

DISTRICT A-1 DISTRICT MEETING

February 7, 2010
Petrolia Lions Hall
451 Huggard Street, Petrolia

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

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

Regrets received from:

PDG Don McKessock
ZC 1 C Linda Fowler

Attendance 69: (17) Presidents, (10) Secretaries, (52) 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.

The last report from Lions Club International as of January 31, 2010 shows that District A-1 has 1186 members, down 2 members from December 31st, 2009.

Treasurer's Report:

All dues have been paid in full.

Bank balances:	
Effective Speaking	\$ 8,288.59
Lake Joseph Transportation Committee	\$ 7,350.25
Youth Exchange	\$ 6,367.86
District A-1	\$19,730.66
GIC's (3)	<u>\$25,942.46</u>
Total Assets	\$67,679.82

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

Cabinet Secretary's Report:

Copies of the Minutes of the November 15th, 2009 District Meeting, Agenda and Reporting Schedules were emailed to all Cabinet Officers and all Cabinet Chairs. All Club Presidents, Club Secretaries and PDGs were emailed the Minutes of the November 15th, 2009 meeting and the Agenda.

Six flyers were requested to be inserted in the envelopes and this was done.

A motion to accept the Minutes of the November 15th, 2009 meeting as emailed was made by RC Janet Gawne and seconded by RC Wayne Cudney. Carried.

Correspondence

District Candidate Announcements were received.

Email received from PDG Don McKessock regarding LCIF.

Email received from Lion Darlene Priestley with information on the Leos Conference which has been inserted in the Leos Club envelopes.

Vice District Governor Lion John Ross:

Since my last report in November 2009, I have had the opportunity to attend the Zone Advisory meetings in Leamington, Chatham, North London, Port Stanley, Delaware and Petrolia, as well as Region 24 and Region 1 Rally in Tecumseh and Park Hill. It was exciting to hear about the different clubs talking about new growth in membership - possibly 4 or 5 new members in Dorchester, Strathroy are looking at a possible 2 to3, North London 2 and Hyde Park.

I was impressed with each of the Zone and Region Chair Lions for conducting their meetings in a timely and informative fashion. (**You all have leadership qualities to MOVE forward in Lions**). Having quest speakers from the MERL team to promote growth and retention in the clubs - it is a never ending task but one that remains **most important**.

Attending the Charter night for Strathroy-Caradoc on Jan 16th was a highlight. "Congratulations" Lion Dale Taylor and his team for the countless hours of hard work it takes to organize the charter of a new Lions Club". Great work Lion Dale.

As you know, as your VDG, I am looking for some of **our** finest **Lions** to be a part of cabinet - for those of you that have already stepped forward, I say "**Congratulations**"; for those of you that are "thinking", **don't deny** yourself the opportunity to **Move and Grow**, be a part of the best service organization in the world. A year you would forget nor regret.

In my year as your District Governor, my theme will be "Invitation and Visitation". I feel it is extremely important that clubs visit back and forth. This promotes new ideas, and fellowship. Work as a team.

I look forward to an exciting year ahead.

IPDG Lion Don McKessock: No report.

Region Chair 1 Lion Mary Mahovlich:

Region 1 held their Region Rally with 45 Lions in attendance from 6 clubs in the Region. Also attending were the District Governor and 1st Vice District Governor.

Candidates came forward for Governor, 1st Vice District Governor, 2nd Vice District Governor, Zone 1 West Chair and Zone 1 Central Chair (repeating).

Proceeds from the Rally will go to the Haiti Relief Fund.

Thank you to the Lakeside Lions for hosting the event – the Olympic style games were great fun with gold, silver and bronze medals being given out.

So far, all zones have held 2 Zone Meetings each. The 3rd Zone Meeting for each of the zones will be in March.

An Orientation Meeting is set for Saturday, March 20th at 1:00 p.m. in Belle River at the Lions Hall. Info will be sent out shortly. I am depending on the club secretaries to forward this information to all the newer Lions and/or others who are interested.

