

**District A-1 District Meeting  
August 24, 2008  
Pelee Days Inn  
Leamington**

Governor Don McKessock acted as the Chairperson, with the following District Cabinet officers in attendance:

|                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| DG Don McKessock    | ZC1W Marianne Robinson |
| IPDG Mark Mahovlich | RC2 John Ross          |
| VDG Ev Spiering     | ZC2N Peter Seguin      |
| CS Carolyn Oshell   | ZC2E Tim O'Brien       |
| CT Joyce Doucet     | ZC 2S Wayne Cudney     |
| RC1 Joan Cope       | RC24 Mike Tuxford      |
| ZC1C Gord Anderson  | ZC 24N Janet Gawne     |
| ZC1E Mike Blonde    | ZC 24S Murray McDonald |

We received regrets from: ZC 24W Bob Tanner

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by DG Don followed by a "Minute of silence" for the departed members of the Lions family.

**District Governor's Welcome**

Sawasdee ka, Sawasdee Khrub.

Governor Don welcomed everyone in attendance. Protocol was set and Governor Don thanked everyone for attending.

DG Don told us that one of his duties for the coming year was to impart to us the focus and goals of LCI. IP Al Brandel would like us all to remember that Lions are everyday heroes and that we need to focus on membership. Simply put the world needs more heroes.

**Governors Message:** My message to all Lions this year is to "Reach Out"! Not with our hearts and our hands.....we have always been good at that.....But with our minds.....to see what is not yet, but what must be in order to gather more members to our Lions Clubs. The world is changing and just like last year.....and next year and the next year.....this year we need to meet the challenge to change....And the goal is clear....the need will be there....We need more heroes.

Challenge to Change: A global membership team has been put in place for the next few years to spearhead growth in membership. We need to work with the GMT. This will mean change. We need to advertise ourselves better. We need to be positive. We need to pay attention to our communities and our Lions. We need to train our Lions better. We need closer links between District & Clubs. Exciting. YES. Scary. NO. Because Lions working together can do anything.

And while we are reinventing ourselves a little bit, don't forget we still have many good deeds to perform beyond the club walls. Healing Garden, No Child Without and Eyes Right. These are important projects, not just because they help our community.....they help Lions.

**Attendance (64)**

(16) Cabinet, (9) presidents, (13) Secretaries, (24) Lions, (1) Lioness, (1) Guest

**Treasurer's Report**

In the bank for District A-1 - \$20,931.72

Youth Exchange - \$5,467.86

Lake Joseph Transportation - \$2,980.48

Effective Speaking - \$6,751.07

Total of all funds - \$36,131.13

Over and above the District's \$20,931.72 is our GIC - \$5,336.15 – this has been rolled over into another one collecting 3% interest.

**A motion by ZC Peter Seguin, seconded by ZC Tim O'Brien to accept the Treasurer's Report. Carried.**

### **Cabinet Secretary's Report**

Thank You to all District Officers & Cabinet Chairs who emailed their reports to me.

Copies of the June 22, 2008 **Minutes, Reporting Schedule and agenda for August 24, 2008** were e-mailed to all Cabinet Officers and all Cabinet Chairs. All clubs (except Rodney) and PDGs were emailed the minutes and the agenda for August 24, 2008 meeting. The minutes were mailed to the Rodney Lions club secretary.

In order to save funds DG Don has requested (unless there is a special request) that the agenda & district meeting minutes be e-mailed to each club. Please bring them with you to the District Meeting. Because of this change in procedure, a copy was put in each Cabinet member's folder & a few copies on the table. A motion please to accept the minutes of June 22, 2008.

**A motion by VDG Ev Spiering, seconded by RC Mike Tuxford to accept the adoption of the June 22, 2008, minutes as emailed. Carried.**

### **Correspondence**

The following correspondence was received: From DG Bill (A711)

1. Dear Colleagues,

Over the past 11 years, we have assisted PeeWee baseball by way of direct funding from clubs in our district and through food Sales at a snack shack outside the grounds of the CNE, during the entire two week period of the exhibition. The operation of the snack shack is carried out by Lions of District A-711. Clubs contribute by way of manpower or financial donations anywhere from two to five hundred dollars.

The participating teams in the competition, are from many towns and cities across Southern Ontario some of which, we note, are located in your district. I am sure you would be agreeable to supporting teams whose origin are in your area and therefore the PeeWee planning committee has requested that I offer each of you the opportunity to do so. For further information please contact Past District Governor Glenda Coupland at:

E-mail: [lencoupland@hotmail.com](mailto:lencoupland@hotmail.com)

Yours in Lionism,

DG Bill

**Cabinet Secretary to write a polite note to DG Bill Allison to decline the invitation to participate.**

August 12, 2008

2. Dear District Governor McKessock,

The Legal Division received information from a law firm in London, Ontario regarding litigation initiated by the former Lions Club, Westmount Lions Club. The law firm had obtained on behalf of the Westmount Lions Club (located in London, Ontario) a Judgment against a Mr. Maurice John Needham for funds that had been fraudulently taken from the club. The Club is no longer in existence and the law firm has continued to collect the funds from Mr. Needham. They need instructions as to where to send the money. Guided by Lions Clubs International principles, the money collected should return to a club to benefit the community where the Westmount Lions Club serviced. This is where I need your assistance. Could you identify the club or clubs (if we need to evenly split the funds) to transfer the funds. If there are no clubs that service this area, perhaps there is a local Lions foundation that services this area.

Any assistance you can provide will be appreciated. Please contact me at your convenience.

