

16100 - GIC 1 10000000W7549 10,674.11
16200 - GIC 2 10000000Z4X38 15,000.00
16300 - GIC 3 10000000Z4X6T 9,999.42
Total 16000 - Long-Term Investments 35,673.53
Total Fixed Assets 35,673.53
TOTAL ASSETS 72,115.54
LIABILITIES & EQUITY
Equity
30000 - Opening Balance Equity 56,380.29
32000 - Unrestricted Net Assets 11,883.45
Net Income 3,851.80
Total Equity 72,115.54
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 72,115.54

Motion by Zone 1 ZC Jim Rigney Seconded by 1st VDG John Johnston to accept the Treasurer's report. Carried

Cabinet Sec. Cheryl reported the February 9, 2014 District Meeting minutes were e-mailed to all District Cabinet Officers, District Cabinet Chairs, Past District Governors, Club Presidents and Club Secretaries.

Motion by Zone 6 ZC Don Geddy Seconded by Zone 5 ZC Trigger McLeod to adopt the minutes as e-mailed. Carried

DISTRICT OFFICERS REPORTS

The following are the highlights from the District Officers Reports:

1st Vice District Governor's Report

- Thank you Governor Bob
- I have been kept very busy over the past 6 months with my DGE Training Attending Zone Advisory meetings in all 6 zones, 3 club visitations for Governor Bob with another 2 to be done in April to complete the task. Included with that I have done 26 campaign visits at clubs within our district.
- Working with Lion Jacqui I have promoted The Global Leadership Team and especially the CEP (Club Enhancement Process) and we have been directly responsible to have 2 clubs participate in the process so far this year. A special thanks also goes out to Lions Sondra Sasse and Sandy Leadlay for also participating in this process. Their assistance is greatly appreciated. Other clubs have shown interest in doing their own club assessment and I commend them for their foresight. However if you are planning on doing this you should consider doing the full programme and involve Jacqui, myself or any other member of the Global Leadership Team in order to get the most value out of the process.
- I have also been working with Lion George Croft our chair for the Global Leadership Team. Lion George has been instrumental in getting the GLT up and running from its beginning. He along with his team have been doing presentations across the district at Zone Advisory Meetings, District Meetings, Club Meetings and District Training initiatives at the Second District meeting of the new Lions year and at the District Convention for the past 3 years and the results are showing. When I looked at My LCI this past Wednesday our membership as shown was 1231. I subsequently signed another 10 memberships for a total now of 1241 active Members in District A1.
- I would personally like to thank Lion George for his hard work and perseverance over the past 3 years to help us get to those numbers.
- I would also like to thank Lion Governor Bob Tanner for Following his Dream. Without his help this would never have happened.
- The process works folks. Now we need 10 more new members before June 30th to reach 1251 active members and get this membership monkey off of our backs once and for all. We

have turned the corner and with some of the initiatives that I have planned for next year 1300 will be our new lucky number for 2014-15.
Respectfully Submitted.

2nd Vice-District Governor Report

GOOD MORNING, NICE TO SEE SO MANY SMILING FACES THIS MORNING.
AT THE FIRST CABINET MEETING MY TWO FAV WORDS WERE **JUST ASK**.
THEN I LEARNED 2 MORE WORDS **LEADERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP**.
I TRAVELLED TO CHICAGO TO A LIONS LEADERSHIP SCHOOL. IN THREE DAYS I GATHERED SO MUCH INFO. BUT IT WAS DELIVERED IN A WAY YOU UNDERSTOOD, SO LION JOHN, SORRY IN ADVANCE FOR NAGGING YOU TO DO A LOT OF THINGS I LEARNED.
WE HAVE THE **WOW** FACTOR GOING ON IN A-1 THE ZONE MEETINGS HAVE BEEN SPECTACULAR, NOT ONLY WELL ATTENDED BUT THERE HAS BEEN A PURPOSE AND I THANK ALL ZONE CHAIRPERSONS FOR JOBS WELL DONE.
WHILE IM THANKING PEOPLE, PDG JACKIE THANK-YOU FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK AS LEADER OF OUR GLT TEAM
AS MUCH AS OUR NUMBERS SAY WE'RE DOWN. WE ARE HOLDING OUR OWN WE NEED TO GET A BIT BETTER. SO GO AHEAD, COME ON SAY MY FAVORITE WORDS [**JUST ASK**]
SPEAKING OF JUST ASK I AM ALREADY LOOKING FOR PERSONS TO FILL MY CABINET AND COMMITTEES FOR THE 15/16 YEAR IF YOUR AT ALL INTERESTED CONTACT ME.
IF YOUR SITTING AROUND YOUR COMPUTER LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO GO TO LCI WEBSITE. OVER 6,000 TOPICS, MAYBE TAKE SOME TIME AND DO A WEBINAR. THE MORE WE LEARN THE BETTER OFF WE WILL ALL BE.
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

