

# **District A-1 District Meeting**

**April 4-5th, 2009**

**Sarnia**

**District A-1 District Meeting**  
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**Sarnia**

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 AM by DG Don with the singing of O Canada followed by a “Minute of silence” for the departed members of the Lions family.

**District Governors Welcome:** Sawasdee ka, Sawasdee khrub

Welcome to this gathering of heroes. Today I will start again with some words from IP Al Brandel in a letter written to me just this week.

“I am sure that you believe that the Lions in your district are good people and know the many wonderful things they have accomplished over the year.”

And I thought Wow! IP Al knows what’s happening in A-1! He must know about the Healing Garden Project in London! Caledonia II Seniors Residence in Dutton, EyesRight in St. Thomas, a new playground in Leamington, Dimes for Diabetes in Zone 1W, Cataract Clinic support in Petrolia!

I was ecstatic.. an IP that takes the time to find out what is happening in A-1! We must be doin’ good! But then IP Al went on..

“But these are difficult days and they call for more than good intentions and cheerfully maintaining the status quo. Much more. Lions Clubs around the world are finding it necessary to completely reinvent themselves to meet the new and urgent needs that the unsteady economy is creating in their communities.”

Wow! Now it sounds scary. Re-invent? Change? Well we have been doing a bit of that to. Some clubs have finally seen the sense to admit women. Women have had the sense to join. Many clubs are embracing membership growth as a core value. We are the only District in MDA who base Lions membership is growing. Good work Lions! Keep the focus.

“Reach Out” with your mind .. to what we are not, but must be .. in order to continue growing . We are heroes.. and the world is in need of more heroes.

**Convention Attendance:** 302 attendees (212) Lions, (44) Lioness (17) Leos (29) Guests

**Treasurers Report:** The Bank Ledger was emailed to all cabinet members prior to the meeting. Bank Balance 67,916.99 .

Bills to be paid:

- 2 cheques for the winners of the bulletin contest
- Ev Spiering cheque to reimburse her for engraving expenses to put Mark & Don's name on the District gong \$13.56
- Joan Cope cheque to reimburse her for expenses to purchase an easel, stand, etc. for training purposes - \$126.08
- Governor Don to reimburse him for awards - \$621.50
- Lions International bill to pay for awards - \$80.46
- Effective Speaking needed money transferred to their account - \$6,500.00

If you require a copy of the financial statement by email please contact the CS Carolyn.

**A motion to accept by Ev Spiering 2nd by Joan Cope. Carried**

At the January 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting RC Joan Cope made a motion that by March 31/09 the in-trust funds from the Westmount Lions settlement be donated to the St. Joseph Health Care Foundation in support of the Ivey Eye Institute expansion at St. Joseph Hospital London on behalf of District A-1 Lions. 2nd John Ross. Carried

**A motion by Joan Cope, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ev Spiering that the in-trust funds of \$4545.43 from the Westmount Lions settlement be donated to the St. Joseph Health Care Foundation in support of the Ivey Eye Institute expansion at St. Joseph Hospital London on behalf of District A-1 Lions. Carried**

**Cabinet Secretary's Report**

Copies of the **Reporting Schedule, agenda & minutes** were e-mailed to all Cabinet Officers and all Cabinet Chairs. All clubs and PDGs were emailed the minutes (twice) and the agenda for April 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Rodney Lions were mailed their information. Lion Curtis also posted the minutes on the website.

All clubs and cabinet chairs were emailed requesting information for the club envelopes. Three flyers were requested to be inserted. I decided to email the information to the clubs saving photo copies, envelopes and labels.

Since all clubs except Rodney have email contacts, the District might consider using email instead of envelopes in the future.

**A motion by Bob Tanner, seconded by John Ross to accept the minutes of the January 25<sup>th</sup> 2009 meeting as emailed. Carried**

**Correspondence**

- Sent out emails requesting info from the Bulletin, Peace Poster and Convention Memorial Chairs.
- Numerous club announcements were emailed to the club
- District Candidate Announcements were received.

Memos From DG Don

- regarding the resignation and new appointment of the Leadership Chair.
- CTV bingo
- Concerns Regarding Lake Joe Camp and Blind Campers

**District Officer's Reports:**

**Region 1 RC Joan Cope:**

**Zone Reports:**

Region 1 has had three conscientious Zone Chairs this year and I thank them for making my job easier. All clubs are participating in various fundraisers and actively helping out their communities.

The clubs in Zones 1 C and 1 W each participated in a zone project. Zone 1 C Chair Gord Anderson is particularly proud of the clubs in his zone donating in excess of \$8000 cash and over 20 cartons of food to their local food banks from September to March. Zone Chair Marianne Robinson of Zone 1 W is pleased with the "Dimes for Diabetes" project, which rose over \$2600.00.

As well, in 1 Central, Kingsville Lions partnered successfully with the Friends of John R Park Homestead to obtain a \$75,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The Leamington Lions raised over \$50,000 to build a fully accessible playground.

In Zone 1 East, Stoney Point Lions donated \$12,000 to help decorate the downtown with Xmas lights and also donated \$20,000 towards Lakeshore Skate Park. Zone 1 E Chair Mike Blonde reports that all clubs are maintaining their membership.

**Region Chair:**

**Monthly Activity Reports:** Of 17 clubs in Region 1, only two have not submitted their district Monthly Activity Reports. I am pleased to report that Zone 1 C is up to date in Reports submitted. This is a great improvement over the beginning of the year when 7 clubs had not submitted reports as of last Cabinet meeting in Jan. I discovered that several club secretaries and presidents had been unaware of the District Form, underscoring the importance of officer training. The remaining two clubs have been unresponsive. (Amherstburg Lions -Zone 1 W and Lighthouse Cove – Zone 1 E)

**Region 1 Rally:** Hosted by the Harrow Colchester Lions Club this successful event was fun and well attended with 48 Lions present.

