District Governor’s Organizational Meeting

July 20, 2024

Bridgewater Jr. High School

Draft Minutes

The 2024 District Governor’s Organizational Meeting was hosted by the Bridgewater and Area Lions Club at Bridgewater Junior High on July 20, 2024.

One hundred and twenty-three Lions attended this meeting.

The meeting was called to order by District Governor (DG) Jane at 10 am. Lions observed a Minute of Silence following the Land Acknowledgement, the signing of O Canada, the Lions Pledge and Invocation.

DG Jane welcomed the Lions attending the meeting and thanked the Bridgewater and Area Lions Club for hosting the meeting. She encouraged all clubs to grow their membership and offered the assistance of the district team for training and club development. She asked clubs to consider a family fun day where Lions would have a non-business meeting to enjoy each other’s company. She asked us to consider how we can better serve our communities. She explained how she was able to incorporate District Governor Elect Karen’s pin to her own so Karen could travel with us. She reminded us that the world is changing, and we need to change with it. She reintroduced the Alert program and requested clubs to answer questions posed by the Alert Chair. Protocol was set for the meeting.

Cabinet Secretary (CS) Bill welcomed the members to the school and Bridgewater. He thanked the members of the club for their support in carrying off the meeting and asked the members to be acknowledged. Lions Brenda Loucks and Debbie Lowe, members of other clubs, were also thanked for their assistance. Name tags will be recycled for future meetings as both a cost saving measure and an environmental support.

Voting Procedures-PDG Clyde Paul outlined the voting procedures for the day based on N2 Policy Manual subsection 2, N. On a personal note he wished the District Team well and a very successful year.

Approval of Agenda-moved by CC Peter Reid and seconded by CS Bill. Carried

Introduction of International President’s message to Lions hi-lights-increase the number of Lions in our clubs, grow the number of clubs in our district and conduct more service in our communities.

Goals-reporting service by 10%, start one new club with new charter members, GMT and GLT looking at areas with no clubs, WW Induction Day to mark membership growth, 10% fewer dropped members, increase in the number of District Officer training, Learning weekend, 50% of clubs will donate LCIF, 12 individual Lions will donate to LCIF, matching grant for Hunger project, clubs will be notified of available grants, LCIF information distributed to all clubs, expand of IP goals

Approval of 2023-24 NS Convention Minutes-moved by Lion Pierre Thierren and seconded by Lion David Baugil. Carried

Introduction of District Cabinet:

1st Vice District Governor-Lion Kim Stewart

2nd Vice District Governor-Lion Pat Nixon

Cabinet Secretary/GLT-PDG Bill Bruhm

Global Membership Chair-Lion Linda Baltzer

Lions Club International Foundation Chair-Lion Frank Sellers

Constitution and By-Laws Chair-PDG Joyce Gero

Cabinet Treasurer-PDG Frank Hartman

Zone Chairs

1-Lions Gordie Baxter/Bob Jardine

2-Lion David Stroud

3-Lion Frank Sellers

4-Lion Diana Swaby

5-Lion Bill Woodman

6-Lion Craig Landsburg

7-Lion Wendy Owen

8-Lions Andrew Goreham/Sandra MacDonald

9-Lion Dave Moore

10-Lion Dale Clark

11-Lion Dale Clark

12-Lion Paul LaVigne

13-PCST Brenda Billard

14-Lion Donna Hunter

Other members of the district team were introduced as well. All positions can be found in the District Directory. DG Jane thanked all the volunteers who make the district work.

Comments from District Team

1st VDG Kim Stewart-thanked Lions for their support. She plans to travel around the district this fall and is looking forward to listening to their great ideas. She will share what she hears with the District Team and plans to attend a meeting in each zone.

2nd VDG Pat Nixon-thanked Lions for attending today’s meeting. Why am I here? We are here to support clubs and listen to what they have to say. He asked why clubs and members are not attending district meetings and what impact does that have on the district. He will be visiting clubs this fall and attending one zone meeting in each zone. He wants clubs to be honest and share their concerns, needs, training, etc. What are we doing well? He will offer technical support as requested. Let’s work together as a district team.

