District N2 Winter Conference

February 8, 2025

Windsor, Nova Scotia

Minutes

9-9:45 Registration

9:45 **Call to Order**-District Governor Jane

 O Canada

Lions Pledge-1st VDG Kim Stewart

 Lions Invocation-2nd VG Pat Nixon

Land Acknowledgement-PDG Joyce Gero

Welcome-District Governor Jane-DG Jane welcomed all Lions to Windsor and thanked the Windsor Lions for hosting us.

Welcome-Windsor Lions Club-Club President Susan Taylor welcomed all Lions present to Windsor. She thanked the Windsor Legion for the use of their meeting space and for catering our lunch today. Lion Paul Burgess also welcomed us to Windsor and went over some details for the day.

 Comments-District Governor Jane-The following is the text of her opening comments:

What is Change?

Change is an inevitable part of life, a force that propels us to step out of our comfort zones and explore new horizons. It is an essential element in both our personal and professional lives, serving as a catalyst for growth, innovation, and progress.

Change is a reality that we all must face at some point. It can come in various forms, such as Zoom, online training, hybrid meetings. The dynamic nature of the world demands that individuals and organizations adapt to stay relevant and competitive. Embracing change is not always easy, but it is crucial for survival and success in today's fast-paced environment.

By embracing change, we can develop new skills, gain fresh perspectives, and build resilience. While the prospect of change can be daunting, the rewards of stepping out of our comfort zones are immense, leading to a more fulfilling and enriched life.

Change is a constant and necessary factor. Organizations must continuously evolve to keep pace with demands, technological advancements, and competitive pressures. While change can be met with resistance, it is essential for fostering innovation and maintaining a competitive edge.

To evolve with the rest of the world, individuals must be willing to embrace change. This may mean redefining our goals, adopting new methods, or altering established practices. By doing so, we can unlock new opportunities and achieve greater things. While not everyone may welcome change with open arms, it is a critical component of growth and success.

Resistance to change is common, often rooted in fear of the unknown or a desire to maintain the status quo. To overcome this resistance, it is important to communicate the benefits of change clearly and involve others in the decision-making process.

Change is an integral part of life that can drive us to achieve personal and professional growth. While it may be met with resistance, embracing change is essential for evolving with the world around us. By adopting a proactive and open-minded approach, we can navigate the challenges of change and capitalize on the opportunities it presents. In the end, it is through change that we can truly transform and thrive.

To accept change, we must be open, honest, and understanding of how others feel. Without this, we will not survive in the fast-moving growth of the world around us. Open communication and empathy are key to mitigating the fears and uncertainties that often accompany change. By fostering an environment where everyone feels heard and valued, we can reduce resistance and encourage a collective commitment to progress.

Furthermore, embracing change requires continuous learning and adaptability. Staying informed about new trends and technologies, seeking feedback, and being willing to adjust our strategies are essential practices. This proactive approach not only helps us stay competitive but also enables us to anticipate and respond to future challenges more effectively.

Ultimately, change is not just about surviving; it is about thriving. By nurturing a culture of openness, honesty, and understanding, we can transform obstacles into opportunities and pave the way for sustained growth and innovation. In doing so, we not only keep pace with the world around us but also become leaders in shaping its future.

**Financial Report**-Cabinet Treasurer Frank-all amounts are as Friday, February 7, 2025

 General Account-$46,902.27

 East Coast Credit Union High Interest Savings Account-$25,695.71

 East Coast Credit Union 2 Yr term Account-$35,325.44

 Multiple District Dues of $8668.04 have been remitted to the MD

Total Club dues collected to date-$26,453.50-seven clubs have not paid their July-December dues

Total revenue-$28,793.16

Total expenses-$19,036.06

Net Income-$10,757.13

Retained earnings to date-$69,906.37

Funds remaining from the LCIF Lions Quest Grant have been used to purchase materials and he remaining amount of $850.26 have been charged to line item Other Expenses.

Acceptance of Fall Cabinet Minutes-Cabinet Secretary Bill-motion to accept the minutes from the Fall Cabinet-Lion Cheryl MacKenzie/Lion Bill Woodman. Carried

Comments PID Allan Hunt

Mission 1.5 (known in Canada as Net 2 in CA 2) is seeing positive results in Canada but there much room to grow. He thanked the members present for their work and wish us well.

