

# **DISTRICT A-1 DISTRICT MEETING**

**April 10, 2010  
Pelee Days Inn  
566 Bevel Line Road, Leamington**

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 2N George Croft
CS Anne Neill	ZC 2S Bob Bride
CT Joyce Doucet	ZC 2E John Johnston
PDG Don McKessock	RC 24 Janet Gawne
RC 1 Mary Mahovlich	ZC 24S Murray McDonald
ZC 1E Mickey Puddicomb	ZC 24N Bob Radtke
ZC 1C Linda Fowler	

Regrets received from:

ZC 24W Bob Tanner

Attendance 69: (14) Presidents, (12) Secretaries, (86) Others

The District Meeting was called to order at 9:20 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 March 31, 2010 shows that District A-1 has 1201 members.

## **Treasurer's Report:**

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as read was made by RC Mary Mahovlich and seconded RC Janet Gawne. Carried.

Our guest speaker PID Lion Dana Biggs gave a brief speech.

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

Copies of the Minutes of the February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010 District Meeting, Agenda and Reporting Schedules were emailed to all Cabinet Officers and all Cabinet Chairs. All Club Presidents and Club Secretaries were emailed the minutes of the February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010 meeting and the Agenda.

Flyers for The Lions Club of Strathroy-Caradoc Progressive Euchre Tournament fundraiser on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 and Lake Joseph Centre Transportation Project were enclosed in all District envelopes.

This is a reminder for all Clubs to please submit your PU-101 Reports before May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010 to Lions Club International. If your club has already elected your slate of officers for the 2010-2011, please fill in the form online and send a copy of the report to DG Lion Evelyn and VDG Lion John Ross as well.

I have received written reports from some of the Zone Chairs and Committee Chairs. All of these reports will be attached in my District Minutes for April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010 so that everyone is kept up-to-date.

A motion to accept the Minutes of the February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010 meeting as emailed was made by ZC George Croft and seconded by ZC Bob Bride. Carried.

**Vice District Governor Lion John Ross:**

Over the last two months I have had the opportunity to visit several of the clubs in District A-1. Attending Region and Zone meetings, Clubs large and small I found some of the most positive Lions that will move us forward in the coming year.

The excitement and atmosphere at the Port Stanley 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party has me believing that in 2010 and 2011 we will have the largest growth that the District has seen in the last 5 years. We have reached a turning point in District A-1, and I am very excited to be a part of this growth.

**Region Chair 1 Lion Mary Mahovlich:**

The Clubs in Region 1 have been very busy with fundraisers. Most of the clubs have attended all their Zone meetings which are now completed.

All Official visits but one are also completed.

Thank you to Zone Chair Mickey & the Chatham Club for hosting the Region 1 Speak off.

Thank you to Past Region Chair Steven for conducting the Region1 Orientation Session with one very interested Lion.

I have enjoyed working with Zone Chairs Linda & Mickey this year. Thank you for all your time & efforts put into making our Region #1.

**Zone Chair 1 Central Lion Linda Fowler:** (written report only)

I am pleased to report that all official Zone Chair visits and Zone Meetings have been completed since the last District Meeting in both Zone 1 Central and Zone 1 West. The Clubs have all been working hard to raise funds within the community and to grow their memberships as has been evidenced in the number of new members who have been inducted over the past few months.

It has been a pleasure to serve as Zone Chair this year and I have enjoyed all of my Club visitations tremendously.

**Zone Chair 1 East Mickey Puddicomb:** (written report only)

I have completed all five official club visits.

I have completed all three Zone Advisory Meetings.

I installed a new member at the Tilbury Lions Club at my 3<sup>rd</sup> Zone Advisory Meeting.

I represented my Zone Chair at the following events:

Region Rally Jan. 30<sup>th</sup> (not mentioned in my last report)

District Lions Breakfast hosted by the Chatham Lions Club

Region 1 Effective Speaking in Chatham.

District Effective Speaking in St. Thomas.

**Zone Chair 1 West Mickey Puddicomb:** (written report only)

I have completed two out of three of my official visits in Zone 1 West. I seem to be having a problem finding a date that suits the members of Windsor Riverside Lions Club. They are aware I need to make this visit before the end of my term and will be in touch with me on a date soon.

