**Winter Cabinet Meeting Minutes**

**January 27, 2024**

**Milford & District Lions Club**

The District N2 Winter Cabinet meeting was held on January 27, 2024, hosted by the Milford and District Lions Club. One hundred and thirty-nine Lions representing 35 clubs attended the meeting.

**Please note that reports turned in prior to the meeting will be added at the end of the minutes**.

DG Joyce opened the meeting by acknowledging that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People and stated that we are all treaty people. This was followed by the singing of O Canada, Lions Invocation, Lions Pledge, and a moment of silence for our fallen Lions and world peace.

DG Joyce extended a hearty thank you to everyone who braved the snow and ice to attend the winter cabinet meeting in Milford today. She also thanked the Milford Lions Club for welcoming us so graciously.

**DG Joyce’s Opening Remarks**

DG Joyce extended a hearty thanks to everyone who braved the snow and ice to attend the

winter cabinet meeting here in Milford today, She also thanked the Milford & District Lions for welcoming us so graciously.

1st Vice District Governor Karen, 2nd Vice District Governor Kim, and I have almost

completed our club visits, and we’ve launched into a new phase where Kim is making the

rounds of zones, lending her expertise where needed and emphasizing membership,

service, and leadership, the three main components of MISSION 1.5. Karen, too, is busy

visiting zones in the district, as she shares the latest updates on the Difference capital

campaign from the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. I have been working with our

global action teams on a variety of projects and programs, as well as answering a few club

invitations to attend charter celebrations, like the 40th anniversary in Chezzetcook a week

from today.

I know that clubs have been busy as well, and several clubs and individuals will be receiving

some well-deserved recognition later today. Others will be taking pins and chevrons in

recognition of recruitment or service back to their clubs to celebrate at a later meeting.

There are other achievements that won’t be given formal recognition here today but are so

very important and much appreciated. I’m referring to those who have taken the time to

attend virtual and in-person training sessions as club officers, zone chairs, and simply Lions

who want to learn and grow.

As a result of training on MyLCI in December, for the first time in over two-and-a-half years,

every club in the district was completely caught up in reporting membership. You all deserve

a round of applause for that but wait! Let’s keep that trend going. It’s a little more work if

you’ve gained or lost members during the month, but if nothing has changed, it’s a matter of

putting a check mark in a box – as simple as that!

MyLion training sessions have yielded similar fantastic results. In late November, 51% of

clubs in District N2 had reported service activities during the 2023-24 lions’ year. In the NS

Lion distributed here today, my message indicates the number had risen to 73% in

December. Well, it has jumped once again and is now sitting at 78%. Lions, thank you, but

don’t stop, keep that momentum going. Make service and membership reporting as routine

as checking the air in your tires, mowing your lawn, and shoveling your driveway.

We’ve got a lot of exciting stuff happening today, so let’s get to it.

**Greetings from Winter Cabinet Chair PDG Lion Debbie McGinley**

Winter Cabinet Chair PDG Debbie McGinley greeted everyone with a hearty “Good Morning” and shared the logistics of the meeting. She then introduced Secretary Lion Katelyn who explained the yellow signs (Community Needs Assessment) on the wall. The yellow signs have a QR code that allows you to take a survey online using the camera on your phone. The name of this survey is called community needs assessment. There are just a couple of quick, easy questions asking what you think are your community needs and what Lions projects (list of projects to choose from) you would support. This can be sent out via social media and printed posters can be sent to your community, businesses, and the local schools, etc. Using this technology is a great way to reach the younger population. Milford Lions club is offering to help other clubs with setting this up if they are interested.

PDG Lion Clyde Paul explained the voting procedures.

**Additions and Approval of the Agenda**

Under Other Business Excess Revenue was added by Lion Peter Wilde. DG Joyce said we would try to get to this today if not we will address it at our next meeting. She invited Lions to come with suggestions and questions at the next meeting. Also added under Other Business was Speak out and under Special Presentations DG Joyce added Club Excellence patches and Wildfire donations. It was moved by PDG John Stoddart and seconded by Lion Pat Nixon to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

**Approval of the October 21, 2023 Fall Cabinet Minutes**

It was moved by Lion Linda Baltzer and seconded by Lion Dale Clarke to approve the corrected October 21, 2023, Fall Cabinet Minutes. Motion carried.

**Constitution & Bylaws – Awards and Trophies Motion**

PDG Clyde Paul stated that this has been a long and horrendous process dealing with the awards and trophies and how they are presented at the fall cabinet. A committee went through every trophy. Some were very damaged and beyond repair others had no more room on them to add a name of the recipient, so it was decided to retire those trophies and replace them with a “keeper” plaque presented at the fall cabinet meeting.

It was moved by PDG Clyde Paul and seconded by Lion Peter Wilde that Article III (Awards and

Rules) be deleted in its entirety and replaced with Article III User Guide and Awards and Rules; renumbering all sections and subsections as required. Motion carried. The new Article III was distributed to all the clubs prior to the winter cabinet meeting.

**IWK Project Proposal – GST PCC Lion Perry Oliver**

PCC Lion Perry mentioned that this project was brought up and discussed at the fall cabinet meeting. Since then, he has heard from several clubs that they are interested in supporting this project and have pledged and/or sent in donations. He stated that $18,000.00 to $20,000.00 have already been committed to the project. The total cost of the equipment is $62,700.00 which if all clubs participated each would contribute $925.00 realizing that not all clubs can afford that amount. The number of clubs and total funds will be announced or publicized but not how much each individual club gave unless a club states otherwise.

IWK Foundation representative Sarah Moore gave a presentation explaining what this piece of equipment is and the need for it. Sarah acknowledged all the hard work Lion Perry has put into this project. Sarah explained that we are supporting kids not just in Nova Scotia but across all the Maritimes. She also mentioned that Lions helped purchase the other eye machine and that it is still functionable. Following the presentation Lion Perry acknowledged all the clubs that have already either pledged or sent in funds. An additional $3850.00 was passed in at the meeting bringing the total to $20,100.00.