Very truly yours,

Amy J. Peña

Attorney, Legal Division Lions Clubs International

**DG Don will be in contact with the legal department and this issue will be addressed at cabinet when we have more information about the amount of funds to be dispersed.**

### **Vice District Governor's Report**

Here we are again, ready to start a new chapter in our Lions Club and District. I have been busy this summer moving not just once but twice and I am still unpacking I am looking forward with excitement to this year, and I can't wait to get started.

I attended the closing night at the Youth Camp on behalf of Governor Don and again I wish to thank Lions Jim and Martin and Lioness Kim for a job well done. It sounded like they had a great time and I am certain that Lion Jim can't wait to get started on next years.

I would like to state it here now that anyone can become a District Officer if he/she desires and I would like to encourage each of you to consider a position on Cabinet

Either as a Zone or Region Chair or even VDG. If that is not your calling why not be a cabinet chair---we don't know you want the challenge if you don't tell us.

I am making it one of my goals to have a full Cabinet by Convention of 09 so Lions I am putting you and your club on notice we need you.

I have also been asked to give input into the club officers training manual, but I want your input what would you like to see covered at the Leadership Training—I would appreciate it if you would email me your suggestion by October 15<sup>th</sup> so that we might get to work on a new strategy.

I am encouraging all clubs to seek our new members I know this is an ongoing plea but Lions we know what pride we get when we help those in need lets give that opportunity to someone else in you community. Sell your Club if you don't who will. Lions let get to work and have fun

**A motion by ZC Wayne Cudney, seconded by RC John Ross to accept the Vice District Governors report. Carried.**

### **District Officer's Reports**

The following are the District officers' reports:

#### **IPDG Mark Mahovich: No report**

#### **Region Chair 1 – Lion Joan Cope:**

My main goals for this year:

- To have fun in the role of Region 1 Chair
- To organize and help provide Officer Training soon after the District A-1 Convention with a focus on incoming Presidents, Secretaries, and Treasurers.
- To emphasize to each club the importance of having on the Board of Directors a committed, enthusiastic Lion as membership director and a membership committee that will create an action plan to recruit and retain new members.
- To be a resource person for Region 1 clubs

I ask cabinet for budgetary support in the area of leadership and officer training efforts wherein expenses may be incurred to provide workshop materials for participants. This may include items such as refreshments, photocopying, report folders, markers, chart paper, etc. Thank you for the opportunity to serve the district this coming Lions year.

#### **Zone Chair 1 Central – Lion Gord Anderson:**

##### Goals

1. To examine membership recruiting practices in the clubs of zone 1 central.
  - I am interested in seeing what works and what doesn't.
  - who are they focusing on? (age groups, gender, relatives etc.)
  - this is a way to share ideas with the clubs in this zone.
  - do they have retention ideas?
  - what plans do they have to bring in new members this year?
  - Are they interested in having someone from MERL attend one of their meetings?
2. To examine fundraising ideas in the clubs of zone 1 central.
  - methods of fundraising (hot dogs, raffles, bingos etc.)

- what works well in their club?
- idea sharing
- what major projects do they raise funds?
- do they get people outside of Lions to help them and if so does this work?
- what is the most difficult part of their fundraising?
- do they share fundraising with other service clubs?

#### **Zone Chair 1 East - Lion Mike Blonde**

My report for this meeting. Blenheim Club had a BBQ for a meet and greet, for 2 Youth Exchange Students that were staying with Pres. Lion Terry and Lion Paul Ouellett. In July 21 members and guests were present and a good time was had by all.

Myself and Lion Robert Henry went to the change-over meeting in Petrolia in July.

Myself and Blenheim Lion Sec. Robert Henry and 2 guests, went to the Youth Exchange Camp in Mount Bridges for the farewell presentations and supper. On Aug 01/08

Chatham Lions had a yard sale. No reports have been received by myself, from Lighthouse Cove, Stoney Point, or Tilbury Clubs.

#### **Zone Chair 1 West – Lion Marianne Robinson**

I am very happy to serve as Zone 1 West Chair this year. So far, we have decided that the Zone Project for this year will be "Dimes for Diabetes". There is a great need in this community with the unfortunate layoffs and high unemployment. Lion Jackie Flood has enlightened me with respect to the fact that there are people out there and due to the high unemployment cannot afford to purchase their insulin. I hope that our zone project will ease some of this need.

I have received only two monthly activity reports in my zone but I believe that this is due to the summer vacation season. I look forward to working with the District this year as Zone Chair.

#### **Region 2 Chair - John Ross**

Region Two has been in summer holiday mode so not much to report. Summer has been spent on little vacations, pool side and taking in a few ball and soccer games with Grand children. Cooler evenings must mean Fall is on the way and vacation is over.

The up coming year I'm sure will be rewarding and challenging, My main goal is to increase memberships in our Region. I'm sure this can be accomplished through Invitation and Visitation.

We all know some one, who we have never ask out to a meeting, picnic or a party. It starts with the invitation, I believe that new and old members should take time and visit other clubs. By visitation we all learn, build friendships, and encourage others to grow, get referrals of people they may know who live in your community. Encourage others to move forward. Communities were built on volunteers, one step at a time. I encourage all clubs to join in on fun and fellowship by visitation, building a stronger Lions Club.

#### **Zone Chair 2 South: Wayne Cudney**

All 6 clubs in Zone 2 S are having a very busy summer with all their fund raising projects. My first Zone Advisory meeting is September 18, 2008 in Dutton, Ont.

Some goals I have set are at least a 10% increase in membership in Zone 2 S this is approximately 3 members per club. This goal I feel is very achievable. Also I would like to see another Leo Club formed in 2S, one club has already expressed an interest.

I will be asking some District Committee chairs for a presentation our Zone Advisory meeting. Most of all I will be searching diligently for a Lion to come forward to serve as Zone Chair for 2009-2010. This is my second year in this position and I have enjoyed all the visits and friends I have made during this term.

