



# 2nd District 31-O Cabinet Meeting Minutes November 7, 2021 By Zoom



## **Call to Order & Welcome**

District Governor Barbara Thompson promptly called our second meeting to order on November 7, 2021, at 3:00pm. We were all greeted with very warm and heartfelt remarks and much appreciation was expressed for the giving of our time to attend this important meeting.

This meeting was held on Zoom and our standard housekeeping procedures that pertains to this format were covered by our Acting 2VDG Lion Susan O'Brien.

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

Council Chair PDG Dale Dupree led us in our Pledge.

## **Invocation**

District Chaplain Lion Jimmy Butler delivered his inspiring invocation with sincere feelings as always.

## **Attendance**

We were pleasantly surprised to learn that if you had joined our Zoom meeting early today, your name was placed in a drawing for a prize! Zone 10 Chair, Juanita Brown was the lucky winner of a \$25 gift card. We had over 30 Lions in attendance before the official Call-to-Order and ended up with 46 total in attendance.

## **Recognition of our International Family**

Our Distinguished Past International President (PIP) Sid Scruggs was in attendance. PIP Sid stated that in honor of his good friend, Past International Director Lacy Presnell, he was "just glad to be here"!

District 31-O is quite fortunate to have a Past International President and two Past International Directors, Past International Directors Harvey Whitley and Gwen White, in our midst. Their continued guidance is invaluable to all Lions across North Carolina and beyond.

## **Other Distinguished Recognitions**

Our Council Chair, Dale Dupree, was in attendance and he looks forward to the Council of Governors meeting this upcoming weekend.

## **Administrative Business:**

### **- Reading of the prior Cabinet Meeting Minutes**

Council Secretary (CS) Bob Gwyn was recognized to read the minutes from the August 14, 2021 Cabinet Meeting. However, before he started, PDG Susie Dailey moved that the minutes be approved as previously submitted. Zone Chair (ZC) Judy Keck seconded. The motion carried. The previous and future Cabinet Meeting Minutes can be reviewed on our District Website.

### **- Review of Treasurer's Report**

Council Treasurer (CT) PDG Laraine Dupree was recognized to present the Treasurer's Report. CT Laraine reported that our district is in a very good financial position, and we have a current balance of \$50,561.18. All clubs except for one have paid the first half of their District Dues and Convention Fees. The check from that one unpaid club is expected this week. Six clubs have already paid their District Governor's Goals for the year, which is outstanding. Our district has received an invoice for \$600 payable to the Multiple District 31 Council of Governors (COG) to cover our share of the cost for the Regional Lions Leadership Institute (RLLI) seminar that was recently held at Camp Dogwood. The District Governor's Team had budgeted \$1,000 for the Global Leadership Team with the RLLI expense in mind. A check for \$600 will be submitted to the COG Secretary on Friday, November 12, 2021. The District 31-O tax return form 990-N e-postcard has been submitted to the IRS and confirmed.

All club treasurers are reminded that their club's tax return must be submitted by Monday, November 15, 2021. You can go to "irs.gov" and enter "form 990-N" or e-postcard in the search box and it will take you through the process. After the presentation of a fine report, there were no questions. PDG Lion Paul Marth moved that the Treasurer's Report be approved as presented. PDG Lion Lynn McCaskill seconded. The motion carried.

## **Old Business**

Our 2020-2021 Financial Audit Review is still in process. It should be completed next week. It will be made available upon completion.

PDG Paul Marth presented an excellent report on our Regional Lions Leadership Institute (RLLI) session that was held on September 24-26, 2021. This was the first time since March of 2017 that North Carolina has sponsored the RLLI. It was recognized that there has been a shortfall of people coming

forward for leadership positions in their clubs and in the district. Each district in North Carolina was given the opportunity to have 5 Lions participate from each district. District 31-O had four participants: Lion Clara Weston-Eden, Lion Ken Stine-Greensboro, Lion Tracy Massey-Guilford County IOB Branch, and Acting 2VDG Susan O'Brien-Waxhaw.

The excellent faculty included our distinguished Past International Directors Gwen White and Harvey Whitley as well as other participating instructors. Interest was expressed in being a 2VDG from approximately 12 attendees. Another district did indeed have a participant from this conference to file for becoming a 2VDG! Since this event was such a success, another RLLI Conference has been tentatively scheduled for March 24-26, 2023, at Camp Dogwood. This is subject to the vote of this year's Council of Governors at their meeting this week. This will also be subject to the present 1VDGs who will have to vote on whether or not to budget and fund this seminar.