Zone 1 Chair Jim Rigney

Our year is getting close to ending. The clubs are getting over their numbers going South for the Winter. The activities have picked up since the better weather is here to stay. I am working with the clubs on our Zone project. It is a Pedia Vision Camera. This device screens the child's eyes and will give a printout to the parents to seek Professional help when needed.
Respectfully Submitted.

Zone 2 Chair Dan Nowlan

During this past quarter I have attended two Zone Club Visits and I have held a Zone Advisory meeting.
I want to express my appreciation to the Tilbury Lions Club for hosting a successful Zone Advisory.
In addition I was given the pleasure of conducting a new member induction in Stoney Point. That meeting also saw 16 members from Tilbury join the dinner meeting.
Zone membership is up. Membership opened at 170, saw some early declines and is now at 171. So congratulations to the clubs in zone 2 who are proving to be quite resilient.
My next zone advisory meeting is scheduled for Blenheim in May.
Respectfully Submitted.

Zone 3 Chair Ron Reid

Governor Bob, thank you for the opportunity to be the Zone Chair for Zone 3. I have completed all my club visits, and all my Zone advisories. Our Zone project is Scouts Canada (Camp Timken). All clubs were in favour of the project and have fully supported it. Our last Zone advisory was in Highgate and they provided a wonderful perch dinner. All clubs were present and gave reports. On March 27th, we held our Zone euchre tournament, fun was held by all, with the Dutton Lions taking top honours. I attended the Port Stanley Leo club Charter night, which makes 3 Leo clubs in this Zone. I would like to congratulate and wish the best of luck to the new incoming Zone 3 Chair. I would also like to thank Lion Laurie for acting as my Zone secretary.
Respectfully Submitted.

Zone 4 Chair Doug Crockett

Governor Bob, Past and present officers, since my last report Zone 4 has been working on our Zone Project. The Martins Home for the Hearing and Visually Impaired Adults. We are having a Trivia night on May 10, 2014 at the LAMBETH COMMUNITY CENTRE. It starts at 5:30pm and will finish at 11pm. Entry forms available online of all clubs in Zone 4. We hope all clubs in our District A-1 will support this night. Thank you, I submit this report on behalf of Zone 4

Zone 5 Chair Trigger McLeod

I have completed all my Zone visits and each club is doing well and serving their area. Helping all they can to have a better world to live in. I have held all my 3 Zone advisories, which were well attended. Our Zone project for Zone 5 was to help a local family with a blind child. I have enjoyed my year as ZC for Zone 5. Respectfully Submitted

Zone 6 Chair Don Geddy

I have completed 7 Official Visits,

Final Zone Advisory scheduled for Strathroy May 8th in Strathroy with plans for fun night being worked on. Will include Bucket Draw, Lions Trivia, 50/50.

Any added ideas, contact me ASAP. Let's have some fun Lions of Zone 6.

The Clubs have made a variety of donations including Lions, and local causes and worked to assist a variety of causes. Leading the worthwhile causes in magnitude is the Splash pad fund raiser in Mt. Brydges, which is near completion in fund raising totalling \$150,000 since the fall. A wide range of fundraisers are held, above and beyond the normal Bingos, and draws, including Rabbit Dinner, Winter BBQ and Elimination Draw, Meat Raffles and Bingos, Tribute shows and Pancake suppers.

Upcoming events include Sarnia's Dining in the Dark fund raiser, which also promotes Lionism and our involvement with the Blind. Please support Lion President Bob McGraw and his team. Other upcoming events to highlight a few, include Good Friday Brunches in Strathroy and Wyoming and a Chicken BBQ in Melbourne.

Strathroy will be celebrating 90 years of service with an Open House Saturday April 26th. All Lions are welcome to attend.

All Clubs are working at improving membership. With latest figures showing net growth of 9 with Sarnia, Wyoming and Strathroy Caradoc leading the way.
Respectfully submitted

Governor Bob presented each Zone chair with a plaque for his appreciation of all their hard work this Lions year.

Motion by 2nd VDG Mike Tuxford Seconded by Zone 1 ZC Jim Rigney to accept the District Officer's reports. Carried

DISTRICT CHAIRS REPORTS

This portion of the meeting was chaired by 1st VDG John Johnston as Governor Bob and I D Yves went to sit in on the Lioness Cabinet meeting. The following are the highlights from the District Chairs Reports

READING ACTION PROGRAM (RAP)

PZC Lion Joyce Mahovlich

One of International President Brian Palmer's goals is the READING ACTION PROGRAM or RAP.

"The more you read the more things you'll know. The more that you learn the more places you'll go."

This is a quote from Dr. Seuss, author of Children's Books.

Education and literacy are key to overcoming poverty, disease and other social issues. Yet today, nearly one billion people worldwide are illiterate.

The following are a few project ideas that your Lions Club might consider taking on:

- a) help an after school reading program
- b) read to children at local libraries or schools
- c) work with local literacy experts and agencies to promote reading
- d) read or record books on tape for the blind and visually impaired

A number of resources including a planning guide and project idea sheet are available. Artwork is also available on the LCI web-site that clubs can download to create Reading Action Program related materials.

In District A-1, there are many avenues to ask and see where you can help. Such as:

- i) Lambton County
 - Organization for Literacy in Lambton
Lochiel Kiwanis Centre
180 College Avenue North
Sarnia, Ontario
Phone: (519) 332-4876
E-Mail: oll@bellnet.ca
- ii) Essex County
 - South Essex Community Council
215 Talbot Street East
Leamington, Ontario
Phone: (519) 326-8629
E-Mail: jswan@secc.on.ca
- iii) Chatham-Kent
 - Adult Language and Learning
48 Fifth Street, 3rd Floor
Chatham, Ontario
Phone: (519) 354-7424
E-Mail: info@adulthoodlanguageandlearning.ca
- iv) Windsor
 - Unemployed Help Centre
6955 Cantelon Drive
Windsor, Ontario
Phone: (519) 944-4900
Windsor Public Library
Adult Literacy Program
850 Ouellette Avenue
Windsor, Ontario
Phone: (519) 255-6770 Ext. 4433
E-Mail: cdean@windsorpubliclibrary.com
- v) London
 - Literacy Link South Central
255 Horton Street
3rd Floor
London, Ontario N6B 1L1
Phone: (519) 681-7307
E-Mail: literacylink@bellnet.ca

- vi) Strathroy
- Southwestern Ontario Adult Literacy
24584 Adelaide Road
Strathroy, Ontario N7G 2P8
Phone: (519) 246-1577

Of course, there are also the various educational boards and colleges to contact such as:

- ◆ Lambton-Kent District School Board
- ◆ St. Clair Catholic District School Board
- ◆ Lambton College

Do not forget to share your projects and success stories.

Some that has been heard about so far:

Belle River Lions Club Connections Early Year Family Centre – Reading Program
Essex County Library – Reading Program during the
summer months

Bluewater Lions Club Invites as one of their guest speakers a representative from
the Organization for Literacy in Lambton and asks how they can help

City of Windsor Even a non Lions group is involved - the Chrysler Plant this past
season donated approximately \$10,000 a year to the Christmas hampers – just for books alone
recognizing the need to reduce the rate of illiteracy

Petrolia Lions Club Placed a book in each of the 50 Christmas hamper
distributed this past season

Do not forget to report this information on your club reports to the District and to International.
Perhaps on my next update on the Reading Action Program, I can report on your club's success
story.

Respectfully Submitted

Bulletin – Lion Bill Fell

Lion Bill thanked all the clubs that participated in this year's Bulletin Contest. Thirteen clubs have faithfully sent me their Bulletins. Excellent job by all, they were a pleasure to read. All Bulletins were judged by using the rules posted on the District Web page. Through a series of points given for various parts of each bulletin and averaged over the year. The Top Two **Monthly Bulletins**; First place Strathroy-Caradoc; editors: Elma Dolansky/Barry Wolfe, 2nd London Central; editor Bill Telfer.

Bi-weekly 1st Poplar Hill and District; editor Neil Mutch; 2nd Port Stanley; editor Rick Nemett

Effective Speaking – PDG Evelyn Spiering

Thank you to the Lions, Lioness clubs that donated to the Effective Speaking this year, from the 28 Lions clubs and 9 Lioness Clubs you donated \$5315.00

Thank you to the following Clubs that held competitions -Delaware, Chatham, Petrolia, and Thorndale.