PDG Clyde stated we are putting cart before the horse and that we never formally adopted the IWK project as a District project therefore, PDG Clyde Paul made a motion that District N2 adopt the IWK project. It was seconded by Lion Paul LaVigne. During question/discussion Lion Russell Maillet suggested that the motion should include the cost and a time.

**So, the motion was amended to now read “that District N2 adopt the IWK project at a cost of $62,700.00.”**

 PCC Lion Scott commented that there are very precise rules in our policy manual for how we operate a District project and by approving this motion we are setting those rules aside. Lion Scott said he didn’t have a problem with that, but Long-Range planning would like to hear from Lions or clubs to give input because we want to hear recommendations on how to make the process better. He said the rules are very onerous and it takes 2 cabinet meetings or close to 6 months to do it properly. He believes the rules need to be changed and that we should.

Lion Pat Nixon asked about LCIF grants. PDG Lion Jane said there are several reasons why they have not moved forward. One reason is you have to know how soon you need the money and secondly you can’t spend the funds before you apply for it, and it has been approved. It was suggested that we should take funds from the $96,000.00 in surplus and pay off what the clubs do not cover.

Lion Jamie Harper suggested we wait and see how much the clubs bring in and then pay the balance using the surplus funds.

Since there were no further discussion DG Joyce called for the vote. **The amended Motion carried.**

**Nova Scotia Convention Update**

Lion Barbara Urquhart reported that the Nova Scotia Convention will be held in Truro April 26th 27th and 28th. Meet and greet will be held Friday at the Truro Lions Club and the theme is “So you are a Canadian eh.” Please come in your Canadian tuxedo or your Canadian garb. Lion Barbara informed us that all 80 rooms at the Best Western Glengarry are booked. The Stone House motel is across the street from the Best Western and you can book a room there. Meetings and meals will be held at the Royal Canadian Legion branch 26.

**Speak Out Report**

To date, I have confirmed five clubs in 4 zones have committed to holding a Speak out Competition this year. A total of 15 clubs have declared they will not be hosting Speak Out this year. Amongst those I have not yet heard from, hopefully there may be a few more. Please let me know as plans emerge. That said, we can expect to hear at least four youth speak at our Convention. I hope everyone is looking forward to the experience as eagerly as I.

Faithfully yours in Lionism,

Lion Lorne Cooke.

**Mission 1.5 PowerPoint Presentation – GLT PDG Lion Bill Bruhm**

MISSION 1.5 is a drive to reach 1.5 million members worldwide on July 1, 2027

The Board of Directors have put this program in place, and they are asking every club in every district in every constitutional area to contribute. The whole purpose of Mission 1.5 is to increase our membership for the sole purpose of increasing the amount of service that Lions provide around the world. Since COVID our membership has dropped by approximately 500,000 however in Africa and Asia and South America to a certain amount their numbers are going up exponentially. In North America our numbers are tumbling. We are more than responsible for the decrease of clubs and active members in Lions International. We need to do something about it. If we are going to continue as the worlds largest service organization, we need to grow our numbers. Lion Bill stated that we do not grow together by acting alone and then talked about the key benefits of increasing membership. He also spoke about GAT roles and responsibilities and that the GAT will be leading the charge at the club and district level, which is critical to what we’re trying to achieve.  Lion Bill also shared Mission 1.5 strategy and the 6 steps to success.

To meet the membership goals and objectives every district will need to add new clubs, every club will need to add new members and every constitutional area will need to achieve positive net growth.

To be successful, we will need to focus on attracting a more diverse membership, including women and younger Lions who can carry our mission of service into the future.

So, let’s stay focused on success. Let’s make growth a priority for all Lions. Let’s get clubs engaged—we must succeed. Let’s execute our plans and work together to achieve our goals. Let’s communicate and collaborate for the best outcomes. And let’s recognize our achievements and acknowledge the people making it happen!

For an in depth understanding of what Mission 1.5 is all about click on the link below

<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/search-results?keys=Mission+Brief+Presentation>

**VON Connect Campaign Update – Emily Mansour-Hemlow and Bene Franquien**

VON Connect is also the name of our campaign to raise the $10 million required to purchase and implement this end-to-end home care software platform with a range of innovative features that will help make the best home and community care even better.

VON Connect will provide more care to more clients and their families in more communities,

more options to deliver virtual care, more wrap-around care with easy referral to other VON services and programs and more opportunities for client and family engagement with a Client and Family Portal.

VON Connect will mean for those who provide care and services more information available anywhere, at any time, more time to provide excellent care, rather than filling out paperwork, more repeatable processes, increasing safety and saving time and more efficient, automated scheduling.

VON Connect will mean for the health-care system more clients being cared for at home or in the community and therefor less demand on hospitals or long-term care and more cost-effective care and services.

Following their very informative presentation, PDG Lion Bill Bruhm moved that we withdraw $10,000.00 from surplus and donate it to the VON Connect Campaign and encouraged clubs if they seek it to donate too. The motion was seconded by ZC Lion Dan Yarymowich. The motion carried. An additional $566.00 was raised from tail twister funds and the 50/50 draw and donated to the campaign.

**Long Range Planning – PCC Scott MacKenzie**

Anti-harassment Policy – On behalf of District N2 Long-Range Planning PCC Lion Scott MacKenzie moved the adoption of the Bullying and Harassment Policy as presented and it be added to the District N2 Policy Manual as Appendix “M”. The motion was seconded by PDG Lion Clyde Paul. The motion carried.

Lions Experience Survey – A short questionnaire was passed out extracted from the How Are Your Ratings evaluation tool. Long Range Planning wants to know your thoughts on your volunteer activities and Club experiences.

Dues Funds Accounting – 2nd VDG Lion Kim Stewart stated that this is something Long Range Planning will be looking at next year to see how this will be allocated.