**Region 1 Speak-Off:** Unfortunately this had to be cancelled due to lack of participation in the Region.

**Communication with Club Presidents and Secretaries:**

- Reminder to pertinent clubs about sending in overdue MMR's
- Reminders to pertinent clubs about overdue MDA Dues
- Reminder to all clubs about timely Club Officer Nominations and Elections

- Reminders to pertinent clubs to send Monthly Activity Reports when overdue
- Provided assistance to certain clubs re. the correct reporting forms to use
- Sent notices and registration form to all clubs re. Officer Training at May 9 School of Instruction in Chatham
- Assisted the Chatham Lions Club in trying to help a member receive acknowledgement of continuous years as a Lion
- Sent mailings by post to 3 clubs without internet access in Jan.
- Requested all clubs to save past issues of Lions Magazine for Pres. Ali Sama of Tecumseh Lions Club

### **Membership Growth Plans:**

In March, I met with three of four designated small clubs in Region 1 to develop a Membership Growth Plan with each. It was a delightful and rewarding experience. These three clubs now have the use of a template on which to build their club membership. It's a good beginning point. The clubs are: Essex and District Lions, Tecumseh Lakeside Lions and Stoney Point Lions. The Wheatley Lions have yet to schedule a meeting date.

### **Zone Advisory Meetings**

Since September, I've attended Advisory Meetings in Zones 1C, 1W, and 1E.

Thank you Governor Don for encouraging me to be Region 1 Chair. I've thoroughly enjoyed being a member of our District Cabinet team. Thank you, Lions all.

### **Region 2 RC John Ross**

Zone Chair 2 South Lion Wayne Cudney, to report a successful year, he has completed all official visits and is very excited to report that Zone 2 South will meet or surpass their goal of a 10% membership increase.

They have also completed their Zone project, which is "Eyes Right" and will be presenting all proceeds at the Cabinet meeting.

40 members were in attendance at the annual euchre tournament in Port Stanley, and for the 3<sup>rd</sup>. consecutive year Dutton & District Lions were the "WINNERS".

Reporting from Zone 2 North Z.C. Lion Peter Seguin - All clubs are preparing for a very busy summer. London Centrals 5 year, (\$50,000.00) commitment to the Ivey Eye Institute at St. Joseph's hospital and Hyde Park designing Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides, to be the recipient of this year's profits from the "Country Cruizin" nights.

Hyde Park reports 4 new members, London North 1 member transfer from Ottawa, London Forest City, 2 potential, London Central 2 members transfer from out of town. Sadly we report the loss of Lion Jane Bettery, and Lion Irwin Luther.

From the East Z.C. Lion Tim O'Brien reports that he has completed three of his four club visits. At his third Zone Advisory meeting in Dorchester, (March 24/09) checks were presented to the "Tara Boom Houston Foundation" as their Zone project for the year. This is a non-profit organization that provides financial assistance to families with a child that is suffering from a life threatening illness.

Zone 2 East stands at 116, a plus seven since Sept of 2008. "Congratulations"  
All clubs are busy with community events so that we may support Lions projects, Sight First, Effective Speaking, to name a couple.  
Belmont and Springfield Lion are sponsoring schools in the area for the "NO CHILD WITHOUT" projects.  
Sadly we report the loss of Lion Paul Lewis and Lion Jake Dale.

As Region Chair I, Lion John Ross, I would like to take this opportunity to say "congratulations" to each of the Zion Chairs, a strong and joint effort for growth in our region, job well done by all.

The Region Rally, A successful and fun filled night was held at the Thorndale Lions Hall February 20<sup>th</sup>, approximately 80 plus Lions enjoyed a night of games and fellowship. The proceeds from the evening were donated to the "Healing Gardens".

Three Candidates announced they are running for District Cabinet Positions.

### **Region 24**

**Zone 24W:** I have completed 4 of my 5 visits and held 2 zone advisory meetings. Currently Zone 24W is conducting a draw on 2 riding mowers, a day at the spa and a 19" TV. The draw is to raise funds for Diabetes and is an annual event. On March 1st we held a Jamboree in Wyoming and raised \$9000.00 for the Pat Malioux Eye Clinic in Petrolia and to date 24w has committed \$30000.00 to this project. Glencoe installed 4 new members.....Lion Bob Tanner ZC 24W

### **ZONE 24 SOUTH:** R. Murray McDonald

1. Zone visits: 5 of 6 completed;
2. Advisory meetings 2 completed 1 cancelled; (to be rescheduled);
3. Interclub visits were encouraged at the beginning of the year and they are progressing quite well;
4. Membership: The Zone 24 South clubs are acutely aware of membership issues. Despite the successes of the Strathroy and Delaware clubs, membership remains relatively flat within the zone. Retention does not appear to be an issue in the zone. Recruiting new members seems to be the difficulty and with a rapidly aging demographic membership remains static.
5. The Strathroy club is celebrating their 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year!

### **Activities:**

- All clubs within the zone have carried out successful fundraisers to date, the most recent being Poplar Hill with their "Trivia Night" and Mount Brydges with their "Farmer's Night".

### **Major fundraisers** planned within Zone 24 South:

- **Delaware:** "Annual Fish Fry", April, 25;
- **Poplar Hill:** "Lobo Union School Picnic BBQ & Parade, followed by Chicken Dinner", June 13, 2009;
- **Melbourne:** "Melbourne Lions Annual Chicken BBQ", June 13, 2009;
- **Ilderton:** "Annual Ribs and Tails" June 19, 2009;

- **Mt Brydges:** “Dance BX93”, June 20, 2009;
- **Strathroy:** “Annual Turkey Festival”, last weekend in June.

### **Zone Chair 24N Report: Janet Gawne**

Goals for 2008/2009 Lions Year:

- To have speakers at two zone advisory meetings. I had a speaker on Energy conservation at my 1<sup>st</sup> Zone advisory meeting in October. I will be arranging a speaker for my third meeting to be held on April 20<sup>th</sup> in Lucan
- To develop a zone project in which all five clubs in the zone will participate. Our zone project was to help with a fundraiser to help support the family of a young burn victim. All five 24N clubs contributed towards the event either financially, obtaining items for the silent auction or helping at the event. There were many service clubs involved in this community event including 7 Lions Clubs and over \$23,000 dollars were raised as a result.

I have completed all club visits and learned a lot about the challenges faced by our clubs with the work they do to raise funds with which they support many causes both community and Lions based.

### **District Chair’s Reports :**

#### **Retention (Jacqui Flood)**

First I would like to thank you Governor Don for asking me to serve District A-1 this Lions year.

I was pleased that I was asked to give a retention presentation to 4 zone advisory meetings, which totals 17 clubs in Zone 1 West, Central & East, 6 clubs in Zone 2, and 1 club in Zone 24.

There has been an increase in membership in the 3 of the 4 Zones that have received the retention presentation, which totals 12 members.

Sarnia Township had asked me to facilitate a retreat, which turned out to be at their regular meeting due to severe weather conditions. A club rating was completed and sent to me from 16 members. I analyzed the questionnaires and found a couple of concerns that was common throughout them. After a great deal of input from the members several ideas to assist the club with retention and membership were developed. At the upcoming meetings Pres Kurt plans to organize and work on developing an action plan to address concerns.

Good news and bad news from the District statistics. Good news 64 new members were brought in this year as of the end of Feb, where as only 48 for the whole year in 2007. As far as members dropped, there have been 70 as of the end of Feb and 79 by the end of last year. The results of the net change are 13 clubs have increased, 11 stayed the same and 23 have dropped in membership. We need 55 members with no drops at the end of the year to achieve 1,250 members.

#### **Constitution & By Laws (Joe Madacsi)**

There are 11 resolutions to be voted on

**Resolution 1 to 5**

We are adding 1<sup>st</sup> Vice and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice in place of Vice District Governor

**Resolution 6**

We are adding the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor to this section in place of Vice District Governor

**Resolution 7 to 9**

We are adding 1<sup>st</sup> vice and 2<sup>nd</sup> vice in place of Vice District Governor

**Resolution 10 and 11** are the duties of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor

**District A-1 Convention (Ray Adam)**

As Convention Chair I want to personally thank each and every one of you for taking the time to show your support for this Convention and of our great District.

I feel it's time to explain the committee structure and how we got these good jobs. Several years ago the membership started to get concerned that the cost of attending our Conventions, were getting out of hand. At that time a Region or Zone would bid on getting a Convention in their city and they would organize and run it. Of course the Clubs involved would make a couple of bucks each for their efforts. So it went to Long Range Planning and our present system evolved.

1<sup>st</sup> year the Vice District Governor Elect sits on the Committee to observe.

2<sup>nd</sup> year now you are Governor it is your Convention.

3<sup>rd</sup> year you are Voting and Credentials Chair.

4<sup>th</sup> year you are Registration Chair.

5<sup>th</sup> year you are Convention Vice Chair.

6<sup>th</sup> year you are Convention Chair.

7<sup>th</sup> year it's your last and you are the Memorial Service Chair.

So for 7 years you observe and learn, so that we can keep costs down and try to make everyone in the Lions Family happy.

Every piece of correspondence I have received from you has been read at the Committee meetings and acted upon. Maybe no action will be taken this year, but at some point a member may say, remember that suggestion so and so made three years ago, that could work now.

Now I am in my 6<sup>th</sup> year and wonder what are we doing wrong? Our Conventions are getting smaller and smaller every year and we have to do something about it. Is it the economy? Is the Convention too long?

The reason we can keep costs down is that we guarantee the hotels a certain number of guests for the weekend and they give us meeting rooms and some other perks at no cost to the Lions. If our numbers keep falling, we will lose these perks and our cost will rise.

It's time for change. One suggestion that was brought forward is a one night Convention. Opening ceremonies on Saturday morning then a business session, lunch and a couple of learning sessions then take the evening off for fellowship. Sunday morning Voting, the Memorial Service and finish our business session.



The thing is Lions we need your help. We know we can not maintain the Status Quo. Every Club President and Secretary has a District Directory, in it you will find our email addresses. PDG Bill is the Convention Chair next year and there are 7 names of Committee members. Please let us know what you think.

### **Effective Speaking (Ron Lindsay)**

I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to be the Effective Speaking Chair this year. It certainly has been and exciting and rewarding challenge.

Thanks to the Clubs who have made your donations. All of the money is required to finance the annual program.

Donations were up this year 40 Lion Club donate out of 48.

3 of these 8 Clubs donated last year, hopefully they still will.

Donations from Lioness Club 9 out 16

3 of these 7 Clubs donated last year, again hopefully they still will.

48 Lion and Lioness Clubs have donate this year to support this rewarding program that helps our children to learn self esteem and motivation (which most of them are very motivated. Last year was 45 Clubs.

The Speakers from the District Speak off that was held 29 March 2009 will be advancing to The MDA Finals in Toronto 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 2009

Once again this year we did not have any French Candidates

We have completed our Region Effective Speaking Contests. Region 1 held in Tilbury No Candidates 22 February 2009

### **Region 2 held in Thorndale 01 March 2009**

Senior English Emily King – Lambeth Lions Club - **Winner**

Junior English Keeley Baker – Thorndale Lions Club - **Winner**

Junior English Gemma Olds \_ Thorndale Lions Club - **Winner**

Junior English Heidi Buyze Runner-up

### **Region 24 held in Petrolia 08 March 2009**

Senior English Cara Brandon Petrolia Lions Club - **Winner**

Senior English Kelly Stevens Petrolia Lions Club - **Winner**

Intermediate English Mikaela Snooks - **Winner**

Junior English Marissa Mueller Petrolia Lions Club - **Winner**

Junior English Karlee Searle Delaware Lions Club - **Winner**

Junior English Hannah MacInnes Petrolia Lions Club - **Runner - up**

Junior English Megan Van Kessel Delaware Lions Club - **Runner - up**

### **The District Contest was held 29 March 2009 in St Thomas**

Region 2 held in Thorndale 01 March 2009

Senior English Cara Brandon Petrolia Lions Club - **Winner**

Senior English Emily King - Lambeth Lions Club - **Second Place Senior**

English Kelly Stevens - Petrolia Lions Club - **Third Place**

Intermediate English Mikaela Snooks - Petrolia Lions Club - **Winner**  
Junior English Keeley Baker -Thorndale Lions Club - **Winner**  
Junior English Gemma Olds - Thorndale Lions Club - **Second Place**  
Junior English Gemma Olds - Thorndale Lions Club - **Third Place**  
Junior English Karlee Searle - Petrolia Lions Club - **Fourth Place**

Our 3 Speakers that will be going to Toronto where asked to attend and present their Speech's on Sunday Morning 13 April 2009 from 8:45am- 9:00am before the Memorial Service. Our Intermediate Speaker will not be able to attend because of a previous commitment and will be away.