Since attending the Zone Meeting for 1East, we now have a candidate for 1East Zone Chair.

Thank you to my Zone Chairs for their continuing hard work.

Zone Chair 1 Central Lion Linda Fowler:

My sincerest apologies for being unable to attend today, however it is the 11th Annual Friends of A Life Worth Living Bowling Fundraiser today and I am participating in that as a committee chair.

Since our last District Meeting, I am happy to report that I have attended the Zone 1W Zone Meeting at the Tecumseh Lions Club on November 16th, 2009. In Zone 1C, we held our Zone Meeting at the Leamington Lions Club on November 24th, 2009 and have an upcoming Zone Meeting in Belle River on March 4th, 2010. I was also able to attend the Region Rally held at Lakeside Lions Club on January 30th, 2010 and am happy to report that we have candidates for Zone Chair in both Zone 1W and Zone 1C.

In addition, I made official visits to the Belle River Lions Club and the Wheatley Lions Club, with the remainder of my visits to take place prior to the District Convention and I look forward to seeing everyone at the District Convention in April.

Zone Chair 1 East Mickey Puddicomb:

I have completed all 5 clubs in my Zone – Blenheim, Chatham, Lighthouse Cover, Stoney Point and Tilbury. I have completed 2 out of my 3 Zone Advisory Meetings – Chatham Lions in November and spoke on “Membership” – Stoney Point Lions in February and spoke on “Club Motivation”. All 5 clubs were present – 45 in attendance. My 3rd Zone Advisory will be at Tilbury Lions Club on March 16th, 2010.

I have a candidate for Zone 1 East Chair for the 2010-2011 year.

Zone Chair 1 West Mickey Puddicomb:

I have visited 2 out of the 3 clubs. Windsor Riverside has postponed their visit to a later date due to illness and a few members away (they only have 8 members so only 2 would have been at my meeting).

I have attended 2 out of 3 Zone Advisory Meetings – the 3rd is in March (put on by RC Lion Mary Mahovlich.

One of my clubs, Windsor Downtown Lions, has a candidate for Zone 1 West Chair for 2010-2011 year.

Region Chair 2 Lion Wayne Cudney:

Since our last District Meeting on November 15th, all clubs in Region 2 have been busy working on their membership goals.

Clubs are also very busy with their fundraising and other community projects. I have also attended the Zone Advisory Meeting in Port Stanley on Jan 20th. I am also happy to report that all clubs were well represented. On January 29th, I attended Region 24 Region Rally in Parkhill and on January 30th, I attended Region 1 Region Rally in Tecumseh. I am planning to attend Zone 2 East Advisory Meeting on February 17th in Belmont as well as Zone 2 North Advisory Meeting on April 8th at London Central Lions. Zone 2 South next Zone Advisory Meeting will be in St Thomas on March 22nd.

Region 2 Region Rally will be held on February 12th in St. Thomas so I ask all clubs in Region 2 to support our Rally.

Zone Chair 2 North Lion George Croft:

Since the report to Cabinet in November, I've completed my official visitations with a visit to Hyde Park & District Lions on January 25th.

The second Zone Advisory Meeting was on January 21st hosted by London North Lions. Thanks to the London North club and to President Eric Dolansky, who also continues to assist me as Zone Secretary. Thanks also to PDG and Retention Chair Jacqui Flood for her excellent and informative presentation.

London North Lions have inducted a new member and had two prospective new members at their meeting on January 21st. They also were sponsors of the new Strathroy-Caradoc Lions Club; congratulations to London North Lions!!!

London East Lions have inducted two new members and have one new member by way of transfer; well done!!!

London Central Lions have inducted two new members and have agreed to host the third Zone Advisory Meeting on April 8th; thanks for your efforts. They are continuing to plan their major "Fight for Sight" event scheduled for May 1st.

Hyde Park Lions have inducted one new member and expect to induct another soon. They held their first, highly successful, Santa Claus parade in the Hyde Park area of London on November 28th and created a great deal of positive publicity for their club, and Lions generally, throughout the London area. Congratulations to Hyde Park Lions.