## **New Business**

### **- NC Lions Centennial Celebration & State Convention**

PDG Susan Dailey reported that the convention planning is going amazingly well. A parade is planned with Food trucks and the schedule of events has been worked out as much as possible so far. Permits are actively being pursued with the City of Greensboro. Donations and sponsorships are also coming in. Approximately Sixty-seven (67) people are currently on the committee in some capacity and there is still room for more volunteers. Originally there were ten (10) clubs that were chartered in 1922. Seven (7) of those clubs are still active. Of the seven, three are in District 31-O, Albemarle, Durham, and Greensboro. PDG Laraine Dupree (museum curator) is seeking memorabilia to put on display in our museum at the State Convention's 100th Celebration. She will register and catalog each loaned piece. All items will be returned in the same condition as received from each club. Clubs are encouraged to search for and submit any item about your club that may be of interest at the convention.

Lion Susie is truly excited and honored to be the Host Chairperson for this historic event. She continues her efforts in assuring that this juncture of Lionism in North Carolina does not pass without its due recognition. As Lions, we must celebrate this "once in our lifetime" event in a grand way and make it something that will be remembered throughout North Carolina for decades!

### **- District Mid-Winter Convention (MWC)**

1VDG Lacy Petty reported that the MWC will be at the Greensboro PTI Airport Marriott on January 28-29, 2022. The theme for Fun Night will be to honor our Lion veterans from every War Era. Hopefully there will be some that

served during WWII. Veterans were encouraged to wear their uniforms and display their medals and to also share their memorabilia.

Lion Susan O'Brien gave an update on the registration card for the convention. The block of rooms is limited so early registration is encouraged and all are reminded that the discount on meals will expire on December 15, 2021.

District Governor Barbara stated that lots of interesting and exciting things are being planned so please save the date for this important weekend. Committee Chair meetings are currently in progress.

### **Guest Presentation from District 31-N**

Today, we were honored to have Lion Ana Elliott visit with us from the Fayetteville area to talk about juvenile diabetes. Lion Ana has been a Lion since 2017. She is a member of the Fayetteville Community Lions Club and has served as President. This club places strong emphasis on diabetes. She has also served as a Zone and Region Chairperson.

Lion Ana shared her personal experiences of having learned that her daughter was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes at the very young age of just 18 months old in 2011. Type 1 Juvenile Diabetes is a condition where the pancreas does not produce insulin or does not produce enough. This type of diabetes is not linked to exercise or diet.

The experience was life changing for her family since much had to be learned about how to care for their daughter by testing for glucose levels and dispensing insulin as needed. The technology of today has simplified the process with the availability of equipment that automatically takes glucose readings every three minutes and dispenses the proper amount of insulin as required. This equipment allows one to function normally and without the routine of manually testing and administering shots.

Lion Ana's club supports the Cape Fear Valley Hospital's Diabetes Gala every year in April to raise funds for their Signature Event which is the Juvenile Diabetes Summer Camp. Lion Ana went on to say that perhaps the largest positive impact Lions can have on this disease is to create awareness in the school districts and the community by explaining the differences between the types of diabetes.

Lion Ana's contact information is: Phone: 254-415-2751, Email: msgelliottwife@gmail.com. She will be honored to visit your club and present a program on Type 1 Childhood Diabetes.

District 31-O is appreciative of this personal testimony of how this disease has impacted her family. We are thankful to Lion Ana for enlightening our district and offering to present further programs.

## **Diabetes Awareness Month**

November is Diabetes Awareness month. District Governor Barbara encouraged Lions to wear a blue shirt, maybe paint your nails blue or dye your hair blue on “Go Blue Day” on November 14, 2021. This is a great way to show our support and our involvement will be educational to us. We can help children towards being productive adults. Lions are encouraged to submit information to our district leaders to recognize how our clubs have engaged with Juvenile Diabetes this month.

## **New Member Orientation**

Zone Chair Susan O’Brien and PID Harvey Whitley facilitated a wonderful New Member Orientation Session on November 2, 2021, by Zoom. In addition to the facilitators, twelve (12) Lions were in attendance. The orientation was very engaging and great questions were asked. Feedback was also positive.

