

MINUTES
MISSOURI LIONS COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS
Saturday, January 27, 2024
Eagles Club, Jefferson City, MO

The third meeting of the 2023-2024 Missouri Lions Council of Governors was called to order by Council Chair Harold Spire, at 10:00 a.m.

District Governor Ed Bierbower gave the Invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by District Governors Sherl Horton and Ron Ballard.

District Governor Phil Krebs led in singing "America (My Country, Tis of Thee)".

IPDG Pat Scott established Protocol.

ATTENDANCE - Those in attendance were:

<u>District</u>	<u>Governor</u>	<u>1st Vice District Governors</u>	<u>2nd Vice District Governors</u>
26-M1		Wendy Williams	Louise Bibbs
26-M2		Michelle Foster	
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	Todd Miller	

Council Chair IPDG Harold Spire, M4

Past International Directors Don Noland, M3; W.R. O'Riley, M4; and Donal Knipp, M7

Parliamentarian PCC George Winkeler Jr., M2

State Office Administrator Lion Brenda Weider, M7

State Office Administrative Assistant Lion Jackie Twehus, M7

M1: PDG Scott Sattler

M2: PCC Al Blumenberg, PDG Debbie Blumenberg, PCC Gina Boettcher, PCC Terry Boettcher, Lion Wallace Brumfield, Lion Vickey Engel, IPDG Leon Hove, PCC Joe Foster, PDG Eugene Taylor, PCC Kimberly Taylor, Lion Jennifer Winkeler

M3: PCC Bob Noellsch, Lion Cheyenne Porterfield, PDG Michael Sliger, Lion Amy Vollmer

M4: PDG Ann Anderson, PCC John Anderson, PCC Larry Boettcher, Jeremy Brammer, Lion Devon Campbell, Lion Peggy Campbell, PCC Ron Campbell, PDG Wayne Cunningham, Lion Carole O'Riley, Lion Lori Spire

M5: PDG Jene Crook, PDG Bruce Dugan, Lion Christine Dugan, Lion Julie Goetz, PDG Kenny Goetz, Lion Katherine Patterson-Paronto, PDG Jerry Romig, IPDG Pat Scott

M6: PDG Debbie Cantrell, PDG Kevin Cantrell, IPCC Phyllis Krebs (with FLDs Jodi & Jeri Ann), Lion Lee Rodgers, PDG James W. Rosbrugh

M7: PDG Melissa Anderson, Lion Linda Bierbower, Lion Larry Brandhorst, IPDG Bill Foglesong, Lion Lisa Foglesong, PDG Lou Ann Hathcock, Lion Betty Knipp, Lion April Underwood, Lion Wayne Weider

SPECIAL GUESTS: PDG Chris Gunstream, GLT Area Leader, and Lion Linda Gunstream (Texas)

TAIL TWISTER & DESIGNATION OF FUNDS – DG Phil Krebs moved to appoint PDG Kevin Cantrell as Tail Twister. Motion was seconded by DG Ballard and carried.

DG Bierbower moved that the Tail Twister funds be designated to LCIF. DG Horton seconded the motion and it carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 28, 2023, COUNCIL MEETING – DG Horton moved to accept the minutes of the October 28, 2023, Council Meeting as published. It was seconded by DG Bierbower and carried.

CC Harold asked that anyone with any Quality Lion Award nominations to please bring them forward at this time. He reminded everyone that we are now doing these before the meeting so they can be handed back out and save on postage. Five were presented.

FINANCIAL REPORT – CC Spire reported for Asst. Council Secretary/Treasurer DG Marilyn Reaves. He reported from the income statement from July-December 2023. We had income of \$32,356. There were expenses of \$34,640, which left a negative balance of \$-2,283. So with the income from investment funds, we had an income of \$6,200, with a net income of \$3,924. There were no questions.

CC Spire asked for approval of the Independent Accountants Review and financials as presented. The Council went over the draft in October. This needs to be approved for the final time. DG Ballard moved to accept the financial reports. DG Krebs seconded the motion. Motion carried.

USA/CANADA FORUM – PID Noland shared that this year's USA/Canada Forum is September 5-7, 2024, in Louisville, Kentucky. He noted it is only 601 miles from Maryville, MO, and 260 miles from St. Louis. He encouraged everyone to try to attend.

PCC Brad Baker joined in by phone to give updates to the 2026 USA/Canada Forum in Memphis. He shared that he had a great visit in October/November with a bunch of clubs in Missouri. He enjoyed himself greatly. He thanked everyone that helped with that – particularly PDG Susan Paden and 1VDG Mickey Beach. He will be coming to about five different Missouri meetings this spring, so he'll be able to answer a lot more questions in person. He joined the meeting to allow anyone to ask questions. They are hoping that they will get the Missouri Lions donations for the seed money for the host committee by the end of May of this year. They are going to open their bank account in the next couple of weeks. Shortly, they will start having committee meetings. There are many in Missouri that he is going to be asking to be on committees. They have already talked to some. Some have already agreed, and some are thinking about it. They are going to need as many people to help as they can get from Missouri, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Tennessee to get this done. He knows it is two years away, but they will begin in Louisville this year with a booth that they will be giving out information about Memphis. They won't be signing anybody up or doing anything in detail, but they will have a booth there for the city of Memphis to host the 2026 USA/Canada Forum.

He added there is that possibility that if they make enough money like they did last time, they will give all the seed money back to those who donated. They hope to have the Forum "books" closed out by the end of December 2026. If there are any funds left available, then they would distribute those probably January 2027. Their hope is to give everybody back every penny that they donated. They hope to have a successful host committee that makes enough money to cover all the expenses. He asked if there were any questions.

PCC Al Blumenberg asked, "Specifically, what is that seed money going to be used for?"

PCC Baker replied, "The first thing is that is used to provide hospitality for the planning committee when they come to visit Memphis. I believe they are coming to Memphis two times – once in mid-2025 and of course, in 2026 they'll come. That will help cover the expenses of the protocol for those folks, for hospitality. They pay for their own expenses as far as room and board and that sort of thing. The Hospitality Committee is asked to provide hospitality for them the whole time they are there. It'll help us to buy items that we will be selling to make money. We don't expect any of this to be used for personal expenses. It will strictly be to provide support for the general planning committee for the convention when they come to Memphis."

PCC Kimberly Taylor asked, "Did we do this before when the Forum was in Memphis?"

PCC Brad replied, “Yes, we did exactly the same process the last time we had it in Memphis. In 2009, Mississippi, Missouri, and Arkansas submitted \$5,000 that was eventually returned to them, and then Tennessee did \$10,000. And we actually gave out all the money and then we distributed some more funds that we had for some of the service projects around the four-state area.”

It was clarified that they are asking for \$5,000 from Missouri, \$5,000 from Arkansas, \$5,000 from Mississippi, and \$10,000 from Tennessee. PCC Baker said he suspected the Host Committee budget to be somewhere around \$40,000 total. That’ll be \$25,000 of seed money and then they’ll start making money as soon as they can. The planning committee won’t let them do anything until sometime, probably early 2026. To get things going, they’ll have to order all of their stuff before then, but they won’t be able to sell anything until late 2025-2026. They just have to get this in place so when the committee comes to Memphis, they’ll have funds to be able to support their program while they are in Memphis.

PID Noland asked, “Do you have any idea what they made in Reno?”

PCC Brad answered, “No, I haven’t heard back from them. I have submitted a couple of questions to them. But they are probably on the same time frame we are. They are probably just wrapping up all of their books. I’ve talked to the Host Committee in California that supported the Reno convention, and I should be getting some information from them shortly. But at this point and time, I do not have an exact figure from them.”

PCC Brad added if there was anyone that wants to be on the Host Committee and help guide them through this thing, they have 27 committees they’ll be working with. So if anyone is interested at all, and some have already signed up and he’s already talked to others, but if anyone is interested and he hasn’t spoken to you about helping with the Host Committee, please call him or send him an email. He will get you on a list and find out what your interest is and get you on a committee that you want to get on. He’s got 27 or 28 committees he has to fill, so they will need all the help they can get. He’ll see some in the upcoming district meetings. He thanked everyone for their continued support of Mid-South and also the 2026 USA/Canada Forum.

INTERNATIONAL UPDATE – PID Don Noland noted that President Patti continues her vision for “Changing the World”. She has lots of energy and is embracing Mission 1.5. Membership worldwide as of December 2023 is 1,357,624, +1.19%. CA1 was down 157 members (.85%). ISAME (India, South Asia, Middle East) is at 374,179 members (+4.49%). They represent 27.56% of the Association.

