



4th District Cabinet Meeting Minutes



Fourth Virtual District Cabinet Meeting-April 10, 2021

Fellow District 31-O Lions,

Before we get into the Minutes of our Cabinet Meeting, let's all take a moment to recapture and instill in our minds the importance of our in-person social gatherings at a Convention. Throughout the Convention, while listening to many Lions' conversations, and having read numerous Club Reports, I have observed that the past fourteen (14) months have prompted us to adapt to the Virtual Climate and create many new ways of carrying out our Mission. Unlike the past 99 years of Lions Club Cabinet Meetings and Conventions in North Carolina, this past year marked the first ever where all four (4) of our Cabinet Meetings were held in a format that is far from normal by being virtual!

Equally unusual and obviously as a result of the global pandemic, we were unable to experience our Convention in a welcoming hotel setting where we would meet and greet old familiar faces, enjoy a delicious breakfast and silent auction, mingle through the crowded corridors and linger around the tables of vendors, expand our trading pin collection, enlighten ourselves in live seminars and then close out the weekend with a banquet where we are motivated by a Special Guest Speaker from LCI or some other great organization. These are all cohesive components for us and we miss that!

Many of those pleasant memories are not possible virtually but we were able to attract and hold almost sixty (60) of our most dedicated Lions at our Cabinet Meeting and we had a highly successful District Convention over the two days. Health-wise, we must continue to do as we are directed for our own safety and that of others. Hopefully, we can soon fully resume our important missions of serving and fundraising. The reward of meeting more in-person will be well worth the effort so let's try to hang on for just a little while longer. We all need that long awaited camaraderie!

I have taken the liberty to insert this brief commentary into our Minutes because I think it is important and reflects where we are today in our history. It is also important that we be optimistic and remain positive as we navigate through this Pandemic to the end. We have done a lot! Thank you.

Call to order and welcome.

- District Governor Paul Marth called our fourth and final Cabinet Meeting of the year to order at 10:25am.
- An Inspiring Invocation was delivered by our Longtime and Dedicated Chaplain Jimmy Butler.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was proudly led by our DGE Barbara Thompson.
- Recognition of our International Family, ID Gary Brown and other Special Guests.

With great pleasure, DG Paul introduced our Guests as follows:

- PIP Sid Scruggs III who stated that he was looking forward to the reports and that our Virtual Convention has been outstanding and well planned. He also enjoyed the “Fun Night” last night with its challenging Jeopardy questions!
- ID Gary Brown was in attendance and will be formally introduced later as our Guest Speaker by PIP Sid Scruggs III.
- PID Gwen White was recognized, and she was pleased to be in attendance. She graciously expressed how supportive our District is of the VIP Fishing Tournament.
- PID Harvey Whitley received an urgent request at the last minute to attend another convention. He was unable to join our Convention, but we sincerely missed his presence and that of PCC Diane Whitley.
- Special Guest CC Michael Schwartz was introduced, and he reminded us of the upcoming Virtual State Convention that will be on April 24, 2021. He also announced that the Council will hold its Quarterly Meeting the last weekend in April and we are invited to attend it as well by Zoom.
- Special Guest PDG Durden Dean, Executive Director of NCLI, was recognized.
- Special Guest Tammy Thomas, Camp Dogwood & Retreat Administrator, was also recognized.
- CCE Dale Dupree was recognized. (Lion Dale was recently elected as Council Chair for 2021-2022. Congratulations Lion Dale!) DG Paul also appointed Lion Dale as Parliamentarian for today’s meeting.
- DGE Ken Beech from District L and DG Donald Cobb from District I were also in attendance and recognized.

Reading of Minutes of Last Cabinet Meeting.

District Cabinet Secretary Bob Gwyn was called upon to read the minutes, but he was preceded by a motion from PDG Chris Headley (Unionville) to dispense with the reading and to approve the Minutes as distributed. PDG Susan Dailey (GCWC) promptly seconded. The motion carried...unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report.