Thanks again for your club support and to all the Lions that helped in the Club, Region and District Speak Offs, You are My Hero's.

This concludes my report until after the MDA Speak Off in Toronto and I will have all cost to the program itemized to be sent to the District Treasurer for the final Cabinet meeting 14<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

If you have not donated to the program, there is still time.  
I have the donation list me if you want to verify if you're Clubs Donated.

**Remember the Youth of Today are Canada's Future Leaders.**

#### **Public Relations & Lion Magazine (Mike Kresky)**

Further to my last report of January 25<sup>th</sup>, within the MDA Magazine, February issue, I am pleased to report the inclusion of articles from 3 Clubs – Dutton & District, Hyde Park & District and the Sarnia Township Lions Clubs.

In their submissions each Club and their Public Relations Chair followed a certain set of criteria. It is indeed fortunate that the February's issue – inside back cover – clearly outlines what must be done to gain consideration for publication. Essentially it forms a quality guide of the Do's and Don'ts to follow.

For the Clubs in District A-1, we also have the privilege of having a District A-1 reporter in Lion Marilyn Madacsi, who receives and in turn, submits articles on your Club's behalf. Occasionally in her review, she is able to contact the Club and obtain any additional information that may further strengthen the article and then, to the Club's benefit, submit and in turn follow up on articles sent for our publication's consideration. I again thank Lion Marilyn for her efforts and dedication in this area.

Each of us must recognize, that despite best efforts, both internal and external publications strive to obtain a balance of articles they consider newsworthy within the space constraints they face. DO NOT fall into the trap of being frustrated should any submission not be published. It may take several attempts before recognition is finally received and that recognition is sure to benefit your Club.

Turning to the inside back cover for a moment, a lot of effort went into these guidelines and I encourage each Club to make copies of these and ensure they get into the hands annually of your duly appointed Club Public Relations Chair/Committee. Why is this so important? I am aware of the guide's content being reviewed by Editors outside of our organization as well, and, they in turn, have provided positive feedback, stating that by structuring your submissions in this prescribed manner, it will serve to create newsworthy coverage of items, recognizing humanitarian acts, service projects and fundraising activities. Generating and strengthening your public relations, this is what we must continually strive for. The process of continuing to build on our outside recognition and, in focusing to promote our positive image within our communities, will continue to provide a higher level of both community awareness and recognition, broadening the community's knowledge as to what we as Lions do. This benefit will lead to both stronger Clubs and stronger communities, two areas of ownership in Lionism we take pride in.

**Leader Dog for the Blind (Mickey Puddicomb)**

“Since our last Cabinet meeting.”

GUEST SPEAKING – Belmont Lions Club, 2 Schools, one Women's group, 2 Men's group, to the staff at Smitty's Restaurant, one Nursing Home & in the Hospital Children's Ward.

DISPLAYS – In all above plus Hospital Cafeteria & Chatham Lions Breakfast.

MENTOR to a gentleman going through the applicant stages of getting a Leader Dog, he will be going in May.

MENTOR with a lady who will be coming home with a guide dog in Oakville, who wishes to call on me for support when she gets home.

DONATIONS – Since my last report \$12,000.00 Lions and other.

LEADER DOG 50/50 TICKETS Books of tickets were sent to all Lions, Lioness and Leos in our District, I thank those who purchased them. As of today I have them for sale for individuals to purchase at \$5.00 each. Draw is May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Chatham Lions 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. As of this report both the winner and Leader Dog will both be the winners of a little over \$1,000.00 Thanks to 29 Lion Clubs, 9 Lioness Clubs & personal sales.

LEADER DOGS FOR THE BLIND. Today April 4TH/09 marks their 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. They were established in 1939 by 3 Lions wishing to have a school in the Detroit area. Giving back the quality of life to those Blind, Visually Impaired & Deaf Blind. Leader Dogs have provided over 500 graduated teams in our MDA you will find Leader Dogs all over Canada and the world. We were the first & now the only school at this time to open our doors to anyone in need of independence in the world.

With the increasing number of Lions & the economy have caused the tightened of budgets. We have had many staff cut backs to allow us to continue with the quality of training of dogs and graduates.

We appreciate all the Lion clubs that have donated in the past, present & who will continue to

donate and the other clubs that now realize you have Leader Dogs in your area. As not all dogs seen in Canada are trained here. WE NEED YOU TOO.

### 70TH ANNIVERSARY BADGES FOR YOUR BANNER AND PINS FOR YOUR MEMBERS

Are still available for your club to send \$70.00 to Leader Dog and your club will receive a badge for your banner and an Anniversary pin for each of your members you have until the first of July to send your cheque.

PRESENTATION on behalf of Leader Dogs for the Blind to London Central Lions Club for their donation of \$6,000.00 from their annual Fish Fry May 1<sup>st</sup> 2008 this was on top of their annual donation.

### **Lions Foundation Canada (Rick Letton)**

I have been setting up visitations with clubs now that the weather has finally returned to being some what “normal”.

I have visited two clubs to date and have arranged to visit 5 others in the next two months. I am available to visit any club who wish to learn more about Lions Foundation of Canada and the great work that they do.

Just a quick reminder of LFC programs: 1) Canine Vision Dog Guides for the Blind is the original area that LFC started in. Due to demand, they also train dogs to be Hearing Ear Dog Guides, Special Skills Dog Guides and their latest project is Seizure Response Dog Guides where they have had 14 teams graduate so far this Lions year.

