



1st District 31-O Cabinet Meeting Minutes

August 6, 2022

Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church
Greensboro, NC



50 Lions attended in person. 10 Lions attended by Zoom. Total Lions in attendance was 60.

Call to Order

District Governor (DG) PCC Gary Greene (Aberdeen) called our Cabinet Meeting to order at 10:00am.

The first order of business was to conduct the newly established “Coin Toss Ceremony” that would determine which one of our two distinguished District Tailtwisters would win the honor of striking the District Governor’s finely tuned suspended gong. Past District Governor (PDG) Bill Womack (Archdale-Trinity) won the toss and received the coveted mallet from DG Gary. PDG Bill’s well-placed strike on the gong created a deeply penetrating sound that instantly rolled over into a delightful waning melody to open our First Cabinet Meeting. Hopefully, Past Council Chair (PCC) Dale Dupree (Wingate) will have better luck at our next Cabinet Meeting in winning the mallet.

Invocation

PDG Bill Womack immediately proceeded in delivering our Invocation.

Pledge Allegiance

Lion Coy Rahman (Eden) lead our Pledge in his usual and proper manner.

Welcome and Greetings

Lion Jennifer Clapp (McLeansville) greeted the Lions and extended a very warm welcome from the McLeansville Lions Club. District 31-O likewise extends many thanks and gratitude to the McLeansville Club for hosting the Cabinet Meeting and for sponsoring a splendid lunch.

Introduction of International Family

Past International President (PIP) Sid Scruggs (Vass) was recognized on Zoom and expressed his regards to all. He announced that his club will be supporting Brighter Visions and the Camp Dogwood Ticket Fundraiser. In closing he stated that DG Gary has his and his club’s full support for a successful year.

Past International Director (PID) Harvey Whitley (Greater Monroe) was also recognized and reserved comments until later in the meeting.

District 31-O is so fortunate to have these two wonderful Lions in our district. Their massive amounts of knowledge in Lionism are simply an open treasure trove to just reach into. One will instantly become much better informed by just asking them about any topic and they will happily give you a solid answer.

We greatly appreciate their continued and loyal attendance at all events.

Introduction of our State Council Chair

Council Chair (CC) Paul Marth (Greensboro) was recognized and introduced. He is looking forward to the Council Meeting on August 12, 13 and 14, 2022 at Camp Dogwood. DG Gary encouraged Lions to attend this quarterly meeting of the State Leadership for Lions in North Carolina which includes the Council of Governors (COG) and North Carolina Lions, Inc. (NCLI) officers and the board of directors. The business meetings will enlighten Lions on where our money goes. One will learn about how much and how well we are serving throughout the state as a group.

Introduction of Cabinet Officers

All were in attendance and introduced as follows: 1st Vice District Governor (1VDG) Susan O'Brien (Waxhaw), 2nd Vice District Governor (2VDG) Judy Keck (Julian), Cabinet Treasurer (CT) PDG Laraine Dupree (Wingate) and Cabinet Secretary (CS) Lion Bob Gwyn (Greensboro).

Appointment of Parliamentarian

PID Harvey Whitley graciously accepted the appointment as Parliamentarian for today's meeting.

Administrative Business

- Reading of the prior Cabinet Meeting Minutes. Cabinet Secretary Bob Gwyn was recognized to read the minutes. Prior to doing so, our Parliamentarian, PID Harvey Whitley, pointed out that according to our Bylaws, a motion and a second needs to pass so that all Lions in attendance can vote on approving prior Cabinet Meeting Minutes. Otherwise, only the District Officers and Club Presidents could vote on the approval of prior minutes. PID Harvey Whitley moved that we grant approval to all Lions in attendance to vote on approving the prior Cabinet Meeting Minutes at all of our cabinet meetings this year. PDG Howard Wallace (Hamilton Lakes) seconded. The motion carried. This approved motion will remain affective thru 2022-2023. DG Gary next called for a motion to approve the prior Cabinet Meeting Minutes. Lion Coy Rahman (Eden) moved. PDG Jim Chandler (Wadesboro) seconded. The motion passed.

