

MINUTES
MISSOURI LIONS COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS
Saturday, October 26, 2024
Eagles Club, Jefferson City, MO

The second meeting of the 2024-2025 Missouri Lions Council of Governors was called to order by Council Chairperson Sherl Horton, at 10:00 a.m.

District Governor Tina Anderson gave the Invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Assistant Council Secretary/Treasurer District Governor Michelle Foster.

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

PROTOCOL – PCC Kimberly Taylor established Protocol for the meeting.

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	Wallace Brumfield	Jeff Rackovan
26-M3	Carol Deters	Al Wansing	Don Eichorn
26-M4	Tina Anderson	Rachel Harper	Kathy Rice
26-M5		Alena Hoeffling	
26-M6	Frank Lambrecht	Paula Rodgers	Tammy James
26-M7			Bruce Berger

Council Chair IPDG Sherl Horton, M3

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

Parliamentarian PCC Terry Boettcher, M2

Council Secretary/Treasurer Lion Brenda Weider, M7

State Office Administrative Assistant Lion Jackie Twehus, M7

M1: PDG Larry Kimbrow, PDG Jerry Reaves, IPDG Marilynn Reaves

M2: PCC Gina Boettcher, IPDG Paul Carr, PCC Joe Foster, Lion Michael Fritts, PDG Leon Hove, Lion Toni Mahoney, Guest Kyle Smith, PDG Eugene Taylor, PCC Kimberly Taylor, PCC George Winkeler, Lion Jennifer Winkeler

M3: PDG Sandy McCann, PCC Bob Noellsch, Lion Mary Jane Noellsch, Lion Cheyenne Porterfield, Lion Amy Vollmer

M4: PDG Ann Anderson, PCC John Anderson, PCC Larry Boettcher, PDG Wayne Cunningham, Lion Lewis Rice, IPCC Harold Spire, Lion Lori Spire

M5: Lion Martha Beach, PDG Jene Crook, PDG Bruce Dugan, Lion Christine Dugan, Lion Aaron Hoeffling, PDG Jerry Romig, Lion Warren Trivett

M6: IPDG Phil Krebs, Lion Lee Rodgers

M7: Lion Linda Bierbower, IPDG Ed Bierbower, PDG Nan Blakemore, PDG Bill Foglesong, Lion Lisa Foglesong, PDG Lou Ann Hathcock, PDG Ron Jordan, Lion Wayne Weider

Melissa Stephenson - KidSight

TAIL TWISTER – DG Tina Anderson moved to appoint PCC George Winkeler as Tail Twister. Motion was seconded by DG Michelle Foster and motion carried.

DESIGNATION OF TAIL TWISTER FUNDS – DG Carol Deters moved to have the Tail Twister funds collected today be split 50/50 with the Youth Committee and LCIF. The motion was seconded by DG Tina Anderson and carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 27, 2024, COUNCIL MEETINGS – DG Williams moved to accept the minutes of the July 27, 2024, Council Meeting as published. It was seconded by DG Lambrecht and carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Asst. Council Secretary/Treasurer DG Foster shared financial reports, as of September 30th, showing cash in checking = \$180,336.42; CDs = \$12,392.63; Council Savings = \$1086.83; Hearing Comm. Savings = \$6693.80; Music Committee Savings = \$27,206.68; Wells Fargo Investments = \$121,658.71. This does not include dues that were deposited after October 1st. All dues were collected and deposited from all districts. Total Liabilities = \$641.56. Total Equity = \$348,733.51. The Total of Liabilities & Equity = \$349,375.07. There were no questions.

INTERNATIONAL UPDATE – PID Don Noland reported for ID Debbie Cantrell. A board meeting was held in Natal, Brazil, Oct. 12-16, 2024. The Lions Quest curriculum and materials have been revised for the elementary and middle schools and work is ongoing to rewrite the material for high schools. The committee reported that 521 LCIF grants totaling \$15,386,999 have been awarded so far this year, including a community impact grant to District 22-W. Last year, Lions raised 107% of our stretch goal of \$70 million and so far this year, we have raised over \$8.5 million of the stretch goal of \$80,000,000.

The Marketing Committee awarded a total of \$500,000 in marketing grants including the request from MD22.

Long Range Planning suggested to the board a more equal distribution of board members. This will probably be voted on at the next International Convention. Suggestions are made based on many factors including total membership of the CAs, as well as contributions from LCIF. There have been additional discussions that CA1 (U.S.), which currently has 11 International Directors, would go down to 8 starting in 2027.

Mission 1.5 continues to be a priority. RLLI is currently being revamped. The website is still undergoing “improvements”. It’s still presenting challenges.

As many already know, the Mexico International Convention has been cancelled. Apparently, the gentleman that signed the contracts was not authorized to do so. When they went back to renegotiate, the cost of the board meeting went up over \$1 million. It will now be in Orlando, FL. Registration will be on Sunday, July 13, 2025. The parade will be on Monday and the plenary sessions will take place on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Future DGEs/DGEs, schooling is scheduled for February 11-13, 2025, in St. Charles, Illinois.

USA/CANADA FORUM – PID Don Noland shared that the USA/Canada Forum in Louisville had over 1900 attendees. 33 Missouri Lions attended. Next year it will be in Atlantic City, New Jersey. PID Don has forms available. Lion Brad Baker of Mid-South and Chairman of the 2026 USA/Canada Forum in Memphis has asked the Missouri Lions to contribute \$5,000 of seed money to help absorb some of the cost. Tennessee, Mississippi, Missouri and Arkansas are all contributing to that.