#### **Zone Chair 2 North - Peter Seguin:**

My report will be brief. As you know, the clubs generally take a break during the summer months and many members are away for extended periods of time. Therefore I have very little to report.

However, most of the clubs in my zone have been busy with fund raising activities during the summer and two clubs in particular, London Central and Hyde Park have been very active in fund raising during this time. I am told some clubs have also taken the opportunity to seek out potential new members and hopefully we will see some new faces in the next couple of months.

My two main goals for 2008—2009 are to try and identify at least 2 potential candidates to fill my position for next year and secondly to complete a successful zone project. I have a couple of ideas for a zone project and they will be discussed with the clubs at our first Zone Advisory Meeting.

#### **Zone Chair 2 E – Tim O'Brien:**

After reviewing the membership of Zone 2 East I have found we have two clubs with a net increase, one that held it's membership steady and unfortunately my home club has had a net loss of two. I realize that membership is a very important issue and it is my intention to guide the clubs in my zone into putting the fun back in Lionism. This hopefully will get members of our communities to want to be part of our clubs but more importantly stop the trend of members leaving our clubs.

Although we are a small zone with only four clubs we are quite diverse in the makeup of our communities. Some clubs still retain a large agricultural base with a strong sense of community while others are bedroom communities with little community attachment.

Being spread evenly over two counties we also must deal with different ideas how service clubs are dealt with by municipal government. Fundraising ideas that work for one club are dismal failures in another club 10 km away.

Manpower is often insufficient to run events so it is my plan that through better communication between clubs we will be able to work together to help each other out. I believe that by improving each zone one by one we will make our district increasingly stronger.

#### **Region Chair 24 – Mike Tuxford**

As most of you are well aware, this is my second term, so it's my coasting term, just kidding..

My goals are somewhat the same, last year under Lion Mark, my goal was to put the "FUN" back in Lions – this year under Lion Don instead of just fun, it's going to be "FUNNER". That means we must encourage Lions to attend more functions, such as Cabinet meetings, Rallies, Leadership Seminars, and Conventions. This means we have to make these events "FUNNER" for all.

I like seeing all of you, but I would love to introduce myself to a whole room full of new Lions. We must continually and actively seek Lions to take offices and cabinet positions,

Another goal I have for this year is the most important, membership retention... we must continually shut the back door and stop Lions from leaving the number 1 worldwide service organization. We must all understand that we are all volunteers and we should be treated as such, when someone says no, it means no. Encourage members to take Executive positions, but don't push too soon, let a Lion get their feet wet before putting them into these positions, and make sure they get training so they know what to expect. Also attending functions and meeting other Lions is very important, so I encourage you to bring your new members and attend Lucan Lions 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and celebrate over 1.5 million dollars in donations to Lionism and our community. It will be a Mystery Dinner Theatre "Big Al's Boitday" wear your or your parent's 30's and 40's costumes for a "FUN" night of surprises, October 25, 2008 at Lucan Community Centre. I have tickets in my hot little pocket, so come see me at break.

I look forward to working with the three new Zone Chairs, as I believe we have a hard working crew in Region 24 this year.

#### **ZC 24S - Murray McDonald**

GOALS:

1. Improve communication between the clubs in Zone 24 South
  - a. Seeking common goals
  - b. Common projects? (Zone project may not always be in favour)
  - c. Inter-club visits
2. Member retention
  - a. This appears to be an area to focus and may require a different strategy from recruiting
  - b. Which clubs specifically are having retention problems
  - c. Soliciting ideas, and suggestions from successful clubs
  - d. Do membership committees have a specific strategy aimed at retention and/or recruiting?

#### **ZC 24W: Bob Tanner**

Here is my report for Zone 24W

\*I have completed making my manual using guidance from our July mtg. and past zone chair johns.

\* I have been working on my personal goals

- 1) To support and nurture the clubs in my zone to be all they can be
- 2) To continue with a zone project and to create discussion before the first zone meeting
- 3) To gain support from the Western Lambton clubs for the new cataract clinic in the Petrolia Hospital.
- 4) To increase fun and fellowship and throw in a little more communication.

\*I have received reports from 3 of my 5 clubs for July I am hoping this is just caused by the lazy daze of summer.

Lastly I would like too thank Lion John Stewart for the great job he has done over the last 2 lion's years , he has set the bar high . Now I will have to maintain and improve this standard.

### **ZC 24N – Janet Gawne**

Goals for 2008/2009 Lions Year:

1. To have speakers at two zone advisory meetings.
2. To develop a zone project in which all five clubs in the zone will participate.

I have not yet received any reports from my clubs and will be making my first club visit on September 23<sup>rd</sup> in Ailsa Craig.

**A motion by RC John Ross, seconded by RC Evelyn Spiering to accept the District Officers' reports. Carried.**

### **District Chair's Reports**

**Membership – PDG Bill Bissonnette** : No Report

**Leadership – PDG Fred Cross:** Yesterday's Leadership Forum was attended by 46 Lions and guests with 5 session leaders. I wish to thank all the Lions that participated as well as a big thank you to the session leaders for taking the time to put them on.

My objective for the year is working with clubs, District Officers and the MERL Team to bring new programs or help to promote those that are being put on this year. And the big one for the year is to find and train s replacement for myself.

Last year as convention chair it was decided that the clubs would take the banner stands to use at convention. Please stop and pick up your clubs stand.

**Retention – PDG Jacqui Flood:** Thank you for allowing me to serve District A-1 as the Retention part of the MERL Team. Last years statistics revealed that we brought in 48 new members, but we also dropped 79 members. So our biggest problem is retention. We need to reassess our strategies if we want to reverse this trend.