I have been present at all three Zone 1 West Zone Advisory Meetings.

**Region Chair 2 Lion Wayne Cudney:**

Since our last District Meeting, all clubs in Region 2 are very busy, completing their projects and reaching their goals as the Lion's year winds down. Most clubs boast an increase in membership but not as great as we had hoped. Some clubs still experience difficulty attracting members. We are planning an orientation meeting for new and recent members in the near future.

Region 2 held our Region Rally in St. Thomas on February 12<sup>th</sup> with approximately 50 members attending a very busy evening with mini casino, silent auction and 50/50 draw, showing a profit of \$300 to be donated to Eyes Right.

I also attended Zone 2 South Zone Advisory Meeting on March 22<sup>nd</sup> in St. Thomas. The guest speaker was Mr. Bill Water from the International Plowing Match. The Lions of Zone 2 South have together agreed to work 2 gates for the week of the plowing match, with all clubs sharing in the proceeds.

I also attended Zone 2 North Zone Advisory Meeting in London on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010. All clubs in Zone 2 North were also busy completing projects and goals for the year.

**Zone Chair 2 North Lion George Croft:** (written report only)

Since my last report in February, at which time I advised that all my official visitations had been completed, the third and last Zone Advisory Meeting was held on April 8<sup>th</sup>, hosted by London Central Lions club. Thanks to President Greg and the club.

Thanks also to District LFC Chair Rick Letton, who was our guest speaker and brought us up to date regarding LFC, prior to our Zone Project, the Purina Walk for Guide Dogs, scheduled for Gibbins Park on Sunday May 16<sup>th</sup>. The committee hopes to better the \$8,000.00 which was raised last year for LFC. It was great to see Lion Jim Lystar with his new Guide Dog-in-training at the meeting.

I had the privilege of inducting two new members into London Central Lions Club too, one of whom was a lady member, bringing the number of lady members up to three in this club which had no ladies a year ago.

London East Lions have three new members, one by way of transfer, and expect to induct two more members this Lion's year, which will result in a 50% increase in their membership this year, an awesome increase!!!

London North Lions have inducted their first lady Lion and hope to induct a second one soon and to continue to grow. They were the sponsoring club for the new Strathroy-Caradoc Lions Club this year.

Hyde Park Lions have inducted one new member and expect to induct two more and have a former member rejoining Lions this year. Plans are well underway for their third year of Country Cruizin at the Plunkett Estate on Thurs. nights from mid-May until late Sept. with proceeds for the local chapter of the Autism Society. They are also planning the second annual Christmas parade in NW London as a service project.

Forest City Lions, after several years of struggling, surrendered their charter on November 30/09. Thanks to London North Lions President Eric Dolansky for serving as Zone Secretary. It has been an honour and privilege to serve as Zone 2 North Chair this Lions year.

**Zone Chair South Lion Bob Bride:** (written report only)

I have now held all 3 Zone Advisory meetings. I thank Highgate, Port Stanley and St Thomas for hosting them. All 3 meetings were very well attended and all 6 clubs represented at each meeting.

As a Zone project this year, we donated to Haiti relief. A total of \$1850.00 was turned over to the Canadian Red Cross for distribution.

A Zone euchre tournament was held in St. Thomas and once again Dutton Lions were victorious. The big winner though was Eyes Right as a profit of \$231.00 was turned over to them.

I have completed 5 of 6 visits – my own club being the exception. My thanks to all the clubs for the reception and hospitality.

Some clubs are already working on next year's projects. That includes Zone 2S. We are in the preliminary planning stages to work 2 gates at the International Plowing Match in St. Thomas this September.

Membership remains a concern. However all clubs are working towards getting new members.

This has been a busy but fun year and I thank Governor Evelyn for asking me to be part of her team.

**Region Chair 24 Lion Janet Gawne:**

The three zones have busy with fund-raising activities:

Bartending

Support of local Junior D hockey team

Local sports for youth

Working with 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee for municipal celebrations

Raising funds from a breakfast to support family who lost all in a fire

Upcoming Purina Guide Dog walk and golf tournament

Food bank donations and baskets to needy families

Trivia contest

Annual tractor and Spa day draw for diabetes

Annual Jamboree in Wyoming to support EyesRight & Pat Mailloux Eye Clinic

MERL committee members have attended at least three zone advisory meetings with one more scheduled for May.