GLOBAL MEMBERSHIP – PID Don Noland reported that PID Pat Vannett has taken over CA1 as chairman and is working with our area leader PID TJ Tijernia from Texas. He is holding monthly meetings with the DGs and CCs working on Mission 1.5. They had a Zoom meeting the past Tuesday. PID Don noted 8 participants from MD26 on the call. PID Don thanked all those who participated. MD26 has +13 members as of today. We added 191 and dropped 178. Current standings:

M5: +29

M6: +15

M4: +12

CA1 currently has +400 members. Seven new clubs have been started (6 in TX and 1 in LA). PID Don announced workshops are scheduled for January 6, January 20, and February 3. They are supposed to be interactive and have been successful in different parts of the country. They are open to all Lions. Sessions

are in the evenings. He encouraged Lions to download the app for Lions Virtual. There are a lot of great tools there.

PID Don noted he was wearing a “LOTUS” hat. That stands for “Lions of the United States”. He shared that at the USA/Canada Forum in Louisville, PIPs and PIDs of CA1 all got together looking at sharing ideas on growing membership. He stated that they have never had a really clear direction. This will not compete with GMT; it will compliment that. Look for additional details to come.

LCIF – PIP Hill’s goal of \$80 million with CA1 stretch goal of \$8 million equals \$50 per member. \$75 million was exceeded in Australia. In 2023-2024, 1500 grants were approved by LCIF. Since 1968, LCIF has funded over 20,000 grants equaling over \$1.3 billion worldwide. From July 1 – Oct. 3, 2024, 125 disaster relief grants have been awarded globally for \$2,028,452. Hurricane Helene LCIF Emergency grants of \$120,000 have been approved for Florida, Georgia, North and South Carolina, and Tennessee. Additionally, \$100,000 in Major Catastrophe Grants for Florida and North Carolina. PID Don is working on updates from Hurricane Milton.

WORLD SERVICES FOR THE BLIND – PID Don Noland shared that WSB currently has 81 clients, with 80 online and 2 at the facilitated learning center in California, which represents 16 states and 2 countries. He has sent a list of all the WSB chairs in the state so they may share newsletters and updates received. Hopefully there will be a Missouri Lions Day in the fall of 2025. He is anticipating that all renovations will be complete by that time. Currently, \$1,950 has been contributed by Missouri Lions. Lions used to only account for 5-6% of the WSB operating budget. We are now up to about 10-12% of the WSB operating budget.

GREAT PLAINS LIONS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE – PID Don Noland reported for ID Debbie Cantrell. He shared that now that the International Convention dates have changed, the dates for GPLLI have also changed. GPLLI will now be held June 27-29, 2025, and will be held in Baldwin City, KS. The deadline for applications is May 31st. PID Don shared that the PDG group also has some money allocated for that if any district would like to have someone participate in that. See a PDG if interested. Applications are available now.

STATE/INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE – PCC Gina Boettcher reported the committee met via Zoom. They approved their meeting minutes, reviewed the financials and set the budgets. Officers elected for 24-25 were: Lion Lori Spire, Chairman; PCC Gina Boettcher, Vice Chair; PDG Jennie Mosher, Secretary.

Upcoming State Conventions will be hosted as follows:

- 2025-M2
- 2026-M4
- 2027-M3
- 2028-M5
- 2029-M6
- 2030-M1
- 2031-M7

The dates for the 2026 convention were clarified as April 23-26, 2026.

PCC Gina noted they will have to update the budget due to ordering new pins for Orlando. They had budgeted \$1500 for pins, but that will not include the pins for Orlando. So that will be \$2000. They will pull another \$500 out of reserves to get a balanced budget. That was on the International Convention budget. The State Convention budget is pretty much the same as last year. She asked the Council to take those under consideration.

2025 STATE CONVENTION COMMITTEE – PCC Kimberly Taylor and IPDG Paul Carr spoke regarding the 2025 convention in St. Louis. IPDG Paul shared the theme is the 1904 World's Fair. There will be a stride walk on Friday and a service project on Friday as well. The plan is to do it outside and get excited about Diabetes Awareness. It will be a lot of fun and the Friday night entertainment will be good. PCC Kimberly announced, "Fun Happens at the World's Fair". She encouraged people to sign up and forms are available. They will also be available on the website or contact anyone on the committee. The price of full registration, which includes registration, luncheon, banquet, hospitality, meetings/training, and all the fun, is \$119.04. That number is a nod to the 1904 World's Fair. She noted that if anyone is opposed to the \$.04, feel free to round up - \$120.00 will be fine. Anything they get that's over the registration cost will go towards the LCIF fundraiser that weekend.

GRANTS - PID Don Noland added that there are DCG (District and Club) grants available through each of the district coordinators. PID Don shared how much the districts/clubs have. As a club, if they contribute \$5,000 a year, they get a 15 % payback. If the funds are not taken advantage of, they roll over into the district, and that's what the district has available. All you have to do is apply. They come through pretty quickly. It's something you can utilize within the districts, so he encouraged everyone to take advantage of those.

2026 STATE CONVENTION COMMITTEE – 2026 Convention Chair Lion Lori Spire reported the 2026 State Convention dates are April 23-26th. It will be held in St. Joseph at the Green Acres Building. They are working on securing a block of rooms. There are several hotels in the area, but they are working on securing rooms at one location that would be within walking distance of the facility. They are also working with the city to provide transportation for anyone needing it. The guest speaker will be International Second Vice President Mark Lyon. They are looking forward to hosting Lion Mark and his wife, Lion Lyn.

ALERT COMMITTEE – DG Tina Anderson reported for DG Mickey Beach. The committee met through emails during the last two weeks of September. The purpose of the group emails was to determine where each district was with an ALERT trailer, how they are being used, and how they keep them stocked. Hopefully this will give other district some best practices. There are currently four ALERT trailers in the state, in districts 3, 4, 5, and 6. Districts 1 and 2 are in the planning stages for a trailer. Fortunately, the trailers have been able to be used in parades, special events, and have not had to respond to any disasters over the last year. The trailers are another way to promote Lions in the communities where they appear. Several ideas were shared for replenishing the trailers, from district funding to advertising, to donations.

