

DISTRICT A-1 DISTRICT MEETING

August 30, 2009

**Adult Lifestyle Centre
20 Merritt Avenue, Chatham**

Governor Evelyn Spiering acted as the Chairperson with the following District Cabinet officers in attendance:

DG Evelyn Spiering	RC 2 Wayne Cudney
VDG John Ross	ZC 2 N George Croft
CS Anne Neill	ZC 2 S Bob Bride
CT Joyce Doucet	RC 24 Janet Gawne
RC 1 Mary Mahovlich	ZC 24 S Murray McDonald
ZC 1 E Mickey Puddicomb	ZC 24 W Bob Tanner

Regrets received from:

IPDG Don McKessock
ZC 1 C Linda Fowler
ZC 2 E John Johnston
ZC 24 N Bob Radtke

Attendance 59: (13) Presidents, (10) Secretaries, (36) Others)

The District Meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. by DG Evelyn with the singing of O Canada and then a Minute of Silence for the departed members of the Lions Family.

District Governor Evelyn welcomed everyone. DG Evelyn asked that everyone sign in and recycle the envelopes. The Cabinet Officers were installed by DG Evelyn.

PDG Dale Taylor introduced our guest speaker, PDG Nancy Ranson, MDA Extention Chair from District A-15. PDG Nancy spoke on where to look to get prospects for new clubs. 86% of Lions are male and 14% are female in our district so possibly we should be aiming at more women, couples, young families and professionals. We should set goals and check the progress of our goals at intervals. Set up workshops. Find possible projects for new clubs.

Treasurer's Report:

CT Joyce presented the 2009-2010 Proposed Budget. The District will run a \$4,700 deficit budget this Lions year.

Changes to be proposed to the budget –

Increase the Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Treasurer’s honorarium to \$300 each from \$250 each.

USA/Canada Forum allotment for the District Governor and Vice District Governor be increased to \$1,000 each from \$750 each.

A motion was made by ZC Murray McDonald and seconded by ZC George Croft to accept the above increases and to put the increases into the policy manual. Carried.

A motion was made by ZC Bob Bride and seconded by ZC Mickey Puddicomb to accept the budget as presented.

PDG Dave Balmos advised that we needed to present a balanced budget for the District, not in the deficit. After discussions, CT Joyce will show further income from the District reserves to balance the budget.

A motion was made by ZC Bob Tanner to amend the original motion and seconded by RC Janet Gawne. Carried.

Additions to CT Joyce’s report: Net worth of District A-1 (including money in the bank, GIC’s, etc.)

Effective Speaking - \$3,296.59 plus \$2,592.00 (money turned over after 2008-2009 program finished)	\$ 5,888.59
Lake Joseph Transportation Committee	\$ 6,600.25
Youth Exchange	\$ 6,167.86
District A-1 - \$16,978.55 plus \$3,454.12 (revenue from District A-1 2008-2009 convention)	\$20,432.67
GIC’s (2)	<u>\$15,626.40</u>
Total Assets	\$54,715.77

All committees (Effective Speaking, Lake Joseph Transportation and Youth Exchange) now have in their bank accounts \$500 each to be maintained in their respective bank accounts to handle various expenses (bank charges, etc.) that may occur. This should be passed over to Constitution and By-laws for the policy to be updated/changed.

With the approval of the Budget, the following invoices have been paid:

Office Supplies - (\$19.25 Anne Neill; \$160.41 Evelyn Spiering)	\$ 179.66
Hall Rental for Sunday, August 30, 2009	\$ 200.00
Name Tags	\$ 220.92
Directories	\$1,057.68
Postage	\$ 56.70
USA/Canada Forum - \$1,000.00 (only \$1,000 will be spent as Vice-District Governor John Ross cannot attend)	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
Total expenses:	\$2,714.96

District A-1 Convention Committee books have been audited by Lion Bev Wirta and PDG Mark Mahovlich. No discrepancies have been found.

District A-1 Effective Speaking books have been audited by Lion Joyce Doucet. No discrepancies have been found. Lake Joseph Transportation Committee had no activity over the past year so their books do not have to be audited. Youth Exchange books still have to be audited but it is being worked on.

District A-1 books (overall ones I keep) still have to be audited. A date and time will be set up shortly.

District A-1 dues are due to be remitted by September 30, 2009. Invoices for the dues are inside the various club envelopes. Please pass them along to your club treasurer as soon as possible. As occurred last year, a Certificate of Appreciation will be awarded to any club that hands them in promptly.

Reminder all proceeds for Effective Speaking, Lake Joseph Transportation Committee and Youth Exchange should be handed into the District A-1 Treasurer for accountability purposes. Another \$10,000 GIC will be purchased by the District.

Cabinet Secretary's Report:

Copies of the Minutes of the June 14th, 2009 District Meeting, Agenda and Reporting Schedules were emailed to all Cabinet Officers and all Cabinet Chairs. All Club Presidents and Club Secretaries (that I had emails for) were emailed the Minutes of the June 14th, 2009 meeting and the Agenda. Rodney Lions were mailed a notice of the Meeting.

CS Anne asked that everyone check the District Directory for any errors and email with the errors. All changes will be emailed to all Cabinet Officers, Cabinet Chairs, PDG's, Club Presidents and Club Secretaries.

Flyers for the 4th Annual Memory Box Fundraiser by the Lambeth Lions Club and Leader Dog Announcements were photocopied and enclosed in the envelopes.

A motion to accept the Minutes of the June 14th, 2009 meeting as printed and disbursed was made by ZC Mickey Puddicomb and seconded by RC Mary Mahovlich.

Correspondence: None.

Vice District Governor's Report:

The term "Move to Grow" motto set by the International President. I understand with each step in Lions brings new opportunities and personal growth and lasting friendships. Over the next few weeks and months, I will be looking for a few good Lions to move forward and grow beyond what you can imagine. So don't deny yourself the excitement and rewards of moving forward.

Goals as VDG: to work with all cabinet through each Region Chair, learning from each and to increase membership in the District. I'm excited about being a part of the MERL team; I fell we have some of the best Lions working to build a stronger District. We have the people with strong skills and knowledge to help us move forward. Remember, it all starts with the invitation, volunteers building communities. Communities were built by volunteers.

Respectfully Submitted, VDG Lion John Ross

IPDG Lion Don McKessock:

There are several challenges awaiting us this year, but we also have a fine leadership group and the continued support of District A-1 Lions. So, I have no doubt that under District Governor Lion Ev's guidance, we are going to have an incredibly successful year.

Region Chair 1 Lion Mary Mahovlich:

I hope to encourage more Lions to consider taking the necessary positions in the District as well as taking Leadership roles within their own clubs.

As Part of the MERL team, I will be helping set up orientation sessions for new Lions as needed.

I will do my best to serve the District by serving the Lions of region 1 and by giving support to my Zone Chairs with their duties.

Zone Chair 1 Central Lion Linda Fowler: No report.

Zone Chair 1 East Mickey Puddicomb:

Goals for 2009-2010 - to work in friendship and pride with all clubs in Zone 1 East and Zone 1 West; offering all clubs confidence that they can turn to me whenever they need me as a Zone Chair and friend; to support all clubs in their endeavors for all their Lion projects; to open a joint effort to support a community event in asking every club to ask each member to bring a can of food or item their Food Bank needs, in honor of my visits then to be given to their personal Food Bank; to encourage my 8 clubs to send members from their clubs to the Nov. 8th Leader Dog Tour and to December 3rd Leader Dog Dinner of Dreams, March 7th Chatham's 20th Annual Breakfast, Windsor Downtown's 90ths Anniversary and any other special events in my two Zones; to grow a stronger unity among all clubs in my Zone area.

Region Chair 2 Lion Wayne Cudney:

District Governor Lion Ev has indicated that the Region Chairs this year work closely with the MERL team. I look forward to this challenge.

Already VDG Lion John Ross, ZC 2 North Lion George Croft and I have attended a meeting with one club in Region 2 that is experiencing problems attaining and retaining members. We have discussed several ideas on how to increase membership and are planning a further meeting in the near future.

I plan on working closely with the 3 Zone Chairs in Region 2 and also plan on attending at least one Zone Advisory Meeting in each zone. Hopefully we can strengthen all clubs this year in Region 2.

Zone Chair 2 North Lion George Croft:

The majority of the 5 clubs in 2N have had a busy summer with year end BBQs and fundraising events. One of my goals is for a 10% increase in members in our Zone. This goal will be achieved, in part, with the able assistance of District Membership Chair Joan who has agreed to do a presentation at our first Zone Advisory meeting on October 26th and also with the enthusiastic assistance of Retention Chair Jacqui who is scheduled for a presentation at the second Zone Advisory meeting on January 21st. The dynamic Lions of Zone 2N will do the rest!!!

VDG John and RC 2 Wayne and I had a meeting in July with the members of Forest City Lions Club which has experienced severe membership problems for several years. The Club President, PDG Bill Overchuk, came with me today and I expect to have a brief follow-up meeting later today with VDG John, RC Wayne and hear the valuable input of Membership Chair Joan to expedite rebuilding efforts with this club.

I'm confident that my additional goal to secure agreement of our five clubs on a Zone Project at our first Zone meeting will be achieved and that all the clubs will have a great year and do their part to ensure that our District remains the best in MD"A".

Zone Chair 2 East Lion John Johnston:

Goals for 2009-2010 – looking forward to working with the other clubs in my zone to put a plan together to achieve our portion of Governor Evelyn's goals for A-1. I have schedule our first Zone meeting for Wednesday, September 16th in Thorndale to begin the process. At that meeting, I will not only outline the governor's goals but also how I am going to incorporate them into my ZC goals. I will also begin the process to complete another successful zone project.

Zone Chair South Lion Bob Bride: No report.

Region Chair 24 Lion Janet Gawne:

Over the summer, we have lost several Lions in our Region, reducing our numbers and making our efforts to increase our membership that much more important.

My goals for the 2009-2010 Lions year include participation in the MERL team and its objectives and to provide support and encouragement to Region 24's Zone Chairs and their clubs. By strengthening our ties as Lions, we can build on the strong foundation which joins Lions in service to each other, our clubs, our communities and beyond that to Lionism and the multitude in need in our world. Mother Teresa said that she was able to continue in her selfless service by not thinking of the huge numbers of people who need help but by focusing on helping one individual at a time. It is hard to imagine how we can address the needs of a world in need of many things but it is perhaps more effective to think about how that bingo or any of countless other fundraisers can stem the tide of need out there. So maybe if we keep in mind the one person whose sight is improved or the child whose family is able to provide enough to eat through visiting an real food bank then it is possible to put a face on the results of what we accomplish as a team of people dedicated to service. We each need to find that face, that story that resonates for us and we can continue to serve. We need to tell our stories to others and attract people to join us as Lions. Our stories are a powerful tool – remember to tell them proudly.

Zone 24 North Chair Lion Bob Radtke:

My goals for the year are to start a zone project at our first zone advisory meeting October 13th, to increase membership by 10% and to promote club visitations.

July and August are usually a little quieter than the rest of the year, but clubs in 24 North were continuing with fund raising activities through the summer.

Arkona's main activities were a couple of bingos a month; clean up of the walking bridge in Arkona and they are going to partner with other community groups to build a park area in an old Brownfield in Arkona. The last project will take a couple of years.

Ailsa Craig's main activities were starting to help the North Middlesex Medical Centre fund a new doctor's facility in Ailsa Craig. Our July 1st breakfast raised over \$1500 for the effort. We ran the bar for Gala Days Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, and today we are assisting for the 6th year the VON walk with coffee, water, fruit, donuts, and muffins at the registration centre. We have received a Trillium grant of \$20,000 which is being used to start paving the pathways in our Lions Park.

Granton ran their annual fun day, maintained the park, and looked after their hall rental which is a large part of the funds they raise.

Zone 24 West Chair Lion Bob Tanner: Oral report given.

Zone 24 South Chair Lion Murray McDonald:

My goals for the year are to improve communication between the clubs in Zone 24 South. Last year it was decided there would not be a zone project however, there may be interest in two or more clubs working together on a fundraiser; and encouraging Inter-club visits.

Member retention in the zone - although it does not appear to be as significant problem in the zone as recruiting new members, it remains a concern. Do the various club membership committees in the zone have specific strategies aimed at retention and/or recruiting they are willing to share with other clubs? Although not a retention issue, the aging membership of the majority of clubs has had an impact on Zone 24 South this past year with a significant number of members passing away.

Finance Chair Lion Ray Adam: No report.

Membership Chair Lion Joan Cope:

My goals for the year are to assist the MERL team, VDG John Ross and Governor Ev to attain District membership goals; to ask each club in District A-1 to set a goal of bringing in a net of 2 additional members this year; to ask each club to have a committed Membership Director on their Board of Directors; to encourage each club to develop a Membership Growth Strategy with assistance from the MERL team, including key support from Zone and Region Chairs and to assist club Membership Directors in their role, for example, through workshop training sessions.

Extension Chair Lion Dale Taylor: No report.

Retention Chair Lion Jacqui Flood:

I have already been booked for a Zone Meeting to give a Retention presentation in January and I have been asked to coordinate a club rating session and assist the club to set goals from the results. I sincerely hope I receive many more invitations.

We realize one of our main problems is retention. We need to reassess our strategies if we want to reverse dropped members.

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 for too many consecutive years and existing lions.

My goal this Lions 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 let's all work together to help to reverse this retention problem, to build a healthy District and to reach our Governor's goals.

Leadership Chair Lion Dave Balmos:

We will be holding the School of Instruction in May, it was very successful last year and we will build from that success. The Governor has said in her message that we need to encourage Lions to take on Leadership roles from Club level to District level. As we all know, it is a challenge to find club officers and District Officers, we need to remove the barriers and myths that Lions think when they take one of these positions. This will be my challenge this year, to encourage

Lions and explain to them that you can do it. Who know who will be our next great leader, it could be you.

Environment Chair Lion Don McKessock: No report.

Constitution & By-Laws Chair Lion Walt Grieve:

I have nothing to report at this point in the year. I am always available to the Cabinet and the District if required. Please contact me if there is anything I can assist with.

District A-1 Convention Chair Lion Bill Bissonette:

Lion Bill presented a cheque from the revenue from the District A-1 Convention in the amount of \$3,454.12.

Youth Exchange Chair Lion Jim Deslippe:

Another year of youth exchange is over and it was another very successful and fun year. As the youth at the camp put it “awesome”. We had 14 youth this year from 11 different countries. They were here for 4 weeks from July 4th to August 1st. As usual they spent 10 days with 2 different families and then 8 days at camp in Mount Brydges.

The leaders at the camp this year were the same ones as last year, Lion Marty Moore, Lioness Kim Schindel and myself.

Our donations this year came in at \$7,105 and our expenses were \$6,241.91 so as you can see, we had a surplus. We also charged the youth a camp fee of \$100 each for a total of \$1,400.

I want to thank all the Lions and Lioness Clubs for the time that they gave to supply the camp with meals and in the case of the Strathroy Lions Club once more of taking the Youth for the day and putting on a wonderful day for them. During the week, we had 10 Lions/Lioness Clubs involved with supplying us with a meal which takes a big load off of the leaders at the camp and it is greatly appreciated.