Forest City Lions. It is with deep regret that I report that this club voted to surrender their charter effective November 30th. They had been experiencing severe membership issues for several years and since last spring had only 4 remaining members. Many thanks to their President Bill Overchuk for his efforts to rebuild the club and to VDG John and RC Wayne for joining me in meeting with the club members in July and with President Bill in August in an effort to stimulate regrowth. Former President Bill has transferred to Lion East Lions and efforts are continuing to get the other three former Forest City members to transfer too.

Zone Project - Meetings of the Purina Walk for Guide Dogs Committee continue, with members from all clubs in the Zone and the event is scheduled for Sunday May 16th at Gibbons Park in London. The committee hopes to exceed the \$8,000.00 plus which was raised last year and donated to LFC.

Zone Chair 2 East Lion John Johnston:

Zone Meeting will be November 24th in Dorchester where we will vote on our Zone project for 2009-2010. We have selected VON Meals on Wheels as the Zone Project. I had my Zone Chair visit with Springfield on January 27th. Also present at the visit were PGD Dale Taylor and VDG John Ross to discuss MERL with the Springfield Club Members. I had my Zone Chair visit with Thorndale Lions February 3rd.

Belmont Lions continue to work on the community park with set up and take down of all that glitters and ice maintenance on the pond. They have donated to and participated in the local Santa Claus Parade, donated money to two church groups UC and Presbyterian. ran a turkey bingo as a Christmas fundraiser, ran a "Blue Line Club" during a minor hockey all star game night, attended the Dorchester and Ilderton curling bonspiels, hosted a Snow Pitch baseball tournament and 3 members attended the Strathroy-Caradoc charter night. District Governor Evelyn inducted 3 new members at her governor's visit on February 3rd.

Dorchester Lions have provided Christmas gifts to needy children in the community, held extremely successful Christmas Tree sales, worked on the lighting of the lights ceremonies, supported the Thames Valley Children's Centre, held a successful membership drive and held a Christmas craft market. District Governor Evelyn inducted 4 new members at her governor's visit on February 9th.

Springfield Lions participated in the Springfield Santa Clause Parade with the Springfield Leo Club, held a turkey bingo, had a Christmas Dinner with the wives, had hall rentals on 4 occasions and have made donations to LCIF, Life Worth Living and LFC.

Thorndale Lions have participated in Thorndale Christmas festivities by hosting the Santa Claus Parade and build and manned the Santa Claus float, continued the club's annual Ham & Fowl Bingo season, held 6 bingo nights beginning the first Monday in October and ending in April (patrons of these events come over an hour early so they can get their "lucky chair"), continued to host Lions Breakfast, Seniors Walking, and Dinner Theatre Rehearsals and held more Blood Donors Clinics. They have donated \$500.00 to the Salvation Army in St. Mary's, \$500.00 to the SARI and donated towards the playground equipment at the new school in town.

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 has just inducted 3 new members, achieved their goal and is still working on bringing in new potential members, Dorchester will induct 4 new members, Springfield has one prospective member and Thorndale has 2 new prospective members.

Zone Chair South Lion Bob Bride:

I'm not sure if it is the quality of the clubs in Zone 2 South or a sign of the economy this year, but I can't recall any years with as much activity as I have seen so far. I suspect it is a lot of the former and a bit of the latter. That or I haven't been paying attention in past years.

If I tried to recite all the activities and donations reported on the Monthly Activity Reports, we would be here all day. Let's just say, most District projects have been covered and in the

communities everything from giving out hotdogs to helping build an off-leash dog park. Also 4 of the 6 clubs had representatives at the Strathroy-Caradoc Lions charter night.

At our second Zone Advisory meeting in Port Stanley, we had 50 Lions and 1 Leo in attendance. At the meeting it was proposed and accepted that this year, as a Zone project, we would support Haiti relief. To date, I have received \$1,380 which will be turned over to Canadian Red Cross. By donating through them the government will match the donations.