Cabinet Treasurer Reports

CT Laraine Dupree was next recognized to present the District 31-O Financial Reports.

Report 1 - Presentation of the 2021-2022 Treasurer's Report.

CT Laraine opened her remarks by stating that we had a successful year! Line 840 (Miscellaneous) on the July 1, 2021-July 30, 2022, Financial Statement was clarified. The \$301.70 included money that was sent to NCLI for Camp Dogwood Raffle tickets that were given to Lions that brought food items to the Mid-Winter Convention. New Name Badges were purchased for the incoming District Officers for 2022-2023. We inadvertently received a Square deposit into our account because the same Square device used at the Mid-Winter Convention was also used at the Pleasant Garden Lions Club Golf Tournament. Therefore, the \$106.94 that came into our budget had to be transferred back to Pleasant Garden.

No training nor convention expenses were incurred from our Vice District Governors or our District Governor for this year. Personal circumstances just did not permit attendance, which is quite understandable. This is the one reason why we were under budget for this year. There are still a couple of outstanding checks. Otherwise, PDG Laraine has everything accounted for, as usual, and in her very thorough manner.

After receiving no questions for CT Laraine regarding the 2021-2022 Treasurer's Report, DG Gary called for a motion to approve the report. Lion PDG Lynn McCaskill (Ellerbe) moved that we accept the Financial Statement as presented. Lion Coy Rahman seconded. The motion carried.

Report 2 - Presentation & Approval of the 2022-2023 Budget.

CT Laraine stressed how important it is for the incoming District Governor and Vice District Governors to attend the training offered by Lions Clubs International (LCI). Upon completion of the course, new leaders will be better prepared. DG Gary received a much-deserved round of applause for completing his training online in the capacity of District Governor Elect and with limited time to prepare. District 31-O owes much gratitude to DG Gary for this remarkable achievement.

The major point of interest to highlight on the budget is our opening membership balance which is 1,075 members. We are down by 40 members when compared to the 2021-2022 opening balance which equates to less income. Therefore, a \$1.00 increase in District Dues per member has been proposed. Our District Dues have remained at \$14.00 since 2015. In order to meet our obligations, this increase has been suggested. Our District Convention Fee will remain at \$3.00 since it is based directly on membership figures.

A total of 200 District Governor Trading pins have been ordered which is 100 less than last year. We are transferring the amount of \$500.00 from line 911 (Contingency Fund (Int.Conv.) on the Restricted Fund from last year's budget (July 1, 2021 - July 30, 2022). This funding was handed down when District 31-O was formed. The donating district had previously used funds from this restricted account to send District Governors or other Lions in their district to International Conventions. As a thank you gesture to DG Gary, we are transferring \$500.00 that is to be used to offset his expenses if he attends the International Convention in Boston, MA in 2023.

Line Item 170 (Miscellaneous) has an entry of \$7.50 the under heading of Budget 22-23 to balance the budget. It is anticipated that our Council Dues will decrease. However, that will be confirmed at the upcoming council meeting. The Promotions Fund will decrease since it is based on membership.

The Trading Pin expenses will decrease since we have less to pay for. The budget for postage has been increased by \$10. The Postal Service has also increased the cost of stamps. The District Awards budget has been increased from \$300.00 to \$450.00. The primary reason is that some awards expenses for a given year are incurred past June 30th. This budget increase does not mean that the increased amount has to be spent but expenses incurred after June 30th, however, are captured and are within budget.

The 2nd Vice District Governor's budget has been increased from \$500.00 to \$750.00 to attend the Advanced Lions Leadership Institute (ALLI). The location is in Los Angeles this year. 2VDG Judy Keck is hoping to attend and she has submitted her application for approval. This budget increase is to offset travel expenses. The district will cover the \$125.00 Registration Fee.

