**District Governor Organizational Meeting (DGO)**

**Saturday, July 29, 2023, via ZOOM**

**Minutes**

80 Lions representing 28 clubs attended the DGO.

District Governor Lion Joyce Gero opened the meeting at 1 PM acknowledging that we are in Mi’kma’ki the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi’kmaq People. It was followed by The Lions Pledge, Lions Invocation, and a moment of silence in memory of fallen Lions, hope for world peace and heart felt sympathies for the loss of homes, loved ones and livelihoods from the recent natural disasters.

DG Joyce set protocol and thank everyone for attending the DGO. She expressed her disappointment of not being able to have a face-to-face meeting due to the state of emergency following the flooding disaster.

PDG Clyde Paul explained the voting procedures according to the District’s Policy Manual for the DGO meeting.

DG Joyce called for additions to the agenda. Item (E) Peace poster report under District chairs was added to the agenda. It was moved by ZC Dan Yarymowich and seconded by PDG Clyde Paul. Motion carried.

Approval of 2023 NS Convention minutes was moved by PDG Bill Bruhm, seconded by Lion Cheryl MacKenzie. Motion carried.

**Introduction of IP Dr. Patti Hill’s Message to Lions – DG Joyce**

On July 11 at the International Convention in Boston, along with almost 13,000 other Lions from around the world, I listened to newly elected International President Dr. Patti Hill from Edmonton, Alberta, share her vision for the 2023-2024 Lions year, and beyond. Dr. Hill told us that change doesn’t happen all at once. It happens through many small choices. With every act of kindness, we change a life, and with every Lions or Leo club, we change a community. When we change a community, we change the world.

Dr. Hill tells us that change begins one step at a time, but how do we get started?

First, we can create a greener, cleaner environment by protecting, improving, and restoring our natural resources, and literally changing the world.

Next, we can share our stories through local and social media, shining a light on our clubs, and inviting our communities to be a part of that change.

Then, we can set service goals that that push our limits, creating opportunities for more impact with new members.

Finally, we can both support and rely on our foundation, which enables us to think big,

taking on projects that truly will change the world.

Dr. Hill tells us:

 To be brave in the causes we tackle and the work we do;

 To invest in the future by inviting the next generation of global leaders to serve with us as Lions;

 To collaborate with community leaders, other service organizations, and each other to make change happen faster; and

 To lead the way by example, and others will join us.

We must believe in ourselves and believe that change is possible.

**District Governor’s theme “Bee-Lieve in possibility”**

Einstein’s quote “If the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe, then man would have only four years of life left. No more bees, no more pollination, no more plants, no more animals, no more man.”

That sounds rather basic, but the study of bees has revealed that they are not only crucial to our environment, but have intellectual skills that may rival our own, grasp the concept of zero, do simple math problems, and use polarized sunlight, which travels in only one direction, to find their way around.

I thought it might be fun to do a little interactive exercise on people and bees, starting with the definition of a common expression.

“As busy as a bee” means:

 having a lot of work to do

 someone who is very busy

 hard working

 totally full of activity and on the go

 in a purposeful and pleasant way

Who does that sound like to you?

Now, just for fun, let’s look at some of the regular tasks that worker bees perform and

compare them to things that Lions do.

**Regular Tasks Bees Lions**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Housekeepers**  **Nurses**  **Nannies**  **Hive builders**  **Guards/Ventilators**  **Foragers** | Clean hive cells and keep brood warm.  Feed older larvae with honey or pollen.  Feed younger larvae with royal jelly.  Produce wax, construct comb, ripen honey.  Guard the hive entrance and ventilate the hive.  Collect pollen, nectar, propolis and water for the hive. | Clean environment through  Adopt-a-Highway program.  Support organizations and  programs that aid the elderly.  Provide food and/or operate food banks for families in need.  Assist with reconstruction and cleanup after global disasters.  Protect health of blind,  diabetics, cancer patients, etc.  Collect hearing aids, eyeglasses, CPAP machines, etc. |

Bees are amazing little creatures, doing things that we may not have thought possible. And here’s another one, a quote from the beginning of the 2007 Bee Movie.

“According to all known laws of aviation, there is no way that a bee should be able to fly.

Its wings are too small to get its fat little body off the ground. The bee, of course, flies anyways. Because bees don’t care what humans think is impossible.”

**This leads us directly into my theme for the year, “Bee-lieve in Possibility”**

In 1890, poet Emily Dickenson said, “I dwell in possibility.” Here are some other people who dwell or believe in possibility.