 Comments Area GAT Leader OJ Wilura

He works with Multiple Districts A (eastern Ontario) and N (Atlantic Canada). One of his main focuses is on club and member safety in terms of liability if legal actions are taken against clubs. He reminded all clubs the insurance provided by Lions International is a second payer and there is an expectation that clubs will carry their own insurance. He noted there are many changes coming from Lions International and districts, and therefore clubs, will be encouraged to meet these challenges. He thanked those attending for supporting the district leadership and for attending the conference.

Questions on Reports which were distributed to all clubs prior to the Conference

-question about identifying and contacting schools that may be interested in adopting Lions Quest-specifically Aylesford Elementary-school will be contacted next week to see if there is interested in a presentation to the principal and staff

Words from Member of Parliament Kody Blois the MP welcomed all Lions to his riding of Kings Hants. He noted some of the work done by Lions and thanked us for the service we provide to the community.

10:30 Break

10:50 Presentations

A) **Cindy Harvey - Conflict Resolution** - Effective & Respectful Communication focus on clarity and effective communication to reduce misunderstanding which can lead to break downs in clubs and personal communication. Explained the positive impact of the I message which takes away the accusatory tone. Conducted a brief exercise illustrating that folks react differently to conflict and our goal as Lions should be to reduce conflict in our clubs, and address it when it is present.

**B) Charlene and Hallie - How Life Changing Having a Guide Dog Has Been**-Charlene has severe hearing losses and wears specialized hearing aids to be able to function in society. For years she did not go out of her apartment and was withdrawn. She put in an application for a hearing dog and was given Hallie, who had also had training with autism assistance. Hallie’s skills in that area also assisted Charlene as she lives with autism as well as the hearing loss. Hallie was a big hit over lunch time when her working vest was removed and she was able to greet participants. As Charlene was leaving she mentioned that she would never have had the confidence to attend our meeting, much less stand up in front of us all and speak, if she had been given Hallie to assist her.

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Presentations

**C)Heather Killen - Ride the new wave of Volunteer Recruitment**-Heather shared insights into who is volunteering and the amount of time each age group is volunteering. She offered suggestions as to how we can gain new volunteers and retain those we have.

**D)Angela Blenkhorne - Bernie's Buddies-**Angela’s presentation focussed on how her group provides supports for children who have lost a family member or a person who was important to that child. She intends to provide presentations across the mainland of the next year and several clubs showed interest in attending a local session or learning more about Bernie’s Buddies. More information is available at [www.berniesbuddies.ca](http://www.berniesbuddies.ca) or by calling 1-403-467-7923. Although this is an Albertan phone number, your call will go directly to Angela here in Nova Scotia.

Lion Beth Emery presented Dog Guide Walk Certificates and Patches to the clubs who participated in the Walk last spring.

PID Al presented a Presidential Certificate to Lions Linda Baltzer and one to DG Jane Gregory as a recognition of their work within the District. The Presidential Certificate is the fourth highest level of recognition with Lions International.

1:45 **Using the Global Membership Approach to Reach Our Goals**-PDG Bill gave a brief presentation on the Global Membership Approach which is a Lions Clubs International program designed to increase our membership, grow new clubs, retain current members and increase the level of service carried out by all clubs. After a quick review of where we have been, and where we are now, he introduced the four components: Build a Team, Build a Vision, Build a Plan and Build Success. A number of clubs are committed to learning more about how this approach can work for their clubs.

2:45 **Constitution and ByLaws Update**-PDG Joyce gave a brief update about where we are in the process of adopting the LCI Standard Model District Constitution and ByLaws (which has been formally adopted by the Cabinet) and the ongoing work to complete the District N2 Constitution and ByLaws based on the Standard model. There is still work to be done on the Policies but they are not time sensitive. The N2 Constitution and ByLaws will be distributed to all clubs sixty days before the convention in April and clubs are invited to give feedback at that time. It is expected we will adopt the District Constitution and ByLaws at the Convention.

**Spring Convention Update**-no one from Yarmouth was in attendance. DG Jane will see that information is sent out in a timely manner.

**Friendship Night 2025** is scheduled for May 2, beginning with a Social at the Wolfville Lions Hall, followed by a cavalcade of vehicles to the Canning Lions Hall where the meal and festivities will begin at 6:45. Information on Friendship Night will be distributed to all club presidents and secretaries and they are asked to share this information with all members of their clubs. The cutoff date for meal requests is April 21, 2025.

DG Jane thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm.