

DISTRICT A-1 DISTRICT MEETING

November 15, 2009

**Seniors Centre
225 Chestnut Street, St. Thomas**

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

DG Evelyn Spiering	ZC 1E Mickey Puddicomb
VDG John Ross	RC 2 Wayne Cudney
IPDG Don McKessock	ZC 2 S Bob Bride
CS Anne Neill	ZC 2 E John Johnston
CT Joyce Doucet	ZC 24 N Bob Radtke
RC 1 Mary Mahovlich	ZC 24 W Bob Tanner

Regrets received from:

RC 24 Janet Gawne
ZC 1 C Linda Fowler
ZC 2 N George Croft
ZC 24 S Murray McDonald

Attendance 69: (17) Presidents, (15) Secretaries, (37) Others

The District Meeting was called to order at 9:30 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.

DG Evelyn introduced our guest speaker, Lion Joan Cope, District Membership Chair. Lion Joan advised that she had attended the USA/Canada Leadership Forum attending as many workshops as possible. International President spoke to 3,000 Lions. There was a club in Livermore, California who found themselves with 6 active members. They were celebrating 80 years chartered. Of those 6 members, 3 were moving out of the community.

Their first goal: get more visible in the community.

The club:

1. developed a website which brought in 6 new members from the community. One new member brought in 12 new members.
2. developed a club brochure.

3. produced an annual report showing donations.
4. got club business cards.
5. streamlined their application form.
6. hold a citizen of the year award.
7. hold a white cane day once per month
8. wear club jackets.
9. had food cart.
10. got involved with Effective Speaking and Peace Poster in the community.

They prepared themselves. They set out their goals. They set responsibilities for each member. This club grew from 6 members to 60 members in 4 years.

The club got training. They went online to LCIF. There are over 50 resources available online for new member recruitment. Go to conventions, USA/Canada Forum and Cabinet Meetings. They held a 3 day club formation workshop and built a prospect list of 300. After they had contact with a prospective member, they followed up. Send a letter within 24 hours and follow up with a phone call. They oriented new members. Club leaders must be persistent. One meeting per month had a speaker and invited prospective members to that meeting.

Do you know that most famous logo in the world? Coca Cola. The Lions Clubs International logo is the 8th most famous logo in the world.

Is your club taking action to do what is necessary to grow? Is your club dying? Do you want your club to be in your community in 5 to 10 years? What would happen if we had no club in our community? What do you need for your club to grow? Passion for Lions! Tell people what we do. Conceive the dream of a bigger club. Go to conventions, USA/Canada Forum and Cabinet Meetings. Tell people what Lions do and that we are the fabulous organization in the world. Tell them about LCIF. Lions Clubs International is the #1 non-government organization in the world. Tell people about Helen Keller. Then tell them about your club.

Is your club ready to grow? Can your club grow by 2 members this year? New members may not volunteer for every event and that is OK. Come up with a plan and invest time. Put club brochures in local newspapers, grocery bags or doctor's offices. Plan your work and work your plan! Write your goals down – IT WORKS!

Treasurer's Report:

CT Joyce presented awards to the first 6 clubs who paid their dues. \$10,000 has been moved to a GIC – we now have \$25,000 in GICs.

Bank balances:

Effective Speaking	\$ 5,888.59
Lake Joseph Transportation Committee	\$ 7,350.25
Youth Exchange	\$ 6,167.86
District A-1	\$18,434.39
GIC's (2)	<u>\$25,626.40</u>
Total Assets	\$63,467.49

All but 6 or 7 clubs have paid their dues.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented was made by RC Mary Mahovlich and seconded ZC Bob Radtke.

Cabinet Secretary's Report:

Copies of the Minutes of the August 30th, 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 August 30th, 2009 meeting and the Agenda.

Flyers for the District A-1 Convention form and information, Leader Dog Kick-Off 2009, District A-1 Effective Speaking, Ilderton & District Lions 2010 Curling Bonspiel and the Chatham Lions Club Breakfast were photocopied and enclosed in the envelopes.

A motion to accept the Minutes of the August 30th, 2009 meeting as presented was made by ZC Mickey Puddicomb and seconded by VDG John Ross.

Correspondence: None.