The LCI Family has endorsed PID Manjo Shah from CA 8- Africa. It could be an interesting contest in Melbourne. There may be another contestant from Africa.

The FDGE/DGE schooling is February 27-28, 2024, in St. Charles, Illinois.

GLOBAL MEMBERSHIP APPROACH – PID Don announced that PID Pat Vaneett has taken over the CA1 Chairmanship, working with our area leader PDG Chris Gunstream from Texas, who is present today. PDG Chris has a monthly Zoom call. PID Don was pleased to have 12-13 Lions from Missouri on that Zoom call. He thanked those for participating. We will hear more from PDG Chris later.

LCIF – PIP Sheehan has a goal of \$62 million with hope to exceed \$75 million. MD26 continues to be supportive of what we must do this year. Please support your DCs. All the DCs attended the LCIF strategy session, so keep in touch with them.

“Where there’s a need, there’s a Lion.” \$100,000 has been pledged to the earthquakes in Japan and rebuilding Nepal this last November.

WORLD SERVICES FOR THE BLIND – PID Don Noland shared that WSB is celebrating 77 years of service, over 16,000 clients from all 50 states and 59 countries. Their current census (the highest that PID Don can recall) is around 70-75. They are currently training twenty-five individuals from Canada in the

protocol that WSB has been successful with, so they are truly reaching out internationally within their program. Missouri Lions have contributed \$5,300 YTD. Just a note: Lions only provide 6% of the WSB operating budget.

GREAT PLAINS LIONS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE – PDG Debbie Cantrell reported that the GPLLI registration fee is \$220.00, the same as it's been in years past. The dates are July 26-28th for GPLLI. The dates are July 25-28th for the Faculty Development Institute (FDI). They also have a request coming for all the Multiples involved (Oklahoma, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska) for \$800 to support the FDI and keep those costs low for those attending. She has copies of the registration forms with her today, so if interested touch base with her to get your registration in right away. They do expect several to be coming in for the FDI, so get your registration today and get it sent in right away. Contact her or PCC Terry Boettcher with questions about either institute. They would be most happy to talk to anybody about these institutes.

STATE/INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE – PCC Gina Boettcher reminded the DGs that the uniforms will be the turquoise shirts with the Lions logo, black shoes, black pants, black socks and black belt. You can wear the white Missouri Lions hat that will be for purchase at the State Convention. The shirts and white hats will be available for sale at the State Convention.

2024 STATE CONVENTION COMMITTEE – Lion April Underwood reported that all Hospitality tables are now paid for. There are currently sixty-six rooms reserved out of eighty-four, so make reservations soon if you have not. They are still taking registrations. Originally, they had breakfast as an option, and had told everyone from the “get-go” that if they didn't get enough people signing up for breakfast, they were not going to be able to do it financially. At this time, they have twelve signed up for breakfast, so they have to cancel breakfast. The problem with that is that “The Hook,” which is the only restaurant open at that time, cannot handle everyone. There are refrigerators in the rooms, so you can bring something for breakfast. It's not that far to run into town if you want to go grab something. Feasibly for the committee they cannot pay for breakfast for everyone. Contact her if you have more questions. There are sign up sheets on the table. They talked a lot about the service project. They are very excited about that. They need Lions to sign up to volunteer to help cook any food they are going to serve to the community and to help serve it. They also need Lions to come greet those people from the community and guide them into the right areas. Don't forget to send in your registrations.

Lion April added that the service project will be held in a church in the area that they have rented. The plan is that on Friday, everyone that's not in training will go. They have spoken to the Eye Mission Foundation, Hearing Committee, and KidSight. M4 has someone with Diabetes coming. They are going to get the word out to the community through the Health Departments and School Counselors. They want Lions to come in and show that community what we do. It's a very poor community. We are going to help – let's put glasses on them, let's get their ears checked. Let's help them where we can and while they are there, we want to feed them. The service project will take place from 10-2 pm on Friday of Convention.

2025 STATE CONVENTION COMMITTEE: PCC Gina Boettcher reported that the 2025 State Convention will be held May 2-4, 2025. It will be held at the DoubleTree Westport (in St. Louis), where the M2 District Convention is typically held. The Council Meeting will be on May 1st and they will also be hosting the January 2025 Council Meeting, January 24-25th, at that location. They will be having a planning meeting on Tuesday, so she'll share more details at State Convention.

2026 STATE CONVENTION COMMITTEE: Lion Lori Spire shared a report that stated it is the recommendation of the 26-M4 State Convention Host Committee that the 2026 Missouri Lions State Convention be held in Kansas City, specifically in the KCI airport area, with a focus on careful planning for dates, space, and ensuring it remains viable for all Missouri Lions. This recommendation is based on the importance of meticulous planning to ensure optimal dates for maximum participation, securing adequate space for the event and keeping within the boundaries of District 26-M4. We believe this approach will contribute to the success of the Convention and they invite everyone's support of this recommendation. She extended her heartfelt appreciation to the District 26-M4 committee, thus far, for their dedicated planning

efforts towards the 2026 Missouri Lions State Convention. The success of such an event relies heavily on meticulous planning and their commitment to ensuring optimal dates, suitable space and the overall success of the Convention is truly commendable. She thanked those that are present today that have helped her thus far. Some will be looking tomorrow at the two facilities they have narrowed it down to. By the State Convention, they will have a facility secured.

ALERT COMMITTEE – No report.

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE – 1VDG Carol Deters reported the Athletic Committee met by Zoom on January 15, 2024. Discussion was made to plan a Lions Day in conjunction with an organization like Miracle League Baseball or Special Olympics. They have several resources to follow up with and bring information back to the committee before moving forward with this idea. Ideas were brought up for each District to have a Lions Day or partner with several districts. Some added assets Lions could bring to an event like this are vision and hearing screenings. There might be an opportunity to sell food, or we might just be present to help the organization out wherever they need us.

Beef raffle tickets will be distributed at today's Council Meeting. A reminder that each district needs to sell 40 tickets @ \$20 each. They would like the drawing to be held at State Convention in April, but all tickets need to be sold by then. DG Pedersen wanted everyone to know that the processing would be done mid-June.

After reviewing the Financial Report sent out this week, it was noted the verbiage under the Athletic Committee's responsibilities still states the old name and where the funding goes. DG Bierbower contacted Council Chair Harold Spire and that was taken care of.

BAND COMMITTEE – CC Harold shared minutes that were submitted by the Band Committee from their meeting on January 18, 2024. PDG Jessi Troester had reported at that meeting that language was submitted to PDG Jene Crook about the committee's name change. All locations in the Constitution and By-Laws were identified that needed to be changed. It was noted that the Constitution and By-Laws refers to the "Band Fund" and inquiries were made as to whether the fund, being financial in nature, needed a name change also. Those inquiries were directed to Lion Brenda.

An email from CC Harold Spire indicated that it would be possible to move some of the Band Fund into a CD. It was suggested, followed by a second, for a motion that not all of the funds be put into a CD. The question was raised about how much solvency the committee needs. Additional questions were sent to CC Harold regarding information on CDs.

The committee identified a time on Thursday evening of State Convention as a time that the Band Committee could use to offer entertainment. During this time, it was planned for there to be various social activities around a central area, and this central area would be where the Band Committee would have their performance. It is currently scheduled to start at 6 pm on Thursday of State Convention (April 18th).

The Band Committee has fully registered for the MMEA conference January 25-27th, 2024. They have a booth to promote themselves. Lion Jessi was going to ask her father to attend the 25th, Lion Patrick Anderson will attend on the 26th, and promotional materials will be left on the table on the 27th.

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS – PDG Jene Crook reported there are five provisions that they have been approached to place on the state election. The first provision does relate to the Band Committee, where they asked that they change the name to the Music Committee. They also changed the planned program for the Band Committee (or Music Committee), whichever it ends up. They talked with Lion Brenda, and she says there is no problem with the bank changing the name of the fund, so they will change those also. All of those things are part of Proposition 1. If you vote against anything or you don't like anything, then you need to vote it "no".

Proposition 2 is editorial and housekeeping types of things. They have identified a couple of things in the Constitution and By-Laws that need to be corrected.

Proposition 3 reflects the dues increase that has been requested by the committee. That dues increase increases the dues from \$10.50 to \$18, except in a year when we have an endorsed International candidate, and it looks like that may also take affect July 1st. So, in that case, the dues would be \$19.50 per year. Those that were here in the work session got an extensive exposure to the pros and cons of the dues increase, but they did put it up for vote just the way it was presented to them.