It is difficult to imagine the difference that having a Dog Guide can make, in peoples lives! A blind person who for the first time can be mobile without the fear that they will take a misstep that will lead to injury. A hearing impaired person, who can finally have kids, as they will have the assistance they need to hear when their children are calling them, or even as simple a thing as letting them know the phone is ringing. A special needs person who can now have a bit more independence now that they have a dog that can retrieve items for them, help them get into bed at night, turn on lights, open doors for them! Just imagine the feeling of independence and self esteem that they will have as they can do more things for themselves! Parents of children who have seizures can now get regular nights sleep as the dog is with the child and can alert them if there is a problem. The child can go into the backyard by themselves, as the parents know the dog is there to keep their child safe.

This is truly amazing work that LFC does. But as with all projects, this costs money and for the LFC to continue their great work, Lions, we need to continue supporting them. Please donate.

LFC has a host family program for raising puppies. This is a wonderful way to have a dog become involved in your family life. LFC provides everything you need for the puppy, except for the “toys” that all puppies love to chew on. From our clubs experience, having a puppy or a guide dog on hand at your fund raising events can help increase your sales. As you are aware, London Central Lions sell Easter Bunnies and last weekend we were at the LCBO selling and Lion Jim Lystar brought around his daughters retired dog guide. Immediately our sales went up

from the attention the dog brings. Of course it doesn't hurt that the dog was the best looking Lion there. Not only did our sales increase, but the inquiries about Lions and our projects also increased. So if you have any reservations about getting a puppy, now you have one more reason as to why you should get one.

Before I go, I would like to thank the Hyde Park & District Lions Club for designating Lions Foundation of Canada as the charity to receive the profits from this summers Country Cruizin nights starting Thursday May 14, 2009. Country Cruizin will be held every Thursday night, right up to October 1, 2009. Last year, this event raised over \$ 10,000.00 and LFC is looking forward to assisting this fund raising project how ever they can.

Again, I am available to speak to any club that is interested in learning more about Lions Foundation of Canada.

### No Child Without (Bruce Edwards)

#### **Schools Sponsored To-date**

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| • Ekcoe Elementary School                | Glencoe District Lions Club |
| • St. Charles Catholic Elementary School | Van Heck Funeral Home       |
| • Confederation Elementary School        | Sarnia Township Lions Club  |
| • Belmont Jr. Elementary School          | Belmont Lions Club          |
| • Belle River Elementary School          | Belle River Lions Club      |

#### **Schools Sponsorship in Progress**

- |                                     |                        |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| • Springfield Jr. Elementary School | Springfield Lions Club |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|

#### **Clubs Considering School Sponsorship**

Wyoming Lions Club (4)  
 Essex & District Lions Club (1)  
 Blenheim Centennial Lions Club (4)  
 Ilderton Lions Club (1)

#### **Scheduled Presentations**

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| • May 25, 2009 | Delaware Lions Club                     |
| • April 3,4,5  | Display Table @ "A Gathering of Heroes" |

#### **District A-1 Lions Plans for Immediate Future**

- Lion District Governor Don has set a goal of one school sponsored in each of our nine Zones by the end of this Lions year
- A commitment by your Committee Chair to visit any interested Club to describe and/or answer questions regarding "*No Child Without*".
- Considering plans for more Club contact for next Lions year, possibly with another representative to visit Clubs in District A-1

### Communications (Webmaster/Newsletter) Curtis Marwood

Perhaps the best accountability report I can give as the chair of Internet Technology / Communication is the web site itself. "What you see is what you get." Do you the members and

the public find it **informative, attractive, easy to navigate** and **effective** in representing District A1 and your clubs in our service as Lions? I invite you to be the judge.

I have tried to keep these criteria as my goals, but your input can make it better. I have asked in previous reports for your contributions, particularly from the Committee Chairs and Cabinet. However, I have not received many. I am still looking for short comments about your area of service.

Clubs are beginning to catch on that they can promote their events or share their achievements. Keep the photos and captions coming.

I believe the site is being visited more. The counter shows over 1600 hits since September 2008. Remember that the internet is becoming more popular than the print media and the District site is an easily accessible vehicle for you to let your community know who you are and how you serve. Let me know how it can work for you?

The web site also includes the **Governor's Newsletter** in a 4 page printable format. Four issues have been produced so far this year. Please share it with your members.

For clubs that do not have a web site or the expertise to build one, there are several sites that provide templates that make it easy for some one with simple computer typing skills to create a good looking and informative web site. *ClubWizard* is an example and one I found that looks good. It is found at [http://www.clubwizard.com/?src=g\\_L](http://www.clubwizard.com/?src=g_L) .

Finally, I want to thank Governor Don for his encouragement and confidence. I have been proud to serve with him as Chair of these portfolios.

### **International Understanding and Peace (Ann Neill)**

Although I did not accomplish as much as I had hoped this year, it was a learning year for me and I enjoyed getting involved in this program.

We had 2 clubs that participated in the Peace Poster contest - St. Thomas and Parkhill. The winner from District A-1 was Megan Kuhn from Faith Christian Academy in St. Thomas. Thank you to the St. Thomas and Parkhill Lions Clubs for getting involved in this program.

I am not sure how best to improve this program but I know the main difficulty with most of the clubs was the time line. Most club chairs commence their duties in September after a busy summer. It doesn't seem to give enough time for the chairs to order their kits, contact the schools and have the posters judged and to the District Governor by November 15<sup>th</sup>.

I believe this is a very worthwhile program and I am hoping that we can keep it running in our district.

I didn't get any responses from clubs interested in twinning this year but there are 2 clubs in the district that are already twinned with another club. Hopefully we can spark some interest next year and get more clubs involved.

I would like to thank Governor Don for giving me the opportunity to serve on his cabinet. I have enjoyed my year.