Vice District Governor Lion John Ross:

Since our last District meeting in August, I have attended the September Council Meeting in Markham. This meeting has given us the opportunity to meet other VDGs and some insight as to what we can expect in Sydney.

We also discussed the importance of growth in Lions and how to make it happen.

I have also had the opportunity to attend my home club (Thorndale) Zone Meeting in September and the Hyde Park Zone Meeting in October. Lion Joan Cope, membership chair of the MERL team, did an outstanding training session. Both meetings were well attended, good food and fellowship.

Bonnie and I also attended our 1st Convention Meeting at the Peele Days Inn and got a look at all the planning that goes on behind the scene for a convention. Governor Evelyn has some exciting things planned. A convention is a great way to introduce new club members to other zones and Districts. Be sure you tell your clubs to "make your reservations early". There is a limited amount of rooms.

Last Saturday, we attended the 85th Charter Anniversary for the Tillsonburg Lions. It was a night of fine dining and entertainment. The guest speaker was PIP Lion Kay Fukushima. Having the opportunity to meet him and his wife Denise was inspirational.

Bonnie and I will be attending our 2nd Council Meeting on November 13th and 14th and will report on that next time.

As some of you recall at our last District Meeting, Lion Dale Taylor had arranged for Lion Nancy Ranson to do some training on Extension and today, we will hear from Lion Joan Cope on membership. Conducting this training at the District Meetings is new this year and I would like your feedback. Is it beneficial? What other kind of training would you like to hear?

On a personal note, Bonnie and I had a fabulous 2 weeks in Italy and it's true, a bottle of water is more expensive than a bottle of wine. "So when in Italy, drink wine". Beautiful country. Great vacation.

IPDG Lion Don McKessock:

What a roller coaster ride my recent life's journey has been! Of course, my year as District Governor was the crazy death drop at top speed... and then I hit the bottom where the forces of gravity keep you lying low... but now I see some more peaks ahead.

For my report, I will highlight some upcoming peaks:

Healing Garden – Lions and Lioness have raised 228K\$ for the “Healing Garden” project. District A-1 has surpassed its goal of 90K\$. We cannot thank Lion Eugene Graham enough for his determination and resolve to see this project through to a successful conclusion. Initial conversation with Katherine Keller, LCIF manager, has given me some encouragement that we can qualify for an LCIF grant for this project. The real test will come next week when I will review the project in detail with LCI Standard Grant co-ordinator, Erin Crouch. We are applying for a 22K\$ grant to top up to our initial 250K\$ pledge.

Campers to Lake Joe – Conversations and emails with CNIB CEO John Rafferty give me optimism that we will make some significant improvements in promoting A-1 camper attendance at Lake Joe. I have recently toured Lake Joe and met with CNIB Northern Region Manager Paul Belair. District A-1 concerns have been made known to CNIB and I am sure that further dialogue will prove fruitful. Time is pressing as camp applications will be due early in the new year.

Youth – Participating in the opening of 2009 Youth Exchange Camp was a recent peak – as was the celebration of a new LEO club in Belle River last night. Leos, my lions without wrinkles, are an inspiration to me. When I meet with Leos, I know our future is in good hands.

Region Chair 1 Lion Mary Mahovlich:

Region 1 held a Tour of Leader Dog on Saturday, November 7th with 5 clubs from the District participating. Thank you to Zone Chair Mickey for looking after the arrangements.

Diabetes Tag Day went well in Belle River.

Zone 1 Central has the 1st Leo Club in Region 1. The Lakeshore Leos held their Charter Night Saturday, November 14th. They officially became a Club on May 29th, 2009. Thank you PDG Don for helping make the evening special for the Leos. Leos are our future Lions. I would encourage other clubs to consider forming Leo Clubs.

Could those clubs in Region 1 holding Effective Speaking Contests please let me know in order to make arrangements for a Region Speakoff.

Zone Chair 1 Central Lion Linda Fowler:

I have completed official visits to Essex and Lakeside of Tecumseh as well as our first Zone Meeting. Our second Zone Meeting will be in Leamington on November 24, 2009. All Clubs are now submitting reports on a monthly basis.

Zone Chair 1 West Lion Linda Fowler:

I have completed official visits to Amherstburg and to Harrow. Our second Zone Meeting is upcoming in Tecumseh on November 16, 2009. All Clubs are now submitting reports on a monthly basis.