We are always looking for host families and would greatly appreciate anyone who would step up and take on this responsibility for a 10 day period next year. Just give me a call or email and let me know and I'll send you an application. Or if you should know anyone else that is interested please let me know. It is only 10 days and it is a lot of fun and a great experience.

Effective Speaking Chair Lion Ron Lindsay: No report.

Governor's Newsletter/Webmater Chair Lion Curtis Marwood:

I have had the pleasure of serving as the Newsletter editor for 3 years and the web page editor for 1 year. When I joined Lions 11 years ago, the only goal I had was to serve. Having served as club secretary, president, Zone chair, and LFC chair, I am committed to serve District A1 and Lionism. I have been using the technology for 20 years and I never tire of new challenges – although I am often so absorbed with it that I forget the time.

I hope to help advance this year's president's theme MOVE TO GROW and support the Governor through the use of the internet to help keep Lions service INSIGHT of the public.

With this goal, I also want to support the clubs to grow in their ease of use of the technology to facilitate their goals of growing membership, leaders and public awareness.

In consultation with Governor Ev, I hope to produce at least 5 newsletters this year. I will try to keep the focus on the president's theme. I also urge the cabinet and clubs to share their goals and accomplishments to help promote the theme.

District Reporter Chair Lion Marilyn Madacs: No report.

Hearing and Work with the Deaf Chair Lion Barb Tuxford:

Objectives for 2009-2010 – to work with Lions Clubs in District A-1 about a central hearing aid depot, in accordance with LCI HARP Program; have discussions with other districts in MD”A” for info on programs in place at this time; endeavour to put in place the newer hearing aid program with audiologists across A-1; make hearing tests a priority; and make a list of homes for the deaf in A-1, most of these homes from what I have researched need help in kind, not just monetary.

From browsing I have done on LCIF and MD”A”, it looks like hearing aids that are recycled across Canada are sent to the eye glass recycling depot and then sent on to British Columbia where they are recycled within the Province of BC, not out of the country. I would like to see hearing aids recycled from Ontario stay in Ontario and the excess be sent to other countries that need them.

Diabetes Awareness/Cavalcade Chair Lion Bev Wirta:

Last year was an exciting year in that the Ontario Government agreed to pay for insulin pumps and supplies for adults over the age of 18 with Type 1 Diabetes.

At present, the Canadian Diabetes Association's Advocacy group is again trying to bring awareness and support for the Ontario Government to pay for insulin pumps and supplies for people with Type 2 Diabetes. If this plan gets approved, anyone in Ontario with Diabetes who needs an insulin pump will be eligible to apply for assistance.

Although this is not a cure, it has brought about awareness of the growing number of people being diagnosed with Diabetes.

November is Diabetes month and I look forward to the district's support at the Cavalcade presentation of cheques at our next Cabinet Meeting. I will be sending out detailed information to each club this month.

It has come to my attention that Banting House in London has been doing renovations to this historic site and they are in need of funds. I will be sending a copy of the request letter from CDA with my mailout.

If I can be of any assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Leader Dog for the Blind Chair Lion Mickey Puddicomb:

Goals for 2009-2010 - to encourage all clubs in our District to support Leader Dogs for the Blind in Rochester, Michigan, as we need all the financial help possible to help train the best dogs & students to become the best teams possible; to encourage those who have not given to Leader Dog to consider doing so this year, as we have Leader Dogs in Ontario and other provinces as well; to encourage Lions to invite Leader Dog Emerson to come to your club, if not as a speaker how about a demonstration as he “LOVES TO STRUT HIS STUFF”; to encourage Clubs that have not been to Leader Dogs for awhile to come and have a tour and see where your Lion dollars go - please call me & I will be pleased to set up a tour for your club; to encourage ALL clubs to send some members of your clubs to the Leader Dog tour set up for SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 8TH/09, hosted by our Region 1 Chair Lion Mary Mahovolich; to encourage ALL CLUBS to send a representative from your club to Leader Dogs Dinner of Dreams Thursday December 3rd/09 held in Troy Michigan, further details at next District Meeting; to encourage ALL CLUBS to consider the Leader Dog Founders Award, for \$500.00 U.S, you can get a wonderful plaque to present to a deserving member; having as many Lions as possible buy tickets for a singing stuffed dog, all profits will go to Leader Dog. HE IS SO CUTE!!