Each club has to identify their own retention problems. Areas that need to be scrutinized for problems are:

- Meetings
- Social Activities
- Community Service
- New Members
- Office holding
- Existing Lions

My goal this year is to decrease the percentage of dropped members from 1.5 to 1% by June, by giving a retention workshop at least once in each Region. Another goal is to promote an effective orientation program and to offer it to each region. The "Refreshing Your Club" workshops will offer a practical approach to any club to identify areas to improve their retention. Lions, please help me to reach my goals to reverse this trend to build a healthy district and reach our Governor's goals of 2 new clubs plus a net increase of 48 members. Let's all work together to surpass his goals.

**Extention – PRC Steve Mahovich:** No written Report but PRC Steve told us that we should have a new club in Strathroy by June. Forming a club in LaSalle is still in the works but is not going very well.

**Constitution & Bylaws – PDG Joe Madacsi:**

Sorry to say that I will be going in for major surgery on Thursday August 14th to University Hospital London. Barring complications I should be in there for 6+ days. Should I get out prior to cabinet , I really don't know how I will be feeling for August 24th. Its very iffy that I will make cabinet this time.  
To save time and money I have no report to submit. However Good Lord willing and I am able I will catch a ride with Gene. ??????

**District A-1 Convention – PDG Ray Adam**

The tentative dates have been tentatively set for our convention committee meetings. Our District Convention this year is April 3 – 5 in Sarnia, at the Holiday Inn.  
The Convention team cannot without your input, we may not always do what you request, but let me assure you that we always do what is best for our membership.  
We will report to you at all of the District meetings, and if you have any questions please contact me at [raymond.adam@sympartico.ca](mailto:raymond.adam@sympartico.ca)

**Hearing and Work with the Deaf – PDG Ray Adam**

My goal for this year is to work with MDA and the Lions Home for the Deaf, also the hearing dog program at the Lions Foundation of Canada. If you have anything that you think will assist me in my position, please let me know.

**Effective Speaking – PRC Ron Lindsay**

I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve as the Effective Speaking Chair this year. I have been involved with this program for well over 15 years, helping other A-1 Chair's and with the MD'A' program as a committee member.

This year's, MD'A' Chair for Effective Speaking – Lion John Thompson District A-3, and the MD'A' Youth Outreach Chair Lion Darlene Priestley, P.D.P. District A-1.

***My aim or Coal is to have more speakers from more Clubs for the contests this year. To have all speaking categories represented this year. Also more support from our A-1 Clubs.***

***Leo Clubs***, please take notice that your members can participate in this A-1 District Effective Speaking Contest.

We Have 48 Lion Clubs, 17 Lioness Clubs and 6 Leo Clubs for a total of **71 Clubs**  
**44 Club Donations** last year, **33 Lion Clubs**, **11 Lioness Clubs**.

I would like to thank all the Clubs that participated last year and hope we will get your support again this year. And for those that are thinking about supporting us, think back to the last years Convention, when you listened to the Winner's Speak and how great there presentation where. This program is for our Youth the up coming Leaders of Tomorrow.

This is such a vital program for our District. The suggested amount per club is \$125.00. **Any amount that you are able to donate is most welcome.** Please give what you can, but if you wish to donate more, feel free to do so. MD'A' Effective Speaking program is forwarded \$45.00 per Club from these fees.

I will be looking forward to the support of Region Chairs again this year and will get more information to you in the near future.

Your Club support would be appreciated. Thanks!

I would like to request a motion to be made to provide \$250.00 startup fee for the District A-1 Effective Speaking Program.

**Public Relations – PCT Michael Kresky**

Thank You for giving me the opportunity to Chair the District's Public Relations position.

I have noted just in our MDA Publication alone (which largely communicates between members) that only a few clubs in this district participate in taking pride in sharing what they do. This could largely be in part

that club's are unsure of how to initiate internal communication as well as what may be required to externally communicate. This is where I might be able to assist you.

As Lions we participate and voluntarily involve ourselves for the betterment of our respective communities, regardless of whether it is a fundraising activity, a service activity or a donation made..

Facing each and every club, is the challenge to keep members motivated, encouraged and proud to continue to expand our varying community betterments to the ever changing needs of our communities.

Part of this pride is being recognized as a Lion for what you do, on and off the street within a community.

To accommodate this, a 'key role' in any service organization is appointing an active 'Public Relations Officer'. The role of a PRO is "To promote awareness of Lions Clubs and, the service of Lions Clubs among the general public".

To promote awareness....effective communication needs to be made.

We all have our definition of communication – The Webster's dictionary defines it as 'the means of imparting information or intelligence by word or writing'. So why are we not getting our word out there 'free of charge' via TV/Newspapers in major centres of Southwestern Ontario? A lot has to do with the fact that we have either failed to recognize the importance of having a PRO or we have never made or considered making contact with the various media sources that may be available to us and work with them, or both.

Local stations – news, radio and television/cable have a mandate to provide for 'Public Service Announcements' – some clubs have created websites to promote activities. By exercising your rights to these 'free' public services, you also promote the awareness each club stands to benefit from, when addressing the needs of both the club and community.

It has been said that 'knowledge is power' -- with the public being equipped with the knowledge of what you as Lions do in the community leading to increased membership. Find out from the media what will make news and steer your efforts in that direction. All news is not bad news.

DG Lion Don, I would ask that each club be made aware that I am available to coach and/or assist any Lion who may be appointed as PRO for their club.

#### **HALF TIME SHOW:**

##### **Youth Exchange – Lion Jim Deslippe**

I would like to begin by saying that seeing that it was my first year being the YEC it was a lot of fun to do and although a lot of work, very rewarding.