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE – DG Wendy Williams reported for PDG James Pedersen. The Athletic Committee recently met to elect officers, prepare a budget and discuss event planning. Those in attendance were DG Wendy Williams-M1, PDG Devin Struttman-M2, DG Carol Deters-M3, PDG James Pedersen-M4, and Lion Amy Bell-M7. PDG Pedersen was re-elected as chairperson. PDG Struttman was re-elected treasurer and DG Wendy was elected as secretary. The committee reviewed the financial report and determined they wanted to have another fundraiser. The fundraising event will be a weekend family getaway package, hopefully around the Lake. They also discussed what events have taken place over the past year. One event included involvement in the Miracle League Tournaments as a volunteer or "buddy" for the special needs kids. Grilled hot dogs were also provided. The committee would like to expand their future involvement in this type of event across the state. T-shirts, food donations and potential sponsorships are just a few of the things the committee is looking into. Further details will be provided in upcoming reports.

A 24-25 budget was submitted. As mentioned before, a fundraiser is planned and support from each district will be reviewed. They plan to sell 210 raffle tickets for the getaway package for a total of \$5,250. The estimated expense for the package is \$1,000. Other estimated expenses are about \$1,000, for total estimated expenses of \$2,750, which will result in a net income of \$2,500. The goal would be that each district would get a portion of that money and use it to support the Athletic programs within their own districts.

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS – PDG Jene Crook reported the committee has met by email to look at the current Constitution and By-Laws. This weekend, there have been a couple of proposals mentioned that the committee will need to “flush out” and have ready in January, which is enough time before the convention to make proposals to the delegates at the convention. There were some recommendations of housekeeping changes, and they will look at those, as well as the other items that have been presented.

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE- DG Tina Anderson reported for Lion Craig Plaster, Committee Chair. The Investment Committee has met twice. They met on Oct. 3 via Zoom with DG Tina, Lion Craig, DG Mickey Beach, Lion Robert Ell, PDG Kevin Cantrell and 1VDG Bill Foglesong present. Lion Craig is the only returning member, so there were lots of questions. The only thing accomplished at that meeting was that Lion Craig was elected as Chairman. They re-coordinated and held a second meeting in which PDG Jene Crook, the previous chair, could attend and be able to answer some questions. That meeting took place on Oct. 16th. Those present were Lion Robert Ell, Lion Craig Plaster, DG Beach, 1VDG Foglesong and previous chair, PDG Jene Crook. The committee reviewed the Lions’ Wells Fargo statement as of August 31, 2024. The balance on that date was \$119,597.16, which was up for the month and year to date. The committee discussed getting the Wells Fargo statements on a monthly basis and the process to do so. Lion Crook provided the name of the representative handling the account, Jeff Holtmeier, with Finteris Wealth Management and his contact number. Lion Craig will follow up with him on the procedures needed to receive the statements going forward, and if necessary, get Lion Brenda at the State Office to assist. Lion Ell presented a spreadsheet he compiled which indicated the current investment allocations are slightly overbalanced in equities and underbalanced in fixed income and cash compared to the Missouri Lions MD 26 Investment Policy. With the current market indexes at highs for the year, the imbalance more than likely would be favorable in the investment account current balance. The committee will continue to monitor the account going forward for our policy compliance. The next meeting will be scheduled approximately 30 days prior to the next council meeting.

EYEGLOSS RECYCLING PROGRAM – PDG Lou Ann Hathcock reported they are still working hard to process eyeglasses and glasses are still going out for missions. Special thank-you to the clubs that have donated their services: Columbia 20/20, Columbia Host (monthly), New Bloomfield, St. Joseph Cathedral Day of Service and JC Host (monthly). They are looking forward to next Saturday, Nov. 2, which is the state service project. She thanked the Auxvasse Lions for their generous donation. All donations are welcome. It helps keep the doors open and the lights on. PDG Lou Ann encouraged clubs to come serve with them. Saturdays are usually available. It’s really fun when a club comes. They can socialize and work at the same time, go have lunch, and then come back and work for a while. If anyone brought glasses, PDG Lou Ann will be able to take them.

GAT TEAM – The GAT team and the DGs had been working on establishing a Mid-Winter Rally to coincide with the COG meeting in January. That plan did not work out. Using lessons from the Orlando conference in thinking outside the box and moving forward, the team is currently working on plans to bring a 1 day event regionally in 3 or 4 different locations. This is instead of “you coming to us, we’ll be going out to you”. The GAT team will go to different regions and reach out in that way.

GMT – Lion Lori Spire reported for Lion Duane Ball. Lions International is reporting MD26 1st quarter ending membership growth of -.03%. The district ended 4th quarter of last year with 7,159 members and ended this first quarter with 6,860 members. Currently we show a loss of 170 members, but an addition of 169 new members during the quarter. Four of the seven districts are showing positive growth in members, while three are in negative growth. However, the districts with negative growth are showing less loss than the previous year and are on pace to have a better overall yearly number. The breakdown in membership by district is as follows:

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Dropped</u>	<u>Added</u>	<u>Growth</u>
M1 -	944	20	13	-.74%
M2 -	1094	38	20	-1.65%

M3 -	1057	37	19	-1.71%
M4 -	980	20	28	+0.82%
M5 -	861	20	42	+2.56%
M6 -	816	18	28	+1.23%
M7 -	1112	17	19	+0.18%

As a membership incentive, Lion Duane created a MD26 award for membership growth during the quarter. The inscribed baton will be passed to the DG to retain until the next quarter. This quarter the baton is passed to District M5. Also, there is an award for the least members dropped, which for last quarter was District M7.