 PDG Mark Durnford, who made it his mission to ensure that District N2 provided a

$250,000 camper lodge at Camp Brigadoon;

 PCC Scott MacKenzie, who envisioned a renovated playground at APSEA’s school for the blind;

 PID Len Giffen and Milford Lions, who built a magnificent memorial park in their community:

 PCC Perry Oliver, who challenged Lions in District N2 to outfit an additional treatment room in IWK’s oncology department;

 PDG David Hunter, whose determination resulted in a Hearing for All program through the Dalhousie Audiology Clinic

 Lions of Truro & District, who purchased an iPAD and software for a non-verbal six-year-old, only to have him return three years later to delivery the keynote address at a Charter anniversary celebration.

Every one of them believed in possibility; see what was achieved as a result.

**District N2 Goals for 2023-2024**

As most of you know, every year, Lions International asks district teams to set goals for their district and their clubs. And every year, the number of goals we’re asked to achieve seems to grow. But, we know, too, that if we believe in possibility, if we set our minds to it, we can achieve the impossible. So, here are our goals for 2023-2024.

We need to work together to fulfil our visions, achieve our mission, attain our goals. The

District N2 team and I ask that each zone, each club, each Lion in Nova Scotia strive to

realise them throughout the year.

 Service: Increase percentage of clubs reporting service by 10% by end June 2024.

 Membership: Start one new club with 20 charter members by end June 2024.

 Membership: At the NS Convention, hold a Worldwide induction ceremony to rejuvenate clubs.

 Membership: Have 5% fewer dropped members than previous year by end June 2024.

 Leadership: Have 33% of club officers complete training in Lions Learning Center by June 15.

 Leadership: Hold an Emerging Lions Leadership Institute weekend for up to 25 by April 21.

 LCIF: By end June 2024, 34 clubs (50%) in N2 will donate to LCIF, an increase of 7.

 LCIF: By end June 2024, 12 individual Lions, an increase of 100%, will donate to LCIF.

 LCIF: District N2 will apply for a matching grant for a district project by September 30.

 LCIF: Clubs will be informed of various grants available from LCIF by December 30.

 LCIF: Member education about Lions of Canada Foundation for LCIF by Winter Cabinet.

I went through those quickly, but you’ll here more about them from myself and Vice District Governors Karen and Kim when we visit your clubs this fall.

There’s one more, a challenge that’s been given by LCI. MISSION 1.5 is to strive to

reach 1.5 million members worldwide by June 30, 2027. It sounds like a lot, doesn’t it? But really, if you break it down, that’s a net gain of 41 members each year for the next four years. I believe in that possibility.

**Introduction of District Team and comments from the 1st and 2nd VDG**

1st VDG Karen LaVigne is looking forward to learning about the different clubs and what they do. She looks forward to this year and is looking to learn more and will see everyone in the fall.

2nd VDG Kim Stewart is really excited and anticipates doing a lot of club visitations. Her primary focus will be supporting the zone chairs. There will be a ZOOM meeting coming up shortly and she will be participating in the zone chair training. She is looking forward to supporting any zone chairs that need the training and feel free to call her any time. VDG Kim will be looking for guidance from the DG and the team as she is new in this role and a member of the cabinet.

**Global Leadership Team Coordinator Report – PDG Bill Bruhm**

Lions attending the Winter Cabinet in Bedford indicated overwhelmingly that they valued leadership training and hoped to see more opportunities to participate in training. Our Zone Chairs will receive their training on August 11 and 12 in Truro. Most will attend in person but at least one will be joining us by Zoom. We have many new Zone Chairs, and many new leaders at the Club level. Many of their questions can be answered by attending an Officer training session. Two sessions were held in the spring and more will be held this fall. Please watch for training opportunities and sign up. You don't have to hold an office to attend. If you are thinking about taking on a leadership role in the future, this is your opportunity to learn more about that position.

**Global Service Team Report July 29,2023 – Presented by CST Lion Frank**

DG Joyce, VDGs, Fellow Lions let me start out by saying that as Lions it is our mandated duty to provide for those in need.

Service is the action of helping or doing for someone else. We provide for those in need unselfishly when we are called or the opportunity arises in our own areas, our own province or anywhere around the World. District N2 has never backed away from a challenge or request for assistance.

Our focus for projects is Childhood Cancer, Diabetes, Disaster Relief, Environment, Humanitarian Efforts, Hunger, Vision, and Youth. We have all felt the need to support these causes as Lions and we see that the need is growing each day. As Clubs we look after the needs of our own Community as well as contributing to our neighbours through Zone and District projects.

In order to track our Service, we need to report our work both to our communities, our District and to Lions International. We do this not for the recognition but for the support that we get from our community, other Clubs and LCIF. We may even get new Members when it is show that we are active and effective. The recognition that we did something doesn’t hurt either.