Proposition 4 was requested by the State Office because credentialing has its own requirements, where the dues due date had its own requirement, and those were in conflict occasionally. They have simply said “whichever one comes first”.

Proposition 5 is simply changing the wording so that we can say “site or location” for the State Convention so that those ballots can be put out because most of the time we don’t know where the Convention will be held at the time the location is approved.

Those are the changes to the Constitution and By-Laws. There are two additional items that need to be voted on. One of those being the location of the 2026 Convention and that they are saying “held at a location in the Kansas City area”, which gives them a large territory to cover. That’s a simple yes/no. Then we will finally vote on the endorsement for the office of International Director. That would be for Lion PDG Debbie Cantrell. That vote will require a two-thirds majority vote.

PDG James W. Rosbrugh added that also with Proposition 5 that is to bring the Constitution and the By-Laws to say the same thing. That’s why they are adding those two words in there.

PDG Jene asked if there were questions. She will get the information to Lion Bethney (Editor of the Missouri Lion Newsletter) with hopes that she will put all of this in the newsletter that is due to come out next month. Then everyone will be able to see exactly what the wordings are next month. There were no questions.

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE- PDG Jene Crook reported the Investment committee met in December because Lion Brenda had notified her that the “trigger point” had been reached for withdrawing money from the Investment Fund. PDG Jene had asked Lion Brenda to estimate what the State Office bills would be in January and February, so they could try to cover at least January with the hopes that we wouldn’t have to take any further funds out. But they decided to cover January and leave the \$3,000 cushion that the Policy Manual indicates, they took \$,8,000 from the Investment Fund. There was a little bit of a quandary about how it got transferred, but they transferred \$8,000 from the Investment Fund into the Administrative checking account at December 31st. When she got the statement from the investment account, on December 31st, it was still worth \$110,623.87. As of January 23rd, we had lost \$470. As of January 25th, at closing of the markets, the balance was \$110,263.05. Year to date we are about “flat”. In 2023, we were up about 12.6% and that’s pretty hard to match on a CD.

1VDG Todd Miller, who serves on the Investment committee, implored the Council of Governors to look at their investment policy. “It gives an allocation approach and a mandate on how that investment money is to be invested. There is an asterisk below those percentages that allow an escape clause. At its core, this is a money account that is managed. This organization is paying \$989 or so annually for someone to manage a little over \$100,000. Arguably that is an expense that is unnecessary. The money should be allocated pursuant to its Investment Policy that was adopted by this organization. About 50% should be in CDs and about 50% should be in equities and cash holdover. Now, those of you shaking your head and disagreeing with me, its because you’re looking at a little asterisk on the bottom of those allocations that provide a money manager to allocate monies over a diversified portfolio of equities, which are still at risk. So, there were moments when that portfolio was much less than it currently is, it’s up now. But given the necessity – if the dues increase does not pass today – the necessity of removing monies from that investment account is going to be immediate. And you are going to reduce that amount. The reason Jene indicated there was

some quandary about how to get that money out of there is because each and every dollar currently is invested in an equity. So your money manager has to take the time to move the money out of an equity, mutual fund or otherwise, and turn it into cash so we can remove that money. Your investment policy encourages/mandates that amount be somewhere between 5-10% by memory (I'm not looking at it). I would encourage the Council of Governors and District Governors to look at your investment policy and encourage the subcommittee to adhere to its terms and move forward based on those terms."

PDG Jene commented that she didn't see "where we are paying anyone though."

1VDG Todd then added, "Those of you that are interested in seeing it, I have a copy of the most recent statement and it indicates that we paid \$989.01 for an 'advisory program, platform, and manager fees'. It is an annual amount that you pay every year. So, if you look at the longevity of this. I wasn't around when you initiated this back around 2013, but you put \$100,000 as a principal amount in this investment account. So we sit here today at about \$10,000 more than that. So you've made around \$1,000 a year in return on investment. In return, to acquire that \$1,000, you're paying someone nearly \$1,000. The math is really easy. I'm happy to show you the statement of the account. You are welcome to look at it at your leisure."

IPDG Leon Hove then commented, "We made \$18,000 because we just took \$8,000 out of it. And the fee is .9% of the equity amount. Which is a very cheap fee for a managed account."

Lion Vickey Engel added, "If you had that money over that same period sitting in CDs, it wouldn't have earned that much. I know it was a different situation because the interest rates are different. But that CD, if it has to be broken, you talk about immediate need? That CD will bite into principal if you close it early."

1VDG Todd Miller replied, "That is correct, but we could've most recently moved about half of that money into a 5.25 CD over a 7 month term, and we could have guaranteed ourselves a return on our investment exceeding what we've already received. I represent several entities, several non-profits and several for-profits. It is unusual to risk the totality of your principal in equities. Most of those entities put them in CDs or very stable situations where you can get your hands on it when you need to, and you have no risk. It's risk-aversion, is basically what you need to do."

EYEGLOSS RECYCLING PROGRAM – Lion April Underwood thanked everyone that came yesterday and spent a couple of hours at the Eyeglass Recycling building and helped out. They appreciate the volunteers and the help, and they are always wanting more. Feel free to contact PCC Jeff Hilke or PDG Lou Ann Hathcock to set that up. If anyone has glasses today, Lion April has room and can take them. They are still looking for volunteers. Glasses are going out pretty regularly right now, so contact them to help. They are still looking for donations too. Obviously, every little bit helps now that they have a building to take care of.

Lion April was asked about the status of the 501C3. She stated that she knew it was in process. PCC Jeff had some paperwork to turn in to International. That's all she knows.

GLT REPORT: PDG Scott Sattler reported they are continuing with the training of the 1st and 2nd Vice District Governors. He reminded everyone that Friday of the State Convention is dedicated to training for the 1st and 2nd VDGEs, as well as Cabinet Secretaries and Treasurers. District Governors were asked to please invite all of the Cabinet Secretaries and Treasurers to come on that Friday and go through the training. It'll help them a lot.

GMT REPORT: IPDG Pat Scott shared that shortly it will be explained why she's dressed as a German barmaid. She gave the membership report. She shared the following membership numbers:

<u>October 2023</u>	<u>January 2024</u>	<u>Loss</u>
M1 – 1,000	993	7
M2 – 1,136	1,125	11
M3 – 1,071	1,069	2

M4 – 1,053	1,038	6
M5 – 879	859	20
M6 – 878	847	6
M7 – 1,154	1,154	0

So the membership trophy goes to M7 for remaining stable at 1,154. She hopes that PDG Chris Gunstream can help us with our numbers.

GST REPORT: IPCC Phyllis shared her appreciation for PDG Chris Gunstream being present today to talk about Mission 1.5 and how we can get on the right road. She noted it's "pretty sad" when we have to give the membership award to a district that stays at the same number because everybody else is down. We want to see those numbers going up. She noted that however we look at the search for new members, people are first and foremost drawn by the opportunity to provide meaningful service to others. Isn't that why we all became Lions? To help others? So let's think about that. IPCC Phyllis is pleased to see that most district conventions and our state convention this year are providing an opportunity to serve during the convention. This is important because it gives club members an opportunity to experience service on a broader scale. Plus it gives us a chance to form new friendships and reunite with old friends while we serve. The more we serve, the stronger our organization becomes. Achieving 1.5 million members will enable us to provide much more service around the world. But unless we become better at reporting our service, we won't know what that impact is for sure. At the last Council meeting, IPCC Phyllis provided service reporting statistics by district and announced that she would provide a traveling trophy to the district with the highest percentage. She challenges each district to improve club service reporting. She had the trophy with her today. The beautiful gold star trophy will go home with the winner this quarter. To assist the clubs and members that prefer to not use electronic means to report, she developed a paper form. She will hand them to the head table. She has more and if anyone would like an electronic copy, so you can put your district logo in the upper right corner, just let her know. It's a form that the Springfield Host Lions Club (IPCC Phyllis's club) used several years ago. There's no requirement to use it. It's just a tool to use if it will help you because she knows some clubs are "electronically challenged." If it will help, please use it. She'd really like to see the percentages increase. IPCC Phyllis announced that the Gold Star Trophy will be residing with DG Ron Ballard of M5 until the State Convention. She reminded him to bring it back and congratulated M5. She noted the other six districts need to get to work. M5 had current service reporting of 62%. The other districts' current reporting statistics are: M1 – 18%; M2 – 59%; M3 – 28%; M4 – 39%; M6 – 24%; M7 – 28%. We have a lot of room to grow. She believes it's on every Governors list as one of their goals – to improve service reporting.