The budget for the USA/Canada Forum has been increased to from \$300.00 to \$750 mainly because of the location of the venue. Last the location was in Des Moines, IA. This year the Forum is in Calgary, Canada. These Forum increases will apply equally to both the 1st Vice District Governor & 2nd Vice District Governor. The consensus of the cabinet is that if we assist the 1st & 2nd Vice District Governors in getting the training for the year they are coming in, we have met our obligation for that part of training. The District Governor is welcome to go to the Forum but will not receive district funds.

Line item 610 (spouse of DGE) in the 2022-2023 Budget will cover up to \$500.00 to offset expenses. It is our duty to offset some of the cost for spouses to accompany the District Governor to the International Convention. LCI will give \$500.00 to a district to help cover expenses for District Governor spouses to attend conventions but only if that district is not in transition. A district must maintain its membership at 1,250 or above to qualify for the \$500.00.

Line 790 (State Convention Program Ad) is not a budget item for this year, but it is something that we need to do every year. Line 810 (District Website/Internet) has been decreased from \$300.00 to \$150.00 since we were able to get an annual rate instead of paying monthly. We are currently paid up through September 2022. A new application will be submitted next month to cover one year. Line 840 (Miscellaneous) has an entry of \$40.00 under the heading of Budget 22-23 to balance the budget.

CT Laraine concluded her comments on the 2022-2023 Budget by stating that the Unrestricted Funds Account is the only one that we budget. The Restricted budget is based on what we get in for the year and all of those monies have to be spent as allocated. We do have a Contingency Fund that we have not added to since District 31-O started.

There was an expenditure of \$1,000.00 as a donation for relief from a hurricane. There is no budget with that amount. We use that fund when we are over budget to show where those monies are and to clean the books up at the end of the year

After receiving no questions for CT Laraine about the report after a very detailed and clear explanation of the 2022-2023 Budget, Lion Coy Rahman made a motion to accept the budget as read. Lion Gene Hassell (Jamestown) seconded.

Discussion:

PIP Sid Scruggs was appreciative of all of the hard work that has gone into the budget. He suggested, and for a very good reason, that we make a change to our budgeting policy. The change would be that the budget for the coming year would be presented by the incoming District Governor Elect along with his or her goals. The reason is that any increases in the District Budget affects all of the Club Budgets. Our current budgeting policy of announcing increases after the new year has started negatively impacts a Club's budget which has already been set prior to the announcement of the new District Budget which may contain increases. Perhaps the District Governor Elects could present their budget to the clubs before the year's end and give them ample time to plan.

PIP Sid closed his remarks by stating that if such a policy as the one described is feasible, it would better facilitate the individual clubs in their financial planning.

The motion passed.

DG Gary asked that CT Laraine to state who the members of the District Budget Committee are, and she cited the following officers: Immediate Past District Governor, current District Governor, 1st Vice District Governor, 2nd Vice

District Governor, the outgoing Cabinet Treasurer and current Cabinet Treasurer.

We were reminded that our District Dues do not come from any money raised in the community, the dues come from the Lions themselves. The District Governor's Goals remain the same at \$20.00 per member. The new District Dues are \$15.00 per member. Clubs will be billed for the 1st half dues on August 10, 2022, in the amount of \$7.50 per member for District Dues plus \$3.00 per member for the Convention Fee. Total 1st half billing per member is \$10.50. The 2nd half bills will go out on February 10, 2023, in the amount of \$7.50 per member.

District Governor Goals are strictly voluntary, and clubs will not be invoiced. Invoices will be sent upon request. The handout sheet that was distributed today can be used as an invoice to pay the District Governor's Goal. We should also be reminded that in order to qualify as being a 100% Club, one must have fully supported the District Governor's Goal for the year and before June 15 if possible.