I am asking that all Clubs continue to serve the needs of their own individual communities and ask support in our major projects in our District. I know that the Governor has a group in mind that we

could get behind as well I am in conversation with the IWK for several needs that they have to better serve their patients.

I am also asking that all Clubs designate a Service Chair to look after reporting your service work and sharing information of your service to your community’ the District Team, and to International. So far only 17of our Clubs have registered the names of their Service Chairs.

If I can be of any assistance to any Lion or Club feel free to contact me [perryoliver@hotmail.ca](about:blank).

Respectfully submitted.

L/Perry Oliver PCC, PDG

Global Service Coordinator District N2 2023/2024

**Global Membership Team Coordinator Report – Lion Linda Baltzer**

The active members in District N2 is 1626, which is a significant increase from this time last fall with 1568 members.

The District Governor’s Team set goals of starting 1 new club with 20 charter members and looking at having 5% fewer dropped members than in 2022-2023 Lions year.

There are still several clubs who have not reported in MyLCI, and I plan to follow up with these clubs. We need to concentrate on all clubs in District N2 with their monthly reporting, especially reporting of any new members.

The Global Membership Approach this year has 3 approaches to strengthening our District:

* Rejuvenating Districts with new clubs.
* Revitalizing Clubs with New Members
* Re-motivating existing members with fellowship and exciting service

We will diligently try to accomplish the above mentions.

I am ordering membership kits and will have them available in September. I ask that you only ask for the amount that you actually need when inducting new members.

As you know, we will do and always will need new members, so our organization can continue to service those in our communities. Please promote “Ask 1”. If every member in your club asked just 1 person to join, imagine the growth & service, we would have in our communities.

I am looking forward to working with the District Governor’s Team, and I am a newbie, so please have patient with me. If you have any questions or need help using my MyLCI to enter data please contact me. My information is in the New Directory.

Respectfully submitted,

GMT, Lion Linda Baltzer

**LCIF District N2 Report DGO 2023-2024 – presented by CST Lion Frank**

Good day Fellow Lions I am your LCIF District Coordinator for 2023-2024. Some of you may know me as a past district governor and past cabinet secretary treasurer but I will always be a Lion just like you. I am looking forward to working with all the club LCIF Chairs this year and to help DG Joyce meet her district team’s goals. As another Lions year is on us, we were hit with yet another disaster.

Flooding in the district has left many without means to get from one place to another and others have been evacuated from campgrounds, etc. I have been keeping an eye on the situation and if need be, we will apply for another grant. In the future I would like to work with the EMO in Nova Scotia to see how we can access more information quicker when a disaster strikes. It is times like these that I would like to stress how important it is to support the Lions of Canada Fund, LCIF.

Last year we had Hurricane Fiona and the Wildfires in the Upper Tantallon and Barrington areas. Which those community members are still struggling to get back to some kind of normalcy. PDG Susan did a great job handling the disaster relief grants that we applied for those two disasters. Giving out over $26,000 to support those communities. Hopefully we will not need to access those grants again, but you never know.

So, I ask all clubs to please consider putting LCIF in your annual budget to help those in need. When you donate, you can make those funds go towards a Melvin Jones Fellowship. If you want to know how much your club has accumulated just reach out to me.

I am sorry that I was unable to attend the DGO this year but will be reaching out to all clubs/zones to see if there is an opportunity for me to attend a meeting or two and share some information on LCIF and its programs. Yours in Lionism,

Lion Jane Gregory

LCIF District N2 Coordinator

902-840-3097

**Lions Foundation of Canada – District Chair, Lion Linda Baltzer**

Being the largest Dog Guide School in Canada, our mission is to empower Canadians with disabilities to navigate their World with Confidence and Independence, by providing a Dog Guide at no cost and supporting them in their journey together.

I hope most clubs took the opportunity to purchase one or more of our many LFCDG Awards that are available and presented them to a well deserved Lion within your club, for the year-end Award ceremonies.

It is that time of year again, if looking for a very easy fundraising project, look no further then ordering calendars to sell, from Green Capes.

* place your order online (Green Capes Order Form)
* Calendars are sold in boxes of 25 and will be ready to ship by mid-August.
* Initial payment (50%) is due prior to shipping; final payment is due by December 15th.

There is also an eCommerce model, which you can visit the website (Green Capes for Lions-How It Works) for the details of both models.

May 28th was the National Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides. I was in contact with the Foundation, and as of this week, they were unable to tell me how many clubs or totals from each club that participated in District N2. It could be another couple weeks before they have a final total; also the National total.