Delaware has recently lost one member but across the region, we have gained three new members.

An orientation for new members was held at the Wyoming Lions Hall on March 20<sup>th</sup> with 8 Lions attending.

We have welcomed one new club, Strathroy-Caradoc, and they are reaching out to get to know other clubs in the Region through invitations to local clubs and visitation. It was a pleasure to visit with them at a recent meeting.

All clubs continue to work in support of Lionism and their communities.

**Zone 24 North Chair Lion Bob Radtke:**

I am pleased to say that Zone 24 North has had an increase in membership by one. We now have ninety-eight members. Ailsa Craig has added one member.

All the clubs in 24 North have been very active.

Granton hosted the February zone advisory meeting. They had an interclub visit to Thorndale Lions Club. They distributed around 20 Christmas baskets to widows and widowers in the community. The club donated \$500.00 to provide Christmas hampers to lower income families in the community.

Parkhill Lions Club has been busy bartending for their local Junior D hockey team. Parkhill has had inter clubvisits to Port Stanley, Chatham, Strathroy and the newly formed club, Strathroy-Caradoc. They will be starting the youth recreation basketball and volleyball programs in April at the high school. The club has also started to work with the Parkhill 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee to help co-ordinate activities that should make for a busy but memorable weekend on the Civic holiday weekend. Their Trip of the Month tickets are now on sale for the 2010/2011 trips.

Ailsa Craig Lions Club had an increase of one member. The club hosted the Zone Advisory meeting. Lion Jacqui Flood from the MERL team gave the clubs a fantastic presentation. Ailsa Craig held a benefit breakfast for the family that lost everything in a fire. The breakfast was a success as the amount raised was over \$1800. Ailsa Craig is making preparations for the annual Purina Dog Guide walk on May 30. Plans are well under way for a golf tournament in August. The club is going to set up a BBQ on the Friday of every long weekend on the main street in town hoping to catch the traffic on the way to Grand Bend.

A motion was made to accept the oral reports of Region Chairs Mary Mahovlich, Wayne Cudney and Janet Gawne as submitted by ZC Bob Radtke and seconded by ZC Murray McDonald. Carried.

**Convention Report:**

Chair Bill Bissonnette reported that to date, registration at the convention is: 176 Lions, 51 Lioness, 21 Leos and 41 guests for a total of 289. There will be voting for the 2012 Convention venue – choices are Four Points Sheraton in London, Pelee Days Inn in Leamington or the Holiday Inn in Sarnia (Point Edward).

DG Evelyn announced that members were needed for the choir for Sunday's memorial service.

DG Evelyn pleaded for host families for the youth exchange program this summer.

**New Business:**

Request to pay district outstanding bills as follows:

\$192.51	Bulletin contest
\$50.00	Postage
\$350.00	Office Supplies
\$100.00	Plaques, gifts, etc.

Motion by ZC John Johnson, seconded by RC Mary Mahovlich. Carried.

Housecleaning matter - PDG Don McKessock brought to the attention of the members that an honorarium was to have been made to London Military Resource Centre last year up to \$500. He requested that this be reviewed.

Motion was made by PDG Don and seconded by VDG John Ross to pay an honorarium to London Military Resource Centre up to \$500 pending review by Convention Committee of funds owing, if not already paid.

PDG Ron Devos mentioned that LCIF has a lot of money which has not been used up for Melvin Jones Fellowship. DG Evelyn advised that all clubs had received notification from PCS Carolyn Oshell of how much money each club had with LCIF and how much time that they had to use it.

**Announcements:**

DG Evelyn announced that Ryan Chin from CNIB extended an invitation to District A-1 to attend Lake Joseph Appreciation Day on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

London Central Lions Fish Fry – May 1

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by ZC George Croft and seconded by ZC Mickey Puddicomb.

**MERL**

Extension Chair Jacqui Flood and Membership Chair Joan Cope made a presentation to the members and group discussions followed.

**Committee Reports:** written reports only

**Hearing and Work with the Deaf Chair Barb Tuxford:**

In District A-1, we are still collecting hearing aids and sending them with the eyeglasses to Calgary where they are forwarded to B.C. for recycling.