With no Zone contests the club winner went directly to the District Finals held in Chatham on March 2 at The Active Living Centre. Thank you to the Chatham Lions Club for hosting the Finals

12 Competitors in all attended the Final. 8 in the junior category, 1 intermediate category,

and 3 in the Senior Category.

The Speakers had a wide range of topics from the importance of “Global Connections” to “When I had Cancer.”

Winners were as follows, Junior category winner was Anna Leapear sponsored by the Petrolia Lions Club, Intermediate category winner was Marissa Mueller also sponsored by the Petrolia Lions Club and Senior Category winner sponsored by the Delaware Lions Club was Julianna Schiller.

MDA Finals will take place May 31, 2014 at the Four Points by Sheraton in London, host Club is the Lions Club of St Thomas

Please contact Lion Gayle Cudney if you would like tickets to the dinner.

Respectfully submitted.

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS—PDG Bill Sasse

The proposed revised District A-1 Constitution & Bylaws, in the LCI Standard Form District Constitution & Bylaws format was approved by Cabinet in February 2014. It was then distributed to all clubs in accordance with the required notification to be voted on at this Convention.

The issue has been placed on the ballot for the voting delegates so it is now up to the Lions of A-1 to decide if this is the format they wish to use going forward.

Again, it should be noted that by adopting the Standard Form, any changes by the LCI Brd of Directors affecting the Districts and Clubs would automatically be reflected in the District A-1 Constitution & Bylaws as they occur, in accordance with Section 2 of Article IX of the proposed revised A-1 Constitution & Bylaws.

It should also be noted that the revised document does not eliminate any existing rules governing the operation of District A-1, but does add provisions that are essentially procedural in nature.

Some of the changes that you will note under the new format include:

- some re-wording of the existing provisions of the District A-1 Constitution & Bylaws
- moving some of the provisions currently contained in the District A-1 Constitution & Bylaws to the District A-1 Policy and Procedures Manual
- the addition of some new provisions to the District A-1 Constitution & Bylaws. The additional provisions would include Dispute Resolution procedures, proper amending motions and automatic update in accordance with amendments adopted by the LCI Board of Directors.

Since changes would be inserted automatically when using the Standard Form, the proposed District A-1 Constitution & Bylaws would be much easier to maintain and update. The revisions and amendments would also be inserted in a much more organized fashion. The Standard Format would also ensure that the District A-1 Constitution & Bylaws is always consistent with LCI Policy.

I recommend that the delegates support the revised document.

If the Lions of A-1 approve the revised document at this Annual District Convention, I will undertake to immediately update the District A-1 Policy & Procedures Manual to incorporate provisions that are removed from the existing District A-1 Constitution & Bylaws, as proposed.

Respectfully Submitted

GOLF TOURNAMENT—LION Kevin Feasey

District A-1 Clubs, This is the notice of upcoming District A-1 Golf Tournament at Wardsville Golf Club being hosted by the Glencoe District Lions Club on Sunday June 8th at 1:00 PM following the district cabinet meeting. A 9 or 18 hole round is available with a steak BBQ and prizes at 5:30 PM.

Those wishing to partake in the meal only can purchase for \$15 each. Please advise at least one week prior (June 1, 2014) for catering purposes.

We would ask all clubs to contribute \$35 toward the purchase of prizes. These donations really help to keep the registration price down and can be submitted and made payable to: Glencoe District Lions Club, PO Box 291, Glencoe, Ontario, N0L 1M0.
Hope to see you there, Lion Kevin Feasey, District A-1 Golf Tournament Chair.

“EYES RIGHT” – Lion Dr. Harry Wismer

It is with great pleasure that I am able to report on our year’s activities for District A-1 Lions Sight Conservation Foundation commonly known as “Eyes Right.”

The Brd of Directors is overwhelmed by the support and generosity of our member clubs in their donations during this difficult economic situation where fund raising is increasingly challenging. Participation in donations is astonishing so far—over 83% of the Lions clubs and 93% of the Lioness clubs over this past year.

The amount of the donations regarding our District Officers visit, honorariums and memorials has also increased significantly.

Thanks to all of you, we have had another great year and I look forward to continue working with this dedicated Board of Directors.

We have completed our most current project, to supply St Joseph’s Hospital- the Ivey Eye Institute, London with two Cyro systems and headpieces. This state of the art equipment will be used for Retinal detachment repairs and Macular Degeneration. This new procedure reduces the recovery time from surgery considerably and significantly improves the final visual result. The total pledge was \$70,000.00 over 3 years. We made the final payment at the District meeting in Wyoming in February 2014. Thus we completed the project in 1 1/2 years.