In June, DG Joyce, PDG Bill & myself attended the DGE weekend in Oakville, Ontario. I had a full day of productive board meetings; the next day the District Governor’s began to arrive. On the Friday, we spent a full day at the LFCDG school and the DGE were given tours within the Foundation to see how each of the 7 Dog Guide programs work. We are hopeful, that after the weekend that all DG’s went back to their Districts with an enthusiasm to help keep promoting LFCDG and to help support our “Difference Campaign”, realizing that we have outgrown our facility that we are using now, and the need for the NEW Facility that we are building.

Our normal October board meetings at LFCDG has been moved to the first week in November and in saying this, I will be stepping down as the Nova Scotia Director, and PDG Bill will be stepping into the position of the Nova Scotia Director. So, at this time I would just like to say congratulations to PDG Bill and wish him all the best. He will do Great!

Also, I would like to say a big Thank You to District N2, for all your support over the last 4 years. I have all intentions to continue promoting the Foundation and all the great work they are doing to help those Canadians with disabilities.

Respectfully submitted,

LFCDG N.S. Director,

Lion Linda Baltzer

**Lions Quest Canada – District Chair, PDG Lion Bill Bruhm**

Lions Quest is a comprehensive and universal, evidence-based social and emotional learning (SEL) program. SEL is a process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish positive relationships and make responsible

decisions. Lions Quest was used in Nova Scotian schools during the 1980s and eventually was replaced with a more up-to-date program. It is our goal to reintroduce the program at some level in one of our regional education centres. It is our hope that clubs will support Lions Quest by making donations to Lions Quest Canada.  A presentation will be made at the Fall Cabinet to better introduce the program and explain why the donations are needed. We have a fundraiser coming up called “Stepping up for Kids” and I will be sending out information soon. If you want to know more about Lions Quest or to make a donation, please visit <https://www.lionsquest.ca/>

**Fall Cabinet 2023-2024 report- presented by CST Lion Frank**

Good Day District N2 Lions,

Unfortunately, due to "all hands on deck" being required for the Kingston Lions support to the Port George Country Jamboree on this day, I am unable to present this report in person.

The Kingson Lions are looking forward to hosting the District Fall Cabinet meeting on October 20th and 21st. My organizational committee is in place and our first organization meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 2nd. I am proud to say that all Lions on the committee have three years or less in Lions and a senior Lion will be supporting in a mentoring role.

District Governor Joyce has provided initial direction which we will be using during the planning process.

A meet and greet will be held at the Kingston Lions hall during the evening of Friday October 20th .  Timings, theme, cost and menu have yet to be determined. The bar will be open.

All Cabinet meetings will be held at the Branch 98 Kingston Legion in Kingston during the day on Saturday, October 21st. The Legion is directly across from the Kingston Lions Hall, and we share the same parking lot. Please respect the Legion's direction regarding the wearing of head dress and hats while in their building, it is clearly stated on the entrance door and will be stated on the registration form as well.

The Noon Luncheon and District Awards presentations will be held at the Kingston Lions Hall on Saturday, October 21st.

All events with food will have a diabetic option.  We will be requesting that those requiring ***accommodation due to food allergies*** identify this during the registration process.  All venues are ***scent free***.

Ancillary meetings such as the LFNS, Zone Chairs meeting, etc. will be held as well in meeting rooms yet to be identified, however they will be held in either the Legion or the Kingston Lions Hall.

A guest speaker has been identified by DG Joyce she will be arranging this for the day of the meetings.

The committee will hammer out the details and we hope to have a registration form out by the end of August or earlier.  A deadline for registering will be identified and ***strictly adhered*** to. We encourage early registration.

Again, we look forward to hosting the District Cabinet and are aiming to provide a fun and enjoyable experience for everyone.

Respectfully submitted,

Lion Pat Nixon

Chairperson

District N2 Fall Cabinet Meeting

(902) 840-1842

nixonpat@hotmail.com

**Interim Budget 2023-2024 – District Auditor/Budget, Lion Peter Wilde**

Lion Peter mentioned that a lot of work went into this budget and thanked everyone who worked on it to make this budget happen. He did not go line item by line item. He stated we are estimating 1665 members producing $32,883.75 plus another $7300.00 from other revenue sources for a total revenue of $40,183.75. This is a balanced budget for 2023-2024.

Lion Peter moved the approval of the interim budget seconded by Lion Russel Maillet. There were no questions. Motion carried. It will be officially voted on at the Fall Cabinet meeting in Kingston in October. Lion Peter ask the Lions to think about a potential dues increase as it will be coming up in the near future.