Surplus funds – Lion Scott reminded us that this was part of the questionnaire from a year and a half ago regarding District finances. 20% of those responding said we should use the funds for humanitarian services. 17% of those responding thought it should go to support struggling clubs in our District. 12% thought we should keep it for rainy day fund, 11% thought it should go to communications, 10% said it should go to Lions Foundation of Canada and 10% said it should be used to cover deficits with it.

PID Lion Len Giffen commented that back in the 70’s there was very little extra money our dues were used up over the year. It was felt that we best reserve funds for a period of time that would see the district through a complete year (not sure how long) so that in the event there was a disaster of some kind we could continue to operate our District for a year without any dues whatsoever. COVID is a good example, and that clause could have been used for that particular year.

PDG Lion Clyde Paul has agreed to research our District records for that policy and find out the amount and if was for one year or longer. Long Range Planning was asked to investigate what we would need to keep our district operating successfully in the event were unable to get together and collect dues.

**Lions Foundation of Canada**

Dog Guides – Report at the end of minutes.

PDG Lion Bill handed out Dog Guides certificates to 11 clubs in attendance.

Difference Campaign – 1st VDG Lion Karen LaVigne

Lions Clubs across Canada have been asked to donate $4.5 million toward the Difference Campaign. To date Lions Clubs across Canada has contributed $3.1 million which is 70% of the goal completed.

Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides is well on its way with $39.8 million as of January 2024 towards the $50 million goal to build the new National Dog Guide Training School.

The Council of Governors have previously discussed promoting donations from each district in Multiple District N to the Difference Campaign.

It was moved by 1st VDG Karen LaVigne for District N2 to make a donation of $5,000 from surplus fund for the Difference Campaign for Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guide. The motion was seconded by PDG Lion John Stoddart. Motion carried.

**Special Presentations**

Guiding Lions certificates were presented to the following Lions:

Lion Linda Baltzer, Lion Donnie Fancy, Lion Carol Knell, Lion Cathrine Gibson, 2nd VDG Kim Stewart and Lion Pat Nixon.

Club Excellence Awards were presented to the following Clubs:

Lion Boyde Stewart (Truro), Lion Pat Nixon (Kingston), PDG David Hunter (Chezzetcook), Lion Paul Burgess (Windsor) and PDG John Stoddart (Bedford).

DG Lion Joyce presented PDG Bill Bruhm with the International President’s Award for Leadership.

DG Lion Joyce also handed out envelopes containing Mission 1.5 new member and sponsor pins to clubs that have participated in the program and milestone service chevrons.

**Wildfire Donations**

We intended to present the wildfire cheques for $17,050 each to St. Margaret's Bay and Barrington clubs, made up of donations from clubs across MDN for ongoing restoration following the wildfires, but that we missed doing so, and the cheques were mailed to the clubs in early February instead.

The Rose Bowl was won by the Kinston Lions Club.

Meeting adjourned on a motion by PDG David Hunter at 3:21 PM

**Reports handed in prior to the Winter Cabinet meeting and Notices of Motions are as follows:**

**Final Report – District N2 Fall Cabinet Meeting: 20 – 21 October 2023. Synopsis**:

A committee of Kingston Lions members was established and planning for this event began on August 2nd. Subsequently, 4 other planning meetings were held prior to the cabinet meeting. It should be noted that on average, the main committee members had no more than 2 years experience as a Lion.

On October 20th and 21st, the Kingston Lions Club hosted the 2023 District N2 Fall Cabinet meeting. Lion Pat Nixon from the Kingston Lions Club was the District Chairperson for the Fall Cabinet meeting. Registrants had three options to pay for their fall cabinet registration; cheque mailed in, pay upon arrival or email deposit/transfer. District Long Range Planning, PDG Association and Zone Chairperson meeting were held separately over the weekend in the Kingston Lions Den. The weekend kicked off with a Meet & Greet held at the Kingston Lions Club on Friday, October 20th from 6 -9 pm. Theme for the evening was Mexican Fiesta with an assortment of Mexican Fiesta themed finger foods, tortilla chips and dip, etc. along with a complimentary margarita sampler. An AGD licensed 50/50 draw was held as part of the evening with the draw occurring at 8 pm. Meet & Greet Attendance: 65 Lions.

The Cabinet Meeting was held on Saturday, October 21st at the Kingston Branch #98 Legion, right across the shared parking lot of the Kingston Lions Club. The Lions Club was open at 7 am for early arrivals to sit and enjoy a coffee or tea with other Lions who had arrived early. The doors of the Legion were opened at 8 am for attendees with the meeting kicking off at around 9:15 am. Coffee tea and ice water were available at 8 am. Coffee, tea, ice water and assorted muffins (gluten free and diabetic options) were available at the mid-morning break.

Cabinet Meeting Attendance: 116 Lions The luncheon was held at the Kington Lions Hall with a full roast beef dinner being served complete with desert. PDG Bill Bruhm, the 2022/2023 DG held his awards ceremonies. A licensed AGD 50/50 draw was held with the draw occurring at the Luncheon. As well, the Tail Twister collected fines from everyone during the Luncheon. The meeting resumed in the afternoon.

Luncheon Attendance: 108 Lions Financial Total income $3,055.00 Total expenses $2,314.71 Net Kingston proceeds $740.29 50/50 Draws 1. Friday night meet & Greet: -Total of $325.00 was raised. -50% to winner Victor Tucker ($162.50). -50% donated to Local VON ($162.50). 2. Saturday Cabinet Meeting: -Total of $530.00 was raised. -50% to winner Rick Acker ($265.00). -50% donated to Local VON ($265.00). 3. Total of 50/50 draw proceeds donated to local VON: $427.50. Tail Twister Fines 1. Total fines collected: $158.50. 2. Tail Twister fines donated to Upper Room Food Bank Kingston. The Kingston Lions enjoyed hosting the district fall cabinet meeting, with many newer Lions gaining valuable experience and insight into district activities and an opportunity to meet with other Lions.