- CT Laraine Dupree was called upon to present the Treasurer’s Report. Lion Laraine stated that our Treasury is healthy!
- Since our last Cabinet Meeting, we have received:
 - \$7,203 in Club dues. Four (4) Clubs have not paid and will be mailed notices on April 15, 2021.
 - \$1,320 in District Governor’s Goals has been received. A total of eleven (11) Clubs have made donations.
 - \$50 in pin sales was recorded.
- Disbursements since our last Cabinet Meeting:
 - Line 200, \$3,049.75 for State Dues.
 - Line 210, \$554.50 for State Promotions Fees.
 - Line 922, \$50 to Vass Lions Club for building Duck Houses for Camp Dogwood.
- Total Funds:
 - Administrative = \$28,812.86
 - Contingency/Unrestricted = \$9,511.58
 - Restricted Funds = \$22,017.31
 - Grand Total = \$60,341.75

Our State Council Dues are paid. There are numerous accounts that will not be utilized this year due to the restrictions of the Pandemic. The Leadership Team will be making recommendations on how these funds can be used to benefit our Multiple District and the Lions of District 31-O.

1DGE Lacy Petty (Siler City) moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented. Lion Melissa Ewing (Rockingham) seconded. The motion carried.

Reports.

VIP Fishing Tournament.

PID Gwen White regrettably announced that the Tournament had to be cancelled again this Fall since the social distancing guidelines cannot be met due to the number of people involved. The need for funding is ongoing and an Online Auction has been established to offset expenses. You may go to ncvipfishing.org to bid on items. One may also elect to honor someone with a Lacy & Esther Presnell Award since these proceeds benefit the VIP Fishing Tournament.

100th Anniversary Convention for NC Lions.

PID Gwen continued by expressing how excited she was about the 100th Anniversary coming up next year for North Carolina Lions. District 31-O will be the Host District and the Council of Governors has selected Greensboro, NC as the site. PDG Susie Dailey will be the Convention Chairperson for this event. The Guest Speaker will be our own distinguished PIP Lion Sid Scruggs III. We were extremely delighted to hear this wonderful news!

Negotiations for securing a facility are ongoing and an update will be presented at the NCLI Quarterly District Governor's Meeting next month at Camp Dogwood.

PDG Susie Dailey followed-up with additional details of the 100th Convention by also stating how excited she is to receive this once-in-a-lifetime honor to be the Chairperson. New Lions and Lions that have not been involved in District Conventions are asking to be a part of this Special Event. Great Ideas from the Core Committee are already emerging, and she looks forward to working with all. April 22-24, 2022 are the dates to mark on your calendar!

USA / Canada Forum 2021 and 2025.

CC Michael Schwartz's report on the Forum highlighted several points that are of notable interest and concern. His detailed presentation clearly pointed out that an event of this complexity and magnitude requires a tremendous amount of long-range planning and significant financial commitments that may not be palatable for many.

First, regarding the 2021 Forum, it will be live and in-person and Des Moines, Iowa will host the event on September 9-11, 2021. There is a website that contains the registration form to make plans for attendance. These forums are known for the great Leadership Training they offer and are usually very well attended. This event is scheduled to move forward as planned.

Regarding the 2025 Forum, there are many questions that have not been answered and a long line of obstacles are blocking the path to successfully bring the USA / Canada Forum to North Carolina, as you would expect. This is a challenging endeavor.

Here is a condensed list of the major hurdles that must be cleared as highlighted by CC Michael Schwartz:

Charlotte, NC was being talked about as a potential host as long as five (5) years ago. The potential site was the Charlotte Convention Center.

The bid for the 2025 Forum has been submitted. Since the idea of bidding was originally considered, the cost for a hotel room has increased from \$100 to \$200.

The Projected cost to NC Lions is now \$50,000 compared to \$25,000 five years ago.