Global Leadership Team Coordinator PDG Bill Bruhm-members tell us that training is important and want more of it, yet members chose not to attend the offered training. Change is coming from LCI and will filter down to the clubs. More reporting is required at various levels and we are here to support you. Officer training has been carried out in Kingston and Bedford, and is scheduled for Baddeck, Chezzetcook, Truro and Yarmouth. Additional training will be provided as requested. All requests for training are to go through the Global Leadership Team Coordinator. Lions leaders must work together as teams, understanding the roles of other club leaders. Club leaders have greater responsibilities and new expectations are continuously forwarded to the district. Please share emails with club members, especially if the focus is training. Everyone is welcome to attend the training.

Global Membership Team Coordinator Lion Linda Baltzer-gave a big thankyou to Lion Dan Y of Amherst for his assistance with the Worldwide Induction Day at the Convention. We will continue to work to increase our membership. She asked for volunteers to join the GET/GMT joint committee, especially from the Cape Breton and Yarmouth ends of the province. A Worldwide Induction Ceremony will take place at the convention in Yarmouth and clubs are asked to forward names and pictures of their new members to Lion Linda. Please include the names of the sponsors. We want to start one new club this year (GET) and grow the membership (GMT). She requested the members to contact her with any suggestions for new clubs or membership ideas. See Appendix 1

Global Service Team Coordinator-Lion Cheryl Mackenzie-Lion Cheryl has reached out to the clubs already. She has found that 21 clubs have not reported on the portal. District reports are not shared with LCI. We are looking for a 10% increase in the number of the clubs reporting in the portal. Please reach out with questions or needs for assistance.

Global Extension Team Coordinator-see attached-Appendix 2

Fall Cabinet: October 18 hosted by the Amherst Lions Club. Registration materials will be distributed soon. The deadline for registration is October 11. Theme-the 70’s

Winter Cabinet-hosted by the Windsor Lions Club on February 8, 2025

Convention-hosted by the Yarmouth Lions Club April 25-27

Lions Clubs International Foundation- Lion Frank Sellers-Lion Frank will be contacting all club secretaries and/or LCIF Club chairs in the near future. He will be attending training in September and will share the information with all Lions.

Lions Foundation of Canada-CS Bill Bruhm-what an exciting time to be involved in the Lions Foundation of Canada. Construction for the new building has begun. The current building has been sold and those funds will be used as seed money. Clubs in N2 have donated or pledged $50,000 to date and will be asked to donate again this year. The cost for training a dog has increased to $35,000. Pet Value has donated all the dog food for the puppies. The Scholarship Program has been put in place as follows: Novice-$5000, Intermediate (early skills training to identify what type of service dog each pup is best suited to be) -$7500, Advanced-7,500, Expert-$15,000. Clubs can also make straight donations if desired. Brochures are available and more information will be available online. Donations will be requested at the next meeting for both the building campaign and the general expenses of the school.

Lions Quest-nothing to report.

Lions Foundation of Nova Scotia-nothing to report.

Lions of Canada-1st VDG Kim Stewart-July 27-International Zoom Meeting for folks under 35, the Advocacy team will be going back to Parliament Hill in November to continue their work, Marketing Team-thanks to PDGs Evie Morine and Joyce Gero for their contributions last year. Lion Sandra from Beaverbank will be joining the team this fall.

IWK Project-this project has been ongoing for the last 18 months. PDG Perry Oliver took the lead in contacting Sarah Moore at the IWK, and many members of the district leadership team have worked together to see this project come to fruition. Our request for a LCIF grant has been approved and we are waiting for a cheque to present to the IWK. Approximately $53,000.00 will be received from the grant, clubs have raised $41,685.07 and the IWK will cover the shortfall. A presentation will be made to the IWK once the check has received.

Presentations-PDG Joyce-Global Action Team Certificate presented to Eastern Passage Cow Bay Lions Club, International Certificate of Appreciation from IP Patti Hill-Lion Leonard Bugbee, St. Margaret’s Bay, Multiple District Speak Out plaque given to PDG John Stoddart for Bedford’s participant.