Lion Duane had a virtual meeting all the district GMTs were invited to explore the needs of the different areas for membership growth. With this information and the attending GMTs help, he can begin work with the GAT team to design and schedule a regional event as mentioned above to specifically help with their individual membership needs.

Lion Duane is also currently working with the State GST to find out how service and reported service hours affect membership numbers. Currently there is a strong trend towards more reported service hours also shows an increase in membership numbers. As they get additional findings, they will report them.

GST – Lion Lori Spire thanked those that are promoting service that Lions do in the communities. While service continues to be strong, we only had a small percentage in most districts reporting that service. There is a lot of room for improvement. All Lions, especially those interested in global service, should take time to review the information on the newly revised LCI website. There is a ton of information out there and a lot of instructions. That information needs to get out to all the clubs, the administrators, the secretaries – anybody that puts information into LCI. It’s an easy step to do. It had been the hope of the GAT team to hold a Mid-Winter Rally to coincide with the COG meeting in January. Those plans did not work out, so they are working on plans to go out to the different areas to find out what they can do differently to help others. Topics to be discussed are: What service projects is your club doing today? What service projects does your club need to do for your community? How do we get new members? How do we keep our members? How can the district help your club? etc. That’s the goal.

A Zoom meeting was held August 29th with GST members from nearly all the districts. There were introductions, and they went over the areas of service in their districts. That was very interesting. They also discussed the statewide service project being held at the Eyeglass Recycling Center on Nov. 2, 2024. Lion Lori challenged all districts in MO to show up with big attendance. It’s a big help so the glasses can be ready to be distributed to the areas of need. The district with the highest numbers in attendance and report their service on LCI, will be closer to getting the service award for the next quarter. Lion Lori has also challenged districts to bring the most “non-Lions”, just to show others what we do as a way to help retain and get new members. They will be rewarded with something special as well. The numbers for reporting service:

- M1: 8%
- M2: 35%
- M3: 21%
- M4: 18%
- M5: 55%
- M6: 28%
- M7: 19%

Lion Lori announced District M5 received the “Service Superstars” award for the quarter. Reach out to Lion Lori if help is needed in reporting service. She does have some step-by-step guidelines that provide a visual to help with that.

GLT: PCC Kimberly Taylor shared that, as previously reported, the GAT has decided this year to have their group come to regional areas and support Lions with membership, training, and service activities. They are going to try it this way and see how it works. In the training this morning, one thing that PCC Kimberly stated she wanted to do as GLT was to come up a training plan – an outline, in advance, something to build on every year. For example, to say, “In July, we’ll teach this..”. In looking at what LCI provides, for 2VDGs, it’s great. It’s 6 ½ hours of training that multiple districts should provide. Then they have some additional websites/webinars available. It’s very reasonable. For 1VDGs, it’s 13 ½ hours of training material provided, in addition to all of their weekly seminars, club meetings, district meetings, etc. So the way it will be handled is that the 6 ½ hour training will be rolled into the state training at state convention. That will be for the 2VDGs. The 1VDGs will work with PCC Kimberly, look at the 13 ½ hours, break it up and determine which topics they would like to cover. Are 2 hours of LCIF needed? Can that be cut down to ½ an hour maybe? They will work through what the “required” training is and come up with a plan. In January, each group will pick topics they want to have someone come in to talk about. Do they want a committee to come in and talk about what that committee does? Do they want to learn about the Constitution & By-Laws? They’ll pick their topics and go from there. When this is done, it will be a live document. She believes LCI will continue their training in this manner – with all of the webinars, Zoom meetings, online LCI Learn, etc. It’s come a long way over the years. There is a lot more information out there that is provided to them, and it doesn’t have to be made up or come up with it as they go. This is actually a good thing because GLT provide the VDGs with what they want to learn about and let LCI teach them the things they think they need to learn about.

HEARING COMMITTEE – No report.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – District Governor Wendy Williams, Liaison Governor, reported for the IT committee. The IT committee has submitted a budget for the renewal of the website for \$422.11. That will be coming before the Council for approval.

KIDSIGHT – Melissa Stephenson reported statistics from July 1-September 30th. During those three months, KidSight screened 12,930 children. If the unofficial numbers from October are added, it would be about 15,000 kids screened (enough to fill Mizzou Arena). They screened at about 200 daycares, preschools, Head Starts, schools, etc., and identified 1,071 children who needed a full eye exam, including 245 who were at high risk for vision loss. They were flagged for some indicator that may lead to amblyopia. So far this year, they have served children in 66 MO counties. The goal is to reach 100 this fiscal year. Every quarter they enter KidSight screening numbers into the Lions KidSight database, so the volunteers are getting recognition not only at the state level, but also at a national Lion level. Melissa welcomed the newest volunteers, all of which are Lions: Lion Devon Taylor - Perryville; Lion Lyle Krohn – Kansas City; Lion Marlene Carlson – Jefferson City; Lion Lyndsey Wiley – Ste. Genevieve; DG Mickey Beach – Kansas City; Lion Martha Beach – Kansas City; Lion Sherry Hull – Clever; Lion Russ Gaggens – Kansas City. KidSight recently adopted a new logo, and the board officially voted to make Seymour the Lion the official mascot. They are excited about how the new logo will make them look more professional to the schools and the families they serve, as well as how it pays homage to their Lions’ background and roots. They recently hired Fred Darbonne as a part-time Development Coordinator. He will be helping with fundraising and strategic planning moving forward. There will be a KidSight fundraiser happening in M4 on November 9th hosted by the St. Joseph Lions Clubs and headed up by board member PCC Harold Spire. If interested, contact PCC Spire. This month, KidSight partnered with the Kansas City Free Eye Clinic to host their first mobile clinic of the year. After screenings, they brought exams to the school for kids that were referred by KidSight. They brought the care to the kids. They were able to provide ten free exams to the kids that had been referred and all ten got needed glasses. They are planning a second day at that school, and they have a couple more clinics planned in that area.