Yours in lionism,

Lion Pat Nixon

District N2 Chairperson Fall Cabinet Meeting 2023

(902) 840-1842

**GMT REPORT, JANUARY 27TH, 2024, WINTER CABINET MEETING**

MILFORD LIONS CLUB

DG Joyce, 1stVDG Karen, 2nd VDG Kim, CST Frank, Fellow Lions Our year is not off to a good start as we are at 1591 membership in our 68 clubs in District N2, down -38%. Yes, some is due to deceased members, and others have left our organization, either for personal reasons or transfers. I can only stress the importance of getting out there and promoting your club and your service projects in hopes for more recruitment of new members.

I would ask that each club please do an exit review with any Lion leaving, so we may on a District level understand why Lions are leaving, so we can improve on keeping them with us.

I am still working on setting up a meeting in the Mahone Bay area. I have been assisting some clubs with various membership questions and will continue to do so. If any clubs are in need of New Induction Kits, I have some with me, but please only ask for what is actually needed.

Do not forget that at the Spring Convention in Truro, there will be a World Wide Induction Ceremony, it would be nice to have some new members inducted this day.

Thank you for the first time in a long time that all clubs in the district has reported membership…. A job well done to all 68 clubs, and to the GAT for their hard work with working with the clubs that had not been reporting and the learning sessions put on by MD GMT Bill Bruhm.

Respectfully submitted,

GMT, Lion Linda Baltzer

**Diabetes Awareness Report**

Winter Cabinet Meeting

January 27, 2024

DG Joyce, 2nd VDG Kim, CST Frank

This is the eighth year of Diabetes Awareness Newsletter to continue bring awareness of diabetes to the District N2. This year newsletters I hope to continue provide interesting articles, up and coming event, recipes and answer any question you may have.

Continue to be in contact Diabetes Canada. They are in the planning stage of an event called Pump Couture Fashion Show. It will be evening dedicated to understanding and highlighting issues surrounding wearable tech, body image and stigma in diabetes in the Halifax area. It is my understanding that at least one Lion is taking part in the planning committee. If there are any other Lions that may be interested in this event, please let me know.

Respectfully submitted,

1st VDG Karen LaVigne

Diabetes Awareness

District N2 2023/24

**LCIF DISTRICT N2 REPORT**

Winter Cabinet 2023-2024

Milford, NS

January 27, 2024

District Governor Joyce, FVDG Karen, SVDG Kim, CST Frank, Fellow Lions

As your District LCIF Coordinator, I would like to encourage all clubs and Lions in District N2 to make a donation to the Lions of Canada Fund for LCIF. You can set up monthly payments or

make a single donation, every dollar helps. Remember to make note if you wish it to go towards

a Melvin Jones Fellowship. If you make or have made a personal donation of $50 or more this

year, please let me know. I have a pin to give you.

As you know last year District N2 applied for two Disaster Relief Grants to support the communities most effected by Hurricane Fiona and the Wildfires. That was over $26,000 that was given to help those community members in a time of need. I would like to thank all the

clubs that was able to donate as well to this worthwhile cause.

There are different grants that we can obtain when disaster strikes. From the disaster relief grant that is to help at that moment and then there is the grant for when you need to rebuild your community.

You can apply for many other grants as well through LCIF, for example Hunger, Humanitarian, Diabetes, Childhood Cancer, Environment and many more.

LCIF has developed a grant called the DCG, that clubs or districts can obtain for a special project.

If a single club makes a donation of $5000US, they can receive a grant of $750US to help with their project. There is a form to fill out and a report that has to be submitted after your project is done. The district can use the same kind of grant when they make a donation of $10,000US or

more and receive up to 15% of those funds for a special project.

LCIF also has a new LIONS LEGACY FUND to help raise money to aid our Lions Clubs in the future. When it comes time to think to the future and you are making plans for when you are no

longer with us, think of giving back to your community by leaving a legacy to the Lions of Canada Fund for LCIF. 100% of these funds go back to the communities.

Time is moving fast, and we only have a little over 4 months until the end of this lion’s year. So, if

you are planning to honor a member with a Melvin Jones Fellowship Award, remember to put in your request by the end of February, to make sure that it arrives in time for your awards night.

I will also be sending out a few videos for you to share with your members, see how every dollar.

helps those in need.

If you get a chance stop by my table at the Winter Cabinet and pick up some materials for your

club. Give me a call or drop me an email if you would like me to come to your club for a

presentation. I am here help you in any way I can if you need information on how to apply for a

grant.

Respectively submitted,

Lion Jane Gregory

LCIF District N2 Coordinator

gregoryjane00@gmail.com

902-840-3097

**Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides**

Winter Cabinet, N2

There are lots of exciting things happening at our Dog Guide School in Oakville. Ground has finally broken for our new school and permits are being granted by the local authorities to begin the initial stages of construction. Like all construction, costs are rising and there may be some delays in obtaining materials but the completion. The Difference Campaign continues to reach out to clubs and individual Lions and I am asking each club to consider a financial donation or pledge. Club members are encouraged to donate as well.

Following two years of Covid shutdown for matches between dogs and clients, I am happy to share that various streams have been reopened for requests for dogs. As of November approximately 76 dogs were matched with clients. There have been a large number of requests for replacement dogs for clients whose current dogs are moving into retirement. This is another impact of Covid and causes some stress for our staff as they try to meet the need for replacement dogs and new matches.

Another challenge for our school is the hiring of new staff and retention of existing staff. Compensation and other work-related issues are being examined so that we are more competitive in the job market. Oakville is the most expensive city to live in in Canada and most of our staff have a long commute to the school.

Due to Covid and the halt in the breeding program there is a reduction in the number of available dogs for training. The program is moving back to a more normal process but there will continue to be a lag in availability for some time to come.

Plans are underway for the Pet Valu walk in May. There is an incredibly important part of our fundraising and awareness efforts. Clubs are encouraged to plan a walk and introduce our school to their communities.