This session was designed for new Lions, but older Lions always learn something new that is beneficial. Our rich history was shown in that old classic black & white video that was recorded over 100 years ago! One always notices some small detail that was overlooked in that “must see” film when you view it again.

This session was also structured in a manner that provided newcomers to Lionism some insight into how the clubs, zones, regions, Districts and Multi-Districts interface. The chart of a typical District Cabinet’s Structure was especially useful as a visual aid.

This session will soon become available on YouTube and subsequent sessions will be conducted later in the year as new members are inducted.

We are grateful to our facilitators for conducting a splendid Orientation Session and they are to be generously applauded.

Sessions on MyLion and MyLci are being planned for the January, February, and March timeframe to assist those Lions in Service and Membership Reporting. More will be published on this in the coming weeks.

## **Global Action Team Reports**

- **Our District Global Membership Team Coordinator, PDG Susan Dailey reported great news for our district membership growth!**

As of November 2021, our net membership gain stood at twenty-two (22) members within fourteen (14) clubs. A total of thirty-six (36) new Lions have joined our district. Three (3) clubs have gained 3 or more members, Broadway, Unionville, and Vass. Eden has gained new 4 members and Greensboro Hamilton Lakes has 8 new members!

We are the only district in the state with positive membership and we have a lot to be proud of especially after being only four (4) months into the year.

We are currently working with new clubs in 3 areas. PDG Paul Silverman and PCC Gary Greene are doing great with the clubs they are working with.

We are encouraged to keep asking potential Lions to come and join us.

- Our State/District Global Service Team Coordinator PCC Diane Whitley submitted her written report as follows to the Council Secretary:

Clubs Participating in District 31-O:	26
People Served:	42,090
Service Activities Completed:	345
Volunteer Hours:	5,832
Funds Donated:	\$68,181
Funds Raised:	\$116,561

Diabetes <u>ALL</u>	Environment	Childhood Cancer	Hunger Relief	Vision	Other
351	6,187	1	5,648	5,188	24,715

These are our numbers as of Thursday, Nov. 4, 2021. They change frequently as services are reported.

I would like to thank the 26 clubs that reported their service projects.

Thank all you for your service. Find someone to report your activities on My Lion.

There is someone near you who can help. It doesn't have to be an officer, just someone with a little computer skill.

**- Committee and Zone Chair (ZC) Reports**

ZC Wayne Durham and PDG Chris Headley are Co-chairs of Brighter Visions. They have divided up the area and are prepared to come and visit our clubs to present a program. We have currently reached \$47,500 of the \$115,000 goal for the year. This places us at 41% of our target. If we remain on our current pace as compared to last year, we will have a shortfall of approximately \$20,000. Every club is asked to try to increase their donations. An update will be provided in the coming weeks.

**- Our District Camp Dogwood Chair, ZC Judy Keck submitted her written report as follows to the Council Secretary:**

Camp Dogwood Report 2nd Quarter:

Staff are busy planning camp for 2022

Applications for campers and summer volunteers will be go out in January.

**Spring Volunteer Week will be March 23-30th.** Lions are asked to volunteer for eye glass sorting and projects around camp which may include painting, mulching, power washing, washing windows and more.

Registration for volunteer week will also be made available in January. Lions can volunteer for as few or many days as they would like. Meals and lodging will be available. We ask everyone to register for food purposes even if they are only coming for a day.

**Wish List:** attached file

I have visited & given Camp Dogwood report to: GCWCC; Archdale Lions club and Oxford Lions club.

Thank you

Lion Judy Keck

ZONE 8 Chairperson

District Camp Dogwood Chairperson

## **Nominations**

Our District Chairman of Nominations, PDG Paul Marth, reported that we will be voting for our 2022-2023 Governors at the Mid-Winter Convention that will be held the weekend of January 28-29, 2022. Thus far, will have three Lions on the ballot for a Governor Positions. Lion Lacy Petty from the Siler City Club will be voted on for District Governor, Lion Susan O'Brien from the Waxhaw Club will be voted on for First VDG and Lion Judy Keck from the Julian Club will be on the ballot for Second VDG. Our Constitution and By-Laws will permit adding a candidate for Second VDG only.

To meet the requirements for becoming a candidate for Second VDG, one must have served in the following capacities: two years minimum as a director on a club's Board of Directors, be a Past Club President, and has also served as a Zone Chair or District Cabinet Secretary.