LIONS BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE MISSOURI BLIND – PID Don Noland reported for DG Melissa Anderson. He shared that a new manager, Antonio Anderson, has started taking over his route in Springfield named Wilson Creek vending. He has vending machines at several locations in Springfield and Joplin. They are looking into potentially opening a coffee/smoothie shop at the Bolling Building in KC.

Geoffrey Arbuckle completed training in July and successfully bid on a facility in KC. He started working Oct. 1st. Two potential managers (1 in KC and 1 in St. L) are currently working on their ServSafe management course. Five potential managers are currently being assessed to see if they would be a good fit for BEP. Their oldest vending machine was purchased in 1988. The most tenured managers are Larry Ledford (1980) and Kevin Papin (1982). The oldest facility is VF 80 Cherry Street Café which opened in 1966. They continue seeking new locations, training existing managers on new technologies to increase revenue and marketing in current locations to promote the program. They will continue to seek and train candidates to join the program. PID Don noted that last he heard there were 10-12 new micromarkets going, so they are working very well.

LEADER DOGS FOR THE BLIND – IPDG Phil Krebs reported for PCC Phyllis Krebs. FLD Bobbi Jo is absent this weekend due to a medical issue. She has fractured her left rear leg. She was given pain pills, a splint and severe activity restrictions. She will see the vet again on Oct. 29th for another x-ray. PCC Phyllis is keeping her home this weekend to help ensure she gets a good result on the 29th. Jeri Ann continues to do well in her training. She is in the Intermediate class, and should shortly be moving to Advanced, and hopefully will find her person in December. On September 21, 6 of the 7 VDGs were on the Leader Dog campus to experience the magic of Leader Dog. They should have learned a lot, had some unique experiences, as well as fun and fellowship with other Lions. PCC Phyllis appreciates the efforts that were made to learn more about the wonderful organization and the opportunities to service the visually impaired. Something is learned every time they attend one of these events. Leader Dog struggling to recruit not only puppy raisers, but also host homes for the breed stock. This severely impacts the number of dogs available to potential clients, keeping the size of the class smaller than pre-Covid classes. Recently, it was “Dog Issue Day”, and 13 dogs were issued to clients. This is a nice sized class, but still below prior class sizes. The need for dog guides is great and more volunteers are needed. Puppy raising has traditionally been a 1-year commitment, but Leader Dog has recently implemented new models of “shared” puppy raising. Perhaps you love the “baby” stage, but don’t like to deal with a 6 month old puppy. Those arrangements can be made. Traditionally, puppies have been born in the home of the Host family; a new endeavor brings the mom to campus so the pups can be birthed in a more controlled environment; relieving the host family of the stress of intensive care of a litter of puppies during and immediately after birth. Another component is the Guide Dog Mobility Instructor. A serious need exists for individuals interested in this career path. Leader Dog offers a 3-year paid internship for individuals with the needed educational background. More information can be found at Leaderdog.org.

Everyone was thanked for their previous support of Leader Dogs for the Blind. Missouri Lions have always been a strong supporter, which is one reason we continue to be invited for Leadership weekends. This year an additional way to show your support is by sponsoring FLD Bobbi Jo. Every year, Leader Dog selects puppies for the “Puppy Sponsorship” program. This year, 3 puppies were selected, all three being raised by Lions. Bobbi Jo is one of them, her sister Kiva from TX, and a puppy named Roland from IL. There is a “friendly” competition between Bobbi Jo and Kiva. Anything you or your clubs can do to further the competition is greatly appreciated. Flyers are available with additional information.

LIONS OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTH COMMITTEE – Lion Cheyenne Porterfield reported that officers were discussed and elected for the new Lion’s year. Lion Cheyenne was elected as Chair for a second term and Lion Bethney Pedersen was elected as Secretary for a second term.

Peace Poster – The deadline for peace poster entries is November 15th. Lion Rosalie Watts has ordered multiple kits in advance and brought them with her to club visits. This allows clubs to receive the kits right away and then they reimburse her the money for the kits. Lion Rosalie has a cheat sheet for the peace posters regarding deadlines and other information, which she will share with the rest of the committee. It was discussed to make sure that the posters actually match the set theme as many are turned down due to not meeting the theme. Lions that are in charge of peace posters should check on this in advance. Many committee members are making their way around to schools. They should remind schools they cannot cut, glue, staple or have any words or letters on the poster. Lion Bethney asked how other districts have their youth chairs and peace poster chairs set up. In her district (M4) the peace poster chair is separate from the

youth chair. Some districts have the same set up. Those that are not set up this way indicated they wished they had someone else to help with peace posters, and just more people in general to help with the process. The goal is to have every Lions club in the state participate in the peace poster program.

Youth Camp Exchange – Location and fee, which is \$300 per youth, was discussed. There were not many donations this year. There were only 8 campers this year, so they have the ability to go over their food budget for the year. Lion Toni Mahoney wants help in the future and has some ideas regarding this. She would like to help but would like someone to be the director to help with setting up the camp, planning events, and creating a schedule. She would also like to have more people staying at the camp, including males, as she has a difficult time watching everyone by herself. This year, three District Governors visited. It was enjoyable for them to visit but would like more help. Lion Toni and Lion Cheyenne brought up the idea of having district fundraisers for YCE. They will continue to share ideas through emails. It could also be a state fundraiser. Lion Toni would like to have a separate meeting (after this COG meeting) to focus on YCE – the different positions needed, pricing, and other important information. The youth arrive on July 1st and have two different host families. Camp will be July 20-27, 2025, with departure July 28-30th.