Lions Foundation of Canada Chair Lion Rick Letton: No report.

Sight First/Work with the Blind Chair Lion Rob Neill: No report.

LCIF Chair Lion Carolyn Oshell:

Lions Clubs International Foundation represents Lions helping Lions serve the world. The Foundation aids Lions in making a greater impact in their local communities and around the world.

Whenever a Lions club gets together, problems get smaller. And communities get better. That's because we help where help is needed – in our own communities and around the world .

In the past, the IPDG was the LCIF chairperson but as of this year LCI has appointed one ambassador from each District for a three year term. I have attended a LCIF Training in North Bay and during this year's USA/Canada Leadership Forum in Memphis, TN, I will be attending a special seminar for all Canadian LCIF Coordinators. This will be our first opportunity to gather all the Canadian LCIF Coordinators. We will also discuss important updates about our new Lions of Canada Fund for LCIF, and opportunities, tools and reports available to help me help you as your LCIF ambassador this year.

My goal this first year is to *promote development of LCIF in District A-1* and to provide information on how Lions Clubs International Foundation funding is provided in the form of grants to Lions districts in support of Lions projects and to *motivate lions to contribute to LCIF, and to become Melvin Jones fellows* .

Our LCIF Programs (Your Programs) are

To Give Sight: Through the SightFirst program,

To Support Youth: LCIF has been sponsoring the Lions Quest school-based, life skills program for more than 25 years.

To Provide Disaster Relief: LCIF helps Lions respond to natural disasters through two grant programs for immediate and long-term relief and reconstruction.

To Combat Disability: Lions assist the disabled by constructing homes, providing vision screenings to Special Olympics athletes and working locally with programs for disabled. The Foundation also promotes health through increased awareness and numerous grants for clinics, hospitals and health programs.

To Serve: Lions continue to serve people in greatest need, both in their local and global communities.

In 2007 LCIF was named the number one non-governmental organization (NGO) worldwide. A total of 445 worldwide companies and organizations were scored, and LCIF came in first for its accountability, program execution, communications, program adaptability and partnerships. Donors can rest assured that every cent of every dollar is committed to humanitarian projects. Administrative costs are paid by interest earned on long-term investments. 100% of every donation has a direct impact in the lives of people around the world.

International Understanding/Peace Poster Chair Lion Catherine Heberle: No report.

Long Range Planning Chair Lion Bill Bissonnette: Oral report given.

Leos Chair Lion Tony Beaulieu: No report.

Bulletin Contest/Public Relations Chair Lion Mike Kresky:

Pertaining to the Public Relation's position – I ask each Club to appoint a member to assume this responsibility, a responsibility that is often misunderstood. By definition, Public Relations is in fact a 'Public Report' pertaining to the actions of the Club and how these actions affect our community, Province or nation. The Club and this Lion's responsibility is in fact to provide open communication in the knowledge of what we do and are doing for the good of the community and how we connect with the community locally and/or on a broader base.

We provide a great range of services in each of our communities and it is important for every Club to support the direction given to a member as Public Relations Chair. In my position I am willing to add my support to any Lion holding this position or to any Club who may wish to establish a PR position.

At the District level, please share fundraising efforts and both service and donation activities through our District's Bulletin Editor (original pictures are preferred). Beyond our District Newsletter and within our organization, I ask you to promote your Club and its activities to the Multiple District level. To do this, please submit your articles together with original pictures to Lion Marilyn Madacsi who, for several years now, has done an outstanding job to support the Clubs of District A-1 by ensuring that the Editor of the Lions' MDA magazine receives for print your demonstrated efforts.