The Green Capes Calendar Sales for Dog Guides has been a huge success in our district. Seven clubs sold calendars for the first time this year for a total of 400. Thanks for the following clubs for your first time sales:

* Milford & District LC (100 calendars)
* Musquodoboit Harbour & District LC (75)
* Aylesford & District LC (50)
* Barrington & Area LC (50)
* Truro LC (50)
* Whycocomagh & Area LC (50)
* Canning & District LC (25)

They join other clubs who have been selling calendars for a few years:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** |
| Aylesford & District Lions Club |  |  | 50 |
| Barrington & Area Lions Club N2 |  |  | 50 |
| Bridgewater and Area Lions Club N2 | 25 | 50 | 75 |
| Canning & District Lions Club N2 |  |  | 25 |
| Middleton & District Lions Club N2 | 50 | 50 | 50 |
| Milford & District Lions Club N2 |  |  | 100 |
| Musquodoboit Harbour & District Lions Club |  |  | 75 |
| Truro Lions Club N2 |  |  | 50 |
| Whycocomagh & Area Lions Club N |  |  | 50 |
| Windsor and District Lions Club N2 | 50 | 50 | 75 |
| **Total** | **125** | **150** | **600** |
|  |  |  |  |

Selling Green Capes Calendars is a quick and easy way to raise funds for both the Dog Guides and your club. Each calendar costs your club $10. Most clubs sell them for $20. A number of clubs use their portion of the sales to make their donations to Dog Guides of Canada, so it is a win/win for everyone. Please consider taking this project on in the fall. More information will be circulated to clubs as it becomes available.

It is my pleasure to serve as the Nova Scotian Director on the Board of Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. Your ongoing support is needed and appreciated. Feel free to reach out to me if you or your club requires further information. Be sure to like and follow their Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/LFCDogGuides and visit the website at https://www.dogguides.com/

**Peace Poster Report**

Winter Cabinet Meeting

Milford Jan. 27, 2024

Nothing to report other than the winner for N2 was forwarded to DG Joyce and she has sent it forward to the Multiple District for their judging purposes.

Respectfully submitted,

Lion Cindy Bruhm

District N2 Peace poster Chai

**The Difference Campaign for Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guide**

They have asked Lions Clubs across Canada to donate $4.5 million. To date Lions Clubs across Canada has contributed $3.1 million which is 70% of the goal completed.

Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides is well on its way with $39.8 million as of January 2024 towards the $50 million goal to build the new National Dog Guide Training School.

The Council of Governors have previously discussed promoting donations from each district in Multiple District N to the Difference Campaign.

As a result, I would like to make a motion for the District N2 to make a donation of $5,000 from surplus fund for the Difference Campaign for Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guide.

Respectfully submitted,

1st VDG Karen LaVigne

**ZONE 3 – SECOND QUARTER REPORT**

**OVERVIEW**

Zone 3 continues to show mixed progress with some clubs expanding both their membership and

their activity while others continue to be at risk. We plan to step up our visitations in the third quarter and work with at least one at-risk club to expand membership.

**ZONE ACTIVITIES**

Visits: Visited Oxford on October 4th as previously reported. The Club recognizes that it is at risk

because of its small numbers. Beyond this, they would like to position the club to continue playing a key role in the community in years to come by attracting a new generation of members. They have one younger prospect and would like to build on this. We introduced them to LCI recruiting materials and showed them how to order these. We agreed to devote a future meeting to developing a recruiting strategy.

**CLUB ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS**

Please refer to the club reports. It is very encouraging that the at risk clubs continue to provide

meaningful and visible services such as meals for seniors in Springhill and recreation in Parrsboro.

**Training**: Unfortunately, we were unable to schedule officer school or orientation. We are currently

working with the Amherst Club to develop an in-house orientation by the end of February 2024. If this is successful, we will consider including the Parrsboro club which recruited ten members last year.

**Speak Out:** Three clubs expressed an interest. The Amherst Club was unable to find any participants. We have sent reminders to the others but have yet to get a response.

**Elections:** We have sent an email encouraging clubs to hold elections by the end of April and others asking for nominees for Zone Chair and Zone Representative to the Board of Directors for the Nova Scotia Lions Foundation. So far we have one possible candidate for Zone Chair who will likely be nominated early in February.

**ISSUES AND TRENDS**

We have two clubs at risk and two that are continuing to develop. One of the at-risk clubs has lost

another member. We will be working with them to re-build the club starting with our visit on Feb. 1st.

There is continuing difficulty in getting clubs to respond to calls and emails. In addition, two clubs

meet on the same night. This combines with the inability to drive at night to complicate visits.

Thanks got out to VDG Kim and Lion Frank for offering to assist with driving.

**OUTLOOK**

Visits to Amherst (complete), Oxford (February 1st) and Parrsboro are planned for the third quarter. We are also hoping to schedule a Zone meeting in Parrsboro in late March or early April.

**CONCLUSION**

As stated elsewhere there is a very mixed situation with some clubs doing well and others at risk. We will continue efforts to make the zone more relevant and provide assistance to the at-risk clubs.

Respectfully submitted,

Lion Dan Yarymowich

Chair, Zone 3

Signed: Dan Yarymowich

Chair, Zone 3

Date: January 27, 2024

**Zone 4 Report**

Since the Fall Cabinet meeting, a zone meeting was held on December 11, 2024, at the Pictou Lions Club. Presidents and Secretaries from all three clubs in the zone were in attendance, as well as a number of members from all clubs.

I included a power point presentation, with a theme around building connections as a way to improve club health and attract new members. This presentation was well received. 2nd Vice District Governor Kim Stewart was also in attendance. A healthy discussion occurred around attracting new members. Ideas and information were exchanged between the clubs, with identification of the some of the challenges and/or obstacles. Clubs also shared information as to how they were attempting to attract new members. 2nd Vice District Governor offered her past experience and continued guidance moving forward.