Our mandate, as you may know is to provide ophthalmic surgical equipment to our area hospitals, at their requests, through their local Lions clubs, as the need dictates. We are creating centres of excellence for eye care for our area hospitals and this new technique in London will serve all of District A1 and be a referral centre for Southwestern Ontario people.

As of this date, we are entertaining, but have not yet selected, proposals for our next project. We strongly encourage you and your clubs to actively pursue requests from your area hospitals where eye surgery equipment is needed.

Another area that historically “Eyes Right” has embraced, since its creation is to promote and educate members and the public on the need of corneal transplant donors. It would be a fitting legacy for us as members of the Lions family to champion this vision restoring gift.

Remember, this Foundation is years. Each Brd member is at your disposal for advise, information and or speaking to your club. JUST ASK!

If you have any need of the “in memoriam” cards, please contact any board member.

Check out our website at www.lionseyesright.ca

Each one of us and/or our family will require some sort of eye surgical intervention in our lifetime. Through the generous contributions of our Lions Family over the years we can proudly say “We Serve so others can see”. We are proud of our new LOGO.

Respectfully submitted.

ENVIRONMENT- PZC Lion Sandy Leadlay

WE HAVE PICTURES OUT IN THE HALLWAY THAT ARE SENT UP INTO 4 GROUPS, SOME OF THESE PICTURES ARE REALLY REMARKABLE AND BEAUTIFUL. PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU VOTE FOR THE PICTURES THAT YOU LIKE BEST. ALSO REMEMBER THAT YOU CAN ONLY VOTE FOR 1 PICTURE IN EACH GROUP.

THE WINNERS WILL BE ANOUCED AT THE END OF THE CONVENTION.

TREE PLANTING

WE STILL HAVE THE TREE PLANTING TO COME UP AND WE WILL SOON BE GETTING READY FOR OUR PLANTING IN MAY.

THAMES VALLEY CONSERVATION IS REALLY EXCITED THAT WE CHOSE TO WORK WITH THEM AGAIN.
 MORE INFORMATION WILL BE COMING TO ALL CLUBS IN LATE APRIL.
 AS YOU REALIZE THAT WE HAVE HAD A REALLY WEIRD WINTER AND THE SEASON HAS BEEN PUT BACK A FEW WEEKS.

I WILL SEND OUT A NEWS LETTER OVER THE NEXT 2 WEEKS TO LET YOU KNOW THE SITUATION FOR PLANTING.
 SOME AREA'S ARE ALREADY WORKING WITH THE CONSERVATION PEOPLE. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.

FANSHAWE COLLEGE LIONS CAMPUS CLUB

OTHER NEWS THAT I AM PROUD TO ANOUNCE IS THAT WE HAVE ADDED AS OF 2 WEEKS AGO 40 NEW MEMBERS TO FANSHAWE COLLEGE LION CAMPUS CLUB AND WITH THE STUDENTS THAT HAVE LEFT WE ARE STILL NET PLUS OF 35 STUDENTS FOR 2014.
 RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

GLT – PDG Jacqui Flood

First I would like to thank the Global Leadership Team for their dedication and hard work preparing the topics for the training & information sessions. Everyone stepped forward and willingly gave of their time. Thank you for making my job so much easier.
 Those that presented were as follows with the topic.

Time	Topic	Lead presenter	Assistant
1:45- 2:45	President & VPs	Lion John Johnston	Lion Wayne Cudney
	Secretary	Lion Cheryl Schleihauf	Lion Laura Switzer
	Meet Your International Director	ID Yves Leville	Lion Sandy Leadlay
	Public Speaking	Lion Eric Dolansky	Lion Sondra Sasse
3:00-4:00			
	Public Relations	DG Lion Bob Tanner CCE	Lion Les Youngson
	Orientation	Lion Jacqui Flood	Lion Don McKessock
	Treasurer	Lion Eric Dolansky	Lion Sondra Sasse
	Membership Chairs	Lion George Croft	Lion Jim Rigney

March 13th the Club Excellence (“Enhancement”) Process was completed with the London Central Club. Thank you to Lion Sondra Sasse for her great assistance.
 Looking forward to having more clubs contact me to facilitate the process in the coming months.
 Respectfully submitted
 Lion Jacqui Flood PDG
 GLT Coordinator