Donations this year were down substantially from **\$8570** last year to **\$5850** this year which made things very challenging and added few changes to the way we did things this year.

Although the expenditures are not quite finished it looks like we spent approximately \$5600 this year on the camp and other expenditures associated with it.

This is down from previous years as we did certain things to reduce our cost from using vans instead of buses to buying our Canada's Wonderland tickets from Lion Marty's workplace where we got a nice discount. It was a very successful camp and as you will see from the slide show a good time was had by all.

#### **Slide show**

15 Youth arrived in Toronto on July 5<sup>th</sup> from 11 different countries to start their 4 week stay in our District. I should add that all the districts of Ontario had the youth arrive on the same day this year so there was 128 youth that arrived in total that day to be hosted by Lions clubs of Ontario.

Here is your youth for 2008 and the counselors are, myself, Lion Marty Moore, Lioness Kim Schindell and Lion Trigger our camp security.

After spending 20 days with host families the youth arrived at camp on July 26<sup>th</sup> in Mount Brydges.

Following the opening day of camp where the youth learned how to set up their own tents and get acquainted with each other, supper was provided by the Mount Brydges Lions club.

We were then hosted on the Sunday afternoon by the Melbourne Lions club for a game of baseball and supper. Most European youth have no idea how to play ball so it can be very entertaining watching them learn the game.



On Monday we went to Niagara Falls where we were met by the Chippewa Lions club who provided us with tickets to go up the Skylon Tower. We also took the maid of the mist and spent the afternoon touring the area before going to the Chippewa Lions club house where supper was provided for us.

Tuesday was Grand Bend day where the Grand Bend Lioness provided us with lunch and then we spend a fun day on the beach. Supper that night was provide by the Glencoe Lions club who also provided a fun time for the youth, and the counselors I might add, with a karaoke night where we all got to sing and have a good laugh at each other.

Wednesday we went to Canada's Wonderland. The drive there was not very optimistic as it was pouring down rain all the way but once we arrived it was amazing how the rain stopped almost the minute we walked through the gates. As you can see from the pictures the youth really enjoyed the day there.

Thursday was somewhat of a different day this year as the Strathroy Lions Club picked us up at 8:30 am and provided us with a complete day of entertainment. We started out with attending the Texas Longhorn Ranch where we learned to rope, swam and had a water polo competition and were provided with lunch. We then went to Strathroy where the youth had a horseshoe tournament and then on to the Strathroy Lions clubs New club house where we had supper and had an excellent time learning to square dance.

At this point we want to say a special thank you to Lion Trigger who for 27 years now has dedicated one week of his holidays every year to coming to camp and looking after the camp while the youth are away. This year we did do something different and we brought Lion Trigger with us to Niagara Falls and the Delaware Lions club looked after the camp that day.

Friday was our International day at camp as well as the closing ceremonies which were attended by approximately 80 people including host families, Lions and Lioness members. Supper was provided by the Mount Brydges Lioness club.

Saturday was take down day for the camp and another wonderful 12 hours spend at Toronto airport sadly saying goodbye to the youth.

Here are a few slides of what some of the youth did while being hosted by exchange families from pool parties to day trips to more day trips.

Other clubs that provided us with meals were the Belmont Lions, Lion Sylvia Watson from New Orleans Pizza in Mount Brydges and the Petrolia Lions. We also wanted to say a thank you to the Mount Brydges Lions for once again providing the facilities for the camp.

### **Healing Garden – PRC Eugene Graham**

The Healing Gardens project is heading into its final phase with the completion date set for December 31 2008.

Likewise, the construction of the Children's Hospital is beginning its final phase with a contract let to Ellis-Don Construction with completion expected in 2011.

The slide presentation will give the members present an overview of the hospital and the concept of the Healing Gardens.

The original commitment for the Lions of Districts A-1, A-2, A-9 and A15 was to raise \$250,000. District A-2 support has been very limited because many clubs feel they have similar facilities in Hamilton. To date \$213,600 has been raised toward this goal, leaving about \$36,500 to be raised by December 31.

District A-1 has raised \$83,400 with a final goal of \$90,000 to be attained by the end of the year. This amounts to \$6600. This makes A-1 's share somewhat more than the other two districts but it is believed that our District stands to benefit most, especially London-Middlesex area as all birthing (over 6000) annually will be at this hospital.

Governor Don has made the successful completion of this project one of his priorities for this year and it is my wish that after six years of chairing it that the clubs of A-1 will help us in achieving this goal. After all it is our children and our grandchildren right here in Ontario who will benefit.

### **Diabetes Awareness & Cavalcade – Lion Bev Wirta**

I would like to thank Governor Don for asking me to continue on with this Chair

The great news is that the Ontario Government has made an announcement that they will provide insulin pumps to adults over the age of 18 who have Type 1 Diabetes.

In mid-September the program will begin and 1,300 adults who have met the screening criteria will be given an insulin pump along with a grant of \$2,400 each year for insulin supplies. This pump will be replaced every 5 years.

I will be sending out to each club the fact sheets published by the Ontario Government and an informative bulletin from the CDA about this announcement after getting the district directory.

I would like to remind the clubs that at the next Cabinet meeting in October we will be having our Cavalcade presentation of cheques. In the mail out I will be sending a copy of the new Harry A Newman application and your club can either make a donation to the CDA or they can apply for a Newman Award. November is Diabetes Awareness month and I would encourage each club to take up a special project. I would be pleased to attend any club who is having an open house for their community, a special diabetes event or would just like me to visit their club with diabetes information.