GAT REPORT/LEADERSHIP FORUM: IPCC Phyllis shared that she has "Save the Date" cards for the Leadership Forum that she will pass out to take back to the districts. They are calling it "Socktober – A Lions Leadership Learning Event", hence the German barmaid outfit. It will be October 11-12th. They are working on the list of presenters. It will be right here in the same venue (Eagles Club – Jefferson City). The hotel will be the same as well (Baymont Inn – Jefferson City). More details will be shared at the State Convention Council of Governors meeting.

GAT AREA 1 LEADER: PDG Chris Gunstream introduced himself as a Past District Governor from District 2S1 out of out MD2. He lives in Marshall, Texas. He is a member of the Carthage Lions Club. He asked how many had heard about Mission 1.5 and how many know what it means? He asked how many remembered a few years back that Lions Clubs International Foundation had a campaign going on called, "Campaign 100"? While that campaign did have a goal inside of it, it was a "campaign". That is exactly what Mission 1.5 is. It's a campaign to grow our membership to 1.5 million members by June 30, 2027. If we take a look at where we have been and where we are going, we started out at the beginning of this year at about 1.41 million members worldwide. And just a minute ago, it was shared that we have 1.37 million members. We are going backwards – we need to go forward. If we take a look at going forward with Mission 1.5, he wondered how we will get there? What's the best way to grow our membership? Someone responded, "Add clubs". PDG Gunstream commented that that was exactly right; if we could add more clubs, that is going to give us at least a minimum number of 20 into that new club. Someone else added, "Retention." PDG

Gunstream agreed that retention was one of the ways to do it and then added, "What about new members?" New members, new lifeblood, new ideas – new things that can happen for the clubs and districts. There are two paths that can be used to reach the Mission 1.5 campaign goal. #1 – New Clubs. The other is the Global Membership Approach Process or the GMA. The Global Membership Approach Process is nothing more than just a process. It has worked in every business that he knows of; it's been around for a pretty good while. IPIP Brian Sheehan and (at the time) 1st VP Brian Stevenson were the fathers of GMA for Lions. The Global Membership Approach Process does three things: It helps identify what our strengths are, helps identify what our weaknesses are, and from that we can leverage our strengths to overcome our weaknesses by developing good, strong goals at a club and by developing a plan of action on how we are going to get there. He shared that every year the District Governors go through the process of developing district goals. What if we were able to have all of our clubs work on this process and they are going to tell us what they can do in membership for the year? They can tell us what they can do in service for the year. They can tell us what they can do in Leadership and Training and, by the way, what they can do in LCIF contributions. If the clubs tell the districts what they are going to do, do you think you might have a better opportunity for reaching the goal the district has set? Because guess what? The clubs set the goal, not the District Governor. If the District Governor sets the goal, how much buy-in will you get from that club? The Global Membership Approach Process, while it is not new, it is a new concept to the majority of Lions that are out there. He challenged and encouraged everyone to go to Lions Clubs International, type in the search icon "Global Membership Approach" and it will come up with the entire page for the Global Membership Approach. It's very simple. There are four steps to it: Build a Team, Build a Vision, Build a Plan and Build Success. That's all there is to it. It's easy. The nice part about it, when we refer to it as a process, it means that each club will then develop the programs that work for them. This is not a program that is given to us by Lions Clubs International and we're told "if you follow this, this is going to happen". They want to see all clubs embrace the Global Membership Approach, and they want to also see all districts embrace new club development. That's the hardest thing in the world to do – to bring in new clubs. We always seem to think "I don't know where I'm going to find that next new club." If we use the process, we can get there and find a way to develop that new club. Mission 1.5 is a big step. It's a big move. There are a lot of moving parts to it, but basically it is nothing more than a campaign. PDG Gunstream shared that as he's gone around and talked to a lot of Multiple Districts and has talked to a bunch of District Governors (by the way, there are 35 districts within his area of 1A), he doesn't think there is a District Governor out there that is not fully supporting Mission 1.5 and wanting to support and move this initiative forward. His question for the group was this, "Will you accept that challenge of Mission 1.5 and help bring in new members to your club? Will you accept that challenge to spread Lionism throughout your communities? Will you accept that challenge to make sure we are providing service to our communities?" The number one thing that Lions do is SERVE. We serve. So we need to be out there serving in our communities. He believes service drives membership. If we are out there, serving our communities, waving that banner, he does believe we can bring in new Lions by millions just that way. He thanked the Council for giving him the opportunity to give a quick overview. He will talk more later with the GAT. He asked if there were any questions.

1VDG Todd Miller asked, "Do you ever anticipate a national downward approach, where they have national advertising – television ads, newspaper, magazines, and other periodicals like that? I'm 55 years old and I've never seen an ad for Lions/LCIF. I've never seen any national campaign of any sort."

PDG Gunstream replied, "I don't think you will see anything from Lions Clubs International Foundation but there have been ad campaigns for LCI. And that has been through the Rose Bowl Parade. LCI has a float. While the Lions of California do that float, it is a national televised thing, and it's a big deal. So yes, there have been some ads in some places that have done that." He asked for the PIDs to help him remember just a couple of years ago they had thought of running a couple of national ads, and they did that, but it didn't last very long. PID W.R. O'Riley concurred they did ads some time back. The ads ran at midnight and didn't get a lot of "traction". It was added that also there is advertisement through the Peach Bowl. PDG Gunstream shared that that was started by the Lions of Georgia. There is a lot of press and advertisement there, in fact, IPIP Brian Sheehan was just there as the Grand Marshall.

CC Harold Spire presented PDG Gunstream with a Challenge Coin that he handed out at the last Council meeting, challenging everyone to give them to a new member of their club. CC Spire asked if anyone else needed a coin – with PDG Ann Anderson noting she needed six for six new members. And it was noted that Lion Linda Bierbower has brought in three new members. Lion Lori Spire has more coins.

Lion Linda Bierbower added, “Speaking of advertisement, I just wrote an advertisement for our Lions Club and put it in our local paper and asked people to come to our meetings. Where it was. When it was. And they could eat a free dinner and see what we were about. So I challenge every one of your clubs to write an advertisement telling about Lions and Lions International and what you have given money to for the year. I’m amazed at how many people don’t realize that the Lions Clubs are in more places than the United States. So really what we have to do is educate the world, and especially in the United States, to get more members. So put an ad in your local paper and see if it helps you.”

HEARING COMMITTEE – PCC Ron Campbell reported the State Hearing Committee last met in October at the School for the Deaf in Fulton. Their annual mid-year meeting will be coming up and they will discuss projects and sweepstakes. The committee has worked on getting out the sweepstakes tickets to the clubs in their respective districts. They have received some back in from the clubs and hopefully the clubs will have their tickets back in for the first drawings at their district conventions. Then they will have their big prize drawing at the State Convention in April at Old Kinderhook in Camden. If your club has not received tickets or if you have any questions about them, please contact your district chairperson to help or contact PCC Ron as well.

One of their projects that came out of their last meeting was a partnership with the Missouri School for the Deaf to help secure specialized needed equipment used to test all age children that are usually difficult to test for some reason or another. The old equipment is faltering and is not as advanced or has the capabilities of newer types. Dr. Amy Fleming and PCC Ron have discussed a couple of types of equipment, and she has sent him some possible ones to look at. They are searching for vendors right now and pricing, those that will give them a good price. Then they’ll be looking at possibly funding down the road or maybe a grant, or maybe a statewide project.

At this time, they are caught up with hearing aid help applications. If you or your club is contacted by any individual needing hearing help, please refer them to your district hearing chair or PCC Ron to start a process to help them maybe get some hearing aids they can’t afford otherwise. They are seeing an increase in individuals nowadays that are seeking hearing help.

They have also seen an increase in schools inquiring about and setting up hearing screenings with them. They have had several interests from other facilities inquiring about doing hearing screenings with them. PCC Ron was contacted about a partnership to do screenings together, but that is still in the investigation process right now just to see what that would entail for them as a committee.

