



OFFICIAL CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS

**SINGLE DISTRICT 10
LIONS OF MICHIGAN**

Rapid River, Michigan

May 3-6, 2007

Published by
LIONS OF MICHIGAN STATE OFFICE
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**85th ANNUAL CONVENTION
SINGLE DISTRICT 10 - LIONS OF MICHIGAN
RAPID RIVER, MICHIGAN
MAY 3-6, 2007**



BARBEQUE
MAY 3, 2007 - 6:00 p.m.
Rapids River Lions Clubhouse, Rapid River, Michigan



LIONS PARADE
MAY 4, 2007 - 6:00 p.m.
Downtown Rapid River



MIX & MEET
MAY 4, 2007 - 7:00 p.m.
Rapids River Lions Clubhouse, Rapid River, Michigan



BUSINESS SESSION
MAY 5, 2007 - 9:00 a.m.
Rapid River Schools, Rapid River, Michigan

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order by District Governor Chuck Nicklas. Following the Pledge of Allegiance and invocation, dignitaries and guests were introduced. The following Lions were appointed to serve as Sergeants-At-Arms: PDG Harold Schermer, PDG Jim Decremer, and PDG Charles Lundmark.

RULES COMMITTEE REPORT - Bill Whippen, PDG

1. **Order of Business:** Except as herein otherwise provided, the “Order of Business” shall be in the order given in the Business Session Agenda, a copy of which has been furnished each certified delegate and alternate.
2. **Deviation from the “Order of Business”:** Deviation from the “Order of Business” as adopted by the convention shall occur only when authorized by proper motion approved by a majority of the delegates duly assembled.
3. **First “Order of Business”:** The first “Order of Business” shall be the report of the Credentials Committee. No other business shall be transacted until the Credentials Committee shall have certified the number of delegates and alternates registered at the convention.
4. **Second “Order of Business”:** The second “Order of Business” shall be the report of the Rules Committee. No other business shall be transacted until the Rules have been adopted.
5. **Parliamentary Procedure:** Except where otherwise herein provided, the “Newly Revised Edition of Robert’s Rules of Order” shall govern matters of Parliamentary Procedure.

6. **Quorum:** A quorum for any duly scheduled meeting shall consist one more than half of the registered delegates certified to the Convention by the Credentials Committee and present at such meetings.
7. **Resolutions:** All proposed resolutions, except amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws, shall be presented to the Convention by the Chair of the Constitution and By-Laws under the conditions prescribed by the Constitution and By-Laws Committee.
8. **Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws:**
 - A. **Amendments:** Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws shall be presented to the Convention by the Chair of the Constitution and By-Laws under the conditions prescribed by the Constitution and By-Laws Committee.
 - B. **Discussion:** Except as authorized by the Chair, discussion shall be limited to one principal speaker for and one principal speaker against, and three additional speakers each, pro and con. All discussion on any one amendment shall be limited to fourteen (14) minutes.
 - C. **Voting:** Any vote pertaining to amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws, or resolutions requiring a vote, shall be by show of hands, except where otherwise required by the Constitution and By-Laws of District 10 and Lions International.
9. **Limitations on Speakers:**
 - D. **Subjects Before the Convention:** Each speaker discussing any matter, including proposed amendments or resolutions requiring a vote, shall be limited to three (3) minutes. An additional three (3) minutes shall be granted by the Chair without objection from the delegates.
 - E. **Presentations:** Presentations shall be limited to the time allowed by the presiding officer.
10. **Duties of the Sergeants-At-Arms:** The Sergeants-At-Arms are authorized to enforce the rules herein set forth.
11. **Suspension of the Rules:** Suspension of the Rules may be made by a two-thirds majority vote of the delegates assembled.
12. **Call for Nominations:** The Call for Nominations shall be made three times before a motion to close nominations is in order.

MOTION – Whippen, seconded, to adopt the Rules. Motion carried.

CREDENTIALS REPORT – Jenny Ware, PDG

The preliminary report from the Credentials Committee shows that there are 57 delegates, 17 Past District Governors, and one Past International Director from 27 clubs certified for the convention. The final figures will be reported after all totals have been tabulated.

MOTION – Andrews, Vinoski, to accept the Credentials Report. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The report of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee was added under New Business.

MOTION – made, seconded, to approve the proposed agenda. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The delegates agreed to waive reading of the minutes of the previous convention.

MOTION – Olson, Klaus, to approve the minutes as printed. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Bruce LaBelle, SD 10 Treasurer

The Lions of Michigan Single District 10 checking account began the 2006-07 fiscal year with a balance of \$20,603.62 on July 1, 2006. Total income for the fiscal year is \$25,151.35, with disbursements totaling \$18,374.35, leaving a balance as of May 4, 2007 of \$27,380.62. Total income minus expenses is \$6,777.00.