### **Leader Dog for the Blind – Lion Mickey Puddicombe**

Since last Report

#### Donations

- In honor of Emerson (re-bus trip) from two passengers \$150.00
- Sarnia Township Lions 50/50 draw to Leader Dog \$399.50
- Hyde Park \$750.00

Total \$1290.50

#### Displays

- Y.M.C.A. camp youth from 7 to 10 years of age.
- Four youths from our Youth exchange showing film & talking on Leader Dog, demonstrating in walking & what Emerson can do. One each from Solvina, England, Germany & U.K. what a pleasure they were. Emails since their return are thanking me for the education on what Emerson eye's are all about.

UPCOMING --

- September 12<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> Leader Dogs for the Blind District Leader Dog Chair Seminar. First one they have had. One thing I have been pushing for, since I was on the board. I am proud to be part of this process.

NEEDING CABINET SUPPORT.

- LEADER DOG 50/50 tickets as my fund raiser this year. I would like your support in getting all our clubs in our district to purchase some tickets. They will be \$5.00 each. In honor of Leader Dog's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2009. Draw will be May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Chatham Lion's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Tickets available soon.

MY DRIVE FOR 2008/2009 --

- To be GUEST SPEAKER at more clubs, encourage clubs to take Leader dog tours. SUPPORT my fund raiser for Leader Dog's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. MORE DISPLAYS with Lions & the Public. INCREASE more Club support financially and personally.

### **Lions Foundation of Canada – PZC Rick Letton**

I am looking forward to visiting the clubs in the district and talking about the important work that the Lions Foundation of Canada does.

At the present time we are not a host family for a "future service dog", but that could all change when I take my wife with me to the LFC's orientation meeting at the end of September.

Last month our club helped out at a BBQ for the Canadian Council of the Blind and every member of the Council and a lot of the customers thanked us for the work and support that the Lions and Lioness Clubs provide. They also thanked us for supporting LFC as most of the London chapters' members have received a dog from the Oakville facility.

My goals for the coming year are to increase the awareness of Lions Foundation of Canada and the services they offer. As with all projects that the Lions are involved with, Lions Foundation of Canada needs our support and I will be asking the clubs to continue supporting this worthwhile cause.

I look forward to visiting as many clubs as possible during the upcoming year.

#### **No Child Without – Lion Bruce Edwards**

I am here today representing a program new to Lionism. When I say that it is new to Lionism, early in 2008 then Vice-governor Don asked me to consider this committee posting for the 2008/2009 Lions year. I did have a display table at the Sarnia A-1 Convention in April 2008, and I have spoken at two Zone Meetings and a few individual Club Meetings before the close of the 2007/2008 Lions year. Officially, I am considering today the kick-off for NCW in District A-1.

Briefly, NCW is a program of the Canadian Medic Alert Foundation. I am sure that we have all seen one of the Medic Alert bracelets worn by someone who has a possible medical situation that could lead to an **anaphylactic** reaction. The CMAF has pledged to provide, free of charge, a medic alert bracelet or necklet to every child under the age of 14 within five years. International Director Lion Terry Graham heard of the initiative, and felt that it was something that Lions could become involved with. It is hoped that most of the Lions Clubs across Canada will adopt at least one elementary school within their area by the end of the five years. Of course, I can not take the time to explain the full program today, (I believe that Lion Carolyn has provided an information sheet in our packet), but I am hoping that I might be invited by Zone Chairs to their Zone Meetings to further describe the NCW Program. I would urge the District Officers and the Club Presidents to visit the web-site listed in the information sheet.

I might add that there are several advantages to Lions Clubs and Lions Members as a result of our association with the CMAF.

I was encouraged by the reception at the Clubs that I spoke to earlier this year and as a result of those meetings we have a commitment from the Sarnia Township Lions Club to sponsor a school near Sarnia and I believe that at least three other A-1 Clubs are considering doing the same in their area. Governor Don has suggested that I should aim for one Club in each Zone to sponsor a school by the end of this Lions year. As I mentioned earlier, I would like to start at the Zone level to get as many Clubs familiar with NCW in the shortest time possible, but I will be available to speak to any Club, or possibly a joint meeting of two Clubs at any time. With your help, we can pass and maybe even double Governor Don's expectations during his mandate as Governor of District A-1

#### **SightFirst/Work with the Blind – PCC Dave Balmos**

I want to Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be Chair of SightFirst/Work with the Blind. My goal is to work with Lion Peter Best Chair of Lake Joseph Transportation to see how we can work and communicate better with CNIB. As well our Lions Clubs in our District need to be more informed on Visually impaired people in their community and what we can do to help them if help is needed. Many Lions Clubs do not even know if they have a Guide dog or Leader Dog in their community, this information needs to get out to Clubs.

#### **LCIF – PDG Mark Mahovlich: No Report**

#### **Communications (Webmaster/Governors Newsletter – PZC Curtis Marwood**

Thank you, Governor Lion Don, for entrusting to me the task of Communication through the District web page and Governor's newsletter.

Since I have the responsibility for both the web page and the newsletter, my goals for each are related, but different.

I have been working on creating a new look for the web page and updating the directory information. Look for some changes soon.

My goals for the web page are:

1. To create an attractive site that will inform the public about the activities of Lions in District A-1 in particular and about Lions International.
2. To provide information and resources on the site that will assist Lions and clubs in their work.

3. To provide a forum for committees to describe their work and activities to members and the public.
4. To share news and photos of district, region and club activities.

Therefore, specifically, I would ask cabinet to send me news of special projects within their Regions and Zones. I would also ask committees to send me a short paragraph about what they are about.

Last year, the newsletter was published in a web site format also. However, I am proposing to put a lot of what was included in the newsletter last year on the web site this year and create a smaller, more printable format for the newsletter. It will likely remain on the web site in a format that members can read on line or print and distribute easily.