### **Lake Joseph (Peter Best)**

#### **Goals 2009:**

1. Fundraising for LJC Transportation Project 2009

## 2. Planning & Implementing LJC Transportation Project 2009

### 1. **Fundraising** - *“If they can’t get there, they can’t benefit”*

Fundraising requests have been sent out to the District A-1 Lions’ and Lioness Clubs via August 24, 2008 Cabinet envelopes. Donations followed the request and there is currently sufficient funding for this summer’s trip. Additional funding will be required to ensure the continuation of this project in the future. Thank you for your generous support.

**2. 2009 Planning:** As I reported on January 25, 2009 I began this season’s project on January 3, 2009 as usual, contacting the CNIB LJC manager to set dates for our annual trip. It is usually a quick discussion where I make a request, if not available we review mutually acceptable options and an agreement is reached. With dates set, I contact Greyhound, book the charters, send out advisory notices for the season’s arrangements and at that point we are under way. Good times ahead.

However, not this year. The LJC manager advised me that new operational changes had been implemented. After a few weeks and a number of discussions, I was finally offered the first week of July, last week of August or the first week of September. These dates are considered off season and not the prime periods. When I advised vacationers and the Transportation Committee, the response was that those dates were unacceptable to the blind and visually impaired vacationers and the Lions involved with the project for several reasons that complicated the process. I received numerous calls and emails from Lions, clients and client support persons inquiring and reporting a number of concerns, including date restrictions denying friends from meeting up.

I learned other clients had options during the prime period, so I emailed the LJC manager again, in which I indicated dates that were more convenient, also indicating a number of problems and would appreciate a telephone call to discuss the matters and resolve their concerns. A period passed and I had not gotten a response. The delay in communication was creating several complications for everyone, everything from securing bus charter availabilities for travel days to vacationers applying for financial assistance to be able to attend the camp. There are other inconvenient concerns, but the latter was the major issue for the blind and visually impaired.

I began to realize that something was not right. I discussed the matter with the Transportation Committee and Governor Don and we agreed to make compromises on date selection and other details in the interest of not disappointing the blind and visually impaired vacationers. I eventually received a call from CNIB LJC manager Jacqueline Harrison and CNIB Executive Directory Shari Lovelock. We reviewed a number of client concerns, resolving only the issues I compromised on. I inquired about the client concerns regarding the Financial Assistance Program. I was again told it is a complicated formula and is based on first come first served. I explained that it was not a good system and was not fair to all clients, particularly those wanting to travel on our bus. Ms. Lovelock at this point said that they would contact all the clients by phone regarding the financial assistance. At her request I forwarded to her a list of clients with A and B categories indicating who could “not” afford to pay any more than the base amount and who might be able to pay more. I indicated about thirteen of the vacationers who could not pay more than last year’s base of \$125. Since they (CNIB) would not compromise on anything less than \$200 I said that I would try to come up with the balance of \$75 per person in the

interest of getting the people to the camp. They (CNB) did call, and then the clients and their families started calling me. CNIB LJC was now asking them to pay \$125 plus my \$75 and varying amounts on arrival of \$100 to \$400. Some clients require an attending escort who was being charged an additional \$1300. Some clients, even those who did not have a financial concern were upset with the application process, getting one and filling it out. Finally I received a call from a challenged blind woman who has attended camp each year for quite some time who was so upset she started to cry and asked me to fix the camp. I reviewed my numerous telephone call notes and some thirty emails from clients and their families and some from across the province and decided this situation is much greater than just transporting blind and visually impaired persons to camp and one much more complicated than I should be working on alone.

Please see attachment for further details. "Cancellation Advisory"

There are other issues such as CNIB LJC requests for additional funding, Wish List, website participation and their requests for Lion participation in the camp opening MAY WEEKEND and Lions Appreciation Day. I have not reported on these matters as I feel they are about service to CNIB rather than to the blind and visually impaired. Although they should be of service and support to the blind, that is now questionable, if the blind cannot access the CNIB Lake Joseph Center.

Conclusion:

I have been giving service to my fellow blind and visually impaired friends for many years and over those many years they have been referred to fondly by Lions as "Peter's People". I have never claimed to own them but I do feel very much responsible and want to help them save our camp. I am asking for your support, to honour our commitment to Helen Keller and give service to the blind and visually impaired

This is a complicated problem, one I can only briefly outline in this report. There is no quick answer and I make no claims to have all the answers, but with my experience I do understand the problem. What I do know is that by ignoring it and not dealing with it, it will only cause more difficulty and stress. Resolving the concerns entails understanding the whole problem and addressing them systematically with combined input. This matter requires open honest communication. The CNIB is not responding in a manner that is helpful to the situation. One response is to simply stop funding CNIB LJC requests, but this only punishes the clients for the actions of the agency. The Lake Joseph Centre is a unique and important resource that is very much wanted and needed by the blind and visually impaired people of Ontario. The benefit of being able to have a place where people can come together and share their life experiences and help each other deal with similar life events cannot be measured. As Knights of Blind we need to look at our service to the blind and question whether we are being truly helpful.

Are we serving CNIB or are we giving service to the blind?

Request: In light of the serious scope and the continuation of this matter, I am again asking our District to unite our efforts and those of the Multiple District "A" to investigate this matter. The CNIB is continually requesting funding, but is not appropriately communicating or being accountable. It is my recommendation that the District agree on a position on how to get CNIB's attention and resolve the concerns of the blind and the visually impaired. Throwing dollars into



property that cannot be accessed is only a gesture in futility. Our District has generously supported the CNIB LJC project since its opening and with that I believe we and the people we represent deserve some respectful cooperation.

***“If they can’t get there, they can’t benefit”***

This project is our opportunity to serve.

Attention: **Cancellation Advisory** March 17, 2009

District A-1 Lions Lake Joseph Centre Transportation Project

Fellow Vacationers;

It is with great disappointment and frustration that I must advise you that a decision has been made after lengthy discussions and consideration, to not operate our annual bus trip up to the CNIB LJC this summer, due to irreconcilable issues.