Zone Chair 1 East Mickey Puddicomb:

September 16 – Zone Advisory Meeting at Windsor Downtown Lions Club. This club is part of my visitations, was run by our Region Chair. All clubs in Zone 1 West were represented.

September 24 – Zone visit to Blenheim Centennial Lions Club – they are working on their 3rd school for No Child Without. Active in their community, selling cakes, etc.

October 3 – went to Lions Funeral Service with the loss of a member in London Central Lions Club, representing my Zone 1 East.

October 6 – Zone visit to Stoney Point Lions Club. They just finished a successful yard sale. Placing a Lions Sign on their building. There were two PDGs and one LPP from their club present.

October 21 – Zone visit to Windsor Downtown Lions Club, a very thriving club, largest in membership in Region 1. They own and run Lions Manor, a home for the Blind and Seniors, a wonderful project. They are busy with selling cakes, tickets and planning their Xmas party for both the blind adults and blind children. They hold a breakfast on the last Sunday of each month.

October 26 – Zone visit to my own club – Chatham Lions they are small but mighty have two unique projects Fill the Bus for Outreach for Hunger and selling colouring books, purchased Braille rest room signs for the hospital and working on purchasing a TTY phone. They are working with other service clubs in community events.

October 31 – special meeting with PDGs Lion Jacqui Flood and Ron Devos and Zone Chair Linda Fowler to help enhance my knowledge in being a better Zone Chair.

November 3 – Zone visit to Tilbury Lions Club. They are the largest in membership in Zone 1 East. Busy planning their Xmas hampers for the Good fellows. Selling \$100 tickets for a four drive vehicle. Recently donated a PHP equipment which helps in early detection of Macular Degeneration. Seven club members had a demonstration on how this works.

First Zone Advisory Meeting – Chatham Lions will be hosting it on November 23rd. Guest speaker on membership drive and goals.

Food Bank – I have asked all clubs to donate at my visits – to date \$300 has been given.

Convention Surveys – have been distributed at meetings & mailed to two I will not be at until the first of the year.

Region Chair 2 Lion Wayne Cudney:

Since our last District meeting on August 30th, 2009, all clubs in Region 2 have been working on building membership. I plan on working closely with the MERL team as well as the Membership Committee from all Clubs in Region 2. All clubs are very active in working on their community projects. I have attended one Zone Advisory meeting in Highgate on September 22nd, 2009. I am planning to attend Zone 2 North Advisory meeting on January 21st, 2010 and Zone 2 East on February 17th, 2010.

On November 14th, 2009, Lion Rob Neill and myself attended the ceremonial mortgage burning at Lions-Mercel House, with the generosity of the Lions Homes for Deaf People, Lion and Lioness Clubs in MDA which enabled Deaf Blind Ontario Services to purchase a new home in London on September 2006. As of October 1st, 2009, this house officially became mortgage free with the remaining pledge paid from the Lions Homes for Deaf People.

I encourage all Zone Chairs in Region 2 to actively pursue possible candidates for Cabinet positions for 2010-2011. I am confident that all clubs in Region 2 will achieve their goals and have a very successful year.

Zone Chair 2 North Lion George Croft:

I have made my official visitations to the following clubs: London East on Oct. 6th, London North on Oct. 15th, London Forest City on Oct. 21st and London Central on Oct. 22nd.

The first Zone 2N Advisory meeting was held on Oct. 26th hosted by Hyde Park & District Lions. Thanks to President Peter and Hyde Park Lions. Thanks also to London North President Eric Dolansky who is ably assisting me as Zone Secretary.

The clubs have ambitious plans with many service and fund-raising events. The London North Lions have voted to accept a new Lion member who will be inducted soon and the London East Lions are getting two new members. No doubt the excellent presentation and handouts from District Membership Chair Joan Cope at our Zone Advisory meeting will further enable our clubs to expand. Lion Joan's enthusiasm is a credit to our District.

At the Zone meeting, the London clubs voted to continue the Purina Walk for Guide Dogs as our Zone Project. Over \$8,000.00 was raised last year for LFC at this spring event. Dale Brown, on behalf of M.P. Ed Holder, presented the clubs with Appreciation Certificates for their efforts on this project and Guide Dog Walk Committee Chair Lion Bill Phelan of London East presented London Central Lions IPP Sandy Leadley with an appreciation certificate on behalf of the committee.

