a huge hole and our children need us. DG Barbara envisions a picture of us filling that hole stitch-by-stitch and we can start it with one thing which is books. If we can impact their reading, we can make such an impact on our kids.

The theme of our International President, Douglas X. Alexander, is "Service from the Heart".

One of his quotes is impactful and it reads follows:

"Service is more than the sum of our collected deeds, it is the well spring of our heart. As Lions and Leos we serve to see our communities inspired, equipped and transformed. We believe that even the greatest challenges can be overcome by the power of kindness. Together we serve".

All were thanked for helping make this a successful Cabinet Meeting.

Our Benediction was delivered by PDG Karl Ernst.

Here is a footnote to our minutes. District 31-O Lions, let us all be reminded of how fortunate we are to have two Past International Officers in our midst at our Cabinet Meetings. We can get all questions answered immediately and we are always left with some words of wisdom. Having those big unthought of questions asked by them is always reassuring that we are headed in the right direction. Their presence alone is a stabilizing force to our success! We are grateful and many thanks to both of them.

Respectfully Submitted,
CS Bob Gwyn
August 23, 2021