Our NC Lions Membership is now around 5,000 statewide, about half of what it was in 1994 when the Forum was held in Winston-Salem, NC.

Approximately 300 volunteers will be required to help assist in the management of this event.

- Volunteers from Tennessee, South Carolina and Virginia will likely need to be recruited.
- Transportation, Accommodations and Food must be provided for the 300 volunteers.
- No hotel wants to be the “Headquarters Hotel” since up to 40 rooms plus meeting space must be provided at the hotel’s expense in the package.
- Five years ago, there were five(5) Multiple Districts that wanted to host the Forum. As of this past February, four(4) had withdrawn due to rising costs. MD 31 is still in.
- Having the Forum in Charlotte, in September, introduces another layer of complexity since one is competing for accommodations during Professional Football games.

PIP Sid Scruggs raised an important question regarding the importance of not placing a financial strain on our Multiple District by making too many concessions in order to acquire the Forum. It is incredibly important that we maintain our obligations to Camp Dogwood and other in-state entities for the sake of our own well-being.

The Council of Governors will be making decisions as to whether to proceed with the bid at the quarterly meeting on April 30-May 1.

Should there be questions or concerns, Lions are encouraged to promptly send an email directly to our District Governor Paul Marth and he will address them at the Council of Governors Meeting.

Membership.

DGE Barbara Thompson opened her remarks by stating that at the end of the 2019-2020 Lions Year we had 1,097 members. Today, we have 1,109 members. The District Goal for the year was to finish the year with at least 1,112 members so we are very close!

The list of District 31-O Clubs that have had positive growth includes fourteen (14) Clubs: Broadway, Farmer, Goldston, Greensboro Host, Greensboro Hamilton Lakes, Guilford County Women’s Cyber, Julian, Liberty, Madison, Moncure, North Moore, Vass, Waxhaw and West Stanley.

The list of Clubs that have gained five plus members includes: Broadway(7), Goldston(7), Greensboro Host(10), Guilford County Women’s Cyber(13), North Moore(29) and Vass(6). All Clubs were commended for their strong efforts in increasing membership.

Lions were encouraged to reach out to these Clubs and find out what they are doing that is successful.

DGE Barbara continued on by highlighting these important points:

- One may find that getting non-Lions involved in a Service Project has a lot of influence on recruiting. The volunteers will see firsthand what our organization is all about.
- The Main Initiative of NAMI is Growth in Membership in order to meet our Core Initiatives.
- She is working with Clubs on Awareness techniques.
- One Club is creating their own local logo to circulate in their Community to increase visibility.
- Commercials are now being streamed on TV.
- We were gleefully reminded that “We are a Big Deal” in being the World’s Largest Service Organization.

DGE Barbara closed her presentation by leaving us with these abiding thoughts:

- Keep Serving.
- Keep doing what we are doing.
- Let people know who we are and what we do.
- Reach Out.
- Our Membership Goal at the end of the year is 1,112 or more members.

Let's strive to start the New Year out on a Positive Note.

Camp Dogwood.

PDG Durden Dean was recognized for comments and he thanked the Lions for attending today.

- Camp Dogwood is gearing up for Campers. He expressed appreciation for the strong response in selling Camp Dogwood Tickets and "the drawing barrel is almost full". The money generated from the sale of these tickets goes towards the Maintenance and Upkeep of the Camp. They are looking forward to a strong fourth quarter.
- A new Mini Mobile Screening Unit has been acquired, is operational and is on the road. The goal is to have a screening unit for each District in our state by the end of 2021 to increase the screening capacity for older adults, seniors and children.
- A great Screening Training Session was conducted at Camp Dogwood for PID Harvey Whitley, PCC Diane Whitley, CCE Dale Dupree and PDG Laraine Dupree. Equipment training was also done by Tammy Johnson from Plus Optics out of Atlanta. These four(4) Lions will be the trained "Tag Team" to cover the Charlotte/Mecklenburg area of concentration. The screening for children will be under the umbrella of the Lions Kid's Sight, USA Program that kicked off in 2014-2015. Any interested Lions can get training online to become Certified Screeners. Having these credentials will be more attractive to schools and access to them may be easier. With the additional equipment and more volunteers, the number of screenings are projected to increase annually from 5-10,000 to over 50,000.