PCC Campbell was asked to update everyone on the status of the hearing trailer. He shared the trailer is “ready to rock n’ roll”. They had an outing that was planned down in Farmington, but it was cancelled because of the weather. By March 1st, contact PCC Ron if you want to do any hearing screenings and they will put you down. It was asked if the hearing trailer will be at the State Convention? PCC Ron confirmed it will be there. PCC Jeff Hilke has already talked to him about that, and the trailer will be there. CC Harold has agreed to pull it down there for them. They have to have a pretty good place to park it because it is big. It’s 8 ½ x 20. He thinks everyone will enjoy it. It’s really a good deal. They have taken it on a couple of outings. PCC Harold has pulled it in a parade, just to see how it pulls. You have to have a pretty good vehicle to pull it. They know that for a fact. It was asked where it will be “headquartered”? PCC Ron noted that right now it’s in St. Joe. They will schedule it out of there. Because of insurance purposes, they have to have it pretty secure. Even when they do events, they have to have it secure. Insurance right now is hard to find. They had 15-20 companies turn them down. They have a very high risk company insuring it right now. They will work together with anyone wanting to use it.

1VDG Todd Miller wanted to know how many hearing screenings occurred last year? PCC Ron replied that the hearing trailer was not ready last year, so there were no hearing screenings at all last year (with the trailer). Hearing screenings were held with the portables. They did do screenings in schools and stuff. Each district has three portable hearing units that the state hearing committee provides to them through their fundraisers.

PCC Joe Foster asked that since the trailer will be at State Convention, will there be training on how to use it at State Convention? And can they for sure tell the clubs that are already lined up and want it to be there for that training? Is that a safe bet? PCC Ron confirmed yes, there will be training.

PDG Kevin Cantrell wanted to know if anybody is insured to pull the trailer. He knows on their Alert trailer, their insurance is changing the deal, where not everybody can just take off with it. They are going to have to change theirs.

PCC Ron stated that that is the way it is with the insurance anymore. He shared the committee talked about that and they've come up with some ideas on that. It will transfer to the vehicle pulling it. It was noted that pulling it won't cover the trailer, it will cover the damage. It will cover the liability, not the personal property. PCC Ron noted they have had the same issue with their Alert trailer. They had it (the insurance) for years, and then all of a sudden, they said, "We're going to cut that out of our program." And that's what you'll find all around.

PDG Phill added that there are liability insurance policies available through Lions International for an event, but several agreed that applies to an event, not to this trailer.

Lion April Underwood shared, "PCC Ron reached out to me. I have my boss, who is the CEO of the Missouri Association of Insurance Agents. He is checking with several experts in the state to see what we can do to help get better coverage for this. It is an extremely hard market, insurance-wise, nationwide right now. But locally, in the Midwest, we've had several large mutuals and companies completely close because of how hard the market is. So this trailer is not an easy thing to get insurance for. So I get everybody's thing but work with us. We are trying to find the best solutions for this."

PCC Ron continued, "That's just the way it is. We've went about double for insurance. Our hearing trailer was \$180 and now, what I finally got, if we can get it through, is \$500." It was clarified that that was payment for a year, but it only covers certain things. It's just getting difficult, so we have to be very careful. And he reiterated it again, we have to be very, very careful when it's used that we protect it. Right now it's under the cameras all day long, and at night it's underneath the lights. It's gated. He's sent all of these pictures to the insurance company, and they say that it's well secured. That saved them about \$350 a year. That's the address I've got. That's just the way it is. You have to do the best you can with what you've got.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – Lion Devon Campbell reported the build of the new Missouri Lions website is still a work in progress and will be forever because websites are "living, breathing" things. If it's static; that's bad. The website will have a new address: lionsofmissouri.org. They will deal with missourilions.org at a later time. The site will look much different than you are used to. The first time you go to it, take a good look and see if you can spot some of the fun little things that are here and there, or issues that he has missed.

The IT committee met on December 1, 2023, to discuss the roles that will be needed to maintain the site and the flow of information that will be coming through them to be updated to the site. There was a lack of a quorum. Lion Devon asked everyone that attended to think on what they feel would be the best ideas. He thanked everyone who took the time to meet and discuss and have a good conversation. He added that the new website is open. There are some things that he still needs to get different information and pieces on. He thanked CC Harold for sending him the committees list.

1VDG Todd shared, "I serve on this subcommittee. I implore you to not notice your meetings up on Friday at 7:00, Devon. We haven't had a quorum for a year and a half."

Lion Devon responded, "Lion Todd, I have also said back to you that that is when the three of us had been meeting and that is when my secretary is available. We can't run with moving things around to this day, that day, all the time. And honestly, we haven't had a quorum in many years, and we tried different dates. We've tried different times. We've tried different notification methods. Right now with Zoom, it doesn't take that long to get on for 10-15 minutes. I mean Council Chair Harold has called in and gotten on with me. Lion Rachel, our 2VDG with M4, got on with me. She said 'Hey, I wanted to be at this one. It's between me going from here to there.' I understand that meeting is difficult and it's hard to find a lot of people to get together, to really meet and have a long discussion, but if we can sit here and say, 'Here's the issues we want to talk about' ahead of time – that's why we send out the agendas. That's why I say, 'Hey, here's the issues I want to discuss at the next meeting, it doesn't take us 10-15 minutes to really decide most things and some of that is just as simple as a phone call. I mean I've been a Lion for 13-14 years now, and I continue to see that issue. I see that issue in my club with communication, saying 'I don't want to meet this day.' Or 'we're only going to meet on this day', or we'll try this or that. Meet when everybody's available. But you can't get everybody available statewide. That's the difficult thing. I understand your concern, and Friday's the best day that works. The last time I had one on a Tuesday, I was the only one on. I've had two or three meetings this year where I was the only one on. And I've said, 'Hey, can you meet this date?' 'Hey, is this time good for you?' I don't get responses. The governors respond but generally a lot of other people don't."

1VDG Todd replied, "Respectively, I'm not receiving those emails. I'll be honest with you. I'm on the committee. I didn't receive this report prior to today. I implore you to not notice the meetings up on a date and time that includes Fridays at 7. Please give us two or three days to choose from. My respects to Jene Crook. I serve on the Investment Committee. We circulate three or four dates. We all come to a consensus where we have four or more members there so we can have a quorum. So we can conduct official business. I implore you to do that. It's very simple. The burden shouldn't be on us as committee members to work around a Friday at 7 schedule. It should be to pick a schedule, so we don't ever read another report that says we didn't have a quorum for this meeting."

Lion Devon responded, "We've had that report for several years. And I had your same concern. I attempted to address that. Again, this is when everybody said, 'Hey, we can meet.' So that's when I scheduled them. If you're not getting the emails, make sure you send me your email so I can make sure you are on these. Really other than that, there's honestly not much I can do. We've seen membership dropping, we're seeing all these different things happen in other sections other than IT, and I appreciate your concern. I will attempt to do better, but I will also implore anybody stepping up to a committee – do understand there is a time requirement here. Even for me."

PDG Debbie Blumenberg added, "But don't you understand what he's saying? He's asking for three different dates. What's the issue with that? I mean you're dead set on a Friday night, and he's just saying give me three different days, and let's see if all of us can come to a consensus that 'Yeah, I could do that day.'"

Lion April Underwood said, "I think you are missing the point here. We are not all single. We are not all retired. We have parents who are trying to attend children's things and as someone who raised several children, Friday nights at 7:00 are when your kids are busy when they are in high school. That's what he's asking is ... instead of saying 'I can't get a quorum,' say 'Let's find a day when we can make a quorum happen.' That's just my opinion."

1VDG Todd added, "Don't have the meeting noticed up until you have a commitment from four or more committee members. That's what I'm asking. Thank you."

Lion Devon commented, "This is why.. I will address that one. I did put in there 'If this does not work, tell me.' Let us try to come to a thing. If I don't get responses, I don't get responses. Call me. Email me. Zoom me. Do whatever you have to do. I will try a different date, but again, I've tried different dates, and no one

shows up. Even when they say they will. So, I do understand the Friday thing. Fine, we won't do Fridays. But we'll do what we can."

PDG Michael Sliger shared that he's a member of the IT committee as well as a member of other organizations and other clubs and still works a full time job. He stated that, "Devon has actually done a pretty good job of trying to get with the committee to pick a date. Don't take this as he's just set a date, and this is it. Because I know I have talked with him and said, 'Look, I can't make that day.' We will come together and pick a different day. I don't care – when you start doing this, you've got to pick what you want to do. If you're a member on this committee, you've got to be committed to the committee. If that's the date that we have, and we talked about it and we picked a date, be there. Be a part of the committee. It just gets old. People keep saying, making it sound like it's so easy to pick three days, say we'll just pick through the week. Pick a week and pick a day through that week. We email back and forth and try to come up to a consensus and pick that date, but when it comes down to it, I guarantee Devon doesn't hear from people by email to even give their input on a date. So just be careful to start picking on somebody that is actually trying to do the job when not everybody is actually trying to participate. That's my two cents with this. It's not just this committee. It's other committees. If you're on it, you do what you have to do to make the meetings."