I have completed 3 of my visits and thank the clubs for their hospitality.

My only concern is membership numbers. It seems as though each time we gain a member, we lose one. At least we are constant and I have heard of several waiting to be inducted.

Region Chair 24 Lion Janet Gawne:

The Region 24 Rally was held on January 29th with 8 out of 16 clubs in the Region represented and guests from 4 other clubs. There was a presentation made by Janet Off on Junior Achievement programs available for the youth in our communities and a presentation by PDG Lion Dale Taylor on Extension. The winners of the Trivia Quiz for the evening were the Thorndale team. Proceeds from the evening will be donated to Eyes Right. I attended the 2nd Zone Advisory meeting for 24 West on February 1st at Petrolia where ZC Lion Bob Tanner conducted an excellent meeting for a packed hall. I am working on an Orientation session that I plan to hold prior to the District -1 Convention in April. I am waiting on feedback from the clubs in the region before I confirm the date.

It is wonderful to have the new Strathroy-Caradoc Club in our Region and I look forward to visiting with them soon.

Zone 24 North Chair Lion Bob Radtke:

Things seem to be fairly quiet in Zone 24 North.

I have completed four of my five official visits - Ailsa Craig on September 22nd, Arkona on October 20th, Lucan on November 2nd and Parkhill on January 25th.

My next Zone meeting is February 10th in Granton. At this meeting, we will finalize the suggestion for our potential Zone project which is to have a food drive for the Ailsa Craig food bank.

Membership in Zone 24 North remains at 97, the same number it was on September 1st, 2009.

Zone 24 West Chair Lion Bob Tanner:

To date, I have completed all of my 5 club visits. I have held 2 Zone Advisory Meetings. We had 85 members in attendance at our February 1st Zone Advisory Meeting. I have inducted 4 new Lions and 11 Leos this Lions year.

We in Zone 24West have approved and established committees for 2 fundraising events. The annual tractor draw - planning is underway with tickets to be distributed soon. All funds raised will be going to diabetes. Our 3rd annual Jamboree is being held at the Wyoming Fair building and runs from 9am to 9 pm on Sunday, February 28th, with all funds raised going to Eyes Right and the Pat Mailloux Eye Clinic.

As part of my goals for this year, we had Lion Jacqui Flood speak at our Zone Advisory Meeting about goal setting and retention. She was an awesome speaker as always and left a large package of information for all the clubs in attendance. My last goal for this year is to find a new Zone Chair for 24West, since I have announced my intention to run for Region Chair.

All five clubs in 24West are extremely active and have completed many fundraising projects and made many incredible contributions to their communities and reporting these items would take several more pages.

Zone 24 South Chair Lion Murray McDonald:

I have completed 4 of my 6 Zone visits to Melbourne & District Lions on October 27th, 2009, Strathroy Lions on November 26th, 2009, Mount Brydges Lions on January 18th, 2010 and Ilderton & District on January 26th, 2010 (club requested reschedule from Nov)

I have completed 2 Zone Advisory meetings. Interclub visits are progressing well between clubs in the Zone. The Zone project designated for support this year is the Youth Exchange. The most recent Zone Advisory meeting was hosted by the Delaware Lions with the Vice District Governor, John Ross attending.

While the Zone clubs are well aware of membership issues, membership remains relatively flat. However, the recent addition of the new club in the Zone has been a highlight. Most recently, during my official visit to the Ilderton and District Lions, I had the privilege of assisting in the induction of a new member.

Ilderton Lions conducted a strategic planning session in November where declining membership was in the forefront of the discussion.

The clubs within the zone are actively involved with fundraisers. Delaware is holding a "Fish & Chip & Casino Night" on April 24th, 2010. Ilderton is having "Men's Night" on April 13th, 2010. Melbourne is having a "Pancake Supper" on February 16th, 2010. Melbourne is also looking for participation from clubs in the zone for the parade to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Melbourne Fair. Mount Brydges is having "Farmer's Night" on March 4th, 2010. Poplar Hill is holding a "Ninth Annual Trivia Night" on Saturday, February 27th, 2010. Strathroy is having a "Winter BBQ" on February 19th, 2010.