Within the SD 10 checking account are two restricted accounts: (1) the Hearing and Speech account and (2) the Mint Distribution/Sales account.

The Hearing & Speech Restricted Account began the fiscal year 2006-07 with a balance of \$2,312.68. An additional \$1,150 was received from 16 Lions Clubs this fiscal year, with an additional \$81.22 being transferred from the dissolved Vision Equipment Fund. In September, three disbursements totaling \$2,597.35 were made to three Intermediate School Districts in the Upper Peninsula, leaving a balance on May 4, 2007 of \$946.55.

Disbursements:

- Menominee ISD – Classroom Sound System - \$800.00
- Gogebic-Ontonagon ISD – Classroom Sound System - \$825.00
- Marquette-Alger ISD – Auditory Trainer & HS Items - \$972.35

The Mints Distribution and Sales Account was established at the beginning of the fiscal year. The account’s current balance is \$894.17. These funds are received for warehousing and distribution of the Lion Mints and 5% gross sales of the mints.

The SD 10 Cabinet made donations totaling \$379.53 during the 2006-07 fiscal year. The following organizations were the recipients of these monies:

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------|
| 1 st Cabinet Meeting Fines | Campaign Sight First II | \$21.78 |
| 2 nd Cabinet Meeting Fines | Project Kid Sight | 13.00 |
| | Campaign Sight First II | 13.00 |
| 3 rd Cabinet Meeting Fines | Campaign Sight First II | 31.75 |
| Lions Leadership Institute | Budgeted Donation | 300.00 |

Lions International and Single District 10 Dues Structure Breakdown

| <u>Lions International Dues Breakdown</u> | | |
|---|--------------|---------------|
| The Lion Magazine | \$4.75 | 12.18% |
| International Convention Fund | .50 | 1.28% |
| District Govs/Govs-Elect | 8.82 | 22.62% |
| Liability Insurance | 4.02 | 10.31% |
| Special Club Programs | 7.40 | 18.97% |
| General Operations | <u>13.51</u> | <u>34.64%</u> |
| Total International Dues | \$39.00 | 100.00% |

Each club is required to pay Lions International \$39 per member per year (Equivalent to \$0.75 per member per week, billed semi-annually)

| <u>Single District 10 Dues Breakdown</u> | | |
|--|------------|--------------|
| State Office Service | \$1.49 | 12.41% |
| Restricted Fund Service | .50 | 4.17% |
| International Convention | <u>.60</u> | <u>5.00%</u> |
| Lions of MI State Office Total | \$2.59 | 21.58% |
| U.P. Lions Magazine | 2.00 | 16.67% |

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| District 10 Admin. Fund | <u>7.41</u> | <u>61.75%</u> |
| Total District Dues | 12.00 | 100.00% |

Each club is required to pay Single District 10 \$12 per member per year (Equivalent to \$0.23 per member per week, billed semi-annually)

Semi-annual dues billings are due in January and July.

International Dues (\$39.00) + District Dues (\$12.00) = Total Dues (\$51.00)

Your Lions Club needs to charge at least \$51.00 in dues per member, plus whatever additional monies are needed for club operations.

| Year | <u>Lions International Dues Increase Breakdown History</u> | | | |
|---------------------|--|------------|------------|------------|
| | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 |
| Liability Insurance | \$2.23 | \$2.74 | \$3.33 | \$4.02 |
| DGs & DGEs | 4.90 | 6.01 | 7.30 | 8.82 |
| Special Programs | 4.11 | 5.04 | 6.13 | 7.40 |
| General Operations | 7.51 | 9.21 | 11.19 | 13.51 |
| Magazine | 4.75 | 4.75 | 4.75 | 4.75 |
| Convention Fund | <u>.50</u> | <u>.50</u> | <u>.50</u> | <u>.50</u> |
| Total Dues | \$24.00 | \$28.25 | \$33.20 | \$39.00 |

All clubs in Single District 10 are in good standing and all dues are paid to date.

Treasurer LaBelle reviewed a chart showing membership trends in District 10 over the past 12 years. The number of members has declined from 2,299 in 1995-96 to 1,885 in 2006-07. During that same time period, the number of the Lions Clubs in the Upper Peninsula has decreased from 69 to 60.

The Audit Report from Al LeMaire covered the three years ending 2004, 2005, and 2006. The auditor confirmed that he had reviewed the financial report, financial summary report, balance sheet, and bank reconciliations and determined that the accounting records are accurate.