GMT Lion George Croft

Our efforts to assist Governor Bob achieve his growth goal to 1,300 members this year is ongoing.
 GMT Team members have been guest speakers at a Zone Advisory meeting in each of our six zones and distributed membership growth materials including copies of the Club Membership Chairperson’s Guide, Just Ask booklet and Membership Satisfaction Guide. Thanks to all the Zone chairs for your cooperation.
 Despite the best efforts of our GMT Club Development Team consisting of 1st VDG John Johnston and PZC Sandy Leadlay, who have worked on potential locations for new clubs and a potential new campus club at the University of Western Ontario, these efforts have not yet proven

successful. Our Fanshawe College Campus club has inducted many new members to replenish those lost to graduation and for other reasons.

Our team conducted a Club Membership Chair training session in St. Thomas on November 17th and will do so again this afternoon as part of the Club Officer training ably organized by GLT Coordinator Jacqui Flood.

Envelopes of Membership Growth printed material were passed to attendees at these seminars and will be passed to all incoming Region and Zone Chairs this weekend - Please don't leave the convention without yours - sounds like a commercial doesn't it!!!

Your GMT team remains available to assist all clubs achieve their growth objectives and to promote CEP-JUST ASK!!!

We're all enthusiastic, dedicated Lions or we wouldn't be here this weekend - let's commit to inviting a minimum of one friend, neighbour, family member, co-worker or business associate to a club HANDS ON activity or event this month and grow our clubs and district.

Respectfully submitted

Lake Joseph Transportation – Lion Peter Best

To date, little has changed since my last report. Camp dates are set for August 17 to 23, 2014. This period although later in the season was selected as being a better opportunity for our group to integrate with other active campers. After receiving quotes, Batter Bus Lines was by far the best price. I have forwarded the paper work to our District treasurer to send off our charter requests along with a deposit to secure our coaches. The block reservation for 30 beds arranged with the CNIB LJC ended on February 28, 2014. The CNIB LJC nor the local CNIB offices sent out promotional material or reminders to past and new potential campers in our area and although it is not my job as transportation chairman, I must each year make numerous phone calls and emails telling them about the camp and advising them about the application deadline. I explain how the Lions and Lioness of District A-1 wish to assist by offering complimentary escorted transportation to and from the camp. Some of the campers have explained that they have difficulty filling out printed paper CNIB camp applications. To help with this matter, I arranged assistance through the Paralegal Forms Clinic. I asked the District Secretary to circulate a copy of my funding request, which I am hoping that you have all received. Some funding is sent directly to the District Treasurer and some is sent to me to be forwarded to the District treasurer, who can give details on the status of our account.

Chairing this project has gotten increasingly more difficult to co-ordinate over the past five years or so. The transportation function is the easy and actually the fun part of the project. The difficulty is dealing with the CNIB LJC management and representing the wants and needs of our group.

The active more mobile blind campers have found the policies and practices very restrictive and juvenile. They do not want to be treated as children and are looking to more integrated activities that allow them to fully enjoy their vacation time. This group includes accomplished, educated, fully employed and professionals. Although this segment may have options, they appreciate having a place to gather with those who share life's similar challenges. The camp was intended for all levels and the customer service that once offered a quality first choice option, has sadly declined to a point where the mere thought of vacationing there stirs up frustration.

Then there is the group who we are increasingly tending to serve. Those that have far less or no other choice for recreational opportunities, those with multiple disabilities. These are the people who wait the whole year, just to return to camp. Our journey brings smiles to their faces, but when they arrive, their expectations are frustrated as the camp staff and facilities lack the support they need to participate. Long waiting lists, reduced staff, shortened camp periods, reduced facility availability and increasing costs. If one requires support/assistant care, the

additional cost is prohibitive. I have attempted to mitigate this dilemma in the past few years by including in our transportation project an assistant, Elaine, whose energy and support has made our journeys a pleasurable experience. Arriving at the camp, we offer support to our campers, but we feel our efforts are not welcomed by the staff.

Over the years our campers and their families have expressed their sincere appreciation and satisfaction with our Transportation Project, but continue to have issues with the CNIB LJC. I have extended my position to assist our campers with their communication with the CNIB LJC and their concerns.