Therefore, my goals for the newsletter will be

1. To develop a format that will be easily accessible by members from the internet.
2. To produce a short monthly update on the activities of the district and clubs, with links to photos and details on the web site.
3. To gather news items and stories from the clubs and committees to share ideas and promote the ideals of Lionism.

Let's all spread the news of how **Miracles Happen through Service** in District A-1.

#### **International Understanding & Peace Poster – Lion Ann Neill**

I have been given the opportunity to be chair of International Understanding and Peace Poster Contest for the upcoming year. I am looking forward to familiarizing myself with this program as it has always interested me. I have been to many MDA conventions where I have always admired the peace posters and thought that I would like to get that going in my club. And I have a club member who is willing to assist me.

I would like to encourage the clubs to get involved by talking to the schools or church youth groups in your area. I have had an email already from a president of one of the clubs who is interested in getting the peace poster going in the schools in his community.

I am looking forward to this challenge for the upcoming year.

#### **Long Range Planning – PDG Dale Taylor (read by the Cabinet Secretary).**

This year the goal of the Long Range Planning Committee is to serve the Governor and cabinet by being available for researching items and offering suggestions based on our experience in Lionism. Last year R & LRP responded to a plea to “help save our district” by developing a comprehensive plan to increase membership and are willing to assist the MERL team in any way possible to implement this plan. The plan was presented at the wind up meeting in June, and we will have it placed on the website in the near future. We would like to support the M. E. R. L. team and all Cabinet Chairs helping to ensure that the spirit of Lionism grows through out the district. Please remember lions, keep the lines of communication open, the more we converse and discuss any and all subjects the better the outcome will be.

Remember to JUST ASK a friend, neighbour or acquaintance to join this great organization, the more members we have the better we can serve our communities.

Thank you Governor Don for asking me to Chair this very important committee, I look forward to working closely with you and cabinet this year.

#### **Leos Extention – Lion Tony Beaulieu: No Report**

#### **Bulletin Contest – PZC Mary Mahovlich (read by the Cabinet Secretary)**

I have a few suggestions & questions regarding the bulletin contest.

1. First of all, I would like bulletins that are emailed included in the contest.

2. I would like recognition for certain aspects of the bulletin such as most humorous, best editorials, most concise etc.
3. What kind of budget do I have for trophies, plaques and so on?
4. How do I find out about the MD"A" Contest requirements?
5. Also, I have had requests to do a web page contest. Could we set one up?

Some discussion followed. DG Don instructed cabinet secretary Carolyn to email PZC Mary with the following information as requested.

In response to the question on budget for the awards, DG Don asks that you submit a recommendation to CT Joyce ASAP.

Our Bulletin contest rules are MD"A rules.

The web page contest is up to you to organize if you wish to.

Lion Michael Kresky has been the MD"A" bulletin chair for the last two years so it might be a good idea to ask him anything that you are unsure of.

**Lioness Liaison Region 1 – PDP Geri Vary: (Regrets) No Report**

**Lioness Liaison Region 2 – PDG Joe Elliott: (Regrets) No Report**

**Lioness Liaison Region 24 – PZC John Stewart: No Report**

#### **District A-1 Eyes Right – PCC Peter Geene**

You will find a report in your envelopes , please share this information with your club members.

We are grateful for all your support in the past year and ask that you will continue to think about " Eyes Right " in your budgets for the 2008 - 2009 Lions Year.

We continue to hear great reports from people who have had the benefit of equipment used in the hospitals and supplied by the foundation. The needs for new equipment and the upgrading of existing equipment is an ongoing project. So our task is never over and with your support we will be able to keep up with the demands. Again a big THANK YOU to all of you for what you do.

#### **Lake Joseph Transportation – Lion Peter Best**

***Objective: To provide safe, convenient, low-cost transportation to and from the CNIB Lake Joseph Centre for blind, visually impaired and their escorts***

##### Goals:

1. Fundraising for LJC Transportation Project 2008-9
2. Planning & Implementing LJC Transportation Project 2008-9

##### 2008 Review

1. Fundraising - *“If they can't get there, they can't benefit”*
  - 2007-8 Club Donations for the year ending \$ 2350., Vacationer Donations \$200., Cash float on hand \$31.58., Request \$ 468.42 to return to \$ 500.00
  - Youth Transportation “ *outstanding* “ \$ 161.00
  - Request \$ 161.00 for re-imburement
  - 2008 Season's Transportation Expense \$3865.80
  - (2007) \$ 3567.06 (increased cost due to bus, escort, youth)
  - District Treasurer account balance \$ 3080..48 (*calculated estimate*)

***Comment: Additional funding from the District Clubs will be required to continue in 2009***

2. 2008 Planning: Planning for the 2008 transportation project began in January 2008.
  - Established camp dates: Sunday July 13 to Saturday July 19, 2008
  - Blocking 30 beds with LJC mgr. for bus travelers, including accommodations for Lions' bus escorts
  - Buses were chartered from Greyhound traveling up Sunday July 13, returning Saturday July 19
  - Lion Gerry Fielding assisted with this year's trip
  - Client letters sent informing clients of travel dates and for requests for coach reservations