MOTION – Andrews, seconded, to accept the financial report. Motion carried.

PROPOSED BUDGET – Bruce LaBelle, SD 10 Treasurer

The proposed budget for 2007-08 will be the same as last year, with a few minor changes. The budget will be presented at the next Cabinet Meeting.

CAMPAIGN SIGHTFIRST II – PDG Sara Doubleddee

We are entering the last 15 months of the Campaign Sight First II project. During these last few months, we are working to save people from the effects of preventable blindness. For those whose vision problems are untreatable, we seek to make their lives more comfortable and make their endeavors achievable. Finally, through research we hope to find the sources of the problems leading to diminished vision and blindness, such as diabetes and macular degeneration.

As we progress toward the end of the campaign, we need donations from our leadership to cement the value of CSFII. Some clubs have not yet pledged or sent monies for the campaign. If you come from such a club, your donation would serve as a reminder of how important it is for the club to support the campaign. Because of the efficiency of LCIF and CSFII, the effort to save sight averages \$6.00 per person. That means that for every \$1,000 donated, you have affected 167 lives.

If you come from a club that has made a verbal pledge but has failed to complete the paperwork making it official...that pledge is just a promise without commitment. It is in the air and we cannot count on it.

Now to brass tacks: How is our district doing in supporting CSFII?

We are Section 5 of Constitutional Area I. PID John Walker is our National/Multi-national leader. PID Dennis Cobler and I are the leaders of Team Michigan. I am the Sector Chair for this part of the state of Michigan. Team member Joe Potvin is the District Coordinator for SD 10.

As leaders, we have great pride in both the achievements of Lionism and Lion membership. As I have worked shoulder to shoulder with you, we have both taken pride in our contributions to those achievements. Leadership demands time, energy, and of course, financial support. If individual leaders did not give of their own funds, the value of those projects would be questioned. We are unable to ask others for financial support of our work if we do not believe enough in our project to support it with our own monies. Therefore, we are asking individual Lions to consider donating out of pocket. We are asking clubs to donate from their club treasuries. We are asking clubs to seek donations from community groups. We have sent individual letters to many of the leaders asking them to consider donations. PDG Joe will be seeking donations from other leaders.

There are benefits to donations. You get tax deductions for donations and you can pledge simultaneously to Melvin Jones Fellowships and to CSFII. Nevertheless, the greatest benefit is that you can save someone's vision. How many people has your generosity affected with as little as \$6.00?

Under PID Walker, the projected total goal for his multi-national region is \$5,350,000. The region has raised \$1,448,654, or 28% of our goal. Dennis Cobler's sector has raised 58% of his goal of \$960,694. My sector has pledged \$90,058, or 10% of its goal of \$942,655.

In this district, we have current pledges of \$20,448.43. We have actual cash donations of \$13,948.53. We have 38 clubs that fall into one of four categories. They have not officially pledged, they have not sent monies, they are 07-08 fundraising clubs, or they do not plan to contribute. These figures are as of April 27, 2007. International is about six weeks behind in posting because of the limited budget for inputting information. PDG Joe knows his clubs and which have pledged and which have submitted monies. We have no Model Clubs in SD 10. District 11 E2 (which is very much like us) has one Model Club.

In conclusion, I am asking you to do two things today. First, leave with the message that we would be proud to have 100% participation of every club in the district. I am not asking for thousands of dollars from every club because I know how small and isolated many of our clubs are. I am just asking for a donation from every club. In addition, that donation should not be taken from projects you normally support. You should find new monies for this project.

Second, I am passing around a bucket. I would ask that you consider making a personal donation. If you want to make out a check, make it payable to CSFII. The name of your club should be noted in the memo section. If you are willing to make a cash donation, thank you. If you want a pledge card, please see PDG Joe Potvin. Thank you on behalf of Team Michigan.

(Note: \$400 was collected for Campaign Sight First II during the Business Session.)

BAY CLIFF REPORT – Tracee Kauppila

So far this year, \$17,476.86 has been received from 32 Lions/Lioness Clubs and nine other organizations or individuals for the annual operations of Bay Cliff. Of this amount \$14,401.86 came in since the Cabinet Meeting in February. The bulk of it is from two Lions Clubs—Gladstone and Rapid River. I personally thank these clubs for their fine efforts.

We continue to raise funds for Bay Cliff's capital campaign, in particular the Shady Nook building. Since July of 2006, \$12,492 has been received from 23 clubs and 24 other sources. Of this amount, \$4,378 came in since the February Cabinet Meeting. Since the campaign began, the Lions have raised \$69,311.02 for the Shady Nook project. Over \$30,000 of that total has come from the two Bay Cliff/Lions raffles. Another \$15,220 was raised by the Rapid River Lions Club for the gateway entrance at the camp.