Last September I arranged a meeting with our Governor Bob Tanner to meet a small delegation that represented a cross-section of the campers that we assist, so that he could learn firsthand how they feel about their experience with the Transportation Project and the CNIB Lake Joseph Centre. In summary they explained that they love the camp facility and how much it offers them, but they cannot benefit from it as each season something else is taken away or a new restriction is applied. Registering and attending is getting too complicated and the numerous concerns only serve to frustrate and discourage them. Governor Bob Tanner made them a promise to work with me to investigate and resolve their concerns but the issues remain unresolved. As a result we only have 20 of our 30 beds filled.

I do not want to be the voice of negativity but I do feel it is important to be true to reality and it is necessary to report all the facts. I try to keep a positive spin, but I am frustrated and not encouraged that things will improve, so after several weeks of discussion with campers and Lions, it is with a heavy heart that I have concluded that I am no longer comfortable chairing this project. For several years I have tried to serve the true interests of the blind and represent our District, but I have come to understand that my voice is not loud enough. I will honour my commitment to Cabinet and our campers to do what I can to make the 2014 project another successful, fun vacation experience.

As to the 2015 season, I will not serve as District Chairman for this project.

Conclusion:

There is a need and a value in continuing to offer to the blind and visually impaired in our District services that can ameliorate the condition of blindness. Our Transportation Project is one that has had a very meaningful effect on the lives of some vulnerable individuals and their families in our communities

My recommendation is that this project should continue as a committee, but only with support of the District Cabinet, rather than one or two making decisions. For change to occur it will take a combined District effort. The Lions' LJC Transportation Project is more than just about transportation. As knights of the blind we need to assist with the interest of ameliorating the condition of blindness. As fundraisers and sponsors we need to insist on accountability of customer service. There are no consequences to CNIB for a lack of response or client dissatisfaction, but we generously and blindly continue give to them. We need to look at new options and solutions that will better serve the interests and needs of the blind.

YIL Thank you, *once again for giving me the opportunity to be part of this valued service to the blind and visually impaired in our great District, and I hope you are proud of what we do and will continue your generous support.*

“If they can't get there, they can't benefit”

This project is our opportunity to serve. Thank you for your support.

L.C.I.F. – Lion PDG Don McKessock

My name is Lion Don McKessock and I am LCIF Co-ordinator for District A-1. It is a task I undertake with passion – for it helps to serve not only District A-1 - but also the world, where the need is greatest.

I want you to know – LCIF is an important part of Lionism:

LCIF is a world class help organization. LCIF is big. This year alone LCIF has 1) has provided over \$20M in grants to Lions-supported humanitarian projects 2) provided over \$3M in disaster relief (Philippines) and 3) formed a partnership with GAVI, a Global Alliance to improve children's health through improved access to vaccinations. Through this partnership over a 150,000,000 children will receive immunization against childhood diseases, including measles – rubella. This is to be achieved by the end of 2017 – with \$30,000,000 raised by Lions and working in partnership with WHO, Unicef, Red Cross, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and others. The power of Lions is even greater when working with partners to serve.

The numbers I have just referred to are big, but the number that is even more important is small – it is the number “1”. It is a small number, but it is the number that makes the service that is reflected in the large numbers associated with LCIF a reality! That number “1” represents one Lion. This is the magic of LCIF. Lions working together make a huge difference to the world.

LCIF is currently promoting a participation challenge. 15 District A-1 Clubs that have contributed to LCIF this year. It makes me feel extremely happy to report this number.. it is already more than double the number of Clubs donating to LCIF in any of the last 5 years and we are just \$40 from our \$12,000 goal! Thank-you Lions. There is still a challenge – there are still more than 30 Clubs who have not yet donated to LCIF this year. I will be encouraging all Clubs who have not yet donated to do so.

*So Lions, we still have more work to do - **this will only happen if you take the time to learn more about LCIF***

You can visit the LCIF page on the A-1 website to get more information – but I really would like to talk with your zone or club.

Note that donations to our Canadian Arm of LCIF “Lions of Canada Fund for LCIF” is tax deductible for donations of 20\$ or more.

Thank-you for this small measure of your time and for the generosity of your service.

Respectfully submitted.

Diabetes—Lion Bev Wirta

Twelve clubs participated in the A-1 Tag Day, Lions Lioness and Leos raised \$4996.85

The dates for 2014 are between October 15-November 30.

50/50 winner was Lion Frank VanKempen of the Bluewater Lions.

C0-Youth Exchange Inbound – PZC Lion Curtis Marwood

The YE program is a go for another year. Enough hosts have come forward to accept 10 youth, 4 boys and 6 girls. I have applications for another 2 girls for which I need at least 2 hosts. The youth are all 16-17 year olds.