Report 3 - District 31-O Treasurer's Report for July 2022

The budget that was just approved is reflected on Financial Statement for the month of July. The only administrative expense so far is \$133.42 for trophies that were presented at the Awards Banquet. Last year, clubs were asked to submit their District Governor's Goal money by June 15. However, some checks were received in the new year so there will be some balances that will be forwarded over on the Restricted Accounts.

The Contingency/Unrestricted Funds report reflects a journal entry dated August 1, 2022. When we had the Awards & Installation Luncheon in Sanford, NC, the cost of the meal was \$1,027.17. We collected \$790.00. The Sanford Lions Club utilized the leftover food to go to the First Responders and other Health & Safety people that work long hours. The \$237.17 shown on Line 937 (food donation to 1st Responders) on the Restricted Funds report was used as a Service Expense.

The actual attendance at the Awards & Installation was approximately 80 Lions.

CC Paul Marth moved that we accept the July Financial Statement as presented. Lion Gene Hassell seconded. The motion passed.

Report 4 - Final Report from the Mid-Winter Convention

CT Laraine reported the that Total Income for the Mid-Winter Convention was \$13,278.11 which also included some sponsorships from clubs for the Hospitality Room and meals.

Total Expenses were \$14,387.16. The deficit amounted to \$1,109.05. It was pointed out that we have to pay for all International Director expenses from the time they land until they depart from the airport. Their expenses included lodging, meals during travel and a donation to Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) in their honor, a hospitality bag and appreciation gifts. These expenditures are considered proper etiquette for conventions. We also subsidize a lot of the costs on the meals for everyone. Two of the meal prices on the registration fee are below cost. These fees do not include the 32% tax and gratuity added to the bill. District 31-O has been subsidizing meals for several years now. This is the major cause of the deficit.

Lion Troy Jordan (Jamestown) moved that we accept the Final Convention Report as presented. Lion Gene Hassell seconded. The motion passed.

Report 5 - Approval of Banking Relationship & Surety Bond.

CT Laraine reported that District 31-O is currently banking at First Citizens Bank. The Surety Bond will be billed to us by the Council Secretary/Treasurer. The bond fee is \$65.00.

PDG Jim Chandler moved that we approve the Banking Relationship and Surety Bond as is currently established. Lion Troy Jordan Seconded. The motion passed.

A well-deserved and strong round of applause was given to CT Laraine for her continued diligence and close attention to the details of our financial records. She is relentless in assuring that every account is accurate and current. Thank you, CT Laraine, for your loyalty and dedication to our district!

District Governor Team Remarks

- 2VDG Judy Keck was recognized for remarks and opened by expressing how important Brighter Visions is to our communities and that each club needs to think big about fundraising this year. During Covid many clubs have depleted their finances by helping the communities rather than fundraising. We fight for and fund important causes that might not matter to us, but it does matter to the ones we are helping. By providing meals to the homeless we are doing the most important work in the world. Each club is encouraged to have a special fundraiser for Brighter Visions. Together we can reach our Brighter Visions goal and maybe exceed it if we work as teams to develop new ideas and to keep our causes in communities built up.

- 1VDG Susan O'Brien has been meeting a lot of Lions and she will continue doing so. She appreciates the support and hard work of DG Gary and the cabinet by putting the appropriate goals in place that will continue the legacy and reflect what our focus is on the district. One thing she wanted to reflect on that was gotten from a club visit was that clubs are having a hard time raising money. Some clubs just want to raise money for their local community and put it there.

1VDG encouraged everyone to continue to emphasize the impact that we have at the district level in our communities by supporting the District Governor's Goals and by supporting Brighter Visions. It's just a matter of rephrasing the same message in a way that encourages clubs to carve out that portion of their budget that has been tough to do and really recognize and promote the great work and the achievements we have in our district.