NSLions-extra copies of the NSLions were made available from the editor-Lion Tami Maillet

Distribution of packages-information packages for clubs were distributed to club leaders and Zone Chairs for delivery

Lunch

Interim Budget 2024-25-PCST Martyn Forshaw-copies were disturbed to all attendees. The interim budget is based on a membership number of 1600. See Appendix 3. Following discussion re. allocations of members dues, a motion was made to approve the interim budget-PCST Martyn, seconded by Lion Cheryl Mackenzie. Carried. The final budget will be distributed in early September to be voted on at the Fall Cabinet Meeting.

Budget and Audit-PDG Clyde Paul-Visitation Pins-the district needs to order more pins to recognize the visitations made by club members. Surplus funds hold an excess of $70,000. Motion to proceed with the replacement of the visitation awards and the cost be covered by the surplus funds up to $4500.00. Moved by PDG Clyde Paul, seconded by PCC Peter Reid. Carried

Financial Report-CT Frank Hartman presented the Financial Report. The district holds two accounts-RBC-$101,089.89 including the IWK funds, East Coast Credit Union-$25498.06 plus two year term 35325.44 Grant money Lions Quest-2018 Moved by Lion Cheryl Mackenzie, Lion Martyn Forshaw Carried

Correspondence-none

New Business:

District Project-DG Jane asked for a volunteer to serve as Hunger Chair for a project with Feed Nova Scotia-Lion Beth Emery volunteered to take on this task.

Club Goal Challenge-DG Jane discussed the concept of a Club Goal challenge where each club would set a goal for the year. She has other challenges which will be emailed out to the district including Wear It Wednesday, Mark Your Service, Zone Challenge and Global Focus Challenge. Details to follow.

Monthly Reports-clubs were reminded to report service on the portal and seek assistance if needed.

Notices of motions-CBL Chair PDG Joyce Gero

**Notice of Motion 1 for October 19th Fall Cabinet Meeting, Amherst**

During the past few years, there has been much discussion regarding the District Activity Report, what its true purpose is, and whether the value it holds is justified by the time and effort that are put into its preparation by club secretaries and administrators, and its review by the District Governor, Vice District Governors, and the GAT team. Contrary to the belief that has been held by some, the District Activity Reports are NOT forwarded to International, which depends on and emphasizes the importance of reporting service activities through the Lions Portal to learn about club activities.

Among the benefits associated with service activity reporting through the Lions Portal are sharing ideas with other Lions clubs within the district, following District N2’s progress toward achieving our goals, maintaining and strengthening our 78-year consultative status as a Non Governmental Association with the United Nations, and collaborating with partners such as the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics, and the Measles and Rubella Initiative to combat blindness, address malnutrition, improve access to clean water, enhance education, and build safe affordable housing. Without the information provided by our clubs, many partnering foundations would not join forces with Lions to provide funds to carry out these initiatives, and there could be less funding available for some of the grants districts depend upon, such as those which were given in District N2 for relief from Hurricane Fiona and the south shore wildfires, as well as the matching grant for the cataract equipment for IWK.

You may be wondering how we can carry out the district awards program without the information received through the activity reports. There are currently only five awards, possibly six, that rely on point assignment from the District Activity Reports. These are the Visitation Trophy, the Best Zone Trophy, the Best Club Trophy, the Best President Trophy, the Best Secretary Trophy, and if used to decide, the Most Improved Club. We have created application forms for specific awards that would be completed only once each year by interested clubs. These fillable forms will be available to you at the Fall Cabinet Meeting, meanwhile, PDG Bill has provided sample non-fillable forms for your review.

In conclusion, I am making Notice of a Motion to be presented at the Fall Cabinet Meeting in Amherst on October 19th, to discontinue the District Activity Reports, reporting instead solely through membership and service activity reports on the Lions Portal and to introduce several award applications to be submitted by clubs applying for specified awards according to guidelines that are outlined on the award applications.