I have sent letters of invitation to the 10 that I have approved. They are now in the process of arranging their flights.

I have sent a reminder to the hosts to send their applications. I will be sending them information about the youth as soon as I have determined possible matches.

Please help find 2 more hosts for the 2 girls that I have tentatively accepted. I would like to be able to assure them that I have hosts for them soon.

We will be meeting after Easter to look at the camp needs and the finances that are available for our wish list.

I will be attending the MDA YE meeting on April 26 in Markham.

Respectfully submitted.

Governor Bob presented all the Cabinet Chairs with a plaque in appreciation of all their hard work over this Lions year.

Motion by Zone 6 ZC Don Geddy Seconded by Zone 2 ZC Dan Nowlan to accept the District Chairs reports. Carried

CONVENTION REPORT- PDG Lion Evelyn Spiering reported 272 were registered for the Convention, which was made up of 180 Lions, 53 Lioness, 3 Leo's & 36 Guests.

The 2116 Hotel vote was won by the Holliday Inn in Sarnia Ontario.

The **2014-2015** Convention will be at the **BEST WESTERN LAMPLIGHTER INN** in LONDON on **APRIL 10, 11, 12, 2015**

The 2014/ 2015 Lion Cabinet Officers are:

District Governor Lion John Johnston Belmont Lions Club

Immediate PDG Bob Tanner Petrolia Lions Club

1st VDG Lion Mike Tuxford Lucan & District Lions Club

2nd VDG Lion Eric Dolansky Hyde Park & District Lions Club

Cabinet Secretary Lion Gerald Smith Belmont Lions Club

Cabinet Treasurer Lion Dan Armstrong Dorchester Lions Club

Zone 1 Zone Chair Lion Jim Rigney Belle River Lions Club

Zone 2 Zone Chair (TBA)

Zone 3 Zone Chair Lion Gayle Cudney St Thomas Lions Club

Zone 4 Zone Chair Lion (TBA)

Zone 5 Zone Chair Lion Jeff Zavitz Poplar Hill Lions Club

Zone 6 Zone Chair (TBA)

GMT (3yr term) PDG Wayne Cudney St Thomas Lions Club

GLT PDG Jacqui Flood Essex & District Lions Club

2014/ 2015 Lioness Cabinet Officers are:

District President Lioness Beth Ann Connors Port Stanley Lioness Club

Immediate PP Lioness Joyce Leal Belmont Lioness Club

VP Lioness Sherry Wismer Port Stanley Lioness Club

Secretary Lioness Sonja Kennedy Belmont Lioness Club

Treasurer Lioness Nancy Wright Wheatley Lioness Club

The PDG Rob Spiering Award recipient was **Lion Steve Anderson** of the St Thomas Lions Club. There was a profit of **\$1,728.00** from the Penny Draw.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Motion by PDG Steve Mahovlich Seconded by Zone 3 ZC Ron Reid to destroy all voting ballots. Carried**
- **3 Clubs received their 100% President Excellence Awards from Lions year 2012-2013: Delaware Lions President Eric Cornelis; Petrolia Lions President Art Parkes; Kingsville Lions President Dan Nowlan**
- **A committee be formed to update our District Web Site**
- **Jesse's Journey is travelling through our District around July 20th, 2014, more information to follow.**

DRAWS

- **Choir Draw was won by Lion George Croft from the Strathroy- Caradoc Lions Club**
- **Free Registration for Convention 2015 was won by 1st timer Lion Will Raymond of Windsor Downtown Lions Club**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ **Environment winning picture was of the "EAGLE"**
- ❖ **April 26 Strathroy Lions 90th Anniversary**

- ❖ June 8 District A-1 Golf Fun Day
- ❖ June 8 Cabinet meeting
- ❖ PDG Jacqui Flood said a total of 77 Lions took part in the afternoon sessions.
- ❖ Our 10:30 coffee break on Saturday morning was provided by the Holliday Inn. It was a "taste of Ontario"
- ❖ The Lions of District A-1 voted to adopt the new document of the Constitution & Bylaws.

CLOSING REMARKS

Governor Bob thanked everyone for attending the District A-1 Convention.
The flowers from the head table at the Banquet were presented to Lioness President Joyce Leal and Lion Gail Tanner(Governors wife). Lion Gail passed her flowers on to PDG Don McKessock to take home to his wife.
This meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Submitted by,

Cheryl

Lion Cheryl Schleihauf

District A-1

Cabinet Secretary