I had sent a survey out to the clubs with the Region Chairs, but have only received a couple of responses in what their clubs do with hearing aids and collections.

I did talk to the people in Mississauga who deal with used hearing aids, and theirs are sent to other countries, when cleaned and repaired. I am still exploring the concept of having at least a percentage of what we collect, remain in Ontario after repair.

On November 14, 2009, I attended the mortgage burning for Mercel House, a residential facility in London for Deaf Blind young people. It was a very interesting day, since we had a tour of the house and met some of the residents...seeing it in brick and mortar made all the donations for this project real..the lions of MDA can be very proud of themselves for this project.

I will be the chair of this committee again next year, as with most committees you spend the first year finding your footing...hopefully I will make some progress in the recycling for Ontario's deaf.

**Effective Speaking Chair Ron Lindsay:**

We had 3 Region Effective Speaking Speak – Offs this year.

Region 1 ( 4 Juniors) Chatham Lions Club Host Club

Region 2 (5 Juniors - 1 Senior) London Central Lions Club Host Club.

Region 24 (7- Juniors – 2 – Intermediate – 3 – Seniors) Petrolia Lions Club Host Club.

Total 22 Region Speakers.

Once again we did not have any French Speaking Candidates.

Clubs that participated with Speakers are Chatham Lions Club - Thorndale Lions Club – Hyde Park & District – London Central Lions Club – Lambeth Lions Club – Petrolia Lions Club – Glencoe Lions Club – Delaware Lions Club – Delaware Lioness.

District A-1 Effective Speaking Finals was held in St. Thomas.

Hosted by St. Thomas Lions Club at the Legion Hall.

WE had 11 Speakers for the Final Competition, 3 competitor's one in each category will represent District A-1 at the Multiple District Speak – Off in Toronto on the 7-8 May 2010. (Attached list of Speakers and Winners).

Thank you to all the Clubs that sent support money to help this fine program to continue.

To run these programs we rely on the Clubs Lions members to help, without your help we would have a hard time running the program so again may thanks go out to all the Club members that helped me this year.

#	Order	Contestant	Category	Club
<b>Senior Speakers</b>				
1 <sup>st</sup>	Place Winner	Natasha Raval	Sr.	Hyde Park
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Place Winner	Kim Sanders	Sr.	Petrolia
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Place Winner	Tabatha Carter	Sr.	Glencoe
<b>Intermediate Speakers</b>				
1 <sup>st</sup>	Place Winner	Heidi Carter	Imm.	Glencoe
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Place Winner	Lukas Jeffery	Imm.	Petrolia
<b>Junior Speakers</b>				
1 <sup>st</sup>	Place Winner	Keeley Baker	Jr.	Thorndale
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Place Winner	Brendan Delancey	Jr.	Lambeth
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Place Winner	Marissa Meuller	Jr.	Petrolia
	Runner - up	Liessell Innes	Jr.	Chatham
	Runner - up	Ben Davies	Jr.	Chatham
	Runner - up	Liam Israels	Jr.	Delaware

**Leader Dog Chair ZC Mickey Puddicomb:**

DISPLAY TABLE – At the District Lions Breakfast hosted by the Chatham Lions Club

DRAW – at the Chatham Lions District Breakfast, a singing stuffed dog, all proceeds will be going to Leader Dog School.

The winner of our 50/50 draw at the breakfast was staff member Lion Eric from Leader Dog, and donated his money back to my donation can for Leader Dog.  
**INTERVIEWED POTENTIAL STUDENTS FOR LEADER DOG.**

I interviewed four students, and one has graduated, one is at school as we speak. The other two are in preparation in doing their application forms.

**LEADER DOG PUPPY –**

A German Sheppard puppy was donated by a friend of mine and is already in his foster home, his name is Travis. We will keep everyone in touch of his progress.

**OUTSIDE LIONS**

21 Displays and guest speaking engagements during the Mandated training session for Accessibility and Patient and Family Care at both Chatham-Kent Health Alliance and the Wallaceburg Campus.

2 Boy Scouts groups.

2 Schools – One School the grade three children were saving their coins for Emerson's school and a total of \$96.00 was sent to the school last week.

**COMING UP**

Display at the A-1 Convention. And selling tickets on singing stuffed dog, proceeds for Leader Dog

Two Lions Clubs have me booked in April and one in May.