PDG Ann Anderson commented, "I just want to say something quickly. This does not look like a Council of Governors issue. It looks like a committee issue. So that's kind of a point of order. Maybe take this to the committee out there because it doesn't look to me like a Council of Governors issue."

CC Harold added that last night the new website was not up, but it is up this morning, so take a look at it. Offer suggestions. It is a work in progress. The current Constitution and By-Laws are currently not on there. Lion Devon needs to get those. After today, all the stuff that will be voted on will be placed on the new website.

KIDSIGHT – Lion Katherine Patterson-Paronto wanted to start with a good, happy feeling story because she feels it's important to remember why we do this. This story was in the fall newsletter as well. There was a young lady named Autumn. She's ten years old. She went to the eye doctor three months before she had her screening with KidSight. Her mom was not going to send her to the screening, but she told her mom she really wanted to do it, so she did. It turns out they found amblyopia in a ten year old. Doctors say the "cut-off" is ten years old. So she went to a different doctor, one that understands kids' problems/issues. She is in treatment and things are going great for her. Lion Katherine thinks that's really important to remember. KidSight here in Missouri is screening little kids, but they are also working with eye doctors to make sure KidSight is giving parents options to see eye doctors that know how to deal with very young children. Ten years old is not very young, but obviously this story tells you that KidSight is still needed. She thanked everyone – Lions are a part of that. In the room there are screeners, board members, supporters and clubs that give, so Lions are a huge part of why kids like Autumn can see in school, and that they're not going to find out when they are twenty that they lost some vision.

Lion Katherine did bring some paper reports and they are also available electronically in the newsletters. She would be happy to send anyone a copy. They just finished the annual report for last year. There is a lot of good information in there and there is a QR code that goes right to their website.

For anyone interested in putting on a Trivia Night for KidSight, there are two options for questions. So if someone else in your district uses one set of questions, they have another set. One is a Kentucky Derby theme. So if you want to have some Mint Julips and make sure kids can see, that's a great choice. Or if you just like horses.

The board of directors of KidSight is doing a fundraiser this spring. They'll be taking a basket around. It's for a weekend of activities in Branson. PDG Jene Crook and PDG Wayne Cunningham, Board Chair, are doing it. So see them about that.

This year, KidSight is looking for six new board members. They have two board members who are terming off. One from M4 and one from M6. They want to increase the size of their board so they can do more. They are a working board, so they do a lot of work. They don't have any specific requirements. If anyone wants to show up and have extra board members, they are not going to say no. If anyone has any thoughts on someone who is interested in doing the work and helping them, there is a "giving requirement", so you do have to donate to KidSight, but it's an amount significant to you. They just want to be able to go out and make sure this organization is healthy and happy.

She shared that she only has district convention information from M2 and M5. If anyone has that information, she would appreciate it being shared with her.

She added that with a lot of the conversations that have been had this morning, the reason that people are Lions is not because we do great meetings, its because we have opportunities to serve. KidSight Missouri is a great way to do that. She's seen a lot of clubs that get really excited when they have their team, and that team is a big part of why they can bring new people in. She just wanted to remind everyone that KidSight is here, and they would love volunteers. They ask a lot, but a volunteer gets a lot. The harder the work, the more satisfying it is. They know they are making a difference. They have statistics to prove it. She thanked everyone again. She is really pleased to be a part of what's happening.

LIONS BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE MISSOURI BLIND – PDG Melissa Anderson noted that what she was about to share doesn't only apply to LBOMB or working people. She asked everyone, with very busy lives, whether it's with Lions, work, church, or other organizations, to take the time to reflect. Take the time to look and celebrate your victories. Every year, at the end of the federal fiscal year, she files a 42-page report with the federal government. It is a pain, but once a year it gives her an opportunity to look at what they have done for the year. We get so busy whether it's work, Lions, what not. Half the time she doesn't even know where she's going the next day, but that's ok, she loves being busy. She recently had time to reflect, and they are celebrating some really big victories. For federal Fiscal Year 2023 their gross sales for the entire program were \$40,753,880. They paid to the state of Missouri \$240,024 in sales tax. The average income for their blind vending managers for the fiscal year was \$59,585. That's huge. These are self-employed business owners. They look at some of the statistics. PDG Melissa likes to compare pre-Covid to now. But just reviewing from 2022 to 2023: Equipment purchases in 2022 were \$110,966 – for 2023 they were \$25,858. Equipment repairs/maintenance went from \$142,000 to \$30,000. She admits she's a tightwad. They don't like to spend money. But they are investing in their managers. They are training them to fix their own equipment, to be able to troubleshoot those things because when a vending machine goes down, and the repair company can't get there for two weeks, no product is being sold. So they are training these managers to be able to fix these things for themselves and give them a sense of pride as well. She noted the median income in 2016 was \$38,000. The median income for Fiscal Year 2023 was \$54,000. So they are seeing the hard work they are putting in come to fruition. The national average for sales increase in 2023, over 2022, in their category, was 4.9% - LBOMB was at 6%, so they are doing good things. She thanked everyone for their support, and if anyone needs a visit to their club or district conventions, let them know.

Break for Lunch 12:00 – 12:45

CC Harold thanked everyone at the Eagles Club for preparing the very delicious meal. They were applauded.

LEADER DOGS FOR THE BLIND – IPCC Phyllis Krebs reported there have been fifty-four guide dog clients served YTD. 87 Orientation and Mobility clients have been served YTD. 5 Youth Orientation and Mobility clients have been served YTD. The Summer Experience Camp is scheduled for June 2024. These dogs have gone to: Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, West Virginia, Wyoming, Canada, Spain, and Mexico. To add to these numbers, the most recent class will graduate February 2nd. This class consists of seventeen dogs, the largest class to graduate post-Covid. Fourteen of

the dogs were issued on campus and are completing their training there. Three were home deliveries. This is a very special class in that it contains the Missouri Superstar, LD P'Quinn. IPCC Phyllis and DG Phil Krebs have just returned from Michigan, and they have all the details about her person. It is a lovely young lady named Melanie, which does not sound like a Spanish name, but she is from a small town in Spain called Parla, which is just outside of Madrid. She is a student. IPCC Phyllis estimated she is in her early 20's and studying Cybersecurity. She is a very, very, pleasant young lady. IPCC Phyllis commented that Quinn did recognize them. She settled between herself and Melanie, so she didn't pick favorites. She added that it was really a pleasure to meet Melanie and see what Quinn's life is going to be like going forward. Melanie was very curious about how she had become named Penny Quinn. IPCC Phyllis got to tell that story and told her that she was raised by all of the Lions of Missouri. The Lions were a big part of her training because she spent a lot of time at Lions Clubs' meetings, Council Meetings, district meetings, and at conventions. She was everywhere. She thanked everyone again for their support of LeaderDogs for the Blind and their mission to make the visually impaired unstoppable. Melanie went blind from glaucoma. She has some vision, but they did not catch the glaucoma in time to prevent total damage. She is hopeful that she'll be able to retain what little vision she does have.

She announced that Missouri now has four FLDs in the state. The newest is located in the St. Louis area. A young lady named Lisa is raising the newest Leader Dog puppy. She got her puppy in December. FLDs Jodi and Jeri Ann are present and growing up, though sometimes it doesn't seem like they are. IPCC Phyllis feels good about their progress. She feels they'll continue to go forward and will get to celebrate another graduation. Jodi goes back the first week of April, and Jeri Ann will be with them until mid-August. She has high expectations for both of them.

She thanked everyone for their fundraising efforts. The Eldon Lions Club just hosted a fundraiser and raised \$650. That's through the tickets they sell and put up on the wall. She thanked them for that. It was added that the FLD in St. Louis is in the Overland area and the dog's name is Bindi. It was shared that 1VDG Michelle Foster has raised a little over \$2,000 with the tag sales, and she was applauded.