Any interested candidates may contact PDG Paul Marth and submit a request with their club's recommendation stating that they endorse and support them. PDG Paul can be reached for questions at Ph-336-420-8033 or Em-pemarth@att.net.

## **Service Reporting:**

District Governor Barbara expressed her sincere appreciation for the amount of service District 31-O is rendering to those in need. Year-to-date we have accumulated 5,775 volunteer service hours!

Last Lions year, 47% of our clubs reported their Service Activities in MyLion. The goal for this Lions year is 60%. We are currently at 43%. All clubs are encouraged to report their activities so that the District Governor's Leadership Team, North Carolina Lions, Inc. (NCLI) and Lions Clubs International (LCI) become more aware of the services being providing. LCI already knows that our district strongly supports their Hunger Initiative more so than any other

single initiative. They have requested surveys to find out more about how we have become so successful. All initiatives are equally important, and we need to let our efforts be known through reporting. MyLion training sessions will soon begin to assist in navigating the website and clarification of what should and should not be reported will be included in training. It is important to clearly identify the appropriate category to place your qualifying service activities into. We are doing great as a district and are asked to continue with our strong commitment.

### **District Membership**

As of today, District 31-O's membership stood at 1,138 members. This places our net growth for the year at plus 23 towards a district goal of plus 35. So, since we have set our projected and sustained a positive growth rate at three (3) members per month, we are doing exceptionally well year-to-date! However, we must never become complacent in our efforts because of the losses that we must endure. We must continue our search for new Lions and using the service platform as a fertile field for recruiting is an excellent option. Our own Sanford Lions Club can certainly attest to this in the use of their Annual Fair. They have been successful in recruiting members by asking the volunteers that serve at their Signature Annual Fair to consider becoming a Lion.

District Governor Barbara highlighted the following fourteen (14) clubs that have positive growth at this point: Aberdeen, Alamance Community, Broadway, Eden, Guilford County Women's Cyber, Hamilton Lakes, High Point, Indian Trail, Oak Ridge, Oxford, Rockingham, Sanford, Unionville and Vass. These clubs are to be commended for their recruiting efforts and all clubs in our district are encouraged to continue our search for members. Our membership goal is well within reach, and we want to assure that we continue strongly serving our communities.

### **District 31-O Club Anniversaries**

Secretary Bob Gwyn highlighted the important anniversary dates of twelve (12) clubs within our district that have Anniversaries between July and December 2021.

The two oldest clubs are Durham and Greensboro Host. Durham is two months older than Greensboro. Both have already turned 99 this year. The youngest club is North Moore, they will turn 1 year old this month! Hamilton Lakes turned 65 last month and was sponsored by Greensboro Host. High Point is 92 this month. Hamlet will be 77 next month and Ellerbe is 1 year younger. Unionville will be 51 years old next month and South Chatham is 3 years younger. Gibsonville will be 63 this month. Our second youngest club to



celebrate during this period is Broadway and they turned 11 in September. McLeansville turned 61 back in July. Congratulations to these clubs for their endurance and the newcomers are commended and welcomed as well into Lionism.

One very important reminder to clubs is that they should always have at least two responsible Lions that are responsible for knowing where their Original Charter is located if the club does not have a permanent meeting place or establishment to display it in. This document is the most revered one your club will ever receive from, LCI and it deserves being treated as such.

### **World Kindness Day**

In 1998, World Kindness was created to promote kindness around the world and many organizations, including Lions, celebrate this International Holiday. The date this year is Saturday, November 13, 2021. The purpose is to help everyone understand that compassion for others is what binds us all together and the big hearts of Lions certainly fall into the domain of caring for others through our service.

Lion Susan O'Brien shared an extremely appropriate short story that was delivered in a riveting manner that captured our attention and our inner feelings. She touched our emotions when she described an incident in a grocery store where she once observed a thoughtless father behaving in a demeaning manner towards his teenaged son. Lion Susan's reaction to witnessing this event prevented her from just walking away. She responded by immediately taking a quick lap around the adjacent aisle and reapproached the couple from behind again in the original aisle. This time she stopped, tapped the young man on the shoulder and said, would you give me a hug? She was embraced by him, and she returned the gesture.

