

MINUTES
MISSOURI LIONS COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS
Thursday, April 18, 2024/Sunday, April 21, 2024
Old Kinderhook Resort, Camdenton, MO

The fourth meeting of the 2023-2024 Missouri Lions Council of Governors was called to order by Council Chair Harold Spire, at 3:00 p.m.

District Governor Phil Krebs gave the Invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by District Governor Marilyn Reaves.

District Governor Paul Carr led in singing “America (My Country, Tis of Thee)”.

IPDG Pat Scott established Protocol.

CC Harold welcomed everyone to the last Council of Governors meeting of 2023-2024.

APPOINTMENT OF TAIL TWISTER- DG Paul Carr moved to appoint PCC Al Blumenberg as Tail Twister. DG Horton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

DESIGNATION OF TAIL TWISTER FUNDS – DG Phil Krebs moved that Tail Twister Funds collected be designated to KidSight. DG Marilyn Reaves seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ATTENDANCE - Those in attendance were:

District	Governor	District Governors-E	1st Vice District Governors-E
26-M1	Marilynn Reaves	Wendy Williams	Louise Bibbs
26-M2	Paul Carr	Michelle Foster	Wally Brumfield
26-M3	Sherl Horton	Carol Deters	
26-M4		Tina Anderson	Rachel Harper
26-M5	Ron Ballard	Mickey Beach	
26-M6	Phil Krebs	Frank Lambrecht	Paula Rodgers
26-M7	Ed Bierbower		

International Guest: Past International President Douglas Alexander

Council Chair IPDG Harold Spire, M4

Past International Directors Don Noland, M3, Donal Knipp, M7

Parliamentarian PCC George Winkeler Jr., M2

State Office Administrative Assistant Lion Jackie Twehus, M7

M1:

M2: PCC Al Blumenberg, PCC Gina Boettcher, Lion Vickey Engel, PCC Joe Foster, IPDG Leon Hove, Lion Ed Marshall, PDG Sandee Marshall, 2VDGE Jeff Rackovan, PDG Devin Struttmann, PDG Eugene Taylor, PCC Kimberly Taylor, PDG Elmer Weinrich, Lion Jennifer Winkeler

M3: 2VDGE Don Eichorn, IPDG Sandy McCann, PCC Bob Noellsch, Lion Mary Jane Noellsch, Lion Cheyenne Porterfield, Lion Amy Vollmer

M4: PDG Ann Anderson, PCC John Anderson, Jeremy Brammer, Lion Peggy Campbell, PCC Ron Campbell, PDG Wayne Cunningham, Lion Lori Spire

M5: Lion Martha Beach, PDG Jene Crook, PDG Bruce Dugan, Lion Christine Dugan, PDG Jerry Romig, IPDG Pat Scott

M6: PDG Debbie Cantrell, PDG Kevin Cantrell, Lion Tommy Claxton, IPCC Phyllis Krebs (with FLD Jeri Ann), Lion Lee Rodgers, PDG James W. Rosbrugh, Lion Rosalie Watts

M7: PDG Melissa Anderson, Lion Bruce Berger, IPDG Bill Foglesong, PDG Lou Ann Hathcock, PCC Jeff Hilke, Lion Betty Knipp, Lion April Underwood

Guest: Melissa Stephenson (KidSight)

CC Harold asked that anyone with any Quality Lion Award nominations to please bring them forward at this time. Seven were presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 27, 2024, COUNCIL MEETING – DG Carr moved to accept the minutes of the January 27, 2024, Council Meeting as published. It was seconded by DG Reaves and carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT – DG Marilyn Reaves reported that the income through March was \$65,805.94. Total Expenses were \$50,704.92, with a Net Ordinary Income of \$10,101.02. There was a transfer of \$8,000 from Wells Fargo into the checking account, so the total remaining cash is \$136,621.35. She reported that all seven districts paid their dues on time.

DG Marilyn also shared that she had information on the Youth Committee Budget if anyone would like to see it. There were no questions.

DG Sherl Horton moved to accept the financial report as discussed. DG Ballard seconded the motion and it carried.

USA/CANADA FORUM – PID Noland shared that the USA/Canada Forum will be held in Louisville, KY, September 5-7, 2024. He shared that it is only 260 miles from St. Louis. That will be a great opportunity to participate in a Forum.

INTERNATIONAL UPDATE – PID Don Noland noted that IP Patti Hill continues her vision of “Changing the World”, with lots of energy and embracing Mission 1.5 to be achieved by June 2027. Membership worldwide as of March 2024 is 1,379,506, which is +2.8% or 37,827 members. CA1 is at 269,034 which is down 813 members (.3%). ISAME (India, South Asia, Middle East) is at 381,564 members, which is +17,104 (4.69%). They now make up 28% of the Association.

The LCI family has endorsed PID Manjo Shah from CA8 in Africa. It has been confirmed that there will be another candidate, so that will be a contested election in Melbourne. The Vancouver board meeting was held in March. A major topic of the meeting was the 2026 International Convention in Mexico City. They have been reassured that the Mexico City convention will proceed.