One in May.

**Lioness Liaison Region 24 Peter Geene:**

I have visited 4 of the 6 clubs in our Region.

I am always impressed by the amount of work that Lioness Clubs do in their community. They are certainly a visible force in their areas.

The funds raised and distributed in many areas is commendable to say the least.

The membership remains about the same but all clubs are always on the lookout for new members.

I will be visiting the remaining 2 clubs in April and May.

It has been a privilege to be the Lioness Liaison this past year in Region 24.

I do wish all the Lioness in our great District the best in years to come. Keep serving alongside the Lions Clubs as we all strive to make this a better place for everyone.

**Diabetes Awareness Chair Bev Wirta:**

I am pleased to report that the November, 2009 First Lions/CDA Tag day was a success. Across Canada, Lions Clubs raised \$16,000 and our 6 clubs in District A-1 raised \$3,320 of this total. Way to go Lions, Lioness and Leos.

The 2010 Tag Day preparations are being made and we hope that all the clubs in District A-1 will participate. It was a fun 1 day event that not only raised funds for diabetes, it also brought awareness in the communities of Lions participation and support for diabetes projects.

Please visit the Diabetes table today. I will have on display Tag Day information, Diabetes pamphlets and information along with raffle tickets for our Zone 24 West Diabetes Draw.

**Public Relations Chair Mike Kresky:**

In the promotion of Clubs in their community, most Clubs have a designated Lion as spokesperson. This position is even more effective if a focus is given toward both raising



community awareness but also promoting a positive image to generate interest toward the great work we do in the name of Lionism.

Where Clubs feel they may need assistance or where they feel a Public Relations Committee should be put together, the District's Public Relations Chair is there to assist in developing community rapport with local newspapers and with other community leaders.

One issue at the district level was resolved approximately 3 months ago and several Clubs have been featured recently in the MDA Magazine thanks to the work of our District Reporter Lion Curtis Marwood as well as through the efforts of Lion Marilyn Madasci. My sincere thank you goes out to both of these dedicated Lions in bringing Clubs from District A-1 into the forefront throughout the Multiple District.

**April 11, 2010**  
**(continuation of District Meeting)**

**Youth Exchange Lion Allister Cameron for Chair Jim Deslippe:**

To date, a lot of work has been done to get ready for the Youth Camp that runs from July 23-31 at Mt. Brydges.

As always, we are looking for more Host families. There are 18 Youth (13 girls and 5 boys) from 17 countries. 36 spots are needed (10 days each). We have 1/3 of the spots filled – mostly by non-Lions.

The Youth are here July 3-14 and 14-23 before going to Camp on July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The other issue is donations from Clubs. To date, \$3,400 has been received for a budget of \$7,000. Please bring this up to your Club. If you haven't made a donation to Youth Exchange, please consider making a donation.

Carolyn Cameron is passionate about Youth Exchange and has some ideas to pass along.

Carolyn Cameron spoke at the convention about Youth Exchange:

Over the past 30 years, with a couple of years off, Allister and I have hosted Lions Club Youth Exchange students. Many of these students still keep in touch and we have visited many of them in their homes.

There is a Lions Club Project in District A-1. Yet over that past few years, many people who are friends of Lions but who are NOT Lions Club members have been acting as host families because an insufficient number of Lions have stepped forward to fill the void. Hosting a student is not an onerous undertaking.

The students stay with one family for 10 days, move to a second family for 10 days and then they all meet at the Lions Youth Camp in Mount Brydges. Last year, the Chair of Youth Exchange, Lion Jim Deslippe, had 9 Lions host families and 9 non-Lions host families. In my mind, as I have said, this is a Lions Club Project so hosting only half the students is NOT acceptable.

Why is this happening?

Often I am told that the Lions member says that they do not have any young people living at home. When we first started hosting, we did have our children at home with us and during that time, we usually took one student. After our children left the nest, we continued to host these young people but we took 2 students at a time. That meant that they had someone to hang out with, to talk to, etc. when I was busy with meal preparation or doing laundry. It is also an

opportunity for each to learn more about each other. So the answer is to take 2 students who also often pitch in helping by clearing the table, folding laundry, etc. And don't forget to share the students with your grandchildren.

