



4th District Cabinet Meeting Minutes April 24, 2022,



Convention Call to Order and Welcome

April 24, 2022 at Greensboro-High Point Airport Marriott

Call to Order:

District Governor (DG) Barbara Thompson (Pleasant Garden) promptly called our final District 31-O Cabinet Meeting for 2021-2022 to order at 10:00am. We were greeted in her familiar sincere and gracious manner, as always and all were thanked for being in attendance and sharing their time.

Pledge of Allegiance:

District Governor Elect Lacy Petty (Siler City) lead us in our Pledge of Allegiance in his proper and patriotic style while saluting the flag.

Invocation:

Past International Director (PID) Harvey Whitley (Greater Monroe) delivered a powerful and inspirational invocation.

Introduction of International Family:

DG Barbara introduced and recognized our distinguished International Family members, Past International President (PIP) Sid Scruggs (Vass) and his Partner in Service Lion Judy (Vass). PID Harvey Whitley and his Partner in Service Past Council Chair (PCC) Lion Diane (Greater Monroe) were likewise introduced. We are always thankful to have these extremely loyal Lions in attendance at our functions and it never fails that we are enlightened in some manner by each of them before the day is done! Thank you.

Special Presentation:

A Special Presentation was made to our dedicated and official photographer Lion Coy Rahman (Eden). PIP Sid presented him with a Presidential Tie for his services and generosity in visually capturing and preserving our events. Lion Coy also gives freely of his resources to assure that anyone wanting copies of his artful work gets one. This kind gesture is much appreciated by Lions across the entire district.

Congratulations Lion Coy and thanks to you and Lion Clara Weston (Eden) for your very kind contribution.

Comments on the State Convention:

DG Barbara commented about the local News Coverage we received for the State Convention on Saturday, April 23, 2022. She was successful in getting the local Greensboro WFMY Television Station to attend our parade and park event downtown for some brief coverage. We were televised on the April 23rd 6:00pm and 11:00pm segments of the local news. PIP Sid and DG Barbara were both featured in the clip.

Appointment of Parliamentarian:

PID Harvey was appointed as Parliamentarian for today's meeting.

Reading of Prior Cabinet Meeting Minutes-Council Secretary (CS) Bob Gwyn

CS Bob Gwyn (Greensboro) was recognized to read the minutes from our Third Cabinet Meeting. However, Past District Governor (PDG) Paul Marth (Greensboro) moved that the Minutes be approved as previously submitted. Lion Coy Rahman seconded. No discussion. The motion carried. Thank you.

Award Recognition:

DG Barbara recognized CS Bob Gwyn as being the proud recipient of the Lions Clubs International Leadership Award. PIP Sid presented it at the banquet on Saturday night, April 23, 2022. Lion Bob was truly humbled to receive it and would have been speechless if called upon for a comment! He wishes to extend sincere appreciation to all for this honor and it will be cherished for his and his families' lifetimes. Thank you.

CS Bob will return as Secretary for 2022-2023 and is appreciative of the opportunity to serve again.

Review of Treasurer's Report to Date:

Council Treasurer (CT) PDG Laraine Dupree (Wingate) was recognized for the District Treasurer's Report. The current report was updated through April 20, 2022.

To date, all clubs in the District 31-O have submitted their second half District Dues except for two (2) clubs. These clubs have been notified and payment is expected soon. Fourteen (14) of our 51 clubs have paid the District Governor's Goals. These funds are used to support programs including Boys & Girls

Home, District obligations to NCLI, Guide Dog programs, Clinical Eye Research, VIP Fishing and LCIF.

Clubs will not be billed since contributions are voluntary. Clubs that are willing to participate are encouraged to contribute twenty(\$20) per member per year. Participation in this program is a metric for being a 100% Club.

District 31-O has a few clubs that have outstanding balances with Lions Clubs International as of January 2022. These clubs have been encouraged to promptly address their obligations with LCI to avoid being placed on “Status Quo” since they are beyond ninety (90) days past due.

Miscellaneous line-item number 840 on page 1 on the Financial Statement indicates an expenditure of \$71.00. CT PDG Laraine clarified this by stating that twenty-one (21) Camp Dogwood Tickets had been given to persons that contributed to the Salvation Army Food Drive during the Mid-Winter Convention. Twenty-one donors were given a ticket that was purchased from Camp Dogwood. The balance of the \$71.00 was used to purchase a memorial for PDG Charles Alexander.