LIONS OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTH COMMITTEE – Lion Cheyenne Porterfield reported a Zoom meeting was held January 11, 2024. Those present were: DG Marilynn Reaves, Lion Toni Mahoney, Lion Cheyenne Porterfield, Lion Bethney Pedersen, and 1VDG Mickey Beach. They have now accepted three students, girls, two are from Germany, for the Youth Camp Exchange in July. They are looking for someone to come cook. Their regular cook will not be there. So if anyone wants to come cook, even to come down to St. James for the day to help out, that would be great. Lion Cheyenne will have the privilege of going to Italy this year with the Youth Exchange Program. There will be a Youth Camp Exchange presentation, Monday afternoon, January 29th, at the Kauffman School in Kansas City to see about kids interested in the youth exchange.

More focus needs to be made on the essay contest, which is an alternative to the Peace Poster contest for visually impaired students. The same rules and theme will apply. It's for ages 11-13.

The committee is looking for ways that youth can be involved at the State Convention. The next meeting will be Thursday, March 7, at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Those that are on the committee and weren't on the Zoom last time, get the details from Lion Cheyenne.

MULTIPLE DISTRICT LEO – Lion Cheyenne Porterfield reported for Lion Toni Mahoney. The Youth Committee has met and discussed the Leo program. Each Missouri District Chair, along with the clubs in their districts, have to be willing to support these three branches of Leo Clubs: Cubs, Alpha, and Omega. There are districts that have vibrant Leo Clubs. We can learn from them. The Youth Committee has received more requests for information on Lions Quest, which is about underprivileged kids in underprivileged areas. Lion Toni is suggesting that each club in the districts should have a Leo Chair, so members can go to that person in the club if they have questions about our youth, rather than coming straight to the district or state chair. They look forward to the Peace Poster program. The youth are the future Lions.

Regarding the Kauffman School in Kansas City, 1VDG Mickey just noted that a teacher there was very interested and asked for a presentation at the school.

MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS – No report.

MISSOURI LION NEWSLETTER – CC Harold shared Lion Bethney Pedersen's report. The state newsletter is going well. Keep in mind if something is received after the due date, it will be held until the next date. The next edition will be a quick turnaround as it has to be out days before the State Convention. For the year to come, Lion Bethney will plan better so there are no issues. Moving forward, the newsletters will come out as follows:

- May, June and July articles will be received until August 1st and published August 15th.
- August, September, and October articles will be received until November 1st and published November 15th
- November, December, and January articles will be received by February 1st and published February 15th
- February, March, and April articles will be received by May 1st and published May 15th

Items for the next newsletter need to be received by January 26th. The next newsletter will be produced by February 1st.

She asked DGs to please send her a district letter for the next issue. If you need an example of these, you can find ones that past district governors wrote in the issues from September 2021 until now. She thanked everyone for their patience in this process and their faith in her to deliver information from the districts within our state.

As soon as the Constitution & By-Law proposals come out, they will be published.

EYE MISSION FOUNDATION – PDG Leon Hove reported for PDG Devin Struttmann. 2023 was a great year, and 2024 promises to be a much better year for the Eye Foundation. They had two international missions last year. The last one was to Mexico in October. He was privileged to go on that one. They had five volunteers from Missouri. One wasn't a Lion, and she says she's going to become a Lion because of that mission. They served over 1,200 people in two days. It was a great mission. They have told California Lions In Sight, that they work with, that they want two missions in 2024. They haven't got any of them scheduled yet, but they have promised two missions. One of them should be in Mexico; the other could be in Panama.

Local Missions: They have had five or six in 2023. There are already several scheduled for 2024. They had one the past Thursday in Columbia. They served between 90-100 homeless people from 11-2 pm. They ran people through constantly. It was like being back in Mexico. It was one after another. They gave all of them eyeglasses, some of them two pairs. Most of them couldn't see. They found eight that had eye pressure in the thirties and above for glaucoma. Those were referred. They didn't have to refer anyone for glasses. They were able to fit most of them for that. Currently, there is a mission scheduled in Branson for March 22. One in Sedalia for March 23. One in Camdenton for April 19. One in St. Joe for April 13. One in Kansas City in August. PDG Pat Scott would like to have one in Lexington sometime this spring. M1 is looking at doing one in Cape Girardeau. Their goal is to do at least one mission in every district in the state this year. They have the glasses. They have the equipment. They will come to you. They'll do whatever is needed to get that done.

They held a special meeting in November and voted to add two new members to the board effective July 2024, to get a broader representation of Lions from around the state. Right now, they are primarily concentrated on the east side of the state. If you have interest in being a board member, see PDG Leon, PDG Devin, or PCC Kimberly Taylor. They are all on the board and can talk to you about it. They also updated the by-laws so they could add a reimbursement policy to potentially cover expenses that might be related to Eye Missions. There are some people that say, "Our club can't afford to host a mission." Just tell

them what is needed. Maybe they can help subsidize in some way. Maybe they can pay for the lunch or help get a hall or help do some publicity. Talk to them.

They recently purchased two new Titmus V4 vision screeners. Part of the money came from the Saving Sight grant. They cost \$9,000. They replaced the visual acuity chart that's put on the wall, then stand 20 ft. away and read this. It's all now on one little machine. It will also do the peripheral vision test, a colorblindness test, test some muscle reactions – all with one machine that's about 18 in. long and 10 inches wide. They have applied for a grant through LCIF. The full grant is \$38,500. They are asking for half of that from LCIF to buy additional equipment. They have already secured \$19,250 that they have to match, but if someone wants to make donations to the Eye Mission Foundation, they will be sure to appreciate it. They have now procured a controlled-environment storage unit in Washington where they can store the glasses that they have that are already read and the equipment. It costs them \$540 a year for that 10x10 controlled storage unit, which is half of what is normally charged. One of the Lions from Washington donated the other half. Again, they'd like to have a mission in every district in 2024. Lions can help them meet that goal. If you want them to come to talk at conventions, zone meetings, cabinet meetings, let them know. They'll come and try to spread the word. They are excited about what lies ahead in 2024.

MID-SOUTH LIONS SIGHT AND HEARING – PCC Larry Boettcher reported through the end of October, MD 26 has twenty-four active sight patients and 1 active hearing patient for a total billing so far of \$6,845, compared to the total amount donated by clubs of \$28,465. For the whole Mid-South region, there are 398 active sight patients and 119 active hearing patients for a total billing of \$225,970 compared to the donations by clubs of \$59,835. So Missouri is almost half of the total club donations to Mid-South, so he thanked everyone for all they do to support Mid-South and their ability to help people have their eyesight restored through surgery.

Their next Visiting Lions Day is scheduled for April 12-13 down in Memphis, TN, so mark that date on your calendar and plan to attend. You will not regret it if you take the time to do so.

The next Cataract-A-Thon was supposed to happen last weekend, January 20th, but because of the weather, they had to cancel it. It has been rescheduled for some time in February. Thankfully, they will be able to get those 25-30 people that will have cataract surgery done that day to have their sight restored, completely free of charge to Mid-South Lions Sight and Hearing Service and to the patients themselves. This is put on by the Hamilton Eye Institute. They are now doing it twice a year to help get more people in the Memphis area to have their cataract surgeries taken care of. The one coming up will be on June 8th. That is actually the same day as their annual board meeting that all Lions are able to attend. Of course, you can attend all of their meetings, but the annual meeting is when they vote on By-Laws changes, if there are any, and of course, their officers. That Friday afternoon is their annual golf tournament. If you like to play golf, come on down, join them for the golf tournament, stay over until Saturday and attend the board meeting. At the same time, across the hall from where they have their board meeting is where the surgeries take place. You can see the action that's going on - see 25-30 people have their eyesight restored that day.

PCC Larry thanked anyone who is already a Champion of Mid-South by donating a minimum of \$10 a month out of your bank account or credit card payment. All of that can be done through the Church Center app. You can go on and set up your own donations, turn it on/off, increase it/decrease it, all on your own. The staff at the office won't have to deal with it. He thanked anyone who is still a Booster. Those are people that make a one-time donation every year.

The next quarterly meeting will be March 8-9th in Hot Springs, AR. They are going down a day early for the horse races. PCC Larry believes the third race that day is the Mid-South Sight and Hearing Services race. They'll be the ones presenting the trophy to the winner of the race.

The annual meeting will be on June 8th. They are going to start having at least one Zoom meeting a year. For next year, the Zoom meeting will be August 3rd. So if you can't make the trip all the way to Memphis, TN, and you want to see what they do and what they are about, you can join in on the Zoom meeting in

August. Watch for that information to come out. On behalf of Mid-South Sight and Hearing Services, he thanked everyone for helping them make a miracle a day.