The new portal was supposed to launch on Monday, April 15th. PID Noland shared there is a tutorial out there that will walk you through the steps.

The new DGEs attended a school in February in St. Charles, Illinois, and they are ready to go for the new year.

GLOBAL MEMBERSHIP APPROACH – PID Don announced that PID Pat Vaneett has taken over as Chairman for CA1, working with our PDG Chris Gunstream. He is holding monthly meetings with the District Governors and Council Chairs working towards Mission 1.5 fulfillment. He continues to stress that clubs need to report their service.

LCIF – PIP Shehan has a goal of \$62 million with hope of exceeding \$75 million. MD26 continues to be supportive and PID Don hopes that will continue this upcoming year. Please work with the DCs. They have a current history listing of all the grants to help clubs. The LCIF square board has been pretty successful. They have sold out three different boards and there will be a board with spaces available this weekend. LCIF has pledged \$100,000 for the victims of the Texas wildfires.

WORLD SERVICES FOR THE BLIND – PID Don Noland shared that WSB continues to celebrate over 77 years of service. They have served clients from all 50 states and 59 countries. They continue to be a resource for sustainable independent living. They have converted 25 of their single rooms to a therapeutic group home for people who are blind and intellectually disabled. The current census is 78, with 28 online

and 2 are at the facilitated learning center in California. Missouri Lions have contributed \$6,600 YTD as of March 2024. Lions provide only 6% of the WSB operating budget.

GREAT PLAINS LIONS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE – PDG Debbie Cantrell reported that GPLLI will be held again at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, MO, July 26-28, 2024. Registration fee is \$220.00 if received by April 30th. It will increase to \$240.00 on May 1st. Topics that will be covered at GPLLI are diversity, goal setting, mission statements, motivation, public speaking, time management, and working in teams. They will be holding a Faculty Development Institute at the same time, July 26-28th. The registration fee for that is also \$220.00 if received by April 30th. The fee will increase to \$240.00 on May 1st. The Board of Directors thanked the Council of Governors for the \$800.00 that was sent to help fund FDI and to help keep the institute fees as low as possible for the Lions that are attending. The FDI training is meant to help develop and expand skilled Lions faculty that can then be utilized for training at club, district, and Multiple District levels. If Lions are interested in further developing their instructional skills, they will want to get registered right away. Limited slots are available, and acceptance is not guaranteed. You will be notified of your acceptance. Fees will be returned if you do not make it into the class. They are limited by LCI on the number. They expect the class to be full, but if they do not get the class filled, the \$800.00 that was sent by the Council will be returned. PDG Debbie had printed copies for both institutes available for anyone interested. PCC Terry Boettcher also serves on the Board of Directors, and he would also talk to anyone about Great Plains or Faculty Development. The Multiple Districts that are working together on this are Oklahoma, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. It's an amazing opportunity for the Lions of Missouri since it is being held right here in our state. There is a scholarship for each district available from the Missouri PDGs. Inquire about that if interested. Several of the districts also offer scholarships, so there are a few opportunities available if anyone needs/wants assistance. PDG Debbie gave a shout out to DGE Carol Deters, who will be facilitating Public Speaking. PDG Debbie and DGE Carol will be “tag-teaming” that because DGE Carol has somewhere else to be that weekend (COG meeting), so she will be teaching on Friday and PDG Debbie will take over the rest of the weekend.

STATE/INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE – PCC Gina Boettcher announced that PCC Joe Foster will be the Parade Marshall for the International Convention in Australia. The parade uniform for spouses/companions should be the turquoise shirt, black pants, black shoes, black socks, and the white Missouri Lions hat (optional). Those items can be purchased starting tomorrow. If you have questions, ask PCC Gina or one of the other committee members.

2025 STATE CONVENTION COMMITTEE: PCC Gina Boettcher reported the 2025 State Convention will be May 1-4, 2025, at the Doubletree in St. Louis. More details will be shared in July.

The question was asked, since it was probably going to be chilly in Australia at that time, could spouses/companions possibly wear a black long-sleeved shirt under the turquoise polo? PCC Gina responded that that would be up to the Council of Governors. Right now, that is what it says in the current Policy Manual, so it would be up to the Council of Governors to change it.

2024 STATE CONVENTION COMMITTEE – PCC Jeff Hilke, on behalf of the Host Committee, thanked everyone for coming this weekend. He shared that ice will be provided for Hospitality on Friday evening. It'll arrive about 5:00. He invited everyone to go visit the vendor booths. Various state committees have booths there and information about those committees. You may have noticed that the convention this year has a different format. They are not having a glorified Council of Governors meeting all weekend. They wanted to give people the opportunity to come have fun, celebrate the hard work they've done this year, relax, and have a good time. PCC Jeff hopes everyone is able to have some fun, learn something, meet new Lions, celebrate the successes, and hopefully take something good away from this weekend. Please let PCC Jeff know whether you like the new format or not, and they will pass that on to the next planning committee. Currently, they are going to try and do the carriage rides in the evening, but it is weather permitting at this time.