They would like everyone to spread the word with their clubs to donate to the Youth Camp Exchange. Lion Cheyenne pulled up the accurate Youth Committee budget on her phone. She did not have a printed copy of the correct budget to submit. Their fund balance is \$12,987.07. The net income is -\$574.93, with remaining cash of \$4,412.14. Donations to the Wm. C. Chandler Fund were \$3,190. The camp fee this year was \$2,400.

MULTIPLE DISTRICT LEO PROGRAM – Lion Cheyenne Porterfield reported for Lion Toni Mahoney. This program is still looking for a younger chair with a background working with youth and their programs. Each district in Missouri has a youth chair. Lion Toni believes that each district has a committee that works together on the three LCI youth programs that MD26 participates in – Leos, Peace Poster and YCE. These individuals are the ones attending club meetings and encouraging these programs with offering help. Lion Toni also believes that MD26 should be sending current Leo leaders to Leo seminars. There are three branches of Leos – Cubs are 4-12 year olds; Alphas are 12-18 year olds, and Omegas are 18-31 year olds. Omegas should be able to run their own club with light guidance from the sponsoring club. Also, instead of an Omega club, you could have a branch club, but the dues are higher. Most Omega Clubs are those attending schools, etc. These individuals do not normally have in-person meetings. Please support Leos with time and donations.

MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS – PDG Sandy McCann reported the committee has met through Zoom. PDG Sandy McCann was elected Chair, Lion Peggy Campbell was elected Secretary. They have submitted a marketing grant for \$10,000 to LCI. That grant has recently been approved. Half of the funds will be towards social media. The other part will go towards videos showing more of the service activities that are done in the state. Look out for some exciting stuff coming from the committee.

MISSOURI LION NEWSLETTER – CC Horton shared Lion Bethney Pedersen's report. The state newsletter is going well. Keep in mind that if items are received after the announced cut-off dates, it will be held until the next publication. The newsletter will come out as follows:

- May, June and July will be received until August and published on Aug. 15th.
- August, September, and October will be received until November 1st, then published Nov. 15th
- November, December and January will be received until February 1st, then published Feb. 15th
- February, March and April will be received until May 1st, then published May 15th

She needs to receive items for the next newsletter by Nov. 1st. The next newsletter will be published by Nov. 15th. District Governors are asked to send Lion Bethney a district letter for the next issue. If you need an example, you can find one from a past District Governor in issues from Sept. 2021 – present. Lion Bethney thanked everyone for their patience in this process and faith in her to deliver information from the districts. Directions for accessing past issues will be updated once she gets the information.

LONG RANGE PLANNING - No report.

MID-SOUTH LIONS SIGHT AND HEARING – PCC Larry Boettcher thanked everyone again for helping Mid-South Sight and Hearing Services for making “A Miracle a Day”. At the end of last year, they had a total of 682 active sight patients and 164 active hearing patients across the whole Mid-South region. The total billing for the year was \$1,404,107 compared to the total amount of donations from all clubs of \$237,328. That’s more than a 5:1 ratio of service to dollars. He thanked everyone for their continued support. The grant that they have been working on for a couple of years has been submitted. They had to increase the amount because the piece of equipment they are wanting to buy has gone up in price. They had to revise the grant to \$99,000. They hope to hear from International soon about getting that grant accepted so they can buy that piece of equipment for the surgery center in Memphis. They will then get \$99,000 back in surgery credits for future patients. They are looking forward to that happening. The negative side of that campaign was that a lot of the club donations they were getting were directed to the campaign. So they didn’t get the funds that were needed to really stay afloat, so they have been struggling the first part of this year. So if your clubs already have money in the budget for Mid-South, they ask that you please consider sending that money in now, as they keep having to borrow from reserves, they have to keep putting some patients through and paying the bills. If they could get the donations now instead of later in the year, that would be great.

Upcoming events:

- November 9th – Board meeting – Branson, MO
- February 1st – Cataract-A-Thon – Memphis. They hope to have 20-25 patients receive their cataract surgery free of charge on that day. Thanks to the Hamilton Eye Institute and all the professionals from around that area. It takes about 60 volunteers to put it on.
- March 8th – Board meeting, Memphis
- April 4-5th – Visiting Lions Day – Memphis. Consider putting this on your calendar. You can learn all about what Mid-South does, meet some of the doctors, see the research center, and understand a lot about what goes on.
- June 7th – Board Meeting, Memphis
- June 14th – Cataract-A-Thon, Memphis. Hopefully another 20-25 patients will receive those cataract surgeries.
- August 2025 – Board meeting via Zoom
- November 2025 – Board meeting, St. Louis

PCC Larry will be Board President next year. He thanked everyone for all that they do to make those “Miracles a Day”.

USA/Canada Forum Committees: PCC Larry added that those that are on the USA/Canada Forum committees for Memphis, there is a meeting that is going to be held that same weekend as Visiting Lions Day. It will be that Sunday immediately following the event. Please plan on being there to listen and help get that planning going because now that Louisville is past, it’s really kicking into gear and there is a lot of stuff that has to be done. PCC Gina added that herself, PCC Larry and PCC Terry are on the Host Committee for Hospitality, and they are looking for volunteers. If you’d like to volunteer, see one of them.