The father appeared perplexed as Lion Susan responded to the young man by saying, "thank you, I needed that". The father asked his son...what was that about and he answered by saying, that lady needed a hug! Lion Susan's intervention immediately defused that incident, and we could only surmise that the young man must have been elated to have been embraced himself by a total stranger after receiving those disparaging words from his father. There is no doubt that Lion Susan received total relief from the anxiety that that situation had created for her.

What a great story to share! This "random act of kindness" is a prime and great example of....kindness. We can all relate to such occurrences as this, and we can certainly learn from it. Hopefully that bewildered father learned a lesson that he was never taught as a child!

Lion Susan concluded her remarks by making references to the “Quest for Kindness”, theme that will be the Lions Clubs International float to be entered in the 2022 Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California. This marvel represents three (3) vessels that are carrying children, teachers, and mentors. There is also a towering lighthouse with a beacon of light that represents the thousands of Lions Clubs throughout the world that are serving in their communities.

We all were encouraged to think about our own quest for kindness, do something nice on November 13th!

### **Announcements:**

ZC Frank Kelleher announced that our State Technology for the Blind and Visually Impaired Co-Chairperson Lion Mayra McCloud has been invited to present a program to Oak Ridge on November 22, 2021.

You are encouraged to get this program presented to your club. You will be amazed at the new equipment that is available now and you will be equally impressed with what is in development. Lion Mayra’s presentation will be outstanding, and you will admire her unparalleled passion!

Lion Rich Kirschke announced that the Vass Club is planning a Vision and Hearing screening on November 12, 2021, at their Town Hall at 9:00am.

PIP Sid followed up on the announcement and pointed out that the Vass Club has had our State Diabetes Awareness Chairperson, Lion Judy Jackson, present a program on diabetes then they later formed a committee to get the education out locally. They originally attempted to get Diabetes Testing done in conjunction with an on-site NCLI Vision and Hearing screening. However, because of the cutback or overloading of the nurses at the Health Department, they were unable to get anybody that was licensed to be able to give diabetic testing. If you are planning to do diabetic testing, you need a lot of lead time to get a qualified individual to perform the test.

We were delighted to have Romy Dilla in attendance as a guest today. Romy is not a Lion yet but he has expressed interest in possibly becoming one in the Oak Ridge Lions Club. He is seeking more information and suggested that the availability of a Calendar of Events of club activities would be helpful in making a decision on membership. ZC Frank Kelleher offered to provide some details that will assist Romy and District Governor Barbara welcomed his input which brought our attention to the need for more open publicity of what our clubs do.

Our Acting 2VDG Lion Susan O'Brien spoke about the distinction between being a "collaborator" versus a "cooperator", and the impact this slight behavioral adjustment could have on club dynamics. Collaborators are those who encourage and respect input from even the most timid club members at the planning and execution stage of service projects so more of them become fully invested in the outcome and success. Lion leaders who embrace a collaborative mindset are likely to witness enhanced creativity and teamwork on the delivery of meaningful service programs.

1VDG Lacy Petty stated that any club can work with another club on any project. His thoughts paralleled Romy and Lion Susan's in that if you see one club doing something great, you are inspired to do that or something similar. That also attracts people to your club. For years, a lot of clubs have done the same things repeatedly. There are other things we can do, and we must learn to work together. He is willing to listen and learn and take suggestions from other Districts and our Clubs.

District Governor Barbara concluded the Cabinet Meeting by citing statistics on how pervasive diabetes is within our state. 45% of our citizens have some type of diabetes. North Carolina has seen an increase in diabetes of more than 33% in the past decade. 21% do not know that they have the disease. Testing is very important for making our citizens aware.

What can we do now? We can start by educating ourselves then promote awareness in our schools and our communities. Lions Clubs International and the National Diabetes websites are great places to start. We can take nuts and peanut butter crackers as snacks to our schools. We can place magazines in libraries. We can also donate kick balls and jump ropes to promote physical activity in elementary schools. We are encouraged to Google Lions Clubs International, in the search bar type "world diabetes day", scroll down to find the link that will let you take an assessment of yourself to see where you stand. This site can also be shared with family members. Our State Diabetes Chair is willing to visit our clubs for a program.

**All were thanked for attending today and exchanging an abundance great information.**

**Remember to wear something blue on World Diabetes Day!**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Bob Gwyn - District 31-O Council Secretary**