PCC Hilke shared that the service project will take place tomorrow (Friday) at 10:00 at the Community Christian Church in Camdenton. There is no way to tell how many may show up. The hearing trailer will be there, along with other “outside” activities. The gym entrance will lead to other “inside” activities. LBOMB is providing lunch at about 11:30. Anyone and everyone is welcome to come help and participate in this project. Even if it’s just 5-10 people, it’s 5-10 people more than would have been served. They’ll consider it a way for Lions organizations to work together.

IPDG Leon Hove added that even if there is not a good turnout, it will be a good opportunity for people to learn to use the testing equipment for eye missions.

PCC Jeff noted it will be a good opportunity for Lions to see the new hearing trailer and to see all the different projects that Lions do. He believes it will be worthwhile whether people show up or not. It was suggested to arrive for set up between 8:30 – 9.

2026 STATE CONVENTION COMMITTEE – Lion Lori Spire reported the committee has narrowed the site of the 2026 State Convention in M4 down to a couple of different. They are still working on logistics. She asked for everyone’s patience and believes they will be announcing that soon. The date is April 24-26, 2026.

ALERT COMMITTEE – PDG Kevin Cantrell reported that currently there are four ALERT trailers in the state. Two districts (M1 & M2) are “working on it”. Districts can access up to \$10,000 in a preparedness grant to be ahead of the game when disaster strikes. Several districts have ALERT trailers already, and M6 has an additional disaster preparedness grant in the amount of \$10,000 for additional supplies. Districts can go back after three years and request additional funding. So far, thankfully, the trailers have been used for parades, meetings, festivals, BBQs, and a few disasters. They feel having the trailers out in the public eye promotes both Lions awareness and our service programs. M3 had a generator donated to their ALERT trailer. M6 had a record number of clubs donate \$50 to the district ALERT Fund to have their names placed on the side of the trailer each year. Feel free to reach out to any of the committee members from the districts that have been awarded the EP grants. They all stand ready to assist in any way should anyone decide to write one. PDG Debbie Cantrell has the grant in WORD form and is willing to share it with any district that wants to use it as a model.

Some items in the trailers include grills, generators, tables, chairs, chainsaws, blankets, vests, hammers, power tools, rakes, air compressors, etc. With their second grant M6 got a storage building and are filling it with additional supplies.

Imagine if all districts had a trailer, what the impact would be or if they would have had them when the Joplin tornado struck. They could have helped countless others. Let them know if you have any questions. PDG Kevin plans to speak with the DGEs in the morning during their training. Remember: “When disaster strikes, the time to prepare has passed.” – Steven Cyrus

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE – 1VDG Carol Deters reported the Athletic Committee has been selling their beef raffle tickets. She had not heard from all of the districts so she could not report how many they still needed to sell. She was hoping to be able to do the drawing on Saturday of Convention*. They would like to pull three winners out on Saturday. If they don’t sell all of the tickets, they will not be able to hold the drawing. There were 280 tickets with each district having 40 tickets to sell. The funds will go towards future athletic events. They are researching events such as Beep Ball, working with Special Olympics, a softball tournament, and other activities in the state. They appreciate everyone that purchased a ticket. They are \$20 each. The first prize is ½ beef. The second and third prizes are ¼ of a beef.

*The raffle drawing was held during the luncheon on Saturday of Convention.

BAND COMMITTEE – DG Marilyn Reaves shared that Lion Patrick Anderson attended the Missouri Music Educators Conference to help promote the Band Committee. They were unable to secure a band for this year’s state convention. They are hoping to secure a Missouri high school band or music group to provide

entertainment for next year's state convention. They are also looking to recruit a band for the International Convention in Atlanta in 2026. Let the committee know if you are aware of a high school that might be interested. The biggest challenges have been recruiting schools as many plan their programs several years in advance. The committee is currently looking at putting some of their savings into a certificate of deposit to help the money in the fund grow. They are looking specifically at an annual one that would allow next year's committee to withdraw funds without penalty, if needed. The goal is to be able to offer participating bands a stipend to help offset the costs of travel in order to be able to recruit the band. They appreciate the support of the Missouri Lions as they promote both Lionism and music education in the state of Missouri.

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS – PDG Jene Crook reported there are five propositions to be voted on Saturday afternoon:

-Prop. #1 – In five parts, is for changes from the “Missouri Band Committee” to the “Missouri Music Committee”. If all five propositions do not pass, then none of them pass.

-Prop. #2 – It's for editorial changes that have been discovered as the committee has gone through the constitution. These include things like unnecessary phrases, etc.

-Prop. #3 – This is for the dues increase. It was talked about in January. It would increase from \$10.50 per year to \$18.00 per year, with the addition of \$1.50 if there is an International Candidate.

-Prop. #4 – This is for changes to the billing due dates for the dues. Currently, it is not clear what happens when there is a state convention in April. This will clarify that.

-Prop. #5 – This is for a change in wording for the convention location.

In addition, we will vote on whether or not to endorse PDG Debbie Cantrell as a candidate for International Director. We will also be voting on Kansas City as the location of the 2026 Missouri Lions State Convention.