I also hear that you may only have one bedroom. These students are prepared to share with one another so that is not an issue.

I am too busy. I have other commitments such as golf, lawn bowling, theatre, family, etc. all of these can be incorporated into the students' activities. Take your student golfing (or miss one game), to the theatre, to the family reunion. We want them to see as much of our country and culture as possible. Yes, we will take them to Uncle Tom's Cabin, Sparta, a Native Village such as Ska-na-doh, a goat or dairy farm or pick blueberries, but we can also take them to family functions. And sometimes, Allister takes them out. Sometimes I do. We don't always both have to be with them.

I don't have the energy. Share a student with another family. Perhaps one of the members in your cub does not have an extra room so the students can sleep at your place, but both families arrange to share the outings, meals, etc. That way, 2 families will benefit from the experience and neither is over-loaded with the so-called "work"! One summer, I often travelled with 4 young people in the car because the members of the other host family were still working. There was never a dull moment!

It is too expensive to take them to theatre, amusement parks, etc. It is true that exchange students are not expected to pay their admission fees or for lunch or dinner if you are away from home so these expenses can add up. After a few years of hosting and picking up the tab, the wife of another member and I found the same thing and with our children still at home, it was often double or triple the cost. We approached the Dutton Lions and asked them to consider picking up the cost of the students' activities. For years now, the Dutton and District Lions have paid for the students' expenses of admissions, etc. We have never asked for our own personal cost or for mileage. That is part of being a Lion. The students are prepared to pay for their own souvenirs and personal expenses including shopping. Ask your club to help with these expenses.

I take part in other club projects. Yes, so do those who act as host families. Often the busiest ones act as hosts. This is just another way to show that you really care about Lionism.

Unfortunately and only rarely, someone will have a personality conflict with a student or some other bad experience. I encourage you to not let negative and sometimes exaggerated comments deter you from having a positive experience.

I am encouraging you not to miss out on a wonderful life experience by not being a host family. It gives you that opportunity to do the "thing" that you have always been wanting to do but never seem to get around to. For example, last year I asked the girls what they were interested in – sports, history, theatre and they both replied in unison – "Theatre – Shakespeare". Well I had been wanting to get to Stratford for several summers and had just never made it. As a result, the 2 girls and I enjoyed McBeth and took in some other sights along the way. It was because we had youth exchange students that I finally got to Uncle Tom's Cabin and I have taken them every year since – and yes, I always learn something new!

I will always remember the time that 2 of our students insisted on going to church. We had a Buddhist and a Jew in a Presbyterian Church in Dutton. And NO, the roof did not fall in! We also had a young lady from Israel who announced that I did not need to worry about finding a synagogue because she was an Arab Christina. She spoke to our congregation and thus many learned what it was like to live in Nazareth.

Not all students have kept in touch over the years. However, we have had the wonderful privilege to visit some of our students in their homes and to meet their families. When our retired teachers organization in Elgin took a Baltic Cruise 3 years ago, we joined them and then spent some time with former students in Austria, Switzerland, Denmark and Germany. Our student from Denmark returned to visit us a second time and also spent time with our son in Calgary as he travelled across Canada. A year ago this past winter, he was in Florida for a Veterinary Conference and he called to say he was tired of Orlando, could he come to visit us for a few days. Rolf, his fiancé, Bolette, and a friend of theirs from Washington spent 3 days with us and we showed them around another part of Florida. Last summer, we took a Danube River Cruise with the retired teachers and then spent an additional 2 weeks in Europe during which time, we attended Rolf's wedding. We have arranged for Rolf and Bolette to spend next week in Spain by trading one of our Time Shares. I tell you this only so that you can understand that they actually can become a part of your family. We continued on from Denmark to visit former students in Holland and Germany. In every case, our "host" families treated us like royalty giving us tours of the surrounding countryside. I cannot begin to tell you the wonderful hand of friendship that was extended to us. It is easy to understand why the kids who visit us are such great kids when you meet their families. Some of the parents of these young people and Allister think that we should have a "Lions Cub Senior Exchange" programme. We sincerely hope that some of these parents take us up on our invitation for them to come visit us in the near future. I could go on and on, but Evelyn won't let me. In closing, I just want to say that "Life is about choices and priorities". You made a good choice when you joined Lions. Now make another good choice and host a Lions Youth Exchange student. When it comes down to it, what really matters – your golf game or the opportunity you may have to influence a young person in some positive way? Lions Club Youth Exchange is an opportunity to enrich the life of a young student while enriching yours at the same time. This year, your Youth Exchange Chair has 18 students from 17 countries – 13 girls and 5 boys, all of whom will need accommodation for two 10 day stints. Life is too short. Step up to the plate and invite them in to your home. Your Governor Evelyn has been the director of the Youth Camp. Either she or I and Allist will be glad to talk to you later and answer any questions that you may have. Thank you for sharing your time with me.