The Raffle Baskets that were donated by District 31-O Zones for the Mid-Winter Convention raised \$785.00. Members of the Executive Committee suggested that these funds be sent to the LCIF Ukraine Relief Fund. Lion Clara Weston moved that the \$785.00 be designated for the Ukraine Relief Fund. PDG Karl Ernst (Siler City) seconded. During discussion, PIP Sid reminded us that contributions to LCIF accumulate credit towards a Melvin Jones Fellowship (MJF) and that when payment is sent in, we must be sure to clearly indicate that “the MJF is to be designated later”. This ensures that our funds are set aside appropriately for the award and will be more readily available in the future. The motion carried.

CT PDG Laraine emphasized how much our contribution to the Ukraine Relief Fund will mean based on her and Council of Governors Chair Dale Dupree’s (Wingate) involvement in helping Ukrainians. Having been to Kyiv, Ukraine over 5-6 Summers and spending several weeks there helping to build Foster Home Settings for children was deeply gratifying to them. We thank CT PDG Laraine and CC Dale for sharing their deeply personal experiences in providing Humanitarian relief to the precious children of Ukraine.

The Mid-Winter Convention’s Silent Auction raised \$890.00. A check for this amount will be written to NCLI. All clubs that participated in these donations will receive credit towards Brighter Visions for their contributed amount.

The Patriotic Art Raffle yielded \$52.00 from a beautiful quilt. The money will be used to support the VIP Fishing Tournament and will be sent at a later date.

The Final Report for the Mid-Winter Convention is not complete yet due to a few outstanding receipts. The Final Report will be emailed by the end of June.

The Closing Bank Balance as of April 20,2022 was \$54,739.93.

PIP Sid moved that the Treasurer's Report be approved as presented. Lion Coy Rahman seconded. No discussion. The motion carried.

CT PDG Laraine will also return as our extremely Meticulous and Dedicated Treasurer for 2022-2023! She thanked the district for the opportunity to serve again as well. We all greatly appreciate her attention to the details! Thank you.

Clubs will soon be notified directly of the amounts their clubs owe on outstanding balances for District Dues, Lions Clubs International Balances and Brighter Visions Contributions made that they will be credited for.

District Leadership continues its quest in disseminating timely information to the Clubs regarding the status of a club's personal Financial Obligations, Awards Metrics, Deadlines for District Dues, etc.

The key resources for clubs to reach out to are their Zone Chairs, the Council Treasurer, and the Council Secretary. All are available to promptly provide answers to questions upon request. Timely notices will continue being sent out to clubs where appropriate.

Old Business:

DG Barbara took a minute to thank everyone that helped at the Mid-Winter Convention in March. It was a great, fun filled weekend and the postponement from January to March was a good decision since the rate of Covid spread had dropped significantly by the time March had arrived. It was wonderful to Honor our Veterans and pleasing to meet in person again.

New Business: Transition of District Governor Elect:

District Governor Barbara dolefully announced that 2022-2023 District Governor Elect (DGE) Lacy Petty has to step down from the position of District Governor Elect due to health reasons and under the advice of his doctor. The anticipated stress related to being District Governor could be harmful to his recovery at this time.

District Governor Elect (DGE) Lacy next came to the podium and spoke deeply from his heart. He stated that he tried his best to fulfill his duties and we all can truly attest to his gallant effort. He only wanted the best for us, and he cited that District 31-O had set the bar high for other districts to follow. DGE Lacy regretted that he could not carry the torch for us next year and stated that he wanted to with all his heart. He strongly believes in what Lions are, what we do and who we do it for. In closing, he sincerely thanked the team members on the panel for their support in helping to groom him for the District Governor's role. DGE Lacy praised PCC Gary Greene (Aberdeen) for his experience and expertise, and he assured us that we will be in good hands with PCC Gary. Everyone is supportive of DGE Lacy, and we all wish him a quick and full recovery. He thanked all for the privilege, the opportunity and for the confidence we instilled in him.

DG Barbara announced that PCC Gary Greene has been appointed as District 31-O Governor for 2022-2023.

PCC Lion Gary is the 2005-2006 PDG of former District 31-F. He is also the 2008-2009 Past Council Chair of District 31-F. He is a longtime member of the Aberdeen Lions Club. His appointment was approved by votes from the District 31 Council of Governors. The LCI Board of Directors approved the appointment. He is now officially our District 31-O Governor Elect!