New Business

- Appoint Committee for 2021-2022 audit
DG Gary appointed Past District Governors Susie Dailey, Randal Clapp and Paul Silverman to the Audit Committee for 2021-2022 audit.
- 2023 District Mid-Winter Convention
Immediate Past District Governor (IPDG) Barbara Thompson (Pleasant Garden) will be our Chair for the 2023 Mid-Winter Convention! She is proud of the new cabinet team and is excited about the upcoming year. There has already been a preliminary meeting about the convention and the theme is still pending at this time. The committee will be reaching out for help and wants to involve new Lion members just to get used to serving. Volunteers are welcomed and can contact IPDG Barbara for an assignment. The dates are January 27 & 28, 2023. This event is typically held during the last full weekend in January of each year. A Fun Night is planned for Friday, Saturday will be filled with exciting events and the Governor's Banquet will be Saturday Night. Much more to come!

IPDG Barbara took a moment to honor a very special friend and Lion with the NC Ambassador Award for his time and service as our 2nd and 1st Vice District Governor. Lion Lacy Petty was asked to come forward for the award. IPDG Barbara stated that his desire and great ideas to serve the community is outstanding. He has also been an encourager to IPDG Barbara over recent years. Lion Lacy expressed sincere appreciation for the award and was proud to receive it. Our motto "We Serve" is important to him. He also thanked CC Paul Marth for his support. Lion Lacy may return someday to get in the

rotation for becoming District Governor and if so, he will certainly have the support of District 31-O.

One comment of notable mention here is that when Lions are recognized with the Special Awards presented from our state, one should listen well as the letters that accompany these honors are read. Keen ears will detect the deep thought that went into crafting the words that most appropriately describes the award's true meaning. More importantly, the award itself is matched to the individual's contribution to Lionism. Therefore, the emotions of the presenter, the recipient and the audience are all vulnerable to being exposed during presentation. We can only conclude that the letters themselves are designed to reach one's heart as intended. This makes our awards so special!

Thank you, Lion Lacy, for your many years of fine service from the heart!

Global Action Team Reports

- Our Global Leadership Team Chair, PID Harvey Whitley, addressed the Lions by stating that Lion Lacy had sat through his District Governor Elect training at Camp Dogwood and that he had graduated with honors! We were asked to encourage him and he said that Lion Lacy does have the "Heart of a Lion".
- Club Secretaries and Treasurers were reminded that the YouTube training video was distributed on July 19, 2022, for review by those that were unable to attend the initial session. 30 days were granted to review this and still get credit towards being a 100% Secretary. After reviewing, secretaries must send an email to the Cabinet Secretary indicating your completion of the review. The deadline is August 18, 2022. A PowerPoint version of the training is also available for future reference from the Cabinet Secretary if needed.
- The Club Presidents training video is also available for review. PID Harvey will be happy to send that to anyone as well. You only need to request it through an email to him. There is no deadline nor points for reviewing but this presentation is invaluable for Club Presidents and Vice Presidents. You are encouraged to see it and you will undoubtedly be enlightened by its masterfully arranged content by PID Harvey.
- LCI offers three types of institutes that provide training to Lions that want to advance into leadership positions. The first one is the Emerging Lions Leadership Institute (ELLI). The second is the Regional Lions Leadership Institute (RLLI) and the third is the Advanced Leadership Lions Institute

(ALLI). In March of 2023, hopefully approval will be granted to conduct another RLLI session in our local area.

This training session is geared toward Lions that have served as club president and would like to advance to a zone chair, district committee chair or vice district governor. If your ambition is to advance in a leadership role beyond president, then the RLLI training session is a good place to start. The dates of March 23-26, 2023 have been reserved at Camp Dogwood. The paperwork is in the process of being approved and the faculty members have pretty much been lined up. Lions are asked to please let DG Gary know if you are interested. Each of the five Districts in 31 have five slots each allocated to them for this training. You are encouraged to register early. The goal is to do this annually to give our aspiring leaders an opportunity to advance beyond the club level.