Since my last report to Cabinet, VDG John, RC Wayne and I met with London Forest City Lions President Bill Overchuk immediately after the Cabinet meeting in Chatham on August 30th and complimented Lion Pres. Bill on a new club brochure he had produced. Forest City Lions hoped to have a special Membership Recruitment night in mid-Sept. which was moved back to mid-Oct. Despite the new brochures being placed in many local libraries and other locations little response was received. The club, with only four members, is carefully considering its future and has cancelled its first November meeting and hopes to attend the London East Lions meeting on November 3rd. I sincerely wish the Forest City Lions members the best in whatever final decision they reach to enable them to continue their Lions service as a club or as part of another club.

I'm confident that my goal of a 10% membership increase in Zone 2N will be achieved with the enthusiasm of our dedicated Lions.

The next Zone Advisory Meeting is scheduled for January 21st at 7:00 pm hosted by London North Lions with District Retention Chair, PDG Jacqui Flood, as guest speaker. My last visitation is to Hyde Park Lions on January 25th.

Zone Chair 2 East Lion John Johnston:

Zone Chair Activities – I held my first Zone meeting in Thorndale on September 16th and my first club visitation in Belmont on October 21st. The next Zone Meeting will be on November 24th in Dorchester where we will vote on our zone project for 2009-2010.

Some of the club activities in Zone 2 East include breakfasts, Fish Fry, BBQ, 50/50 draws, catering, bingos, hall rentals, food booth and car show.

All clubs are committed to the goal of a net gain of 2 new members per club for the 2009-2010 year. At the time of this writing, Belmont had achieved their goal and is still working on bringing in new potential members. The other clubs have also been actively inviting prospective members to their meetings. Dorchester will be having a Special Membership Drive Meeting on November 18th to develop a growth plan. Thorndale Lions, after such a successful membership drive last year, are not about to let up this year.

Zone Chair South Lion Bob Bride:

All the clubs in Zone 2 South are very active and productive. Activities and events are too many to mention but some include car draw, 50/50 draws, trivia nights, dinners, Remembrance Day services and bottle returns.

At our first Zone meeting, Extension Chair PDG Dale Taylor spoke on forming new clubs. Each President was given the list of communities in Region 2 to take back and look into the possibility of forming a new club.

To date, I have completed one visit with the second scheduled for next week. I have also had the privilege of inducting one new member into my own club.

Region Chair 24 Lion Janet Gawne: No Report.**Zone 24 North Chair Lion Bob Radtke:**

I have completed 3 of my five official visits - Ailsa Craig on September 22nd, Arkona on October 20th and Lucan on November 2nd. I have had one Zone Advisory Meeting in Parkhill on October 13th. The suggestion for a zone project was to have a food drive for the Ailsa Craig food bank. The potential project is to be finalized at the next Zone Meeting in Granton on January 27th, 2010. Membership in Zone 24 North remains the same as it was on September 1st, 2009.

Some activities in Zone 24 North – Ailsa Craig & District Lions have a new club room that has been donated to them by a company who purchased the old W.G. Thompson buildings. Ailsa Craig has registered for a Walk for Guide Dogs on May 30th, 2010. Granton Lions are trying to co-ordinate with the firemen to do a town canvas for the zone project. Arkona Lions are thinking of canvassing Forest for the zone project if it is approve.

Zone 24 West Chair Lion Bob Tanner:

To date, I have completed 3 of my 5 club visits – Petrolia, Sarnia Township and Wyoming. I have held one Zone Advisory Meeting. I inducted a new member in Sarnia Township. Petrolia and Wyoming Lions each have 2 prospective new members not yet inducted. Just like last year, I missed my visit to Glencoe which is rescheduled for Monday night.

We in Zone 24 West have approved and established committees for 2 fundraising events - the annual tractor draw and the jamboree in February.

As part of my goals for this year, we had Lion Joan Cope speak at our Zone Advisory meeting about membership leaving all clubs inspired to find new members.

All five clubs in 24 West are extremely active and have completed many fundraising projects and made many incredible contributions to their communities.

