3rd District 31-O Convention Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2023

Call to Order
Our District Convention Meeting was called to order immediately after our District Cabinet Meeting by District 31-O Governor (DG) Gary Greene at 2:55pm. The sole purpose of this meeting was to elect or officers for the 2023-2024 Lions year.

Delegate Report
Cabinet Secretary (CS) Bob Gwyn was recognized to present the Delegate Report. CS Bob reported that 20 clubs had certified their delegates. A total of 54 delegates had been certified for the district. 49 delegates were in attendance at the District Convention Meeting to cast their ballots. CS Bob also announced that we had met the quorum of 28 delegates needed to elect the officers for 2023-2024.

Nominating Committee Report
The 2023-2024 Nominations Committee members were Chairperson Past District Governor(PDG) Barbara Thompson(Pleasant Garden),PDG Bill Womack(Archdale-Trinity) and PDG John Owens(Oxford). The committee met earlier to determine the validity of all candidates that wanted to run for the three(3) open offices.
- Lion Juanita Brown(Siler City) is the candidate for 2nd Vice District Governor(2VDG).
- Lion Judy Keck (Julian) is the candidate for 1st Vice District Governor(1VDG).
- Lion Susan O'Brien (Waxhaw) is the candidate for District Governor (DG).

It was determined that all candidates had met the primary qualifications which included having served in these four capacities, 1) served on the board of directors of their club, 2) served as club president and 3) served as a zone chair, 4) served as a 1VDG and 2VDG as required.

Nominations and Second Speeches Highlights

DG Gary called for the Nomination and Second Speeches.

Council Chair (CC) Paul Marth (Greensboro) nominated Lion Juanita Brown for 2VDG. CC Paul stated that after several years of trying to persuade Lion Juanita to run for District Governor, he was delighted when she finally said yes! Her retirement and his persistent encouragement crossed paths at the right time.

PDG Karl Ernst(Siler City) was recognized to second the nomination for Juanita Brown. PDG Karl has known for some time that Lion Juanita would ultimately run for the office and had the potential. He stated that Lion Juanita has a big heart and that she will be a "Lion of Lions"!

Cabinet Treasurer (CT) PDG Laraine Dupree (Wingate) next nominated Lion Judy Keck for 1VDG. CT Laraine shared that she has always been impressed by Lion Judy's dedication to her club and to District 31-O. She also spoke of Lion Judy's heart of compassion and a heart for service and fun. CT Laraine emphasized Lion Judy is an active listener and is not afraid to ask questions.

PDG Chris Headley (Unionville) seconded the nomination for Judy Keck. He highlighted her record of serving in several capacities since 2012 in her club and also in the district. He also remarked about her big heart for service.

Cabinet Secretary (CS) Bob Gwyn (Greensboro) next nominated Lion Susan O'Brien for DG. CS Bob shared information about Lion Susan's professional career, her record in Lionism and the achievements in her personal ambitions. He then highlighted many of her remarkable attributes after observing her in action during the past couple of years.

Zone Chair (ZC) Ted Tozer seconded the nomination for Susan O'Brien. ZC Ted emphasized the enthusiasm and excitement that Lion Susan brought to the Waxhaw Lions Club in 2017 during the time that he also became a member there. He pointed out how Lion Susan was very instrumental in recruiting new members and in moving the club forward in Social Media. She also continues to bring Lions to their full potential.

DG Gary called for a motion to close nominations. Past International President (PIP) Sid Scruggs (Vass) moved that nominations be closed. PCC Ron Kelly (Vass) seconded. The motion carried.

Elections

Nominations Chair, PDG Barbara Thompson was called to distribute the paper ballots to the Certified Delegates and designated Alternates. After a brief recess to count the ballots, PDG Barbara Thompson announced that a total of 46 ballots were counted and that each of our three candidates had been elected as follows:

- Zone 10 Chair, Lion Juanita Brown was elected as 2nd Vice District Governor (2VDGE), 2023-2024.

- 2nd Vice District Governor Judy Keck was elected as 1st Vice District Governor (1VDGE), 2023-2024.

- 1st Vice District Governor Susan O'Brien was elected as District Governor (DGE), 2023-2024.

Acceptance Comments

2VDGE Juanita thanked the Cabinet for their vote of confidence in her. She sees this as an opportunity to learn, to grow and to serve. She encouraged us to "get ready to go to work"!

1VDGE Judy was likewise very appreciative of the trust that District 31-O has placed in her abilities as well. She learned a lot as 2VDG, and she can hardly wait to learn even more in the coming year. 1VDGE Judy is proud that District 31-O has elected an all-female council of governors for 2023-2024! She also believes in service, and we were asked to get ready!

DGE Susan was thankful for the privilege to serve District 31-O. She stated that if you do not know her now, you will get to know her.

DGE Susan expressed much gratitude to Lions Clubs International, Multiple District 31 and District 31-O for offering the amazing training sessions. All have been very interesting, and she wants to pass along the energy derived from the training. She also wants to take advantage of the talent within our district. Lions were invited to reach out to her personally at any time and she will carve out the time to communicate because she has that passion for us. DGE Susan thanked the Cabinet from the bottom of her heart and stated that it is a pleasure to serve us.

Closing Comments from District Governor

DG Gary stated that every Lion in the room and every Lion in the District wants the three elected governors to be successful. He also said to the governors that "we have your back and that we are not leaving you".

These riveting words from DG Gary were reassuring for our new leaders and reinforced our dedicated support for them. He foresees that the coming year will be awesome!!

DG Gary called for any other business to address at the District Convention.

One final piece of business was brought to the floor which was to destroy the ballots that were casts today.

PIP Sid (Vass) moved that the ballots be destroyed. PDG Paul Silverman (Durham) seconded. The motion carried and DG Gary so ordered.

Adjournment

The Convention Meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Gwyn
Cabinet Secretary