PID Harvey is thankful to serve as our GLT Leader.

- Our Global Membership Team Chair, PDG Susie Dailey (Guilford County Cyber Club), is excited to be our Membership Chair. She is encouraged to see how many clubs have new members and potential ones visiting their clubs. This is a wonderful way to start the year. Areas have already been designated where we would like to start new clubs. If Lions know of areas near them or other areas where a new or branch club would be beneficial, please let PDG Susie know. She will be happy to come out and work with your community to see what can be done to build our membership back up. She looks forward to working with everyone this year.

- Our Global Service Chair, PCC Diane Whitley (Greater Monroe), reported that our district raised a total of \$222,797 last year for helping people. Of that amount, we directly donated \$160,524 towards all five categories of the Centennial Service Challenge which includes Youth, Environment, Vision, Hunger and Diabetes. We served 121,306 people. An updated report for July 2022 will be available soon.

District Committee Chair Reports

- District Hunger Chair, Lion Sharon Stone (Durham) presented an awakening report regarding hunger locally and around the world. Worldwide, 821 million people are currently suffering from hunger. This is approximately one in nine people. North Carolina's Poverty Rate is 13.6% and in 2019 we had the 13th highest rate in the country. Lion Sharon stated that the causes of hunger are rooted mainly in the challenges of disease, displacement, poverty, conflict, and climate change.

- A quote from diarist Anne Frank was cited, “Hunger is not a problem, it is an obscenity. How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world”.

So, what can WE do to help bring an end to world hunger and create opportunities for change.

- Six excellent opportunities were presented in detail:

1 - CROP Hunger Walk.

The Christian Rural Overseas Program (CROP) began in 1947 as a mission to help Midwest farm families share their grain with hungry neighbors in Post-World War II Europe and Asia. The walk is sponsored by Church World Service, a coalition of 1937 Christian denominations and a major force in the fight to end hunger. The success of this program is dependent on receiving donations from friends and families in support of the walker’s effort to help end hunger one step at a time. 25% of each walk stays local and 75% goes towards global distribution. In Durham an annual T-shirt design contest is conducted with online voting to choose the winner. The Durham Lions Club had also sponsored a food drive for Durham Public Schools in connection with the walk.

2 - Rise Against Hunger

This organization was formed in 1998 and was known as Stop Hunger Now. The organization began meal packaging in 2005 and currently serves 76 countries. The international Humanitarian Relief Program is designed to provide food and aid to some of the most vulnerable people in the world. The process involves assembly-line packaging of highly nutritious dehydrated meals comprised of rice, lentils, vegetables and 23 micro-nutrients and minerals. Groups are asked to package 10,000 meals in a fun and educational way.

3 - Backpack Buddies

This is a program designed to provide children experiencing food insecurity with nutritious kid-friendly packaged meals. The weekend bag of food includes meals and snacks for children when they would not have access to the school’s breakfast and lunch programs.

4 - Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina

This organization has been fighting hunger since 1980. One in five in Central and Eastern NC do not have enough to eat. The Durham Food Bank serves six counties, Chatham, Durham, Greenville, Orange, Person and Vance. The

Durham Club has volunteered onsite and has also had a speaker from the organization provide a program to their club.

5 - Holiday Food Basket Delivery

This project is an annual blessing for VIP clients with a social service connection. The Durham Club partnered with Kroger for many years until they left Durham. The club now works with Food Lion. A specific list of items is provided to the store. Items are packaged by the store in bags and delivered by club members. In 2021 a store gift card was delivered in place of a bag of groceries.

6 - Little Free Pantry

This is a similar approach to the Little Free Library Program but contains food instead of books. There are creative ways to establish a food pantry by recycling containers and designing packaging for distribution and replenishment. Churches or other organizations will welcome being involved in such a wonderful humanitarian cause and will make donations to it.

Lion Sharon has challenged each club represented today to plan and execute a service project to address hunger in your community.