MISSOURI LIONS EYE MISSION FOUNDATION – PDG Devin Struttman submitted a written report. PDG Leon added information to that report. Counting the mission they had in Aurora the previous day; they’ve had 30 eye missions this year. That is up from 9 in 2023 and 1 in 2022. That’s because of all the volunteers. They have been able to give 1172 people in Missouri eyeglasses this year. That’s up from 238 in 2023 and 27 in 2022. Those numbers don’t include the 980 they served in Mexico in the fall of 2023 and over 1100 served in Mexico at the beginning of October of this year. Currently, there are five more missions scheduled for this year. The final numbers will probably put them around 2200-2300 people that were able to get recycled eyeglasses. The eyeglasses given away were probably more than that because some people would get two. Potosi has already scheduled a date for 2025. So it’s not too early to start thinking about a date you might want to have a mission. They have ten more districts, zones, and clubs that have said, “We want to have a mission. We’re just looking for a site and doctors.” PDG Leon has petitioned the governors to consider

having an eye mission either prior to or as part of each district's convention. It might be a way to get some Lions that don't attend the council meetings to find out about what we really do and the people we serve. Both the states of Kansas and Iowa have expressed interest in possibly conducting missions in their states. PDG Leon recently had a conversation with a Lion from Eastern Illinois about going over and doing one in Illinois. Maybe they'll go to the whole Midwest?? Who knows! None of them had any idea that this was going to grow this way back in 2022. They have received a grant from LCIF for about \$39,000. They are in the process of getting new quotes on a fundus camera, which takes a picture of the back of your eye (the retina). They'll be able to send that to an optometrist who can look at it and tell us if someone may have diabetic retinopathy or any other problem that might have to do with the retina. Instead of borrowing a spot camera from M2 for the last year, they are going to purchase a spot camera for the Eye Mission Foundation. They are going to purchase another Titmus screener because there tends to be a back up at missions. They currently have five. They need one more to make three on each side of the state. They are also looking at two portable lensometers. PDG Leon thanked Saving Sight for the grant they gave them. That's what allowed them to buy the other three Titmus machines they already have. They have been able to buy some display items, like tablecloths to help display what they are doing. They are also looking at some stand-up signs and other things for promotional material, so they can promote not only the Eye Mission but also LCIF and Saving Sight. They now have two complete sets of equipment (minus one Titmus screener) on each side of the state. Thanks to DG Mickey Beach, more than anyone else, that equipment in Kansas City is being stored free of charge at the archdiocese's new facility. He thanked them for that as well. They have contracted with a person to design a good web page. He works primarily with non-profits. They are just beginning to look at AI to develop a volunteer/doctor database. They have been keeping a database, but PDG Leon can't go through a list and find clubs/doctors/volunteers for an area where an upcoming mission will occur. Hoping AI can help with that. They are also thinking they might be able to use AI to develop an inventory of glasses. Another benefit they see of AI is it will generate flyers, a Facebook post, an Instagram post, and all you have to do is put in a couple of words. PDG Leon reminded everyone that next week people should come to the Eyeglass Recycling Center to learn how to clean and sort glasses that we can use right here in Missouri. The Eye Mission gets some glasses from them, and they've gotten a lot of glasses from the Porterfields. Adult beverages are allowed and PDG Leon hinted that perhaps an incentive from Central Dairy may be available. Eye Mission equipment will also be there so you can learn about that equipment. A lady in Columbia has donated a lensometer and other equipment, worth in excess of \$6,000. For clubs that have held a mission, PDG Leon has banner patches if they'd like one.

Break for lunch 12:00.

A prayer was led by 2VDG Jeff Rackovan.

PID Don Noland shared that with all of the disasters, if you write a check to LCIF, you can specify a certain disaster (like Hurricane Milton), that money will go to that specific area, but it is not eligible for a Melvin Jones. If you donate it to "greatest area of needs", it will go into an account, and they will apply that to where they need that – and that will be applicable towards a Melvin Jones.

MUSIC COMMITTEE – DG Tina Anderson reported the Music Committee met on September 30th via Zoom. Those present on the call were Liaison Governor Melissa Anderson, 2VDG Jeff Rackovan (M2), Lion Amy Vollmer (M3), DG Tina Anderson (M4), DG Mickey Beach (M5), and Lion Dakota Jones (M7). DG Melissa did a recap of the name change that was done last year (from Band Committee to Music Committee). 2VDG Jeff and Lion Dakota volunteered to serve as Co-Chairs. DG Tina volunteered to serve as Secretary. Funds in the checking account were reported at \$28,651.01. Funds in savings are \$27,203.36, for a total of \$55,854.37. DG Melissa will check to see if names on the bank accounts need updated, or if the state office handles those accounts. 2VDG Jeff is also on the State Convention Committee, and he will check to see if there is a time slot at the 2025 Convention for Music. 2VDG Jeff and Lion Dakota will determine a date for the next meeting.

SAVING SIGHT – PCC George Winkeler Jr. noted that the packet from the State Office is important. Anyone not receiving the packet but would like to, should contact the State Office to get on the list. All the reports go out and you can read all of the reports. We keep talking about bringing in new people. No one

wants to come here to listen to someone read their report that you just got in your packet, that you read the night before. Many have summarized their reports today, and we want to make sure that keeps up that way.

Saving Sight has provided 3,533 tissues for transplant so far this year. That equals about 9 people daily receiving transplant tissue. They have also processed 22,582 orders for Vital Tears, which equals about 62 people's lives a day being changed. There will be elections for the board of directors coming up. This year districts M5 and M6 will be electing brand new board members because their board members have been termed out. PCC George (M2) and Lion Pat Mills (M7) will be running for their second three-year terms. If anyone is interested in running for those board positions, contact PCC George Winkeler or your district governor, or look in your packet. There is a letter in there that talks about board responsibilities. November is Donate Life and Eye Donation month. They try to get people signed up to donate their tissues/organs. To do so, you can go online or contact PCC George. You can sign up as a Lion and get the Lions InSight newsletter. Go to savingsight.org/lions.

SIGHT CONSERVATION – No report.

STATE OFFICE COMMITTEE – PDG Ann Anderson reported that the State Office Committee met in person at the State Office on September 25th. They welcomed new member Lion Wendy Jackson. Those in attendance were Lion Wendy, Lion Steve Duncan, PDG Ann, and Council Chairperson Sherl Horton. New member, Lion Wendy, was shown around the office so she could get familiar with everything, where it is and how it works. PDG Ann was elected as Chairperson with Lion Wendy as Vice-Chair, in an effort to create a line of succession. They discussed many topics and explained the aspects of the committee to Lion Wendy. They had a great conversation about many things going on and happening, and a lot of new ideas. She thanked Lion Wendy for joining them and taking such a great interest in it. They will meet as needed throughout the year.