I am looking forward to fulfill a second year as Public Relations Chair, a year that affords all of us an opportunity to spread the knowledge of what we do as Lions and in turn provide another avenue for the members in our community to offer their support and give consideration in becoming a part of Lions.

My second separate role is as this year's Bulletin Contest Chair. It is a most enjoyable one and I have held this position before both at the District and Multiple District levels. Each Club should have a bulletin, as bulletins are a major source of communication to all – both within the Club as well as the District. I am more than willing to sit down with any Club and/or prospective Bulletin Editor and assist them in developing a publication. A listing of the Contest rules are available in the District Directory and Club Editors should endeavor to follow these. Once published/printed, a hard copy should be mailed to me beginning with the bulletin(s) being issued during the month of October and finishing with the bulletin(s) published in February. Hard copies are appreciated as it is easier to score from and, in turn, forward the winners to the MDA Judge. Please note that the format and content is what a bulletin is judged on, not the cost in bringing it to the point of publishing. Again, I am at your service.

Lioness Liaison Region 1 Chair Lion Gord Anderson: No report.

Lioness Liaison Region 2 Chair Lion Joe Elliott: No report.

Lioness Liaison Region 24 Chair Lion Peter Geene:

My goal will be to urge the clubs to increase membership, have good contact with their sponsoring Lions Club as well as working together whenever possible.

As of today, I do not know the goal of the Lioness President but hope to comment on that as well.

District A-1 Eyesight Sight Conservation Foundation Chair Lion Harry Wismer:

As you know, we completed our financial commitment to the laser purchase for the St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital.

We have pledged \$75,000 to the Petrolia Cataract Surgery Clinic over the next four years. In June, our initial payment of \$25,000 was presented to the hospital.

Our Board continues to be amazed and astonished at the overwhelming support of the Lions family in the Foundation's endeavours. THANK YOU.

As always, we are here to serve and are constantly available to answer questions or speak to your clubs.

Lake Joseph Transportation Chair Lion Peter Best:

Objective – to provide safe, convenient, low-cost transportation to and from the CNIB Lake Joseph Centre for blind, deaf-blind, visually impaired and their escorts.

Goals for 2009-2010 – with support from the District, seek to improve communications and develop and improved working relationship with the CNIB and formalize our transportation project; continue fundraising to ensure the possibility for future LJC Transportation Projects; planning and implementing LJC Transportation Project 2009-2010; and provide the District with appropriate reports and update information.

Fundraising – “If they can't get there, they can't benefit”. Due to the necessity to cancel this past summer's trip, there are sufficient funds in our treasurer's account to support the 2010 summer's trip. However, this project works a year in advance to ensure that the trip will occur and everyone has time to plan. Therefore, additional funding will be required to ensure the continuation of this project in the future.

2009-2010 Planning – As I reported on April 5th, 2009, it became necessary to cancel the 2009 summer trip due to irreconcilable issues with the new CNIB Lake Joseph Centre administration. The blind clients and their families were very upset, which did not seem to make any difference to the CNIB LJC staff. Since I work directly with the blind clients and their families and deal with the CNIB LJC staff, I experience their frustration and disappointment. Governor Don encouraged me to try again to salvage some summer vacation for at least a few, by making whatever compromises that we could to get them to camp. Despite several attempts, including contacting the CNIB CEO John Rafferty and attempting to work through Lions MD”A” Sight Conservation Chairman, CNIB LJC Liaison Lion Ted Hughes, efforts failed, resulting in a total communication breakdown and an atmosphere of animosity. This is a complicated matter that I can only briefly outline in this report. Currently the CNIB is not responding in a manner that is helpful to the situation and concerns have developed into a serious problem. I am again asking for District A-1 support to investigate and help resolve this matter. The CNIB is continually requesting funding, but is not appropriately communicating or being accountable. 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. “Whose interests are being served”?