**Notice of Motion 2 for October 19th Fall Cabinet Meeting, Amherst**

Historically, membership is asked at each cabinet meeting if there are any additions to the agenda. The sometimes-unexpected results can pose challenges, such as disrupting the scheduled timing of the meeting, or introducing topics without allowing adequate time to research and prepare a response. To avoid this dilemma, I am, at the request of the District N2 team, making Notice of Motion to be presented at the Fall Cabinet Meeting in Amherst on October 19 that under Article II Cabinet Meetings/Conventions of the District N2 Policy Manual, Section X Agenda be added, to read as follows:

**X}  Agenda**

**A draft agenda will be circulated to all clubs and District Officers seven (7) days in advance of the DGO, Fall Cabinet Meeting, Winter Cabinet Meeting, and the Nova Scotia Convention. Any requests for additions to the agenda must be made in writing to the District Governor and Cabinet Secretary no later than three days prior to the meeting or, in the case of an emergency, through a request made directly to the District Governor prior to the start of the meeting. The District Governor maintains the privilege of adding items to the agenda after the deadline.**

**Notice of Motion 3 for October 19th Fall Cabinet Meeting, Amherst.**

There has been much discussion from time to time regarding adherence to the dues allocations as outlined in the directory, as well as in Article IX District Dues of the Policy Manual, as shown below on this notice of motion. An alternate dues structures have been suggested as a means to better serve the needs of District N2. At a recent team meeting to discuss N2 Forward initiatives, it was agreed that this could best be accomplished by making that structure fluid, and determined for each Lions year by the expenses incurred during the previous year.

ARTICLE IX

DISTRICT DUES

District Dues shall be broken down and allocated to the following categories:

District Administration 5.50

Booster Fund 1.50

Education & Training 1.75

Nova Scotia Lion 4.50

Activities 1.00

Total District Dues 14.25

As a result, I am putting forward the following motion:

Article IX be removed from the District N2 Policy Manual, and the current Article I, District Administration, Section P, as shown below, becomes (1) with the addition of (2), as follows:

1. The outgoing District Governor and Cabinet Secretary Treasurer shall, on or before July 10 of each year, turn over to the District Governor elect and the Cabinet Secretary Treasurer the sum of $2,000.00 from the District funds as an advance to assist them in the administration of the District until such time as the District Audit has been completed and all remaining funds and books have been turned over to them to administer for their year.
2. **Dues allocations to various categories for each Lions year shall be determined during preparation of the annual budget, based on expenses incurred during the previous year, thus enabling the district to better meet changing needs.**

Be assured that this is NOT a suggested change in the total dues amount, merely a change in the dues allocation structure.

Peace Poster Report

*General Information:*

As many of you have heard me speak before, we have been participating in the Lions International Peace Poster Contest for more than 35 years. Students are encouraged to create a vision of what Peace looks like or brings to mind for them. This program is designed for students 11 to 13 years of age. The Peace Poster Contest is an opportunity for our Lions Clubs to inspire, encourage and interact with students in their communities. It showcases one way that Lions serve.

The theme for 2024-2025 is *Peace Without Limits.*

I encourage you to return to your clubs and Promote the Peace Poster Contest this upcoming Lions year. Information about getting your Peace Poster Contest Information packet is available on our LCI website which is shown here for your convenience.

<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/start-our-approach/youth/peace-poster#kit>

It is important to contact the schools in September so that teachers can fit it into their plans and outcomes for the year.

Here are some important Dates to Keep in mind:

**October 1:** Deadline to purchase kits from the Club Supplies Sales Department at International Headquarters.

**November 15:** 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

I will try to send out reminders of the approaching dates as the dates get closer.

*Respectfully submitted*

*Lion Cindy Bruhm*

Q/A

-could we investigate the use of airtime on Northwood Broadcasting to promote Lionism in N2?

-District Administrative funds-

-Awards/trophies-several awards and trophies are still missing and clubs were asked to check if they might have them

-Lions Memorial Park-Lions were thanked for turning out at the recent memorial service, application forms for stones are available online

Speakout-discussion around the prize structure and expenses for participants. Lion Linda B. has some information from western Canada which may help us with our discussions.