PDG Durden cited an alarming vision statistic that should get everyone's attention. Sixty-Three (63) of our 100 countries in North Carolina do not have an organized screening program for children in schools. If you consider that 80% of learning is visual, having difficulty seeing places children at a significant disadvantage. It is critical that visual issues be detected and corrected by age seven (7) before they become more of a problem in later life.

PDG Durden was very pleased with the results of Volunteers Week and thanked all that participated.

Camp Dogwood & Retreat Administrator, Tammy Thomas, presented some very positive things that are happening at the Camp.

On Saturday as we met, the parking lot at Camp Dogwood had about 100 motorcycles in it! The "Red Knights" Fire Fighters were having their State Organization Meeting there. This organization has taken Camp Dogwood under their wing and makes donations from their riding events. They have a riding event planned for this coming Fall.

Between August 1 and December 1, 2021, Camp Dogwood is booked every weekend except for three (3) and one of them is Thanksgiving. This is great news for the Camp.

During Volunteers Week, Camp Dogwood shipped 7,000 lbs. of glasses to the Recycling Center for distribution overseas. 5,000 to 6,000 pairs are still there and need to be sorted. The next Sorting Session is planned for October 10-13, 2021. Registration Forms will be available well ahead of time to plan for meals, etc.

Summer Camp Sessions will resume this year but in a modified manner to stay in compliance with COVID-19 Guidelines.

- Only thirty (30) Campers will be allowed per week.
- Ten (10) Campers can have Caregivers.
- Single occupancy rooms will be provided as available unless a Caregiver is needed.
- Masks will be required indoors and out (except while in the water).
- Hard surfaces and restrooms will be frequently cleaned.
- Social Distancing will be required in the dining hall.
- Dorms will be closed during lunch for cleaning.
- As highlighted here, the Staff, Councilors and Volunteers will be quite busy in accommodating the VIPs with safety as the top priority.
- No Field Trips are being planned but more activities than usual are being planned for “on Campus”.

In closing, Administrator Tammy made the day for two (2) lucky people. Two Walmart Gift Cards were drawn. One winning ticket was sold by the Pleasant Garden Lions Club and the other was sold by the Goldston Lions Club! Congratulations to the winners!

Brighter Visions.

- CCE Dale Dupree appropriately stated that “We are here and we have made it this far under conditions we are not use to”! He is absolutely correct and a lot of effort has been applied in trying to achieve our Brighter Visions goal.
 - Lion Dale continued by reporting that many Clubs have not been able to raise money or do the Service to the community that they want to do. With fifty three (53) Clubs in the District, all but twelve (12) have contributed to Brighter Visions. We have obtained 62% of our goal and we have three months left to reach our goal of \$120,000.
 - In closing, Lion Dale stated:
“Let us not let our VIPs and those that we serve in other ways down. Look at what you spend each day and ask yourself what part of that expenditure I can do without and give to Brighter Visions instead. You can and will surprise yourself with what it can amount to within a week”.
- One suggestion was that perhaps Lions could consider making a \$100 donation from the gift you may have received from the U.S. Department of Internal Revenue.

New Business

Remarks on Proposed Motions.