All in attendance were engaged in the discussion, and the overall meeting was positive.

I look forward to our next meeting, scheduled for February 26, 2024 at the Stellarton & Area Lions Club. A third and final meeting for the year is tentatively scheduled for April 18, 2024.

I hope to to encourage more engagement in the coming meetings. Overall health of the clubs appears to be relatively stable, although it appears Pictou’s membership dropped slightly last month. River John has had technical issues with reporting, but I understand these issues are being addressed. Pictou does well with providing monthly activity reports. As I am responsible for Stellarton’s reports as this Club’s secretary, I can indicate that monthly reports are now being submitted on time and membership reporting is being completed monthly. I have not been asked to moderate any issues to date.

Unless the clubs identify specific topics, the focus for the balance of this year will be leadership development, encouraging training, reporting to Lions International.

Sincerely,

Lion Diana Swaby

Zone 4 Chair

**Winter Cabinet Jan 27 2024**

**Zone 6 Report**

Zone 6 has 5 active Lions clubs based in the following communities:

Aylesford, Berwick, Coldbrook, Kentville and Kingston.

Membership has remained consistent. Membership losses are due to Deaths of a Lion, transfers, and other category. December 31, 2022, Zone Membership totalled 186, December 31 2023 Membership totalled 193 Lions. In January 2024 it was reported to me that both Kingston and Coldbrook will be inducting new members. Kingston Lions Club in a recent report mentioned 46% of their membership is female and there is a “changing of the guard” as new members are taking on leadership roles in the club bringing new ideas and ways of doing business. They also mentioned they are trying to bring back a focus on “fun” in the club. They will plan fun club events that they can do together to build a Lions Team with morale boosting. One club is seeking Membership assistance from their Zone, GMT leader Linda Baltzer, and from DG Joyce Gero - a guiding lion. The remaining Zone clubs are very eager to assist where they can.

Our zone clubs updated their activity reports to current recently and many participated in the recent zoom meeting hosted by PDG Bill regarding LCI website and My Lion website reporting.

All clubs were very busy during the fall season with service work much focused on Christmas Hampers including toys for children, Food Hampers, Seniors dinners, Community breakfasts - luncheons, fundraising and donations, individual supports (medical, medical travel, heat, food vouchers, CPAP, hearing aid assistance, used furniture, used clothing) and support for schools (breakfast programs, literacy programs, new medical kits, Lions after the Bell program). Berwick Lions Club had a Christmas Breakfast featuring Santa and the line up was out the door down the hall into the parking lot. An outstanding turn out and fun family event. They also participated in the Berwick Christmas Parade.

Kentville Lions Club this fall held a Barbecue for the Town of Kentville Pumpkin Walk. Two other zone clubs assisted Coldbrook and Aylesford. There were an estimated 5000 walking participants in the Pumpkin Walk. The line up had a wait time of 1 ½ hrs and the families plus pets stayed enjoying perfect weather. A truly amazing family event and the barbecue was basically sold out by the end of the evening. Coldbrook was very busy with their various businesses, drive in theatre, bingos, radio bingo. Aylesford had their largest senior (sit down/take out) Dinner participation just before Christmas. 225 Seniors sat and another 50 picked up a full Christmas Dinner to go.

These are some highlights from our fall time. Please read the NS Lion for more outstanding

activities with pictures from Zone 6 clubs.

Respectively submitted,

Zone 6 Chair

Jan Chipman

**Zone 10 Report**

**Winter Cabinet Meeting**

**January 27, 2024**

Arrangement are being made to hold a Zone 10 Meeting. Hoping St Margaret’s Bay Lions Club will be able to host this meeting but if not Zone 10 meeting will be held by Zoom. Once I’m able to hold the Zone meeting, I will send out a report

Armdale Fairview Rockingham Lions Club – The club membership now stands at 10 members.

Hubbards & Area Lions Club – The club membership now stands at 21 members

Spryfield Lions Club – The club membership now stands at 18 members.

St Margaret’s Bay Lions Club – The club membership now stands at 19 members.

Respectfully submitted,

Lion Paul LaVigne

Zone 10 Chair

Zone 12 Report

Winter Cabinet Meeting

January 27, 2024

All clubs in Zone 12 are back to meeting in person. All clubs continue to collect used eyeglass, hearing aid, CPAP, stamps, and ink cartridges. All clubs contributed to Zone 12 Annual Christmas Project.

Cole Harbour Lions Club – The club membership now stands at 11 members. Membership Chair continues to promote the club and look for new members through our club website and Facebook page. They have held meetings at least once a month at the Cole Harbour Senior Citizens Club.
The club continues to install and service InTouch Emergency Phone Systems. The club made a $500.00 donation to local food bank. The club is hosting a Valentine's Dance on Friday, February 9.

Dartmouth Lions Club – The club membership now 11 regular members and 2 at large for a total of 13 at this time. The have one new potential transfer from Nigeria and two other potential new members. They continue our recycling of bottles, pop cans, juice containers, wine bottles and beer cans. The Club has assisted five people to get eye exams. Dartmouth Lions 18 Air Cadet Squadron continue their training. Their Club put on an Oktoberfest on October 14th. We had a DJ provide music, they sold German Cuisine and had a live auction. They raised $4000 which was donated to childhood cancer at the IWK. They donated $750 to Margaret”s House in November. The following were donations our club made in December: $50 to Zone 12 Christmas. $200 to Caledonia Junior High families in need. $250 Superstore gift card for a family in need with 7 children $250 to Diabetes. $50 gas card to person living in their car who needed transportation to job interview They also paid for long form birth certificates for 3 children who were chosen to go to Disney World with the program Dreams Take Flight. One of their members participated at Sir John Thompson Manor assisting with donations for Feed NS and also decorating the Manor’s tree. They are currently working on a Spring Dance to be held April 20th/24 at Mic Mac AAC featuring the band, “Ruckus”. Hope to see our fellow Lions at this event.