Motion to adjourn-Lion Peter Reid. Carried

Appendix 1

Global Membership Team Report-At the Spring Convention, we did a WWID (WORLD WIDE INDUCTION DAY), with 10 New Members being inducted into District N2 Lion Clubs throughout the province. The Induction was done by our International President for 2023-2024, Dr. Patti Hill. With assistance from ID Joanne Ogden, and DG Joyce. A big thank you goes out to Dan Yarymowich for working with me for many months to organize this event. Also, to Beth of Truro, for helping me get the cake ordered and arranging pickup and delivery for the event. This event will be held next year at the Spring Convention, and in September, there will be more information coming out about the WWID in April of next year. District N2 as of May, has 68 clubs, with a total of 1604 members. Year to date we have added 181 new members, but have lost 206 members, year to date net growth -25, down -1.53%. This time 1 year ago, we were at 1652 for membership. This year the GMT( Global Membership Team, looks after membership recruitment) & GET (Global Extension Team, which is a new position this year on the DG team, looks after the actual setup of new clubs) which is myself & 1VDG Pat Nixon, we have met in person to talk about our plans for the coming year, which is to form a NEW club, and increase membership in District N2. We have had 1 zoom meeting with DG Val in NFLD, to discuss her successes, in forming 5 new clubs this past year and how we may learn from her. Pat & I have also set up a committee to work along side of us and we have Scott Melanson, Beaverbank Lions Club and Frank Sellers, Amherst Lions club on our team. We are still looking for at least 3 more Lions to join our team. We would like someone from the Cape Breton area and also from the end of the province, example Yarmouth area to join our team. Please, give me a call at 902-349- 9349, if you are interested and have the passion to help us succeed in our work this coming year. The ask this year, is that all clubs try to at least, bring in 2 new members throughout 2024-2025. I have ordered new member kits for the coming year. But, each club can also order their own kits, once you have enter your new members name into the portal. They will only send out the amount of kits to the number of new members you have added in the portal. We are looking forward to a successful year of forming at least 1 new club, and the recruitment of new members District wide. If you need any information on membership recruitment or know of an area that we could look into starting a new club, please feel free to reach out to me or 1VDG Pat. Respectfully submitted, GMT, Lion Linda Baltzer

Appendix 2

Global Extension Report-2nd VDG Pat Nixon

DG Jane & Lions,

The position of Global Extension Team (GET) Coordinator is new to district N2 this Lions year as of July 1st. I had been asked by 1st VDG Karen Lavigne, prior to her passing, if I would accept this position and I accepted. After her passing, DG Jane also requested that I accept this position and I agreed once again.

In short, the Global Extension Team is responsible for:

1. Researching and identifying opportunities for the development of new clubs in the district (and not just traditional clubs),

2. Taking the lead on the ground in the area identified, through outreach in the community, to initiate the steps that will lead to a community information / organizational meeting for the potential new club.

This team will work very closely with the district's Global Membership, Service and Leadership teams (and others) throughout the process leading to successful club chartering and follow on support. Once a new club has been chartered, then the GET moves on to the next challenge.

I recently sent out an email to the district asking for three or four Lions to become part of this team. Enthusiasm, a passion for growing Lionism and starting new clubs, a willingness to learn and a mixture of Lions experience are what is needed. It is a new position we will all learn together. I have completed the GET training on the Lions Portal and new members to the team will need to complete the training as well. We will crawl…..walk …..run as we build our knowledge and confidence moving forward.

From September 27th – 29th myself, along with the DG and Global Membership Team coordinator will be attending the LCI Mission 1.5 Summit in Toronto where the focus will be on nurturing a culture of growth.

The standing up of the GET comes with challenges and opportunities, both for the members of the team and district. If you are interested in this rewarding and challenging opportunity, please contact me or corner me at the DGO in Bridgewater on July 20th.

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2nd VDG Pat Nixon

District N2

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