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE- PDG Jene Crook reported the Investment committee met Tuesday, April 16th via Zoom. IPDG Leon Hove, Lion Craig Plaster, and PDG Jene were in attendance, so they did not have a quorum. They did review the March statement from Wells Fargo. That statement showed a balance of \$115,000.84. That was up from the January statement. PDG Jene contacted the investment representative Tuesday afternoon and learned that the value of the account had dropped to \$111,549.36. That is happening to all investments right now. The committee suggests no changes to the current investments. There have been no communications to the committee as of this date from the Governors, so the committee assumes there are no adjustments that need to be made to the account at this time. There were no questions.

EYEGLOSS RECYCLING PROGRAM – PDG Lou Ann Hathcock reported the Show Me Eyeglass Recycling Center is still doing great work. She thanked the Wildwood Lions Club for coming a couple of times to help. The St. Peters Club is coming on April 27th. The Columbia Host Lions are faithful – they come every month. The O'Fallon club just delivered a huge trailer of glasses. Lion Gary Zumwalt estimated there to be about 15,000 pairs. She noted they still need volunteers. They have a lot of work to do. Lion Alberta Zumwalt will be at the vendor table this weekend and she will have a listing of all the glasses that have gone out the past year on mission trips. National Honor Society students from Eldon and Russellville have been coming. PDG Lou Ann noted the students get so excited. They are thankful for the students' help. She asked that everyone talk to their clubs and come spend the day. PCC Jeff Hilke will take glasses this weekend if anyone has them.

GST REPORT: IPCC Phyllis Krebs shared that every fall Lions International sends out information on the Kindness Matters service award. This prestigious award is given annually to a handful of Lions and Leo Clubs for performing an outstanding service project for one of the global causes. To submit a nomination, a club must be in “active” status, completed a service project that meets the needs of a causal area, and have reported it according to the following criteria:

- It addresses the needs within Lions International global causes
- Demonstrates creativity and innovation
- Achieves impact or scale
- Achieves long-term sustainability
- Elevates the Lions' brand

Submissions were due to be received by September 15th by the GST Coordinator. The GST Coordinator selected the winning entry, then forwarded that entry to Lions International by November 30th. MD 26 received two entries for the competition this year, from M2 and M3. The club that received the award is not represented today, so IPCC Phyllis is going to postpone naming the award winner until Saturday’s luncheon awards ceremony. She’s certain the contest will be announced again this fall. Seeing all the great service projects throughout the state, there is no reason every district should not submit a nomination for this award. So start thinking now what project from your district can be submitted. We are doing the service; we just need to publicize it and get recognition. Remember that one of the criteria for this award is that the service has been reported.

IPCC Phyllis’s goal as MD GST Coordinator throughout this year has been to promote service reporting. 26-M5 currently has the Service Reporting Star award in their possession. At the last COG, M5 was the leader and M2 came in a close second. For comparison:

	<u>Last quarter</u>	<u>Current</u>
M1	18%	24%
M2	59%	59%
M3	28%	28%
M4	39%	41%
M5	62%	77%
M6	24%	32%
M7	28%	34%

So M5 maintains possession of the Service Reporting award. The total number of people impacted by this service came to 44,162. By comparison, Missouri’s total population is 6,215,144. We are the 18th most populous state. Kudos to DG Ron Ballard and his M5 team for continuing to grow service reporting. Everyone still has some work to do. The project will be revisited in July. She is pleased that so many districts did see an improvement.

Schedule roll out of the new Lions Portal was on Monday, April 15th, though some are still awaiting an invitation. If you are an existing Lion account user, you will receive an email invitation, which are being released on a “rolling” basis.

GMT REPORT: IPDG Pat Scott shared that she has resigned as GMT Coordinator for the state.

GAT REPORT: IPCC Phyllis reported for PDG Scott Sattler. She has forwarded their proposed budget to the CC, seated DGs, and DGEs. They should have that in their emails. It will probably come up under “New Business”. The event is scheduled for October 11-12th. Hospitality will be Friday night and the event on Saturday. Registration forms are available.

HEARING COMMITTEE – PCC Ron Campbell reported the State Hearing Committee had their last meeting by Zoom on March 10, 2024. The committee reviewed minutes from the last meeting, proposed projects and current financial reports. The committee reviewed the current hearing sweepstakes fundraiser currently going on and that will conclude with final drawings on Saturday of the State Convention. They are still looking at vendors, pricing and funding options for the special testing analysis equipment upgrade needed at the School for the Deaf. Their hope is to make this a state project.

PCC Ron presented the committee with a large annual project he has been working on. He has been getting information and learning the processes used by the facilities from a Missouri state agency for the last couple of months interested in Missouri Lions doing their employee screenings at their facilities’ health clinics that they are scheduling all across the state. The committee discussed it at length and decided to take on the project and start the process in July with the schedule. The state coordinator with the Missouri Department of Corrections and PCC Ron discussed and the committee agreed that this venture would make Lions visible and working, serving in the communities and would increase knowledge of Lions and could gain interest in

some becoming Lions. The committee's goal is to put together teams in each district, involve clubs around the facilities, and provide informational flyers or pamphlets about Lions in general, club meetings, and events to distribute at the health events. If anyone or their club is interested in getting involved, contact your district hearing chairperson or PCC Ron to get on board. They have also been contacted by other state facilities wanting to do the same. It looks like it will be a busy year.