Eastern Passage/Cow Bay Lions Club – The club membership now stands at 47. They continues to advertise in the local newspaper, on our community sign, on their face book page, as well as on their website. Both the Facebook page and the website have been revamped and updated on a regular basis. They loan out medical aids when required. They continue to do their monthly breakfast, their regular Tuesday night Bingo, their monthly Dog Guide Dance, and the monthly foot care clinic. They continue to give the use of their hall to the Explore Church at no cost. They had successful merchandise Bingos for Christmas, and a very successful breakfast with Santa, with over 200 served.

They hosted a 2nd paint night in October and presented a popcorn machine to Island View High School. In November they placed a wreath at the cenotaph and held one of their merchandise Bingos. December was a very busy month with the last of their merchandise Bingo’s, participated in a toy drive with the Kinsman, and donated to the students of Island View who are going on a trip in March. Then there was the Breakfast with Santa that was mentioned earlier, the members Christmas party and a Christmas party for the children. They decorated cookies, had a coloring table, visit from Santa & Mrs. Clause, and the main event was a magician. The kids and parents really enjoyed the show. Then they assisted with the food hampers. Numbers were up this year. There were over 100 hampers, servicing over 120 children. Then they had the New Years Eve dance and Levee. They are just starting the new year and still have much more to come.

Lake Echo and Area Lions Club – The club membership now stands at 14. Donation to Legion Branch 160 Poppy Fund $200. Donation to ESDH Hockey $500. Decorated a 20’ Christmas tree outside Lake Echo Rec Center. Tree lighting and fireworks December 1, 2023, 150 residents on hand and Church choir performed Christmas carols. Seniors Supper held on December 2, 2023 and 160 meals were served

Lake Echo and Area Lady Lioness Club Branch – The Club Branch membership now stands at 20 members with two prospective members. Health & Welfare– They send card to community members for special birthdays, anniversaries, deaths, get well, etc. Bingo – Run the bingo canteen on Sunday nights. 50/50 ticket sales at bingo & darts. Food Bank – Members bring donations to their meetings. One of member is the chairperson of the Food Bank. Recent donations - Canadian Cancer Society, Phoenix Youth, Terry Fox Foundation, IWK, Alice House, Kids Help Phone, the Zone Christmas Project, and sponsored a hockey jersey for a member’s grandson. They helped a lady with expenses while she was caring for her granddaughter in the hospital & helped another lady with gas expenses while taking care of her parents. They have a donation ready to take to the Winter Cabinet in support of the District N2 project to purchase a cataract machine for the IWK and will present it at the Winter Cabinet that we have two members attending. Events/Activities - They had three members who helped in the kitchen for Charter member Lion Donnie King’s Celebration of Life ceremony. Many of their members provided food as well for the function. They purchased lots of hats and mittens for both elementary schools in our district. A few members attended the Remembrance Day parade in Porters Lake. They purchased 50 boxes of chocolates for their Food Bank to put with their Christmas orders. Three members attended the Sackville Lions Club’s dinner theatre. They held our annual Craft Fair in November – it was a big success! They provided the hot chocolate & cookies for their annual tree lighting ceremony. A member took the leftover cookies into a Dartmouth soup kitchen.

They provided the desserts for the annual seniors Christmas supper and helped the Lions Club with the set up. They sold tickets on a Christmas/Winter basket – it also was a huge success!

Preston and Area Lions Club - The Club membership now stands at 14. In October, they had their annual Road Toll fundraiser. It was and continues to be a successful event where they are able to give donators information on their club and what they do for their community. In November they joined their local Girl Guides Club in their annual Remembrance Day parade and service. In December instead of their annual Wake-a-thon, they had a Christmas dance. As a result, they had interest from attenders who are thinking seriously about joining their club. Their next step is to follow up and recruit.

Respectfully submitted,

Lion Paul LaVigne

Zone 12 Chair

**WINTER CABINET MEETING**

**January 27, 2024**

**Zone 14 Report**

**Chezzetcook, Musquodoboit Harbour, Musquodoboit Valley, Sheet Harbour**

In attendance for the only meeting was Chezzetcook and Musquodoboit Harbour. The King Lion of Chezzetcook, the Secretary and the PDG. From Musquodoboit Harbour we had the King Lion and the Secretary. The 1st Vice Karen LaVigne was also in attendance but did not stay for the entirety of the meeting.

A lot of things were discussed but nothing was accomplished. Unfortunately, it is difficult to get members to come to zone meetings since COVID. I will be making individual visits to each club, I have been to Musquodoboit Harbour, I will be going to Musquodoboit Harbour on January 22 and still trying to make arrangements to get down to Sheet Harbour.

Respectfully submitted,

ZC Lion Donna Hunter

**Long Range Planning Committee Notice of Motion – PCC Scott MacKenzie**

December 21,2023

As part of our District’s strategic plan, N2 Forward, and on behalf of the Long-Range Planning Committee of District N2, I give NOTICE OF MOTION that I will move the following Bullying and Harassment Policy be adopted by the District at Winter Cabinet on January 27, 2024 or on the date specified for that event by the District Governor, and be added to the District N2 Policy Manual as Appendix “M”.

In Lions Service Lion Scott MacKenzie, PCC

Chair, District N2 Long-Range Planning Committee

**Lions Clubs International District N2 BULLYING AND HARRASSMENT POLICY**

**Introduction**

*All members and participants in Lions associated activities have the right to be treated fairly and with respect*.

District N2 is fully committed to providing a safe and harmonious club environment that is free from bullying and harassment, enhances the achievement of Lions Club International goals, and adheres to both the letter and the spirit of the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act. Accordingly, all forms of bullying and harassment, including any offensive or unwelcome conduct based on an individual’s race, religion, colour, age, sex, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, marital status, ancestry, veteran status, or other legally protected status will not be tolerated. The policy applies to activities and conduct in all clubs in District N2.