The above are not all inclusive, but represent the next big events for these clubs.

MERL Report:

Membership Chair report from Lion Joan – Lion Joan along with Region Chair Mary have been working with 4 clubs in Region 1 in regard to membership growth. An action plan was developed last year, 2008-2009. Two of the four clubs have carried out a part of their strategies as outlined.

It has been discussed with Region Chair Lion Mary the possibility of meeting with Amherstburg Lions in the spring to encourage growth in that club. They are not meeting again until April as most members go south for the winter.

Looking into booking our Hall for Orientation training for the new club members of the last 5 years or any interested members and anyone from the Region who wishes to attend. I will let you know the details when I have them, hopefully by the Region Rally.

Leadership Report from PDG Lion Dave - Lion Dave is working to put together training at the School of Instructions "**Union Gas Training Center May 15th 2010, in Chatham.**"

Retention Report from PDG Jacqui Flood – Lion Jacqui was invited to 4 Zone Advisory meeting,

Zone 1 Central -6 Clubs Attended,

Zone 1 East – 5 Clubs Attended

Zone 2 North – 4 Clubs Attended

Zone 24 West – 5 Clubs Attended

Also last year, she presented at 1 West – 6 clubs. Presentations to a total of 20 clubs.

Helpful handouts were given to each club to compliment her presentations.

Lion Jacqui has been circulating a DVD to the MERL team from the TTT committee (Transfusion, Transition & Transformation). This DVD supports positive change and has proven to be a very helpful tool for all club members. She is looking forward to developing short workshops to present to any interested clubs or Zone.

PDG Lion Dale on Extension January 21, 2010

The Strathroy-Caradoc Lions Club was chartered on January 16th, 2010. Lion Peter Geene and I incurred the following bills and would appreciate being reimbursed. Past practice was to limit expenses for a new club to a maximum of \$1 per district member. As you can see by reusing some items and purchasing the rest we came in under budget.

Please find below expenses for start up for the Strathroy-Caradoc Lions Club. I have all receipts and will bring them to the district meeting.

These expenses were incurred by Extension Chair Lion Dale Taylor.

Item	Expense
Flags , poles complete with base	\$164.45
Engraving for Gong	38.73
Canada Post/send charter application	38.16
Strathcraft/felt letters for banner	62.97
Strathcraft,name plaques for gifts	75.93
Rivertown Galleries/frame new charter	28.25
Mileage/6 round trips \$.15x 70 kilometres	63.00
Total	\$471.49

Lion Peter Geene purchased the charter certificate frames from Staples and the bill for \$181.23 is included.

Please make out two separate cheques, one for Peter for \$181.23 and one for me \$471.49

District A-1 Convention Chair Lion Bill Bissonnette:

Plans for the 2010 District Convention are well underway. The first 2 meetings have been very productive as far as the basic planning goes. Our next meeting is today, immediately following the District Meeting.

Registration forms have gone out to all the clubs and past district officers of both Lions and Lioness. Each club has also received a letter regarding the Penney Draw.

We have run into some issues that are beyond our control. The one with the biggest impact is that we have been cut back to 75 rooms at the hotel due to the fact that they have about 20 construction workers there on a full time basis so these rooms are no longer available to us. Everyone beyond the 75 rooms at the Pelee Days Inn will be put in the Comfort Inn. There is a shuttle that is supposed to run on a regular basis. If you have a room or rooms that are blocked at this time please make them available as soon as possible. There is a standby list already started if rooms become available.

If you have not yet registered, do so.

Hospitality Rooms- If you are having a hospitality room let either the hotel know or contact the convention committee today. We are meeting with the hotel at the end of the week and require this information.

On the plus side. The Breakfast buffet will cost \$4.00 for Saturday and Sunday for registered guests.