Her closing comment after an outstanding hunger report cited the words of our International President Brian E. Sheehan.....“Together We Can”!

Clubs are strongly encouraged get involved in fighting hunger in a meaningful way. Established programs as the ones described above will certainly be of some benefit in any community with some dedicated effort in establishing, implementing and maintaining them.

- District Peace Poster Chair, Brenda Cox (Greensboro), reported that the 2022-2023 Peace Poster theme is “Lead With Compassion”. She anticipates that this will be a wonderful project for our middle-school participants. The talent displayed from previous years is remarkable and hopefully this year we will double the number of participating schools from five to ten. Zone Chairs and club presidents were asked to pick up the packet for their clubs and zones and distribute them.

- District Nominations Chair, IPDG Barbara Thompson, reported on the success of our recent graduates of the RLLI training session. Out of 23 attendees, 3 went on to be 2nd Vice District Governors! She spoke of how fantastic the opportunity is to meet people and grow as a leader. Past

presidents and zone chairs are encouraged to consider enrolling in RLLI if you have a desire to advance into higher leadership. RLLI is an excellent stepping stone to reaching your goal. Please also give IPDG Barbara a call if you are interested.

- District Properties and District Volunteers Chair, PDG Jim Chandler, was called upon for his two reports. He opened with Properties and stated that \$280,000 was raised last year. There was difficulty getting councilors and the camping retreats were reduced to five. Councilor staffing has typically been college students but due to Covid, students had to concentrate on getting their classes up to date and they therefore had less time to volunteer.

There are two scheduled retreats coming up soon. One is on November 15-17, 2022, called the Fall Festival. The second one is the New Year's Eve event on December 30-January 1, 2023. The number of attendees is limited on both, and the cost is \$200 per event. If you would like to attend, please call Camp Dogwood and Retreat Administrator, Tammy Thomas, at 828-478-2135, ext.229.

PDG Jim next reported on need for Volunteers. There is currently a shortage of volunteers. In March of every year, volunteers typically come down to paint, prune, clean and sort glasses. Donated glasses are piling up and storage space could become a problem if the inventory is not reduced having volunteers to sort glasses for shipping. Lions are encouraged to come in the Spring and help out in some capacity. There is usually something for everyone to do.

Zone Reports Report

- Zone 7 Chair, Candy Guy (High Point), reported that her first Zone meeting was held on July 25, 2022. There was good discussion on service projects. Zone 7 accepted the District 31-O challenge of recruiting new 50 members that are 40 years old or younger. A list of service projects will be created and shared. An upcoming event on September 9, 2022, at Glenwood Baptist Church will have the Vision Van onsite. The Greensboro Host Club is making plans for a Christmas Party for the Blind. The next Zone 7 meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2022.

- Zone 2 Chair, Frances Almond, reported that the clubs have remained active over the recent years. They have continued their flag project and have done some vision screenings. The zone has been in touch with Brian Hoover from NCLI and the school nurses in their community. The nurses are excited about getting vision screenings scheduled for 15 schools in October.

- Zone 9 Chair, Frank Kelleher (Oak Ridge) reported that, thanks to strong leadership, the Madison, Eden, Reidsville and Oak Ridge clubs have continued

regular meetings by Zoom or in-person throughout the last many months in the face of the pandemic. Fundraising, programs, and service activities continue in earnest. In the coming weeks, Zone Chair Frank will be meeting with these clubs to discuss membership and fundraising. The Zone 9 clubs are also looking forward to hosting 1VDG Susan O'Brien in early Fall.

CT Laraine moved that we accept the Committee Chair and Zone Chair Reports as presented. Lion Joy Koziol (Waxhaw) seconded. The motion carried.