DGE Gary opened his sincere and heartfelt comments by stating that he would be reaching out to Lion Lacy to see what he wanted to happen in the coming year. Lion Gary and Jill thought and prayed for four days before accepting the request for him to return as being a District Governor. He is looking forward to engaging with the team and stated that we will do the same things again that worked well and we will have fun doing so. In closing, he praised the team for its commitment to this year and next year as well! He pledged to lead from the heart and that we will get things done for our wonderful district.

All involved know that this is not something you do lightly, and District 31-O is extremely fortunate that PCC Gary and Jill accepted the position, without reservations.

DG Elect Gary and Jill, we welcome you and we will be delighted and honored to serve with you as well. Many thanks to both of you!

Global Action Team Reports:

Global Leadership Chair-District 31-O and Multiple District 31-PID Harvey.

PID Harvey began his remarks by taking a minute of personal privilege to state how he had observed the “heart for learning” and the “growth in learning” in Lion Lacy during his District Governor Elect classes. PID Harvey was also optimistic that Lion Lacy could still achieve his goal of becoming DG and that full support is available in helping him do so!

An announcement was made for the training of next year’s Club Officers which includes Presidents, Vice Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers. The date is set for June 18, 2022, by Zoom. Teachers are in place and more information will come later.

PID Harvey also thanked District 31-O for the opportunity to serve. We are thankful for his fine service and dedication to our District.

Global Membership Chair-No report for this meeting:

Global Service Chair-District 31-O and Multiple District 31-PCC Diane Whitley.

PCC Diane announced that the incoming District Governors for 2022-2023 would like to have Saturday, September 24, 2022, reserved as a Statewide Day of Service to support our Lions Hunger Initiative by holding a hunger related Service Project. Some excellent examples were cited such as Food Drives, Blessing Boxes, Driving for Meals-on-Wheels, Sponsoring a family needing food or perhaps planting a Community Garden. Many other types of food projects will also fulfill the purpose if related to feeding those in need.

Committee and Zone Chair Reports:

Brighter Visions Update-PDG Chris Headley / ZC Wayne Durham.

PDG Chris (Unionville) stated that our 2021-2022 Brighter Visions District Goal was set at \$115,000. All contributors were kindly thanked for the sum of \$74,570 received to date. We are shy of the goal by \$40,430 but we still have two full months to reach it!

He graciously encouraged clubs to turn in their money now if available please. PDG Chris is available to present programs to our clubs. He also remains optimistic that we will reach our target of \$115,000 before the year ends.

Camp Dogwood District Chair-2nd Vice District Governor Elect(2VDGE) Judy Keck.

2VDGE Judy (Julian) reported that Camp Dogwood is now fully booked for this Summer and volunteers are needed to help during the sessions.

The Financial Goal for the year was set at \$24,550. To date, they are \$4,416 shy. Any additional help from clubs would be much appreciated.

District Service and Membership Report-DG Barbara Thompson:

DG Barbara reported that the membership for District 31-O is still positive at 1,123 members. She also reported that our Service Reporting has reached 53%. This is a great improvement from 20% during the beginning of the year! Clubs are encouraged to continue reporting at every opportunity and seeking new members to help with meeting our Mission of Service.

Announcements:

DG Barbara announced information for two very important upcoming events:

1 - Our Awards, Luncheon and Cabinet Installation Ceremony will be held on July 23, 2022, at the Sanford Lions Club and starting at 10:00am. The address is 505 N. 7th St, Sanford, NC 27330

2 - Our Brighter Visions Kickoff and 1st District 31-O Cabinet Meeting will be held on August 6, 2022. Location and Time are to be determined.

Lion Coy Rahman gave Special Recognition to CT PDG Laraine Dupree for her role in being the “Curator of our Museum” at the State Centennial Celebration. CT PDG Laraine collected a treasure trove of memorabilia from clubs across the State of North Carolina to place on display at the Marriott. This was so much appreciated, and she is to be highly commended for the many sustained hours of putting it all together and returning the items safely! Absolutely beautiful. Thank you.