Zone 24 South Chair Lion Murray McDonald:

I have gotten off to a slow start this year to due to being away most of September and part of October. I have completed one zone visit and with the aid of the Mt Brydges club have held a Zone Advisory meeting in October.

The six clubs in the Zone, Delaware, Ilderton & District, Melbourne & District, Mt Brydges, Poplar Hill and Strathroy were well represented at the Zone Advisory meeting. The clubs are quite active with two clubs in particular reporting a very busy and successful summer.

Last year it was decided there would not be a zone project. This will be revisited this year and a decision will be made at the next Zone Advisory meeting if there will be a project this year.

Interclub visits were encouraged and are currently being coordinated between the various clubs.

The Strathroy Lions reported a new club was close to being formed in Strathroy. This generated some confusion and much discussion among those in attendance. These concerns were forwarded to the District. It is suggested the District Extension Chair is able to address the majority of these concerns.

Finance Chair Lion Ray Adam: No report.

Membership Chair Lion Joan Cope:

In the early fall, I sent an e-mail message to all Zone and Region Chairs in the District encouraging them to ask each club to develop a Membership Growth Plan for this Lions year and beyond, to suggest that each club have a Membership Director on their Board of Directors and to aim to increase their net membership by 2 members in 2009-2010.

I attended the USA/Canada Leadership Forum in Memphis, Tennessee in September and focused on Membership in the workshop sessions selected.

I have attended two Zone Advisory Meetings, one in Zone 2 North and one in Zone 24 West as speaker to bring ideas on how to expand club membership.

Extension Chair Lion Dale Taylor:

I am pleased to announce that a new Lions Club in Strathroy is very close to forming. At present only a couple more recruits are needed to satisfy Lions Club International's quota of 20 members.

This however, has created a bit of controversy as the existing club is not fully convinced there is enough room for a new club. As we have seen in the past, for example Tecumseh, when the new club Lakeside was established, both clubs were able to work side by side while having different types of events.

Realizing there were some concerns about the new club, I sent an email to all the clubs in Zone 24 South, either to their President or Secretary, whoever had email, explaining the new clubs progress.

At present, I have heard back from 3 of the clubs with a good strong positive response in support of a new club. I am confident that in the near future, we will be able to welcome a new club into District A-1. Realizing a club must have the name of the community in its name, the new club could be named the Lions Club of Strathroy-Caradoc, incorporating two names to signify both men and women would be welcome.

Retention Chair Lion Jacqui Flood:

September 24th to 30th, I attended the USA/Canada Leadership Forum in Memphis, Tennessee, followed by the MERL Seminar. It was very enlightening and I have many tools and DVD's to share with District members.

November 23rd, 2009, I will be giving a Retention/Membership Workshop at the Zone 1 East Advisory Meeting in Chatham. January 21st, 2010, I will be promoting retention at the Zone 2 North Advisory Meeting in London. On February 1st, 2010, I will be doing a workshop Setting Goals for Retention for Zone 24 West in Petrolia.

This year is half over and I am disappointed that I have not had as many invitations that I was expecting to promote Revitalizing/Refreshing your club or facilitate a Club Rating Session.

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.

My goal remains to help decrease the percentage of dropped members from 1.5 to 1% by June, by giving a retention workshop at least one in each Region. Lions, we must 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:

Arrangements are in the works to have the Leadership training at the Union Gas facility in Chatham. We held it their last year and from the comments all like the facility. Please mark Saturday May 15th, 2010 in your calendars as this will be the day it will be held on. Once again there will be no charge for registration and lunch will be provided. This is your opportunity to attend and learn something that you may not have known, or provide information to others that they may not know. Registration forms will be going out in January to all clubs so I hope to see many new Lions and old Lions there.

This may be a little early but have you thought about being a Zone Chair, Region Chair, 2nd Vice Governor or 1st Vice Governor. Please start to think about taking a position, worried about nerves, can't speak in front people. We all experience that, but the rewards are endless, the Lions you meet and new friends you will gain. Think about it as time goes by fast and soon enough it will be here. I will be sending a letter to all clubs with what is required to run for the above positions.

District A-1 Convention Chair Lion Bill Bissonette:

The Convention Committee met at the Pelee Days Inn on October 18th. We had a walk-through of the hotel to determine event locations. All of the initial items for a convention were discussed and long term items were assigned.