**Peace Poster Report - July 2023 by Cynthia Bruhm- Presented by PDG Bill Bruhm**

As outlined on the Lions International Website, Lions Clubs have been supporting the Peace Poster Contest for over three decades, Lions Clubs around the globe have been sponsoring a very special art contest in schools and youth groups. Creating peace posters gives children everywhere the chance to express their visions of peace and inspire the world through art and creativity.

Students ages 11, 12 or 13 as of November 15 are eligible to participate in the International Peace Poster Contest. Entries not meeting the following deadlines will be disqualified.

* Kits are available from the Club Supplies Sales Department at International Headquarters.
* **October 1:** Deadline to purchase kits from the Club Supplies Sales Department at International Headquarters.
* **November 4** (so that it can reach the DG before the Nov. 15th deadline): Postmark deadline for a club to send one winning poster (per contest sponsored) to the district governor.
* **December 1:** Postmark deadline for a district governor to send one winning district poster to multiple district council chairperson.
* To sponsor the Peace Poster Contest, Lions clubs can order a contest kit. A kit is needed for each contest sponsored.
* **The 2023-2024 Contest**
* *Theme: Dare to Dream*
* **Each kit contains:**
* Official Club Contest Guide and Rules
* Official School or Youth Group Contest Guide and Rules-Please read carefully!
* Participant Flyer to duplicate and give to participating students to take home.
* Sticker to place on back of winning poster
* Certificates for contest winner and school or youth group

**Distribution of Packages**

DG Joyce thanked Lions Russell and Tami Maillet who printed the directories and delivered them to the Sackville Lions Club. She also thanked VDG Karen, Lion Sabrina and PDG John Stoddart who helped stuff envelopes and deliver them across the province and PID Sherry and PCC Perry for the use of your club hall. DG Joyce mentioned that there are flower seeds inside our packages an indication that we care about the environment.

**Records Storage Notice of Motion – PDG Lion Clyde**

Sackville Lions have been storing our District records for many years to the extent that there are around 57 boxes which have been moved to a storage locker in Bridgewater thanks to the efforts of PDG Bill. There is a lot of paper that is unnecessary. There is a team of 5 who are going through these and purging unnecessary and useless paper. To this end PDG Clyde made the following notice of motion.

**NOTICE OF MOTION**

TAKE NOTICE that I shall, on behalf of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee, bring forward for vote at the fall cabinet meeting to be held in Kingston, Nova Scotia on October 21, 2023, the following amendments to the Policy Manual regarding Cabinet Records and their storage:

Article 1 – District Administration subsections B and C be deleted in their entirety and subsections B and C be replaced with the following:

B) **Cabinet Records**

The following documents are considered Cabinet records and are to be kept for seven (7) years, after which they shall be destroyed:

All financial records and receipts, with the exception of those noted below.

The following documents are considered Cabinet Records and are to be kept permanently:

1. Minutes of all Cabinet Meetings and District Conventions, digitalized and stored in the Cloud and on the District N2 computer drive.
2. Audited copy of all yearly Financial Statements & Budgets, digitalized and stored in the Cloud and on the District N2 computer drive.
3. A copy of each District Directory.
4. District Convention Banquet Programs.

No District Record other than those indicated is to be disposed of without the majority approval of Cabinet.

At the end of each year, the outgoing CST will address purging and/or storage of the current year’s records.

C) **Storage of Cabinet Records**

All cabinet records designated for storage will be held at such location as is approved from time to time by the District N2 Cabinet.

**DG Joyce’s Closing comments:**

I’ve mentioned some Lions who believed in possibility, and there are others who popularized phrases in District N2 long before we heard them from LCI. Some examples?

Brian Sheehan’s “Together We Can.” Did that sound familiar. It should – we heard it from PCC Peter back in 2011. Dr. Hill mentions “Random Acts of Kindness,” something MDN CST Rhonda was talking about back in 2017. “Community Service is Global Service”? Hello, PCC Perry from 2018.

Dr. Hill is not only “Changing the World,” but she asks us to “Be the Change,” like PDG Debbie did in 2019. PDG Bill and two of his fellow DGs in MDN incorporated a shining Lions light into their year, and we keep hearing about that light from Brian Sheehan and Patti Hill. And even though I chose my theme, “Bee-lieve in Possibility” shortly after I decided to run for DG in early 2021, I’ve been hearing that phrase a lot in the last couple of years.

We may have challenges in District N2, Lions, but in many ways, we’re on the right track.

DG Joyce thanked everyone who attended the DGO meeting and asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion to Adjourn was moved by PDG Bill at 2:09 PM.