The hearing trailer is here at convention this weekend. Go out and take a look at it. It will be at the health fair tomorrow. Training for the hearing trailer will be at 8:00 in the morning.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – No report.

KIDSIGHT – Melissa Stephenson shared that the KidSight report numbers are from July 1 – March 1. During that time, they screened 35,052 children at 587 screening events. They identified a little over 3,200 kids that needed a referral to go to an eye care provider for care. That includes 777 that were at high risk for vision loss. They served 89 counties in that time period. Since March 1st the number of kids screened has risen to almost 40,000. Teams are still working hard. About 75% of the screenings they do are done by volunteers. Volunteers are the heartbeat of what they do. Melissa shared that former Executive Director Katherine Patterson-Paronto left, so the board is seeking leadership for the organization. As of the report, they had raised \$145,573 toward their yearly goal of \$229,800. The board of directors is hosting a Trivia Night for KidSight on June 28th in Boonville. If you are interested in participating or your club is willing to be a sponsor, contact PDG Susan Paden.

This year they hosted their first mobile clinic. They partnered with the Kansas City Free Eye Clinic. They went to a school in downtown Kansas City, and KidSight did all the screenings. They partnered, did paperwork, all of the coordination with scheduling so the Kansas City Free Eye Clinic could come, meet those kids where they are at and provide on-site exams and glasses for eleven children. That was super exciting, and they hope to continue that.

Melissa shared a story about a four-year old girl that was screened at her preschool by KidSight. She needed a referral to see an eye doctor. They found she was a +5 and a +4.5 in her eyes, which means she was extremely far-sighted, which means she could see everything at a distance, but nothing up close. She was missing everything up close. The mom shared she was developmentally delayed and was not going to be able to start kindergarten next year. She got a pair of glasses, and she is now caught up to where she should be and will start kindergarten with no problems. That is why you volunteer. That is why you donate to KidSight. It makes a difference. She thanked everyone for their support.

LIONS BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE MISSOURI BLIND – PDG Melissa Anderson shared, for those that are new, what LBOMB stands for and that they carry out the Randolph Shepard vending program which gets priority for blind Missourians to operate food services in federal and state office buildings. It is a national program. Last week, PDG Melissa was in Washington D.C., and she is now working with the state of Wisconsin to set up a nominee situation just like we have here in Missouri with LBOMB. They have a non-profit that isn't really servicing well, so they are trying to get in contact with some of the Lions in the state of Wisconsin to create the same kind of organization we have here in Missouri.

They have also found out that General Services Agency is now allowing outside catering. What that means is that any of the blind managers that have facilities in federal office buildings are now allowed to use that same facility for outside catering. Which means that if they book catering jobs on the weekends, they are allowed to use their kitchens. This is mainly because populations are not coming back to the office buildings. GSA does not want to lose LBOMB in their buildings because they are still supporting the people that are in the buildings. This is really going to help the managers with extra income potential.

Right now there are four individuals in training. Next week they have meetings with three more, so they are trying to keep new facilities up and coming. Becca has been to many of the district conventions this spring.

She has compiled a video from all of the managers thanking the Lions for their support. That video is now up on the LBOMB Facebook page. She encouraged everyone to check it out.

PDG Melissa shared that she has been with the program for a little over 10 years now. Compared to 10 years ago, they have about 15% less facilities now than they did then, but they also have combined a lot of facilities to help the managers make more money. Gross sales have increased by 16%. Gross profits have increased by 22%. The net vendor earnings have increased by 58%. That's huge. They are giving individuals opportunities to succeed without depending on other government programs that are provided to the visually impaired. The oldest vending machine they have was purchased in 1988. Today, the average cost of a vending machine is about \$6,500. Since they have cut spending and taught the managers to repair their own equipment, they are saving a lot of money. For the first time in 20 years, last week PDG Melissa put in an order for 25 brand new vending machines. They are really excited. They are providing the equipment so the managers can continue to earn more money. Their oldest, current operating facility is a federal building in Kansas City that opened in 1966. It has a micro-market that currently brings in about \$25,000 in sales a month. One of the two oldest active managers is out of St. Louis. He began in 1980. He shows up to work every single day from 8 a.m. to about 1 p.m. He called every other day during Covid asking when he could come back to work. The other is also in St. Louis, and he's been with LBOMB since 1982.

She asked everyone to check out the video and she thanked everyone for their support of the program.

LEADER DOGS FOR THE BLIND – IPCC Phyllis Krebs reported that Leader Dogs for the Blind issued a class of guide dogs on Wednesday, April 10th. Class 24-10 DB was a small class compared to other classes so far this year, only 5, but this was a special class. All of these dogs had gone through extra training to work with clients who are deaf and blind. IPCC Phyllis's nephew's puppy, Poppy, was included in the 5. LD Poppy was a holdover from the 24-07 class in January because no client match was available. She was immediately transferred to the deaf/blind program, where she continued to excel.