### **Leos Chair Tony Beaulieu:**

We have 5 Leo Clubs in the district  
Belle River, Petrolia, Glencoe, St. Thomas and Dutton  
21 Leo's and 4 advisors attended the convention.

We are constantly looking for Lion Clubs to Sponsor new Leo Clubs. If any club is thinking about Sponsoring a Leo Club, please follow through with it. You will not be disappointed. It is a very rewarding and worthwhile venture as you help to shape leaders of tomorrow as well as future Lions.

Speaking for myself, I can't believe how much energy these young people have.

To give you an example of what can happen with a Leo club, I will tell you about the Petrolia Leos.

The Petrolia Leo's were chartered in February 2004 and since then there has been no looking back, They have held numerous dances, Breakfasts, Charity Barbeques, food drives and have helped with numerous other Lion Projects, Their biggest undertaking yet has to be their last on, A food drive for the local food bank. They weren't satisfied that they filled a pickup truck at

Christmas time; they felt they could do better. So they decided they wanted to fill a school bus. The local bus company was contacted and said no problem. The night before the food drive the bus company called and said that all their 40 passenger buses were not available but he could give them a new big bus. The owner of the company showed up Saturday morning with a shiny new 76 passenger school bus almost 2 times the size of what they were going to fill. I know when I saw it I said they can't fill that... They said, "Hey we just have to work harder... well Sunday afternoon they had filled the bus and collected over \$1000.00 for the food bank...

No complaining or moaning and groaning. They just said let's get r done.

Since their charter they have raised and given back to the community over \$36,000.00 and have helped put on events with Lions and Lioness clubs and legion and fair boards that raised over \$26,000.00 to sight conservation and diabetes..

It is amazing to watch what kids can accomplish.

So I highly recommend any Lions Club please seriously consider sponsoring a Leo Club. They are our future...

If you want any assistance, please do not hesitate to give me a call

### **Eyes Right Chair Harry Wismer:**

It is with great pleasure that I am able to report on our years activities of District A-1 Lions Sight Conservation Foundation, commonly known as Eyes Right.

In the past year, we have implemented and very soon will have completed our pledge of \$75,000 to the Charlotte Eleanor Englehart Hospital in Petrolia. This money is being used to supply a Phaco Emulsifier used in cataract surgery at the Pat Mailloux Eye Centre.

Our generous Lions, Lioness, and Leos of A-1 presented Eyes Right with cheques totalling \$14,500 at the recent cabinet meeting in Petrolia. The Board of Directors are overwhelmed by the support and generosity of our member clubs in their donations during our difficult economic situation where fundraising is increasingly challenging.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the Petrolia Lions Club who had pledged \$20,000 over four years to the project. I am honoured to report that they have paid this in one year.

I am also pleased to report that the Wyoming Jamboree proceeds of over \$10,000 were being turned over to the hospital in the name of Eyes Right. The following clubs helped with this fundraiser: Petrolia Lions and Leos, Plympton Wyoming Agriculture Society, Sarnia and Sarnia Township Lions, Wyoming Lions and Lioness and the Wyoming Legion.

Participation in donations is amazing – 70% of the Lions and 86% of the Lioness Clubs, and of course, our Leos.

The amount of donations regarding our district officers' visits, honourariums and memorials has also significantly increased.

Thanks to all of you, we have had a great year and I look forward to a second term as chair of this hard working and dedicated Board of Directors.