- District Governor Paul stated that three (3) proposals have been made to utilize available funds that remain in unused budgeted line items for the current Fiscal Year. Three motions were made and voted on for approval by Lions in attendance at this Cabinet Meeting. Delegates were not required for voting on these motions as under the policies and procedures manual all District Lions in attendance are allowed to vote.
- Motion 1-Motion to approve \$500 to purchase tickets for the Camp Dogwood Ticket Raffle.
- 2VDG Lacy Petty (Siler City) moved that District 31-O purchase fifty (50) books of Camp Dogwood Tickets “In Memory Of” NC Hall of Fame Member PDG David Osborne who was Chairman of Camp Dogwood Ticket Sales.
- The money will come from unused line items in the budget.
- If the raffle is won by the District, the 2021-2022 Cabinet will decide on the disposition of these funds.
- PDG John Owens(Oxford) Seconded the motion.

- However, during discussion of the original motion, an astute and very important point was raised regarding where Camp Dogwood Ticket Sales monies should be allocated to if the District won. This clarification was put into a motion to amend the original motion.
- Lion Frances Almond moved that if the District won the raffle, the money will be returned to Brighter Visions “In Memory Of” PDG David Osborne.
- PDG Susie Dailey seconded. The amendment motion carried by a simple majority vote by a show of hands. The original motion was then declared to be voted on by the poll method.
- Motion 2-Motion to approve up to \$2500 for the Awards Banquet Meal in July.

Lion Judy Keck (Julian) moved that the District approve up to \$2,500 be used from unspent District Convention funds to pay for a meal for all Lions who wish to attend the Awards and Installation banquet in July, if we are able to have this event “live”.

- PDG Chris Headley (Unionville) seconded.
- Motion 3-Motion to approve up to \$10,000 for Brighter Visions.
- PDG Karl Ernst moved that up to \$10,000 be paid to Brighter Visions on June 25, 2021, if the District has not yet met its Brighter Visions Goal by that date.
- Such monies shall be paid from unspent funds in the general accounts for the 2020-2021 year (excluding account 140-District Convention @\$3/person) and up to \$2,000 from the Contingency Fund.
- If there are insufficient monies to pay this sum, then the amount paid will equal the unspent accounts and \$2,000 from the Contingency Fund.
- 2VDG Lacy seconded.
- A vote was then taken by secret ballot.
- Motion 1 carried with 97% approval and 3% disapproval. Motion 2 carried with 97% approval and 3% disapproval. Motion 3 carried with 97% approval and 3% disapproval.

Closing Remarks and Announcements:

District Governor Paul announced that Lion Susan O’Brien has agreed to serve as our 2VDG in 2021-2022. However, she did not qualify under the LCI requirements as having served in the position of Zone Chairperson. LCI will approve her as our next 2VDG after she has served six (6) months plus a day as a Zone Chairperson. Our current Zone 2 Chairperson has very graciously stepped aside from her position to allow Lion Susan to qualify as our 2VDG. The District is very thankful for this kind and thoughtful gesture. District Governor Paul Marth appointed Lion Susan as Zone Chairperson about a month ago and she will be eligible in October 2021 to begin serving as 2VDG. It is the District’s understanding that no election will be required for her term as 2VDG but she will need to be nominated and voted on for 1VDG in January 2022 for Lions year 2022-2023. LCI has assured us that we are in full compliance with their current qualification requirements, at this point.

Our District Governor also stated that we are experiencing difficulty in North Carolina at the State and District level in finding a sufficient number of Lions who have served as Zone Chairs or in other positions to qualify as a District Governor. District 31 will host an Emerging Lions Leadership Conference on September 24-26, 2021 at Camp Dogwood. Mark and save the dates on your calendar. This is designed for Lions that need additional training, want to be a better Lion or those that want to move up in Lionism. All are encouraged to participate. The Council of

Governors has approved this training. The planning is in process now. The faculty will be made up from Leaders in our District who have been there before. These are extremely helpful events.

Adjournment:

Lion Frances Almond moved that we adjourn the Cabinet Meeting. Lion Susan O'Brien seconded. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

These Minutes will serve as true testimony to District 31-O's dedication to Lionism. A copy will be submitted to LCI as required for their records.

Respectfully Submitted and thank you for your Service!

Bob Gwyn - Cabinet Secretary 2020-2021