Leader Dog graduates only 10-12 dogs each year from the deaf/blind program as this is very specialized training and the dog must have an aptitude for this type of work. To qualify for that program, the client must be conversive in American Sign Language (ASL). Leader Dogs trained in this program recognize and respond to hand signals and ASL with or without vocal support. These dogs are trained solely to guide. They do not alert to doorbells, ringing phones or fire alarms. Additional support is required in those areas. She congratulated the individuals who are able to benefit from that program.

Leader Dog has expanded their specialty programs to include dogs for visually impaired individuals who have one additional disability. Clients must be able to walk at a reasonable pace for 30 minutes or more without jeopardizing any current health problems to be considered for training. Leader Dogs for the Blind has worked with individuals with balance issues, leg or arm braces, prosthetic limbs, or coordination disorders (such as vertigo, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, scoliosis, limb deformities). Client needs are assessed on a case-by-case basis by the admissions committee.

As they have traveled to the majority of the District Conventions this year and heard the amounts the clubs are donating to Leader Dogs for the Blind, IPCC Phyllis is grateful for the amount of support the Multiple District provides. She thanked everyone for making the visually impaired unstoppable.

She gave special kudos to DGE Michelle Foster for her innovative use of the Leader Dog "Dollars for Dogs" fundraiser kit. If you want information about it, ask her, and she will tell you how to get involved.

IPCC Phyllis reminded the 1VDGEs that their visit to the Leader Dog campus is September 21, 2024. Friday the 20th and Sunday the 22nd are travel days. They'll be getting more information about the itinerary and travel arrangements, probably in June. She strongly encouraged them to make the trip and experience the magic of Leader Dogs for the Blind.

LIONS OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTH COMMITTEE – Lion Cheyenne Porterfield reported the Youth Camp Exchange will start the end of June/beginning of July. Eight youths have been accepted from Germany and Denmark. The meet and greet will be at the Warrenton Lions Club on July 28th from 4-6 p.m. She encouraged everyone to come. There are three outgoing youths in the exchange program this year – two from M5 and one from M3. Lion Cheyenne is going to Italy, one is going to Norway, and one is going to Germany. When school starts in the fall, it is a good time to reach out to youth ages 15-22 to get them interested in the program. There were blue bags given out last year to each district youth chair with all the information needed.

There is one Leo Club in M3, one in M4, and two Leo Clubs in M6. Lion Cheyenne encouraged more focus be given to the Essay Contest and LionsQuest.

MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS – No report.

MISSOURI LION NEWSLETTER – CC Spire shared information from Lion Bethney Pedersen. The next newsletter is set to come out August 15th. The deadline to submit information for the newsletter is August 1st.

EYE MISSION FOUNDATION – PDG Devin Struttman shared that the last time he was in this room giving a report, the Foundation had Lions on the ground in Mexico. From the perspective of the organization, it is “nice to be wanted”. They have been very busy, and they are going to be very busy. They had two missions last weekend. There is an upcoming mission in Lebanon. Just this week PDG Devin received a message from a young, college MU graduate, currently in grad. school. He shared with PDG Devin a life-changing volunteer trip that he had taken to Nepal. It changed his life so dramatically that he spends every moment he can now in Nepal. He created a group called, “No Limits Nepal”. They put on their first eye mission last year. Somehow, he found our mission and he wanted to know if our mission could help. PDG Devin understands what it is like to go on an eye mission trip that changes your life. It’s the reason he is here now, and a big reason why the Eye Mission Foundation exists because those that formed it were so passionate about Lions when they returned from their trips. He hopes to be able to help this young man in Nepal. He hinted that maybe PIP Alexander could give him some contacts in Nepal.

As far as international missions go, they do not yet have any dates for trips in 2024. They are still holding out hope that they will do a couple. They have been in contact with their partners at Lions InSight. They are scheduling trips now, and the Foundation has “begged and pleaded” that Missouri Lions be able to participate in those. So stay tuned. If you have ever wanted to go on an international trip, they will have applications at the vendor table this weekend.

Since the last report they have held events in Bonne Terre, Branson, Cadet, Cedar Hill, St. Joe and two missions in St. Louis. There are many coming up in the coming months including missions in Beaufort, Columbia, Kansas City, Lexington, Lebanon, Poplar Bluff, Union, Washington, Hillsboro, and Pevely. They will also be taking part in tomorrow’s Health Fair. Let them know if you are able to help with any of these missions. If you’d like a calendar of events, they will be available at the vendor table and they will also email it if requested. They are also doing as many club visits and district meetings as possible. They are also sending someone out to the Kansas State Convention. They want to hear about what we are doing here in Missouri.

Their annual meeting is coming up on June 17th. At that time, they will vote on the next slate of officers and will also be adding a couple of new board members. A couple of people have already reached out, but if anyone has any interest in becoming a board member, let them know. If you would like to attend the board meeting, let them know and they will send you a Zoom link.