Children up to 12 years of age will be half price for the convention lunch and dinner. Let PDG Mark know this on your registration form.

There will be a wine tour from 2-4:30 on Saturday afternoon. It is a full tour of the Pelee Island Winery at Kingsville, wine tasting and transportation for no more than 15.00 based on 40 people. Contact Registration Chair Lion Mark to book.

LCIF Chair Carolyn Oshell:

With the recent success of Campaign Sight First II (CSFII), Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) is in a position to build on this success and grow the Foundation.

Through CSFII, LCIF has received record generosity from Lions and non-Lions, foundations and governments. District A-1 sent \$50,000 during the four year campaign to CSFII.

The LCIF Development Plan is a comprehensive four-year plan to strengthen the Foundation by adding additional resources to the already great work of LCIF. The plan is not intended to parallel the intensity of fundraising during campaign years; however, building on the success of CSFII will help create a stronger Foundation and allow LCIF to change more lives.

I'd like to first thank all of you for your tremendous generosity. Lions Hope for Haiti have mobilized more than US\$2 million. By the time you receive this message, I'm sure it will be even more.

The Foundation is partnering with the Lions of Sweden to provide 200 large tents to house those who are now homeless as well as relief workers. Haitian Lions established three tent cities in the Port au Prince area, where they are focusing their immediate relief efforts.

Lions from District A-9, Ontario, Canada were in the area when the earthquake hit, helping to establish a clean water system for an orphanage, and responded by establishing a make-shift medical clinic, treating 600 people.

To date reported to me, Lions Clubs in A-1 who donated are: London Central, Kingsville, Leamington and Strathroy. Thank You.

Lions individually from Amherstburg, Kingsville, Dutton and Hyde Park. Thank You.

Some Lions Clubs and individual Lions have opted to support the Red Cross and the Salvation Army because of the government incentives and tax receipts. **Lions are generous and wherever vehicle they choose to donate, the funds will be put to good use.**

Thank You all on behalf of LCIF, your Foundation.

Our District has benefited from LCIF through emergency flood grant in 1980, purchasing a central monitor for an ICU in 1997 and to develop the ALWL program in 1998. To date our MDA has received a little over 3 million in grants.

We have launched a Haiti section on the Lions Web site, with photos, video and other news. As we receive additional information, we will continue to add it to the [Web site](#).

If you haven't already done so, I ask you to consider [making a donation to LCIF](#) to support this disaster. Lions in Haiti appreciate your support and are anxious to serve.

You can donate in confidence to LCIF, as 100 percent of every donation will go directly to Haiti relief. Through LCIF, Lions around the world are helping those most in need.

The “Lions of Canada Fund for LCIF” has not yet received federal government approval. It’s our goal that this Fund will soon be finalized and allow Canadian Lions and donors to make tax-deductible donations. Once it is fully established, Lions Clubs across Canada will receive notice.

This, my first of three years as your LCIF coordinator, is a learning experience for me. I am scheduled in Thorndale and Tilbury in March and will have a display at the convention in April. Anyone else needing or wanting information please contact me.

Peace Poster Chair Catherine Heberle:

Delaware Lions submitted two posters and Dutton Lions submitted one poster. The winner of the A-1 poster which was sent on the MD”A” was submitted by Delaware Lions.

I have heard from one other club who is interested in the 2010 poster competition. I have sent out another email to all clubs concerning the 2010 poster with hopes that more clubs will respond.

I had heard from 3 clubs interested in Twinning and will be working with them if asked.

Effective Speaking Chair Ron Lindsay:

The speak off in Region 1 will be hosted by the Chatham Lions Club on February 21st, 2010 at the Active Lifestyle Centre, 20 Merritt Avenue, Chatham at 1:00 p.m.

The speak off in Region 2 will be hosted by the London Central Lions Club on March 7th at the Trinity Lutheran Church, 432 Colborne Street, London at 1:00 p.m.