MISSOURI PIN TRADERS – No report.

RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS – DG Tina Anderson moved to accept the committee reports. The motion was seconded by DG Williams. Parliamentarian PCC Terry Boettcher noted that the motion was to “accept” the reports, not to receive the reports. It should really say “receive” because if you accept, you accept everything in the report. DG Tina moved to amend her motion to state that I move to receive the reports. DG Williams then seconded the amended motion. CC Horton then called for a vote on the amended motion. A unanimous vote was in favor of the amended motion.

A vote was then called for the original motion. A unanimous vote was against the original motion. Original motion failed.

The amended motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CONFLICT OF INTEREST SIGNATURES – New committee chairs and others have been contacted to sign the Conflict of Interest policy.

APPROVAL OF FUNDS FOR WEBSITE RENEWAL – DG Williams moved to approve the funds for the renewal of the website. DG Michelle Foster seconded the motion. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

APPROVE FINANCIAL REVIEW DRAFT – DG Williams moved to approve the financial review draft. DG Carol Deters seconded the motion. Motion carried.

APPROVE SUBMITTED COMMITTEE BUDGETS– DG Foster moved to approve the budgets for State Convention, International Convention, and Athletic Committee. DG Williams seconded the motion. Parliamentarian PCC Boettcher noted on the Athletic Budget that was presented, they talked about a donation of money to the seven districts. That goes against the Constitution. In Article III, Sec. II State Committees, subsection K, State Athletic Committee pg. 16, ...”net funds generated by this committee shall be donated to any approved projects, programs and supported organizations of Multiple District 26, per the Multiple District 26 Policy Manual.”

DG Williams asked then, as a member of that committee, “So the committee will need to go back and designate how that money will be donated? Is that what you’re saying?”

Parliamentarian PCC Boettcher then responded, “Yes, it will need to be specific to the things that are in the Policy Manual and the individual district committees are not on that page. So it needs to be a supported organization. So it’s meant to do things for the Athletics, but any net funds from fundraisers and so forth, are supposed to be given to charity. And it’s only the ones listed on the page in the Policy Manual.”

DG Wendy Williams then withdrew her second to the motion on the floor. DG Foster then withdrew her original motion to approve the three budgets for State Convention, International Convention, and Athletic. CC Horton declared the motion withdrawn.

DG Foster then moved to approve the International Convention budget. DG Williams seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

DG Tina Anderson then moved to accept the State Convention budget. DG Deters seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**The Youth Committee budget was not brought forward for approval since a document was not presented (not in the packet or presented today). A Youth budget was not distributed, so the committee will have that and present it at the next meeting.

ENDORSEMENT OF PID TONY BENBOW for 3rd VP in ORLANDO - PID Don Noland commented that he can attest to PID Benbow. They served together on the board for 2 years. He said PID Benbow is truly a gentleman and a scholar, and he will do the association proudly. DG Tina Anderson moved to endorse PID Tony Benbow for International 3rd Vice President in Orlando (2025). DG Lambrecht seconded the motion. The motion carried.

REMINDERS –

LETTERS OF INTENT FOR COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON 2025-2026 – CC Horton reminded the District Governors that letters of intent to run for 2025-2026 Council Chairperson are to be turned in at/before the January Council of Governors meeting.

STATE CONVENTION HOSPITALITY – CC Horton reminded the 1VDGs that they will need to select and pay for State Convention Hospitality space at the January COG meeting. Cost is \$185.

FUNDS REQUEST FOR USA/CANADA FORUM – DG Tina Anderson moved that the Council support the USA/Canada Forum to be held in Memphis with \$5,000 in seed money out of the general fund. DG Deters seconded the motion. The motion carried.

CC Horton asked the Council if they were “tabling the “housekeeping” that was brought up today or was that coming up today?”

***During the work session prior to the COG meeting, an item was brought up for discussion by PCC Joe Foster from the floor asking the Council to consider reinstating the monthly cleaning fee for the State Office, considering the dues increase was approved and now there would be additional funds available.

DG Lambrecht moved to table the housekeeping item until they have a budget meeting. DG Tina Anderson seconded the motion. The floor was opened for discussion.

PCC Joe Foster asked from the floor if a budget meeting was scheduled. Is this an ongoing thing? How long is it going to take to make a decision?

CC Horton responded, "I believe that they are going to be getting together to go over that \$30,000 before the January Council Meeting and that will be part of that because it's looking at the budget and what we have in it and everything."

PCC Foster followed with, "Is there anyway we can have a temporary cleaning in between then? It has been quite some time since the office has been cleaned. Maybe we can approve like a temporary cleaning between now and then? At least to keep it up? Just authorize \$100 or something til the meeting's over."

CC Horton noted there is a motion on the floor. She called for the vote. CC Horton stated the motion carried to table the housekeeping item so "it can be discussed and have the budgets presented."

Announcements –

CC Horton apologized in advance. She shared, "At the last meeting, we voted for the State Office Committee, and I failed to bring up Lion Eugene (who I deeply love) and let everyone know that he was running for that position also. I should have made it very public that it was Lion Wendy and Lion Eugene both who were applying for the position. Both were overqualified for it. They did do the vote, which was a legal vote from my understanding. They did choose Wendy, but we love people standing up, and I did not mean to disrespect you in any way."

TAIL TWISTER REPORT – PCC George Winkeler collected \$393 to be split 50/50 with LCIF and the Youth Committee.

DG Tina Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting. DG Deters seconded the motion, and motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT – 1:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lion Jackie Twehus

Lion Jackie Twehus, Administrative Assistant