SAVING SIGHT – PCC Larry Boettcher reported Saving Sight’s eye banking operations continued at a strong pace through the first quarter of the organization’s fiscal year, ending on September 30th. During that first quarter, 922 individuals received the gift of sight from their work. This is just slightly behind pace from the same period last year, about a 4% decrease. He pointed out that a year ago they were talking about how they had such a large increase in transplant tissue used because there were still eye banks that were having a problem with procuring enough tissue because they didn’t have enough of the medium that you have to put the cornea in to send it to the surgeons. Saving Sight had the media, so they were able to help other eye banks across the U.S. fill the need for the patients in their area. That’s the reason they are seeing a slight decline. They knew that was going to come so when they built their budget this year, they knew they had to decrease some things for that. They are still on pace this year for a great financial condition.

Since their founding in 1960, volunteers have played a key role in connecting their mission to community needs. Volunteers are at the heart of Saving Sight’s mission, and they want to thank them for their service and recognize their work. They just recently at the last meeting, approved a new plan. At the June meeting, they will select a 2024 Ambassador of the Year. There will be a total of nine nominations. District Governors have already been told about this. Each DG will be able to nominate one person. The Council Chair will be able to nominate one person. And the board of Saving Sight will be able to nominate a person. The board of Saving Sight will select the winner. The winner will be named the 2024 Ambassador of the Year, and they will give a \$1,000 donation to a 501c3 organization of that person’s choosing, in recognition of the great service they have provided. Nominations cannot be a current board member or an immediate past board member, nor can it be an employee of Saving Sight itself. They are really looking for volunteers beyond their organization.

The second annual Lions Leadership Program event will be at the June board meeting on Friday night. The 1st and 2nd VDGs at that time will be asked to come and join them to learn more about what they do. Some present were at the program last year. They are looking to expand that. Unfortunately, their board meeting in June is the last weekend of the month. They had to put it there because of the International Convention being earlier, but that’s going to put the DGEs coming back just days before this event. They know they are probably going to have a hard time getting them to show up. That’s why they are asking if they can’t come, can the First or Second DGEs come in their place so they can start getting more information out about Saving Sight? If you haven’t been there, and you come to Kansas City to see what it is, what the operation can do in that building, you will be amazed. It won’t be a waste of your time at all. Please think about that. Anybody is allowed to come to the board meetings, just let them know so they have the space available. They now Zoom two meetings a year. The next meeting is Tuesday night, March 5th. If you want to sit in on the Zoom meeting that night, reach out to pr@saving-sight.org or call them. Contact information is also on the website. The phone number is 800-753-2265. Same thing for the meeting in June. If you want to come to Kansas City and sit in on their board meeting, anyone is welcome. Anyone wanting to know what they do is welcome to come. Just let them know so they have space available.

The other product they produce at Saving Sight is Vital Tears. Things are going well there with the autologous serum eye drops. Through the first quarter they have processed 5,608 Vital Tears orders. That’s a 23% increase from last year. PCC Larry noted that every time he is up talking about Vital Tears, he’s always talking about a 20-30% increase from the period a year ago, so they continue to see exponential growth and continue to watch that program explode, which is great because it is helping them do even more service. At the same time, their board of directors are constantly looking for new ways they can help their communities and Saving Sight. They are looking for new ways to use cornea tissue. As the cornea demand is going down because they have other medical procedures (stem cells and other advancements), there are other things that tissue could be used for. So they are constantly looking at the

next thing they can get into to help keep this thing going forward so they can continue to help those that need their sight saved.

CC Harold shared that last year they took PID Tom Gordon through that. His wife has Dry Eye Syndrome. She was not able to come, but he was very, very interested in it. He has the same stuff done in Canada.

SIGHT CONSERVATION – No report.

STATE OFFICE COMMITTEE – PDG Ann Anderson reported that the only problem they've had at the State Office since the last meeting is that it was reported there was a computer problem. We just replaced some computers, and they are all updated, but there are two hard drives in the back room. The girls at the office discovered a light flashing. They don't go back there every day. That's the storage room. They called the computer tech. He came out. We have two drives and one of them was bad. They mirror each other, so it was ok. He ordered the part immediately because he said we didn't want both of them to go out, then we'd have a problem. At the time, the cost was estimated at \$225 for the part and about 2 hours to install it. The repairs have now been made and everything is ok. The labor for the first call was \$85. The labor to install the new part was \$127.50. Mind you, they charge \$85/hour. The part was \$241, so we have a bill of \$453.50. The good part is the office is up and running, and we didn't let everything crash.

MISSOURI PIN TRADERS – No report.

RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS – DG Bierbower moved to accept the committee reports as given. The motion was seconded by DG Horton and the motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS PROPOSITIONS -

-Dues Increase Proposal: DG Krebs moved to place the dues proposal, as previously stated, on the ballot. DG Ballard seconded the motion and it carried.

-Band Committee Name Change: DG Horton moved to accept the proposal from the Band Committee to change as presented to the Council today. DG Bierbower seconded the motion. Motion carried.

USA/CANADA REQUEST FOR FUNDS – DG Bierbower moved to accept the proposal. CC Harold clarified that the proposal is for \$5,000. DG Horton asked for clarification that "this is just to put it on the floor, correct?" CC Harold confirmed that, so DG Horton, noting that it's just to put it on the floor, seconded the motion. The motion failed at a vote of 1 – 3.

CC Harold reminded the 1VDGs to pay for Convention Hospitality (if they have not done so.)

ADDITIONAL PROPOSITIONS - PDG Jene Crook asked, "Don't we have to approve the placement of all 5 of propositions on the state ballot?" That was confirmed. PDG Jene clarified that they have to be approved to be placed on the ballot. She noted that the Council approved the dues proposal and the band change proposal, but didn't do the housekeeping, the provision to make the due dates coincide, didn't accept the provision to make the Policy Manual agree with the Constitution & By-Laws on the site location, and then there is the location of the State Convention.

CC Harold then stated that he would entertain a motion to approve that the Constitution & By-Laws revisions be placed on the ballot. DG Krebs moved to approve the Constitution & By-Laws revisions to be placed on the ballot at State Convention. DG Ballard seconded the motion. CC Harold reiterated that there has been a motion and a second to place the Constitution & By-Laws revisions on the ballot. Motion carried.

CC Harold then called for a motion to have on the ballot the Missouri Lions 2026 State Convention site location be in the Kansas City area. DG Horton moved to put the location for the 2026 Convention in Kansas City on the ballot. DG Bierbower seconded the motion. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR NOMINEE – DG Horton shared that she was part of the nominating committee with DG Carr and DG Reaves to review the qualifications of PDG Debbie Cantrell, and she more than exceeds the requirements. DG Horton moved to accept PDG Debbie Cantrell to run for International Director at the convention this year at Old Kinderhook. DG Bierbower was happy to second the motion. Motion carried.

DG Krebs moved to place PDG Debbie Cantrell on the ballot to run for International Director at State Convention. DG Ballard seconded the motion and it carried. It was noted that it will require a 2/3 vote to pass, and she is the only one running.

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE REQUEST FOR FUNDS – DG Bierbower moved to accept the request from the Faculty Development Institute for \$800. DG Horton seconded the motion and it carried.

STATE CONVENTION CREDENTIALS – PDG Jene shared that those have been handed out to the various districts to be delivered to their Cabinet Secretaries. We will not have the number of delegates until around the first week of March. Then they'll get those out to the districts.

PEACE POSTER CONTEST – CC Harold thanked all the District Governors for sending in the Peace Posters. The winner was Divine Bodva, a 13 year old student from Hillsboro Jr. High's advanced art class from M2. It has been sent in to LCI. The talent of these kids is pretty amazing. If you've ever been to Chicago or an International Convention, this one could be there. CC Spire has his fingers crossed, and he does have a picture of the winning poster. It was suggested that a picture be posted on the website.

INTEREST IN SERVING ON 24-25 STATE OFFICE COMMITTEE – Submit a letter of interest to your District Governor prior to July COG meeting.

LETTERS OF INTENT TO RUN FOR 24-25 GAT - Submit a letter of intent to run for GAT to the Council Chair prior to the July COG meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF LETTERS OF INTENT FOR 24-25 COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON – DG Sherl Horton, DG Paul Carr, and DG Phil Krebs have all turned in letters of intent. CC Harold wished them all good luck.

TAIL TWISTER REPORT – PDG Kevin Cantrell collected \$361.25 for LCIF.

CC Spire reminded everyone there will be a meeting directly after adjournment with PDG Chris Gunstream.

ADJOURNMENT –The meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lion Jackie Twehus

Lion Jackie Twehus, Administrative Assistant