The recent operational changes by the CNIB LJC administration have complicated the coordination of our assistive service and have discouraged client interest in attending. After two months of negotiating and appeals to resolve camper concerns the CNIB administration has declined to compromise in the interest of their clients. I have received numerous emails and phone calls from across the province expressing your concerns and dissatisfaction with the current operation of the camp. The wide range of concerns is difficult to summarize, and includes such areas as; the significant increase in vacationer fees and the first come first serve financial assistance program with its invasive questionnaire and vague qualification criteria, the reduction in programming and length of vacationer stay and increased alternate usage of the facilities. Poor housekeeping and unclean dishes and cutlery. Inconsiderate and disrespectful client treatment. Attempts by me and other LJC guests to address and mitigate such concerns have been met with an uncompromising management that merely apologizes for any inconvenience. Their over structured program appears to be viewed by campers as nothing more than a CNIB interest in guest control. Many vacationers are being denied access on the dates they request, preventing them from meeting up and vacationing with friends. It appears that from the consensus of the commentaries I received, that the CNIB LJC management has lost its focus on the wants and needs of the blind and visually impaired of Ontario and is choosing a path of self interest concentrating on their vision of facility improvement, rather than guest comfort and access. They would also appear to have a hearing impairment, or are choosing not to listen to their customers, who are saying we want and need the camp as a safe, clean, affordable retreat from a sighted world where we can relax, refresh and enjoy fun and fellowship with others who share similar life challenges.

Unless there are major changes soon I fear there will no longer be a camp for the blind. The CNIB has created an unacceptable situation that I personally can no longer support. The future of this Transportation Project and the Lake Joseph Centre depends greatly on your response and support... If you want the camp to continue and to be operated in the interest of all blind and visually impaired, now is the time to speak up. Put your thoughts in writing and forward them to CNIB, your local Lions Club and to the general community. Supporting the CNIB is not necessarily supporting the interests of the blind and visually impaired. I will keep the Lions advised, but it is your opinions that count.

Please accept my sincere apologies for this year’s cancellation. For those who can overcome the obstacles and find your way up to the LJC. I encourage you to take advantage of what the rest of

us will only have as fond memories of what the camp once was. I wish you all a pleasant summer.

**Sight (Dave Balmos)** As you are aware the Transportation committee has cancelled this years bus to camp. There has been a few issues the Lion Peter has had to deal with and on every turn he has kept me informed. At a Zone Advisory meeting in Zone 1 West it was decided that all funds going to CNIB or Lake Joseph stop until this matter can be cleared up. This is not a local issue this issue is all of Ontario with Visually Impaired people losing. The CNIB say they are for the Visually Impaired, but ask the Visually impaired.

Are we not Knights of the Blind, when as Lions do we say enough is enough. I think our District should send a clear message to CNIB, that we do not like what is going on and that we will ask our clubs to stop funneling funds to CNIB and Lake Joseph until we see changes.

### **Region 1 Lioness (Geri Vary)**

I have to date completed all my visits to the Lioness Clubs in Region 1. I must say these clubs are setting a great example of what can be done in a small community by Lioness heroes. Not only do they give to the many District projects, but they give unselfishly of themselves over and over in volunteer hours in their communities. They work with seniors, youth, disabled, they drive patients to appts., work and donate to school breakfast programs and help with funds for the community to bring in doctors. We should all be proud of the great job the Lioness in our areas do to improve the lives of others. Hats off to the Lioness in Region 1, an integral part of the Lions Family of District A-1.

### **Youth Exchange (Jim Deslippe)**

I would like to start by thanking the Lions members who came forward last year to host youth or contacted me with names for families that were interested in hosting the youth.

Once again this year we have 15 youth who are planning to come to camp. The exchange program runs July 4 to August 1<sup>st</sup>. I would like to invite anyone who would like to join us for International Day on July 31<sup>st</sup>. Please contact me as I will need numbers for supper.

To date we have received donations of \$5900 and I would like to thank the clubs and ask any clubs who haven't donated to consider donating to the Youth Exchange Program.

I would like to thank the clubs that volunteer to host the youth for either lunch or supper or as Strathroy does for a day of fun.

We are also looking for more host families this year. There are 2 ten day periods from July 4 to the 15<sup>th</sup> and July 15 to the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Thank You again for your participation in this amazing program.

### **Long Range Planning (Dale Taylor)**

The next meeting of the PDG/Long Range Planning will be April 29, at Spiro's Restaurant in Chatham, at 7 pm. If anyone has a concern they would like us to consider please inform any PDG or myself

This year in response to many request VDG Lion Ev has moved the school of instruction to May 9, at the Union Gas complex in Chatham. This will allow all incoming officers more time to

prepare for their upcoming year. PCC Dave Balmos will be in charge for this meeting. Dave would you please make sure all incoming officers are informed and requested to attend. Governor Don had tried to organize an extension workshop, but had trouble getting a date to accommodate a guest. The last time this worked very well, with the primary idea being ASK lions we can all use this idea in our everyday lives to invite more friends to become HERO'S to help increase our numbers.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lions Curtis and Carolyn for the outstanding job they have done this year, keep up the good work.

### **Healing Garden (Eugene Graham)**

On March 4, 2009 the delegates representing their respective districts met at the office of the Children's Health foundation in London to wind down the fundraising program and plan for the future recognition we will be receiving for the Healing Garden project. Active fundraising has ceased as of March 31<sup>st</sup> but the Foundation will still receive funds from any club wishing to donate.

The total funds to date is \$225,000, short \$25,000 from the original commitment.. District A-1 has raised \$89,000 of the original commitment of \$90,000 and I am sure we will meet that goal. The new hospital grand opening will be in 2011 and more information will be available at a later date.

### **Leos (Tony Beaulieu)**

St. Thomas to Charter their new Leo Club in May or June.

Leos from Glencoe & Petrolia attended the convention.

### **Eyes Right: (Lion Harry Wismer)**

It is with great pleasure that I have been selected as the new chairman of District A-1 Lions Sight Conservation Foundation, commonly known as Eyes Right. In the past year we have completed our pledge to the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital in the amount of \$31, 344.18 on the purchase of a Yag laser.