The speak off in Region 24 will be hosted by the Petrolia Lions Club on March 14th, 2010 at the Petrolia Lions Hall on 451 Huggard Street, Petrolia at 1:00 p.m.

Each club can have 2 contestants in each of the 6 categories at the Region Speak Off. The top two in each category will advance to the District Finals. The top winner will advance to the MDA Finals in Toronto on May 7th-8th, 2010 at the Holiday Inn Select, 970 Dixon Road, Toronto.

If your club has speakers this year, please let me know one week ahead of the speak off in your region. We need a count for the program set up.

If your club has not sent in their donation to the Effective Speaking program yet, please do so as soon as possible. The amount we are asking for is \$125 of which \$45 of this is sent to MDA to cover their cost. The balance is used to run the District A-1 program.

We have 48 Lions Clubs, 15 Lioness Clubs for a total of 63. 23 Lion Clubs have donated to this date. Last year’s donations were 52 clubs. If your Club has already sent in their funds, I thank you for your support.

Youth Exchange Chair Jim Deslippe: No Report.

Leos Chair Tony Beaulieu:

There are 4 active Leo Clubs in District A-1 and 1 prospective club that is still being worked on. Dutton Leos have 12 members and they work with the Lions. Glencoe Leos have 12 members and they are quite active. They are hosting an upcoming youth dance for students in Grades 5 to 8 plus they too work with the Lions. Springfield Leos has 6 members and 5 new members waiting to be inducted, very active with events almost every month. They are part of the group that is hosting the 3rd Annual Fundraising Jamboree in Wyoming for Eyes Right with proceeds to the Pat Mailloux Eye Centre which you will be able to tour this afternoon. Thorndale Leos are inactive at this time but are keeping their charter open in hopes to get something going. St.

Thomas is still in the works – they have 12 members at this time and are waiting to hold a charter night. There is a Leo Conference being held in St. Catherines on February 26th, 27th and 28th. Glencoe Leos are sending 5 delegates on the Saturday. There will be activities at the convention for the Leos on Saturday morning. District A-1 Leo Clubs are a very class act and I know that some Lion members could get a lot out of mentoring these fine young men and women. It can really open your eyes to see what they can manage to do in the community and I strongly urge each Lions Club in District A-1 to look into sponsoring a Leo Club. It is both rewarding and fulfilling.

Diabetes Awareness/Cavalcade Chair Lion Bev Wirta: No Report.

Lake Joseph Chair Peter Best:

The past 12 months have been a difficult period for this Committee. We have struggled to identify, understand and attempted to resolve numerous LJC client concerns that have involved our Transportation Project. I have attempted to keep the District informed by reporting as things developed. Much of the difficulty was a result of a communication breakdown and conflicting concepts of service, along with an unwillingness to compromise on the part of the CNIB LJC staff. Through a persistent campaign, we have pressed to advocate in the best interest for the blind and visually impaired clients. I am pleased to now report that communications have improved and there seems to be a genuine interest of restoring a friendly working relationship directed at providing the kind of service that is wanted and needed.

I am very pleased to announce that we will continue our Transportation Project for this summer. A block of thirty beds has been booked for the period of July 11th through July 17th and a Greyhound wheelchair accessible coach has been chartered. The CNIB LJC staff has expressed a real interest in having our service returned and have informed me that a wide range of requested activities will be available for our group. I have already been contacted by some very excited and relieved blind vacationers. We, the Committee and the blind clients we serve, wish to express our deepest appreciation to everyone for their efforts, support and encouragement through this difficult period. Thanks to your generous support, it's all aboard for 1020 summer fun.

Our fundraising request was put on hold until we could determine the future of this Project. We now feel more confident that the blind and visually impaired clients and their families want and need our service and that the CNIB LJC management has come to understand just how important it is to them. Now with the acceptance of this concept, we can move forward to develop a transportation project that will give service to local blind and visually impaired vacationers, while supporting the CNIB LJC as an accessible fun place to be. Please consider the significance of this project and continue your financial support, so we can keep on rolling.