They continue to wait for news from LCIF on their pending grant. They hope to get good news as they know what equipment they will buy with those funds. That will continue to help them grow, have missions in every part of Missouri and have more equipment to do that. They are grateful for the grant they received from

Saving Sight last year that allowed them to buy two Titmus vision screeners. Those are being used at all of the mission events. They look forward to potentially having a chance to apply for another Saving Sight grant this year.

PDG Devin thanked IPDG Leon Hove. He noted that Lion Leon is the “heart and soul” of the Eye Mission Foundation. He does maybe 90% of the work. He is retired, and it is his passion. They could not do what they do without him.

MID-SOUTH LIONS SIGHT AND HEARING – A written report was submitted by PCC Larry Boettcher.

SAVING SIGHT – A written report was submitted by PCC Larry Boettcher.

SIGHT CONSERVATION – No report.

STATE OFFICE COMMITTEE – PDG Ann Anderson reported the State Office Committee met via Zoom to discuss some items. She noted that it has been brought to her attention so many times as to why there are three employees at the State Office, and there isn’t any money... Yes, there are three employees at the State Office, but those three employees work less than one forty hour week. We could have one employee, pay them more money, or we can have continuity and the three ladies that we have. Just to clarify, yes, there are three ladies working in the State Office, and they are working hard in less than one person’s weekly workload. The committee has been concentrating on some continuity and there are plans on table that need to be gone through, but it is in the works. The committee has been in close touch all year, and they will continue to work for the good of the Missouri Lions. The Council Chairperson is an Ex-Officio member of this committee, and she thanked CC Spire for his input and help throughout the year, with his advice and commitment to the committee.

PDG Ann shared that the bid that was received by the State Office for the annual review for the Missouri Lions shows an exceptionally big increase. The actual cost budgeted was \$3,800 for the review this year. The bid for next year is \$1,700 higher. That will be \$5,500 for an annual review. Everyone present knows we are strapped for funds. We are more than strapped – we don’t have \$1,700 to balance our budget. The committee is thinking maybe someone knows a CPA (Lion or non-Lion) that would be able to bid that. We have until about May 10-12th to reject this bid. If we’re delayed in notifying them, we don’t know if the bid will go up. If anyone has spare time and they want to volunteer to do the review if you’re a CPA, or you know a friend that needs some extra work, let them know. This huge increase is going to be a problem. We already know that our budget is a problem. Our review costs include Form 990, the current company is used for QuickBooks references, W2s, and 1099s. They have also made the investment spreadsheet that Lion Brenda uses to enter each monthly report into the system. Their hourly rate is approximately \$175/hour. It is unclear if that rate will be changing, but a deeper look into how to reduce some of these fees is needed. The committee is asking each person to look into their areas, clubs, and districts to see if there is a Lion that is a CPA that would like to do the annual review. Please note this is not an audit. This is only a review. If you find someone willing, please notify the committee as soon as possible, as the budget meeting is May 5th. The DGEs have a big job ahead and need your help.

The committee asked everyone to vote in favor of the dues increase that will be on the ballot for approval on Saturday.

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE – No report.

MISSOURI PIN TRADERS – No report.

RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS – DG Phil Krebs moved to accept the reports. DG Bierbower seconded the motion and motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

24-25 STATE OFFICE COMMITTEE: Anyone interested in serving on the committee next year should submit a letter of intent to their DG prior to the July COG meeting.

24-25 GAT TEAM LETTERS OF INTENT:

GLT: CC Spire read a letter of interest to become GLT State Coordinator from PCC Kimberly Taylor (M2)

GMT: CC Spire read a letter of interest to become GMT State Coordinator from Lion Duane Ball (M5)

GST: CC Spire read letters of interest to become GST State Coordinator from Lion Lori Spire (M4) and IPCC Phyllis Krebs (M6).

CC Spire announced the meeting would be recessed for ten minutes to let the DGs review the letters. There was confusion as some thought that would be done on Sunday. CC Spire said this would give the DGs time to look at the letters, but they would vote on Sunday.

Short break

NEW BUSINESS

PRESENTATION OF PDG PINS:

Each District Governor was presented with a PDG pin and badge.

- DG Lion Marilyn Reaves - M1
- DG Lion Paul Carr – M2
- DG Lion Sherl Horton – M3
- DG Lion James Pedersen – M4
- DG Lion Ron Ballard – M5
- DG Lion Phil Krebs – M6
- DG Lion Ed Bierbower – M7

The DGs shared advice for the incoming DGEs:

VCC DG Paul Carr presented CC Harold Spire with his Past Council Chairperson pin. CC Harold provided his advice to the upcoming Council.