The convention will mirror the International President's theme – "Move to Grow". The theme for the Friday night opening will be "Caribbean". Opening Ceremonies and Hospitality suites will be in the pool area – only in the pool area and absolutely no glass.

Registration forms are now available in the club packages and will be available for download on the A-1 website. The BIG change this year is that late registration starts one week prior to the convention on April 3rd. Make sure you register early. As of April 3rd, it will cost more. Please ensure that any rooms your club has blocked are booked by your members and the extras released as soon as possible. As of October 18th, there were approximately 20 rooms available so to say that they are going fast would be an understatement.

This is going to be one of our best conventions yet. It will be an event for the entire family with the pool and water park for the kids and we are in the process of arranging a tour of the area for Saturday. More details will follow as soon as they become available.

Region 1 Lioness Liaison Lion Gord Anderson:

I have visited 2 Lioness Clubs, Tilbury Lioness and South Windsor Lioness.

In Tilbury I sat in on their October meeting where they discussed their donations and fundraising adventures.

I attended the South Windsor Lioness November meeting and heard about all the good things they do in their community. Funds are raised through Nevada tickets, raffles, Christmas cakes, book and craft sales. Donations made to Multiple Sclerosis, Cancer, Make a Wish Foundation.

Youth Exchange Chair Lion Jim Deslippe: No Report

Diabetes Awareness/Cavalcade Chair Lion Bev Wirta: No written report submitted.

A Diabetes Tag Day was held in Sarnia on November 14th and went well – received \$2,500 from 6 clubs.

The Cavalcade held at the meeting raised \$11,660 from the District.

The Zone 24 West Tractor Draw should exceed over \$100,00 raised for diabetes.

Long Range Planning Chair Lion Bill Bissonnette:

Research & Long Range Planning met in September and a number of issues were discussed. Rules of Audit for MERL: A committee was formed to look into rules of audit for the Extension Chair at this time.

It is recommended that the Extension Chair be allowed mileage expenses of \$0.15 per kilometer travelling to and from a community for the purpose of forming a new club. The number of trips is to be approved by the Governor. Reasonable expenses for refreshments to be paid as part of the “cost of doing business”.

The Convention questionnaire was discussed and Governor Evelyn forwarded it to the zone Chairs. To date, I have received a few. Please remember that we want ALL members to complete this form. A-1 District Governors manual is being updated.

District budget – a need for updated job descriptions as well as who is on the finance committee was discussed and sent to committee for updating. Procedure for notification of the death of a Lions – Governor will email Cabinet, PDGs and Clubs.

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

We presented a cheque to the Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital Foundation in Petrolia last spring for the Phaco Emulsifier in the amount of \$25,000.

The Petrolia Lions Club have made a donation of \$8,000 as the first part of their \$20,000 commitment to this project through “Eyes Right”.

Following the District A-1 Meeting in Petrolia on February 7th, 2010, all members of the Lions family are invited to a tour of the Cataract Surgery Suite at the CEE Hospital in Petrolia.

We have update and revised our brochures to reflect our new members and progressive mandate.

We are selling raffle tickets on a beautifully carved wooden Lions plaque made by the late Lion Joe Goertz and generously donated by his wife, Wilma to raise funds for our projects. This will be on display at Lions and Lioness functions in our District. The tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5 and the winner will be drawn at the April convention.

The Board of Directors have spoken to many of the clubs over the past year and will continue to be available at your request.

A very personal “THANK YOU” is extended to the lions family for your generous support and your continuing financial contributions to the “EYES RIGHT” Foundation.

Healing Garden Chair Lion Eugene Graham:

With the help of Willy Fry of the Children’s Health Foundation, we are currently preparing a report which PDG Don will use with LCIF for the preliminary feasibility study.

No Child Without Chair Lion Bruce Edwards:

Several District A-1 Clubs that I visited in the spring are now in the process of sponsoring schools in their area. Since our last District A-1 Meeting in August I have made presentations to three Lions Clubs and one Lioness Club and I believe that at least five schools will be sponsored from those visits. As I mentioned in August, I will be concentrating at the Club level this year. Just last week, I sent letters to nine Lions Clubs requesting an opportunity to visit and describe the “No Child Without” Program. Presentations are planned for Poplar Hill and Strathroy next week.