The Board gave out Certificates of Appreciation to the following clubs: Amherstburg Lions, Belmont Lions, Arkona Lions, Arkona Lioness, Belle River Lions, Dorchester Lions, Delaware Lions, Aylmer Lioness, Blenheim Centennial Lions, Dutton & District Lions, Glencoe Lions, Belmont Lioness, Chatham Lions, Hyde Park Lions, Lucan Lions, Delaware Lioness, Essex & District Lions, Lambeth Lions, Mt. Brydges Lions, Glencoe Lioness, Harrow-Colchester Lions, London Central Lions, Petrolia Lions, London Central Lioness, Kingsville Lions, Poplar Hill Lions, Mt. Brydes Lioness, Stoney Point Lions, London North Lions, Sarnia Lions, Port Stanley Lioness, Tilbury Lions, Port Stanley Lions, Sarnia Township Lions, South Windsor Lioness,

Windsor Downtown Lions, Springfield Lioness, Windsor Riverside Lions, Thorndale Lions, Strathroy Lions, St. Thomas Lions, Wyoming Lioness, Tilbury Lioness and Wyoming Lions. Draw for the carved wood Lions plaque that was donated by Wilma Goertz, widow of Lion John Goertz was Windsor Downtown Lions. Profit from this draw was \$1,950.

Presentation of cheques from St. Thomas of \$300 from the Region Rally, Hyde Park of \$1,400 from the skippy draw and Petrolia Leos of \$200.

A presentation of the final payment of \$25,000 was presented to the Mailloux family.

### **Bulletin Contest Chair Mike Kresky:**

Bulletins both within and outside of the Club are an effective tool for communication. They do not need to be lengthy but should impart news, opinions and information to those in receipt.

All bulletins received were scored for the period of October to February inclusive and the monthly and bi-monthly winners have already been sent and entered into the Multiple District competition.

Should your Club not have entered a bulletin or may have difficulty in establishing one, I am sure next year's Contest Chair would be pleased to offer assistance in helping you establish this most important communicative tool for the benefit of your members and your community.

And finally, before I announce the winners, I wish to acknowledge and thank all Editors participating and the enjoyment I received in reading their many quality submissions.

Monthly category from Zone 2 South, Lion Ron Poisson from Dutton & District Lions.

Bi-Monthly category from Zone 24 South, Lion Neil Mutch from Poplar Hill & District Lions.

Winner of the Doc Rumble Trophy was Lion Neil Mutch from Poplar Hill & District Lions.

### **Rob Spiering Leadership Award:**

Lion Rob Neill of Lions Club of St. Thomas presented a plaque to the winner – PDG Jacqui Flood. Well deserved.

ZC Mickey Puddicomb had the Leader Dog draw on the singing puppy – CT Joyce Doucet was the winner. This draw raised \$287.

### **Lioness Penny Draw:**

Lioness Rosemary Kennedy advised that the draw raised \$1,772.

### **Convention Report:**

Chair Bill Bissonnette reported that the final counts for registration were 187 Lions, 54 Lioness, 21 Leos and 41 guests for a total of 303.

### **Voting:**

Venue for the 2012 Convention will be at the Pelee Days Inn, Leamington.

District Governor for 2010-2011 is Lion John Ross.

VDG John Ross introduced his officers for next year:

1<sup>st</sup> VDG – Lion Steve Mahovlich

2<sup>nd</sup> VDG – Lion Wayne Cudney

Cabinet Secretary – Lion Mike Kresky

Cabinet Treasurer – Lion Eric Dolansky  
Region 1 Chair – Lion Mickey Puddicomb  
Zone Chair 1 West – Lion Valerie Burningham  
Zone Chair 1 East – Lion Terry Ouellett  
Zone Chair 1 Central – Lion Linda Fowler  
Region 2 Chair – Lion Peter Seguin  
Zone Chair 2 North – Lion George Croft  
Zone Chair 2 South – Lion Bob Bridge  
Zone Chair 2 East - Lion John Johnston  
Region 24 Chair – Lion Bob Tanner  
Zone Chair 24 North – Lion Bob Radtke  
Zone Chair 24 West – Lion Joyce Doucet  
Zone Chair 24 South – to be appointed

Motion to destroy the ballots was made by ZC Mickey Puddicomb and seconded by ZC Murray McDonald.

The 2011 District A-1 Convention will be held at the Four Points Sheraton in London.

The next District Meeting will be held on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at Wardsville Golf Course. Further information will follow.

Respectfully submitted  
Cabinet Secretary  
Anne Neill