INTRODUCTIONS:

DG Sherl Horton introduced the DGEs and their Companions in Service:

- DGE Lion Wendy Williams – M1
- DGE Lion Michelle Foster and her Companion in Service PCC Joe Foster – M2
- DGE Lion Carol Deters and her Companion in Service Lion Christine Dugan – M3
- DGE Lion Tina Anderson – M4
- DGE Lion Mickey Beach and his Companion in Service Lion Martha Beach – M5
- DGE Lion Frank Lambrecht and his Companion in Service Lion Ida Lambrecht – M6
- DGE Lion Todd Miller – M7

DG Marilyn Reaves introduced the 1VDGEs and their Companions in Service:

- 1VDGE Lion Louise Bibbs – M1
- 1VDGE Lion Wallace Brumfield – M2
- 1VDGE Lion Allan Wansing and his Companion in Service Lion Kathy Wansing – M3
- 1VDGE Lion Rachel Harper and her Companion in Service Jeremy Brammer – M4
- 1VDGE Lion Alena Hoeffling and her Companion in Service Lion Aaron Hoeffling – M5
- 1VDGE Lion Paula Rodgers and her Companion in Service Lion Lee Rodgers – M6

DG Ron Ballard introduced the 2VDGEs and their Companions in Service:

- 2VDGE Lion Jeff Rackovan and his Companion in Service Lion Kelly Rackovan – M2
- 2VDGE Lion Don Eichorn – M3

DG Phil Krebs introduced the incoming Cabinet Secretaries and Treasurers:

M1: CS – Lion John Preston, PDG
CT – Lion Allen Taylor

M2: CS – Lion Ruth Boyer
CT – Lion Joe Schroeder

M3: CS – Lion Mary Jane Noellsch
CT – Lion Dexter Enders

M4: CS – Lion Wendy Edwards
CT - CC Harold Spire

M5: CS – Lion Donna Jungerman
CT – Lion Lillie Pitts-Wingate

M6: CS – Lion Wendy Jackson
CT – Lion Toni Morris, PDG

M7: CS – Lion Steve Duncan
CT – Lion Larry Brandhorst

PARADE UNIFORM REQUEST: DG Paul Carr moved to allow a black, long-sleeved shirt to be worn under the parade turquoise polo and, in case of inclement weather, allow a clear poncho to be worn as well. DG Sherl Horton seconded the motion and it carried.

PCC Joe Foster volunteered, as Parade Marshall, to bring enough clear ponchos for everyone, if the Council would like. The Council appreciated and accepted his offer.

TAIL TWISTER REPORT – PCC Al Blumenberg collected \$500 for KidSight.

RECESS – The meeting was recessed at 5:45 p.m. until Sunday morning immediately following the Memorial Service.

MINUTES
MISSOURI LIONS COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS
Sunday, April 21, 2024
Old Kinderhook Resort, Camdenton, MO

CC Harold Spire called to order the continuation of the Council of Governors meeting from Thursday, April 18, 2024.

ELECTION RESULTS: PCC Kimberly Taylor announced that 130 votes were cast and all five propositions on the ballot passed.

Kansas City was approved as the site for the 2026 State Convention.

PDG Debbie Cantrell was unanimously elected as a Candidate for International Director. PDG Debbie then shared her appreciation for the support.

INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR FINANCIAL COMMITTEE: A motion was made by DG Paul Carr to approve the following Financial Committee for PDG Cantrell's International Director Campaign:

- PDG Jennie Mosher – M1 (assigned as the previous Vice Council Chair)
- PCC Joe Foste – M2 (appointed by International Director Candidate PDG Debbie Cantrell)
- PDG Kenny Goetz - M5 (appointed by the current Council)

The motion was seconded by DG Ron Ballard and carried.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FUNDS REQUEST - PCC Joe Foster, Parade Marshall, requested the Council approve funds to be able to ship supplies to Australia for the International Convention. PCC Joe estimated the cost of shipping those supplies back and forth to be about \$300-\$400. He added that usually funds are also needed once there to buy an additional pole to go through the banner, as that pole is too large to ship. It was noted that that money would come from the International Convention Fund. DG Marilyn Reaves moved to allot \$1000 to cover shipping costs and other supplies needed. DG Sherl Horton seconded the motion and it carried.

APPOINTMENT OF THE 2024-2025 GAT TEAM –

DG Phil Krebs moved to appoint the following to the 24-25 GAT Team:

- GLT – PCC Kimberly Taylor – M2
- GST – Lion Lori Spire - M4
- GMT – Lion Duane Ball - M5

The motion was seconded by DG Paul Carr and the motion carried.

POSTPONEMENT OF SOCKTOBER – DG Paul Carr moved to postpone the current GAT Team event "Socktober", which was scheduled for this fall. DG Ron Ballard seconded the motion and it carried.

COUNCIL CHAIR ELECTION: CC Harold Spire announced the following officers for 2024-2025:

- DG Sherl Horton had been elected as the Council Chair-Elect for 2024-2025.
- DGE Tina Anderson will be the Vice Council Chair
- DGE Michelle Foster will be Asst. Council Secretary/Treasurer
- DGE Mickey Beach will be the Vice President of the Corporation.

PCC Terry Boettcher will be the 2024-2025 Parliamentarian.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lion Jackie Twehus

Lion Jackie Twehus, Administrative Assistant