This means that all members of Lions clubs in District N2 shall:

• Understand what constitutes bullying and harassment and should act decisively and promptly to discourage any such behaviour of which they become aware.

• Make sure all members are aware what to do if they believe they are being bullied.

• Fully understand their responsibilities in relation to a claim of bullying and harassment by another member.

• Know who to contact for further assistance or guidance regarding bullying and harassment.

Disciplinary action will be taken against any individual engaging in such conduct. This attitude has been formulated considering:

• The legal responsibilities of Lions Clubs International.

• Interest in maintaining a productive Lions environment.

• Full commitment to the principles of equal opportunity.

• Lions Club International's image.

Notwithstanding, the complainant retains the right to exercise other options as described in the last section of this document.

**Definition of Bullying and Harassment**

*Bullying and Harassment is any improper conduct by an individual that is directed at and offensive to another person or persons and which the individual knew, or ought reasonably to know, would cause offence or harm.*

It comprises and includes:

• Any objectionable act, comment or display that belittles or causes personal humiliation or embarrassment to another person, or any act of intimidation or threat. It is important to note that this may occur physically, verbally, in writing or via online comments, or social media postings.

• Any conduct, gesture or contact that is likely to cause offence or humiliation to any person or that might, on reasonable grounds, be perceived by that person as a condition or threat on any advancement or training opportunity within Lions.

• Any unwanted or unwelcome behaviour of a sexual nature which makes a person feel offended, humiliated, or intimidated. Sexual harassment can take many different forms and may include physical contact, verbal comments, jokes, propositions, the display of offensive material or other behaviour which creates asexually hostile environment. An act of sexual harassment, while not intended to, may still result in offence, humiliation, or intimidation, even if it was not intended to offend, humiliate, or intimidate, and includes unwelcome touching, hugging, or kissing.

• Making rude, abusive, or insulting comments or using actions about a person's disability which are insulting or humiliating.

• Making comments or using actions or omissions which create a hostile environment within a Lions club.

• Using overbearing or abusive behaviour with a person.

• Racially oriented ridicule, e.g., derogatory reference to physical features, skin colour or cultural and religious observances or imitating someone's accent.

• Derogatory remarks about a person's age, mental and physical capabilities, and appearance.

**What Bullying and Harassment is Not**

It is fundamental to the proper and orderly running of clubs that the proper exercise of club officer responsibilities or authority related to the provision of advice, counselling, and other supervisory/leadership functions does not of itself constitute bullying.

Sexual harassment is not behaviour between members which is based on mutual attraction, friendship, and respect – and where the interaction is consensual, welcome, and reciprocated.

**Who is at Risk?**

No Lions club is immune from potential incidents of bullying, although its occurrence may be more likely in certain areas and situations. For instance:

• Certain groups may be more vulnerable to bullying than others including women members, disabled members, and 2SLGBTQIA+ members.

• But bullying can also occur when a particularly forceful viewpoint is asserted, and any dissenting voices are publicly ridiculed, be it an isolated incident or a series of incidents.

**The Effects**

For the individual being bullied, it is threatening and offensive. People can feel embarrassed, intimidated, humiliated, and distressed. Bullying has implications for all Lions. It creates an unfair club environment which may affect:

• club morale

• club performance

• attendance

• retention of members

**What you can do**

If you consider that you have been bullied you are advised to keep a record of incidents, dates, times, places, and witnesses.

If you believe you are being bullied there are several courses of action open to you:

• Approach the alleged bully, asking that the behaviour stop.

• Inform your club president or board of directors, as soon as possible.

• If you are unable or unwilling to discuss the matter with your club president or board of directors, then you should report the matter to the district governor as soon as possible.

In all cases the enquiry or complaint will be taken seriously and will be dealt with confidentially and promptly.

It is Lions Clubs International District N2 policy that your club president, board of directors, or district governor will:

• provide you with support

• treat the complaint seriously

• take the appropriate steps to deal with the complaint

You will not be victimised in any way for making an enquiry or a complaint of bullying. Victimisation will not be tolerated and if it occurs disciplinary action will be taken immediately.

**Bullying Complaint Process**

If there is still no resolution the matter will be dealt with under the Club Dispute Resolution Procedures, described in full in Chapter XXV of the Lions International Board Policy Manual, and the District Governor will:

• Appoint an independent person to investigate any complaint of bullying. The district governor shall not investigate the matter, because he/she will have to make the final decisions about the outcome. Where the district governor needs assistance with handling complaints of bullying, he/she may wish to arrange with the multiple district for assistance to be provided.

• If the respondent is the district governor, the matter shall be turned over to Lions Clubs International for investigation, as the complainant must be reasonably sure that the investigation has been unbiased.

• The investigator and other district and club officials shall be mindful of the rights and responsibilities of the Complainant and the Respondent.

• Until shown otherwise, a ‘complaint’ is an ‘allegation’. Neither person involved shall be characterised as the ‘victim’ or the ‘bully’. The activity or behaviour that gave rise to the complaint shall be referred to as the ‘allegation(s)’ until proven otherwise.

**Unsubstantiated Complaint**

If a complaint is not substantiated (as determined by the district governor) the district governor will:

• Clearly explain the reasons for the findings to both parties.

• Retain all records relating to the complaint in a secure place.

• Continue to monitor the situation to ensure that the behaviour complained about is not occurring and that any animosities have ceased.

**Substantiated Complaint**

Disciplinary measures which may be imposed on the bully by the district governor where appropriate:

• Warning and counselling

• Closer supervision

• Club membership terminated

**Retaliation**

Retaliation for complaining about bullying or harassment or cooperating in an investigation of such a complaint is strictly prohibited.

**Other Options**

Complainants retain the right to lodge a complaint with the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission at any point during the complaint resolution process.

The police can and should be contacted in instances where the actions complained of may constitute a criminal behaviour, physical violence, or situations where a member’s personal safety or security is in danger. District and club processes must cease when a police investigation is initiated.