- Travel prep. - scheduling stops, contacting travelers, lunches, colour coded luggage tags, etc
3. **2008 Adult Bus Trips** The bus trips went very well, and all 27 passengers expressed enjoyment and appreciation for the leisurely hassle free transportation. The weather was good and everyone seemed to have a good time. The numerous behind the scene planning and detail handling, along with the generous support of the Lions and Lioness of District A-1 enabled us to serve in a unique and professional manor, that is an envy in other Districts. Lion Gerry and I would like to express our appreciation for your continued support for this project and assure you that it is a needed and wanted service that is truly worth while. Be proud as we once again brought excitement and smiles to the faces of some very special people.
  4. **2008 Youth Trips** This year we received a request to assist a youth to attend Teen Week. Since he was not old enough to stay during Adult period, he required separate transportation. A special fare and travel assistance was negotiated with Greyhound and he reports having a great time. He and his mother expressed their appreciation, indicating without the assistance from the Lions he would not have been able to attend.
  5. **2009 CNIB Lake Joseph Centre** - Lions ‘ *interest* ‘ Would you be interested in participate: in CNIB Lake Joseph Centre Activities? **Please contact me with your comments.**
    - Work Weekend – May 2009, opening and setting up for the summer season  
The possibility of organizing a group from our District to travel up for a weekend of work and fellowship.
    - Lions’ Appreciation Day – August 2009, cheques presentation and overnight stay
    - CNIB hosts an annual Appreciation Day when Clubs from across the Multiple District gather to make donations and enjoy the facilities in a day of fellowship with Lions and CNIB staff.
    - Lions’ Lake Joseph Centre Transportation Project – July 2009
    - Our annual trip to and from the Lake Joseph Centre escorting blind vacationers
  6. **As requested by District Governor Don “One or two goals for the 2008-9 lions’ year ? “**
    - Continued support for the District A-1 Lions’ LJC Transportation Project
    - To form a combined effort of the District Sight Conservation and the District LJC
    - Transportation Project with support of the District Cabinet to take a more active role assisting the blind and visually impaired to ensure their physical and financial access to the Centre. The CNIB has made many changes of which include ignoring the voices of the blind, that has resulted in some who wanted to attend, could not. As financial sponsors, we have the influence to advocate and assist the blind with their concerns.

**“Any specific requests for support from Cabinet? “**

    - The CNIB Lake Joseph Centre is a unique operation that has immeasurable importance to blind and visually impaired people and their families. I would like to request that our District continue and improve our support of the Centre and take a more active role in reviewing the operation to ensure our investment are being utilize in the best interest of the blind vacationers.
    - First, understand how much support is being sent to the Centre from our District and how it is being used?
    - Second, as knights of the blind it is important that we have more direct contact with those who we are serving, by better understanding their needs and concerns.
    - Serving with, rather than just serving. I would like our District to encourage more activities that include the participation of persons who are blind and visually impaired.

**Conclusion:** *“If they can’t get there, they can’t benefit”, This project is our opportunity to serve.*

**District A-1 Golf - No Report**

**A motion by VDG Evelyn Spiering , Seconded by RC Janet Gawne to accept the Cabinet Chairs Reports. Carried.**

### **New Business**

1. Past Council Chair Dave Balmos and Cabinet Treasurer Joyce Doucet conducted a “quick” audit of the Convention Committee books and found all in order. The records were then passed over to PCC Dave Balmos as he is “Registration Chair” for the upcoming District A-1 convention in April, 2009. An audit of District A-1 books for 2007 – 2008 year will be conducted by PDG Bill Bissonnette, Diabetes Committee Chair Bev Wirta, VDG Eve Spiering at their earliest convenience in compliance with District A-1 Constitution and By-laws. The audit results are as follows:
2. The audit team (PDG Bill Bissonnette, Lion Bev Wirta, CT Joyce Doucet and VDG Ev Spiering) reviewed District A-1 2007 - 2008 accounts on August 27, 2008. The audit team noted that standard accounting procedures were followed with the exception that several expenditures were not supported by receipts. However, in all cases where lack of receipt was noted, the expenditure was deemed reasonable and usual for the conduct of District A-1 business. *The statement of accounts accurately reflects District A-1 financial status with the following exceptions being noted: Honorariums for Cabinet Treasurer and Cabinet Treasurer are not issued: (\$250 ea.). Donations (from Amherstburg) of \$250 to Cavalcade and \$250 to Diabetes Awareness not issued. This concludes the audit report*
3. **Bills to be Paid**
  - Office Supplies - \$404.09
  - Lake Joseph Transportation Committee – Wendy Frenette (reimbursement of bus ticket) - \$161.81; top up Lake Joseph Transportation Committee back to \$500 start-up amount - \$468.42 – Total - \$630.23
  - Point Pelee Days Inn expenses – Total invoice - \$1836.66 (break-down – Cabinet Meeting expenses - \$393.00; School of Training - \$1443.66 less monies collected for lunch and registration \$835.00 total cost to District - \$608.66)
  - Effective Speaking - \$61.31 – to reimburse Doug Riehl for expenses out of pocket early in 2007-2008 Cabinet Year

**TOTAL EXPENSES TO BE REIMBURSED: \$2097.29**

**Motion by ZC Mike Blonde, seconded by RC John Ross, to pay the bills. Carried.**

4. **Club Officers Training:**
  - **Motion by RC Joan Cope seconded by VDG Evelyn Spiering that District A-1 seek a central location for club officer training to be held in May or June 2009. Carried**

### **Announcements**

1. Lion Mickey has Emerson pins for sale
2. Rob Spiering Memorial Golf Tournament will be held at Kettle Creek on September 28, 2008
3. Chatham Breakfast will be held March 1, 2009
4. Chatham 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be held May 2, 2009.

### **Closing Remarks DG Don**

“Smiling Buddha” Award for the “Most Positive Lion” went to Lion Jim Deslippe

### **50/50 Draw: The lucky winner was PCC Dave Balmos**

**Motion to adjourn by RC Joan Cope, seconded by ZC Gord Anderson.**

**Respectfully submitted  
Cabinet Secretary  
Carolyn Oshell**