The following statistics as of October 31, 2009, were provided by the MedicAlert Staff following a teleconference of most District Chairs in MDA

Canada-wide Results

Multiple District (Province)	Donations Raised	Sponsored Schools	Students Covered	Sponsor Clubs
MD 19 (BC)	\$8,835	5	88	4
MD 37 (AB)	\$42,653	33	427	15
MD 5 (SK)	\$10,885	14	109	10
MD 5M (MB /Northwest ON)	\$6,955	10	70	9
MD A (ON/Southwestern QC)	\$176,078	140	1,761	95
MD N (Maritimes)	\$6,175	6	62	9
TOTAL	\$251,581	208	2,516	142

At that time, District A-1 had a total of 13 schools sponsored at \$20,405 donated by 8 Lions Clubs. I believe that there are also about another \$14,000 sponsored “in the works”. Over \$5,000 of that has since been confirmed this past week. A special thank-you should go to Blenheim Centennial Lions and to Belle River Lions for sponsoring schools in 2008/2009 and again in 2009/2010, while both Tecumseh Lions and Wyoming Lions have or will be sponsoring 4 schools each.

Ontario (MDA) is definitely the leader to-date, but we had a head start in the program. Several provinces have yet to be enrolled. Within MDA, District A-1 is about in the middle. Hopefully by the end of this Lions year we can have at least 25 Clubs sponsoring at least 1 school each.

Leader Dog for the Blind Chair Zone Chair Mickey Puddicomb:

On September 16th with Leader Dog staff Lion Eric Berger, we presented the Top dog Award to Windsor Downtown Lions Club. They received a crest for their banner and a pin for each member. This is a new program and they came in 11th out of 20 in all Lions Clubs in the US and Canada. On October 21st, I presented a member of the Windsor Downtown Lions Club with a Leader Dog Founders Award.

On October 8th with Leader Dog staff Lion Eric Berger, we presented the Top Dog Award to London Central Lions Club. They received a crest for their banner and a pin for each member. They came in 12th out of 20 in all Lions Clubs donations in the US and Canada.

A Leader Dog talk and demonstration to St. Andrew’s Resident in Chatham was held – ¼ of the residence was present. A Women’s seminar and demonstration with blindfolding everyone

during lunch was held. RC Lion Mary Mahovlich hosted a Leader Dog tour at Leader Dogs in Rochester, Michigan. Donations received to date - \$200 from Amherstburg Lions Club, \$50 thank you from Stoney Point Lions Club and \$500 from the Women's Seminar.

Leader Dog Emerson is on the training, course/computer at the Chatham-Kent Health Alliance, he is in harness and representing all service animals. Emerson and myself are volunteers at the Health Alliance and he has his own picture ID card. Emerson is helping young children to read in schools and the classes he is helping are saving their coins for Leader Dog School in Rochester.

Leo Chair Lion Tony Beaulieu:

There are 5 active Leo Clubs in District A-1 and one prospective club that is still being worked on – Dutton, Petrolia, Glencoe, Springfield and Thorndale. St. Thomas is still in the works. The Multiple District chairs have been working on a Leo Convention to be held in the new year in Niagara Falls.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Motion by VDG John and seconded by RC Mary to pay the outstanding district bills in the amount of \$716.93. Carried

Recommendation by Long Range Planning Committee to allow the Extension Chair mileage expenses of \$0.15 per kilometre travelled to and from a community for the purpose of forming a new Club. The number of trips is to be approved by the Governor. Reasonable expenses for refreshments to be paid as part of the “cost of doing business”. Motion by ZC Bob Tanner and seconded by ZC Mickey. Carried.

Proposal from the Constitution and By-laws Committee to change the Finance Committee from 10 members to a more workable number of 6 members. Motion by ZC Bob Tanner and seconded by RC Mary to refer the proposal back to the Constitution & By-laws Committee as this is not in the Policy Manual. This cannot be voted on by the District Cabinet. To make this change it will be necessary for the proposal to be voted on at the District Convention.

Announcements:

Ilderton and District Lions Curling Bonspiel – January 30/10

Dorchester Lions Gaming Night – February 20/10

Chatham Lions International Breakfast – March 7/10

District A-1 Convention – April 9-11/10 - Leamington

Respectfully submitted

Cabinet Secretary

Anne Neill