2010 Objectives: To continue to organize and carry out another successful fun travel project; to improve communications and develop a cordial working relationship with the CNIB LJC, Lions and clients; to establish a standard seasonal procedure, to reduce annual re-negotiations and simplify arrangements; to identify and resolve client concerns regarding accessibility to the LJC; to fundraise to ensure the continuation of this important project; to report to District Cabinet on the Transportation Project activities.

Request: My interest and focus is on transportation for the blind to and from the CNIB LJC camp, however, it is important to understand that there are many issues that are beyond the scope of transportation, but are directly related to the accessibility of the blind to the camp and the kind

of service they received. CNIB LJC clients in Southern Ontario have some unique interests and require a voice to represent those interests. Although things are now moving in the right direction, there are still issues to be dealt with therefore to keep things on track, I am recommending that our District A-1 consider making a request to have a representative appointed to officially handle these interests, or establish a procedure and not leave them solely to the Multiple District "A" in the future. Please consider and advise.

Leader Dog Chair Lion Mickey Puddicomb:

8 members from the District attended the Leader Dog Kick Off Dinner in Troy, Michigan on December 3rd, 2009.

Sarnia Lions invited me to be their guest speaker at their annual Christmas Dinner that they put on for the blind. A wonderful evening. A cheque was sent as a thank you for Emerson and I being there.

There are 3 displays in the Chatham community.

I am not aware all totals and all clubs that have made donations. The ones that I am aware of are Chatham, Belle River, Sarnia, Sarnia Township, London Central, Windsor Downtown and Amherstburg which total over \$8,000.

As Leader Dog Chair, I have given a personal donation along with Leader Dog Emerson to our newly chartered club, Strathroy-Caradoc Lions Club. I have a certificate from Leader Dogs for the Blind and a Leader Dog pin from me to be presented at the District meeting.

Region 1 Lioness Liaison Lion Gord Anderson:

I have visited my final Lioness Club this year, the Wheatley Lioness where I was warmly received.

I sat in on their January meeting where they discussed their donations and fundraising adventures. The club members help out at the local nursing home by running a bingo, volunteering at the public school nutrition club, and assist the Wheatley Lions Club. They have made major donations to Eyes Right, Leamington Hospital, Wheatley Community Chest and Chatham and District Association for Community Living. They are a very organized, active and hard working club.

Motion by ZC Bob Bride and seconded by RG Wayne to accept reports as presented. Carried.

District Meeting of Eyes Rights:

Parade of cheques - \$16,300.

Old Business:

Motion by VDG John and seconded by ZC Bob Tanner that District A-1 Cabinet fully endorse the grant application made to LCIF in the amount of \$21,869 that would successfully complete the financial commitment of \$250,000 made by Lions to the London Children's Health Foundation for the Healing Garden.

New Business:

Motion by ZC Bob Tanner and seconded by RC Janet to pay the outstanding district bills in the amount of \$6,166.04. Carried

District Governor Evelyn read out a list of candidates for District A-1 Lions for 2010-2011 as follows:

Governor Lion John Ross - Thorndale Lions -- Region 2
1st Vice District Governor Lion Steve Mahovlich - Belle River Lions -- Region 1
2nd Vice District Governor Lion Wayne Cudney - St. Thomas Lions -- Region 2
Region 1 Chair Lion Mickey Puddicomb -- Chatham Lions
ZC 1 C Lion Linda Fowler -- Essex and District Lions
ZC 1 W Lion Valerie Burningham -- Windsor Downtown Lions
ZC 1 E
Region 2 Chair Lion Peter Sequin -- Hyde Park Lions
ZC 2 N Lion George Croft -- Hyde Park Lions
ZC 2 S
ZC 2 E Lion John Johnson -- Belmont Lions
Region 24 Lion Bob Tanner -- Petrolia Lions
ZC 24 N Lion Bob Radtke -- Ailsa Craig Lions
ZC 24 W
ZC 24 S

50/50 Draw Held – winner PDG Dale Taylor - \$182.50.

Announcements:

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