My interest and focus is on transportation for the blind to camp, however the many new CNIB LJC changes have created discontent amongst the blind clients from across the province, who have been seeking me out for assistance to their numerous concerns. Many of these concerns are beyond transportation but are directly related to their access to the camp and the kind of service they received. At this point, I have done all I can to mitigate the situation, but until certain issues are resolved with the CNIB, the operation of the transportation project is compromised as now only a small few of blind vacationers will be able to access the camp. I am requesting assistance and direction from Cabinet so I can appropriately continue to advocate and give the blind and visually impaired in our District a voice on matters that concern their lives.

Healing Garden Chair Lion Eugene Graham:

You will recall that the official fund raising within the four districts has been discontinued as of May 31st, 2009. However, some funds continue to trickle in and as of June 29th, 2009, we had raised \$225,714 of our \$250,000 commitment. That leaves us approximately ten percent or \$24,286 shy of our goal.

To make up the shortfall, the committee is currently preparing a proposal to LCIF for a grant to complete our commitment. This is being done with the assistance of PCS and current District A-1 LCIF Chair Carolyn Oshell.

The account is still open and any club still wishing to make donations can still do so by submitting them directly to the Children’s Health Foundation in London or to myself.

No Child Without Chair Lion Bruce Edwards:

I would like to thank Governor Ev for her confidence in asking me to stay on as the Committee Chair for “No Child Without” for 2009/2010. It is a privilege to meet with Clubs in District A-1 and to introduce our newest program in Lionism across Canada. When I was first invited to join Lions, I felt that I would only be interested in working in our community of Glencoe and Southwest Middlesex. In February of 2008, Vice District Governor Lion Don recruited me to Chair a new program just accepted by Lions Clubs of Canada. After one year in the position, I must say that I have thoroughly enjoyed the association with the District Council, the other Committee Chairs and with the individual Clubs that I have been invited to visit. It is truly amazing the amount of good work that is being done across District A-1.

I use the term ‘introduce our newest program in Lionism’, but I hope that through our discussions last year at the District Convention, at the District Meetings, at Zone Meetings and at some Clubs across the District, that most A-1 Lions have now heard of the NCW Program. It is a charitable effort by the MedicAlert Foundation to provide traditional MedicAlert bracelets and services *free of charge* to elementary school children (ages 4 – 14) because they are the most vulnerable members of our society, especially in an emergency. Through the Lions partnership with Medicalert which has been endorsed by LCC and Lions Clubs International, our job as Lions is to raise awareness about this program and to encourage Lions Clubs across Canada to adopt a school in their community by funding each child who requires this protection in their local school.

My job as District Chair for *No Child Without* (NCW) is to promote the program in our District and encourage Clubs to adopt a school in their local community. In an effort to manage this, I am the key contact for your Club if you wish to consider supporting this cause. In the 2008/2009

Lions year, the first year of NCW, I felt that the most efficient way to get the message out to the Clubs was through Zone Meetings. This year, I will be concentrating on direct communication with Club Presidents, hoping to describe the program at one of your meetings, and assist you with the sponsorship of one or more elementary schools in your area. I will also assist you with press releases to provide well-deserved publicity for your Club.

In our first year, 6 Lions Clubs in A-1 have sponsored a total of 8 elementary schools. I have just recently received word that Tecumseh Lions Club will be sponsoring four schools as soon as we have enrolment figures for 2009/2010. Several other A-1 Clubs are also considering sponsorship. As well, presentations for Stoney Point Lions Club, for Kingsville Lions Club and for Delaware Lions Club are already scheduled for this fall.

I would appreciate all Lions Clubs in A-1 to explore the website www.nochildwithout.ca and to give me a call or an e-mail to answer any questions that you may have.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Announcements:

London North Lions 55th Anniversary – September 20/09 – Golf

Lambeth Lions Fundraiser – November 21/09

Rob Spiering Golf Tournament – St. Thomas Lions – September 27/09

Dutton Lions – Golf Tournament – September 19/09

Respectfully submitted

Cabinet Secretary

Anne Neill