District Governor Team Remarks:

2VDGE Judy shared a brief biography of her professional career and reflected on her path to Lionism. She joined the Julian Lions Club ten(10) years ago with fellow member Lion Alisa McNeill. She has served almost two terms as Zone 8 Chairperson in our district. She is a former Mayor of Julian, NC. For most of her professional career she was employed at Cone Health as a First Assistant Nurse on the Heart Team. Since the early stages of her life she has served people in some capacity and that passion for helping others is the

reason she became a Lion! In college, her sorority raised money to support researchers in seeking ways to prevent Retinitis Pigmentosa.

Lion Judy appreciates being elected as our 2VDG. Her experiences as Zone Chair have further exposed the dire need for membership growth in Lionism. She remarked about what PIP Sid stated in his address at the State Banquet on April 23 by saying that “everyone needs to add two members, one to replace themselves and one to grow their club”. This statement certainly defines what we need to do to sustain ourselves as an organization!

In closing, 2VDGE Judy emphasized the importance of keeping older members engaged while recruiting the younger people.

Lion Judy concluded that the younger generation is certainly more adept to Social Media so perhaps we can find a way to get them engaged with Lionism on a platform that they are comfortable with.

She also feels that we can grow if we take the approach of “Serving from the Heart”!

1st Vice District Governor Elect(1VDGE) Susan O’Brien (Waxhaw) opened her remarks by stating how unbelievable it is that a year has passed so quickly. She reflected back on how she feels because of the Lions in District 31-O and on the experience, she gained from being “behind the scenes”. The Leadership Training Sessions were also great. That combination of “hands-on” experience coupled with excellent training provided insight into what she wants to move our great district forward. She also stated that it’s really about Service, Service, and Service with a smile!

Lion Susan wants to have fun and she will look at some of the ways we did things and do them differently. She was happy to hear PCC Gary mention that some things will change under his guidance, and she will “ride that train”!

We will hear more about her theme for 2023-2024 as she formulates her plan and gets the puzzle pieces in place.

1VDGE Susan stated that “we feel good when we do good”. These words are very true, and Lions certainly feel that way after every Service Project!

Lion Susan is very open to ideas and wants to hear about what we thought about our conventions. Sharing of our ideas about what we would like to see is also welcomed.

Lion Susan stated that she is thrilled with the District Governor’s Team and that District 31-O is the best district to be a part of.

The audience expressed strong support by extending robust rounds of applause to all of our District Governors after delivering their engrossing comments.

Closing Remarks:

District Governor Barbara closed the Cabinet Meeting by thanking all in attendance and the panel for its cohesiveness and sharing of ideas. She thanked PDG Paul Marth for his excellent leadership as well when she served as 1VDG and 2VDG with him.

She stated that she enjoyed every minute of being our District Governor and that it was a privilege!

More about her journey will be conveyed at the District 31-O Awards and Banquet.

Adjournment:

The Cabinet Meeting officially adjourned at 10:41am.

Commentary from your Cabinet Secretary:

So, we are quickly approaching our year's end and now is the time for your District Cabinet Secretary to take some liberty to briefly sum up what has happened here.

We have just witnessed our District Governors speak deeply from their hearts and all had a common message related to Service!

We continue to have great leaders for the next three years that are dedicated to Lionism and to serving others. We can all take comfort in knowing that District 31-O will remain strong and as Lion Lacy correctly stated, "the bar has been set high". Our incoming leaders have committed themselves to their leadership role and we Lions of District 31-O must do our fair share as well to reach our goals. We should be excited about the coming years and the wonderful things that we will enjoy doing with our new leaders!

Now, to all the Lions in District 31-O, we should all feel extremely fortunate to have been under the stellar leadership of District Governor Barbara this year! She

has invested countless hours of her valuable time over the past three (3) years in assuring that our district excelled, and we have indeed!

Adapting to Covid challenges, introducing the Zoom platform as an alternative to meeting in person, displaying her creative talent at all conventions with a special touch, engaging Lions in new roles, following-up on activities, and offering an open and understanding ear when someone needed it only scratches the surface when you began to measure the multitude of things she successfully accomplished during her illustrious journey to and through being our Governor.

Two of the most important contributions she makes is that she is “always there when you need her” and she remains upbeat and positive regardless of how distressing a situation is! No one is more dependable than DG Barbara!

We cannot thank her enough. In a “nutshell”, her approach to assuring the success of District 31-O was well-planned and well-executed and we now see the excellent results from leading with a “can do” attitude that is directly driven from her heart.

We owe her much gratitude. Thank you DG Barbara and we truly appreciate you so much!

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Gwyn-District 31-O Council Secretary