Our generous Lions, Lioness and Leos of A-1 presented Eyes Right with cheques totaling \$13,875 at the recent cabinet meeting in Strathroy. The board of directors are overwhelmed by the support and generosity of our member clubs in their donations during our difficult economic situation where fundraising is increasingly challenging.

Participation in donations is amazing—79% of the Lions and 100% of the Lioness clubs, and of course our great Leo Clubs.

The amount of donations regarding our District officers' visits, honourariums and memorials has also significantly increased. Thanks to all of you. We have had a very good year and I look forward to a successful term as your new chair of a hard working and dedicated board of directors.

Our mandate, as you know, is to provide ophthalmic surgical equipment to our area hospitals, at their requests through their local Lions club and as the need dictates.

Remember, this foundation is yours, and each board member is at your disposal for advice, information, or speaking to your club. Just ask us. Each of us and/or our family members will

require some sort of surgical intervention in our lifetime and through the generous contributions over the years we can proudly say “we Serve so Others Can See”.

The next project is the financing of a new Phaco machine for the new cataract clinic at the Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital in Petrolia. The cost is \$75,000 to be paid over four years. The Petrolia Lions have committed \$20,000 to Eyes Right towards this project.

Certificates were handed out by the Board of Directors.....Steve Mahovlich, Joe Elliott, Gayle Tanner and Sherry Wismer.

Some donations were received to add to the \$13,344.18 received from the last cabinet meeting.....

Belle River: \$100 for ZC1C Visit

Zone 2S: \$820

Hyde Park: \$500

Skippy draw :\$1246

### **Bulletin Contest (Mary Mahovlich)**

#### **Participation Certificates were handed out to the Bulletin Editors of**

- Arkona Lions
- Chatham Lions
- Delaware Lions
- Dutton District Lions
- Kingsville Lions
- London Central Lions
- Port Stanley Lions
- Windsor Riverside Lions
- Strathroy Lions
- Wheatley Lions

#### **Bulletin Contest Winners**

- Monthly over 40 members Don Geddy Strathroy Lions
- Monthly under 39 members Ann Stevens Chatham Lions
- Honourable Mention Mike Baird Delaware & Bill Telfer Port Stanley
- Twice Monthly Robert Shepley Port Stanley
- Monthly under 19 members Geri Vary Wheatley Lions & Pauline Patterson Windsor Riverside.
- Overall Winner of the Doc Rumball District Trophy Ann Stevens
- Website Draw Tilbury Lions
- Bulletin Draw Wheatley Lions

### **Rob Spiering Leadership Award**

Presented to Dale Taylor Lambeth Lions

### **New Business**

**At the January 25<sup>th</sup> meeting:**

A motion by ZC Bob Tanner to ask LRP if it was feasible to get another \$500.00 for Cabinet Chair expenses. 2nd by Mike Tuxford. Carried

**At the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting**

**Motion by Janet Gawne, seconded by John Ross that upon request, a maximum of \$100 per individual cabinet chair (to a maximum total of \$500 in the Lions year) be considered for expenses by cabinet upon application. Receipts will be required. Carried**

**A motion by Joan Cope, seconded by Gord Anderson that the Governor appoint an ad hoc committee to assist Peter Best in resolving problems related to CNIB Lake Joseph Camp. Carried.**

**Moved by Joan Cope, seconded by Bob Tanner that the Long Range Planning Committee develop a survey to determine interest in a two day District convention: said survey to be conducted by the Zone Chairs with each club visitation, with all input back to the Long Range Planning Committee by March 15, 2010. Carried**

**Election Results: (Mark Mahovlich)**

**Region 1**

**49 Lions eligible to vote, 29 certified and 29 voted**

**Region 2**

**46 Lions eligible to vote, 33 certified and 30 voted**

**Region 24**

**61 Lions eligible to vote, 26 certified & 25 voted.**

DG Elect Ev Spiering was presented with a DG patch

VDG John Ross was presented with a VDG Patch

2011 Convention in London at the Four Points

Yes on all 11 resolutions

Resolution 1 to 5 we are adding 1<sup>st</sup> Vice and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice in place of Vice District Governor

Resolution 6

We are adding the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor to this section in place of Vice District Governor

Resolution 7 to 9

We are adding 1<sup>st</sup> vice and 2<sup>nd</sup> vice in place of Vice District Governor

Resolution 10 and 11 are the duties of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor

**2009-2010 Cabinet**

DG Ev Spiering (St. Thomas)

VDG John Ross (Thorndale)

IPDG Don McKessock (Sarnia)

CS Anne Neill (St. Thomas)

CT Joyce Doucet (Sarnia Township)

Region 1 Chair Mary Mahovlich (Belle River)

Zone Chair 1C Linda Fowler (Essex)

Zone Chair 1E Mickey Puddicombe (Chatham)

Zone Chair 1 W to be announced

Region 2 Chair Wayne Cudney (St. Thomas)  
Zone Chair 2E John Johnson (Belmont)  
Zone Chair 2S Bob Bride (Lambeth)  
Zone Chair 2 North George Croft (Hyde Park)  
Region 24 Chair Janet Gawne (Parkhill)  
Zone Chair 24S Murray McDonald (Ilderton)  
Zone Chair 24W Bob Tanner (Petrolia)  
Zone Chair 24N Bob Radke (ailsa Craig)

**2009-2010 Lioness Cabinet (Janet Payne)**

President – Paula Bax London East  
Vice President – Martha Berze Delaware  
Secretary – Ruby Hunter Springfield  
Treasurer – Mariette Desjardine Mount Brydges

**New Member Contest:**

**Tammy Willinger Belle River**

**Skippy Draw won by Windsor South Lioness**

**Rosemary Kennedy announced that the Lioness Penny Sale netted \$1510 for the convention committee**

**Convention Chair (Ray Adam)**

Thank You's to the convention committee

**Closing Remarks DG Don**

Thank You's

**Motion to adjourne by Ev Spiering, seconded by Peter Seguin**

**Respectfully submitted**  
**Cabinet Secretary**  
**Carolyn Oshell**