Comments

- Lion Coy Rahman announced that he will be happy to send any Lion a flash drive with the pictures he takes at our events. He just needs your physical address to mail it to.
- DG Gary announced that last year we had a drawing for the Bob Timberlake print. The lucky winner was PDG Lynn McCaskill!
- The new district directories were made available for today's meeting. As is the case every year, revisions will continue occurring throughout the year. DG Gary has designated the online version of our district directory as the "living document" to be updated during the year. This will be the best reference source for the most current information.

District Service and Membership Report

DG Gary directed our attention to the two Special Challenges on the 10th page of the directory (not counting the cover as a page).

Special Challenge one is from PIP Sid and Lion Judy. District 31-O has been challenged to recruit 50 members under the age of 40 this year! Our progress will be tracked through the MyLci website and be reported in the district newsletter.

Special Challenge two is from PID Harvey and PCC Diane Whitley. Clubs have been challenged to undertake NEW service projects this Lions Year! We will watch for clubs who rise to the challenge by monitoring the MyLion website and report in the newsletter.

District Governor's Priorities

- DG Gary has established three top priorities that he wants to complete this year.
- The first one is to see 100% of our clubs report their service into the MyLion website.

- Priority two is to meet our Brighter Visions Goal of \$120,000. DG Gary reflected back on the philosophy that PCC Earl Davis used in meeting the Brighter Visions Goal. As District Governor, he always believed that Lions had already raised the Brighter Visions goal money but it was just a matter of getting the money to the right pot!
- The third priority is to increase our membership. We opened the year with 1,075 members. We are currently at 1,067 members. Our goal for the year is to end up at 1,250. The big reward for having more members is that we can undertake more service. DG Gary will be watching our progress closely. It is not unreasonable to believe that every club can be plus 1 for the year which would put us considerably closer to our goal of 1,250 members.

Other Business

CC Paul Marth announced that on September 24, 2022, there will be a statewide project for each club across the state to do something on that day related to hunger. The first purpose is to meet the hunger need for that day. The second is to get the word out across the state that Lions Serve and that Lions meet the needs of their community. All clubs are encouraged to participate and let DG Gary know about your project.

Announcements

- The next District Cabinet will most likely be scheduled for some time in early November. The exact date/location is to be determined.
- The Charlie Daniels State Trading Pins are now available and for sale at \$2.00 each.
- CT Laraine reminded the Club Treasurers to file their income tax report with the IRS by November 10, 2022. You must do so, and it can be done online by visiting [irs.gov](https://www.irs.gov), then search for “charitable organizations” and follow the steps.
- NCLI is a 501(c)(3) organization which means that it is tax deductible. Most Lions Clubs are 501(c)(4) which are not tax deductible. Clubs interested in getting established as a 501(c)(3) foundation can contact 1VDG Susan for information.
- A question was raised about how the district’s \$120,000 Brighter Visions Goal was established (per member) for the clubs. DG Gary stated that it is based on history and what he thinks the district is capable of. Some clubs donate a fixed amount while others may calculate their share by taking the established figure of \$120,000 and dividing it by the opening district

membership. Using this formula will round a club's amount up to \$112 per member for 2022-2023. The district looks at the \$120,000 goal overall and will address how to get there.

- 1VDG Susan and 2VDG Judy are on a mission to improve communications with our clubs. Clubs' secretaries are requested to update their members email addresses, phone numbers and other information in MyLci. This portal is the primary location that one will go to for club information and its accuracy is vital to timely communication. Many clubs have also installed Administrative Assistants to help in maintaining club records, tracking information and performing other needed duties to help their club run more smoothly. Clubs are encouraged to consider this position if someone has a desire to do this task. Assistants also have their own MyLci and MyLion accounts and have access to updating club information.

The Cabinet Meeting adjourned at 11:55am.

Benediction/Blessing

PDG Lynn McCaskill thanked all for attending this morning and for the work that we have done. We were also reminded of the work that still ahead of us.

The meeting closed with his delivery of a very thoughtful Benediction and Blessing of our food.

Respectfully submitted,
CS Bob Gwyn