For the third year, all of the clubs in the district were asked to sell raffle tickets for our “dream trip for two” raffle. The proceeds from this raffle will go towards the Shady Nook renovations. The prize is a \$5,000 travel voucher from AAA. The winner, Barbara Bonds, was identified last night at the Mix & Meet.

Thirteen Lions from Bark River, Chocolay, Gwinn, Ishpeming Tri-Township, Marquette, and Munising helped sell the raffle tickets at the Boat, Sport & RV Show at the Superior Dome in Marquette in March. An additional 15 Lions from Bark River, Gladstone, Heart of the North, Powers-Spalding, and Wells helped sell raffle tickets at the Home & Garden Show at the UP State Fairgrounds in Escanaba in April. I'd like to thank those clubs and individuals that either bought or sold tickets. Thanks for showing the kids we care as well as serve.

Solicitation letters were sent to clubs in February. One problem we continue to have, even though we have stressed it many times, is that clubs are not indicating whether their donation is for camp operations or the capital campaign.

Lion's Pride Day was a huge success last year, so Sunday, June 24 has been designated as Lions' Day this year. A notice was sent out last month to clubs. I hope to see an increase in the number of people who attend. Each club is encouraged to send a representative to present a check or a facsimile of a check to the staff at the camp, along with a stuffed toy lion. The toy lions will be used as awards and incentives for the campers. They will be distributed at the end of the season, as determined by the camp staff. These symbols of Lionism will help promote awareness and support of Bay Cliff across the Upper Peninsula.

I hope to see a large contingent of Lions on June 24th at 10:30 a.m. to visit the camp, see the newly renovated Teen Barn Complex, tour the grounds, and hear an update on the capital campaign. All visitors will enjoy lunch with the campers.

We're anticipating that once this year's “dream trip for two” raffle is completed that we will have enough money raised to apply for the \$75,000 matching grant from LCIF. We are short of this goal by only \$5,688.98. If your club hasn't done so, please send in a donation to support this SD 10 project.

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS REPORT (written) – Bill Whippen, PDG, Chair

“We would like to change from the Constitution and By-Laws format that we currently have to adopting the Standard Form published by Lions International. We will alter it by putting into the appropriate place the fact that it was adopted was by SD 10 and the date it was approved. Those items in our current by-laws that are in addition to what is contained in the Standard Form will be published as an addendum and

attached to our Policy Manual—they will be separate, and they will be appropriately identified. Both documents will be available on our district website.

“One of the reasons we are recommending this procedure is so the district by-laws will always be current with those of International.

“I’ll go back over this so you will have it clear in your mind. We are proposing two things. One, that we adopt as our district by-laws the standard district by-laws as published by International. Those items that are voted on at future conventions that would be in addition to those by-laws, and those that we have already approved as part of our current by-laws, will be published and attached to our Policy Manual as an addendum. It will clearly state what those by-laws additions are.”

MOTION – made and seconded, to adopt the Standard Form District Constitution and By-Laws from LCI as the SD 10 Constitution and By-Laws, with the conditions heretofore explained. Motion carried unanimously.

CREDENTIALS UPDATE – Jenny Ware, PDG

There are 66 Lions, 20 Past District Governors, and 1 Past International Director, for a total of 87 voting delegates from 28 clubs.

MICHIGAN EYE BANK REPORT – Larry Klaus, PDG, Chair

This has been another busy year for the Michigan Eye Bank, which is part of the Midwest Eye Banks. Things which have happened since my last convention report, not necessarily in the order in which they happened are: We lost a VP of Finance and the assistant to the President and CEO. We finally have a permanent VP of Operations at the New Jersey Eye Bank. I think the person who finally accepted the job will work out very well.

We had about 20 qualified applicants for the VP of Finance. These were narrowed down to three, who were interviewed by the senior staff and the Board Finance Committee. In the meantime, one of our other VPs, Kevin Ross, has been doing a very good job as the interim VP of Finance.

The new software which was created to handle a larger volume of information about each tissue donor and recipient is currently being tested alongside our existing software. If the tests are completed without any glitches, the new software, called “Mid Wire,” should be online soon.

The lease on our facility in Chicago was to run out in May or June. The VP in charge of the Chicago office found a larger space which we can lease for less money. That space is currently being remodeled to fit our needs. Almost half of our tissue comes from Illinois, and this move is long overdue.

On March 30th, we welcomed a new President and CEO. Well, she is not really new, as she had been our President and CEO several years back. We feel very lucky that we were able to have Florence Johnston return to our organization.

As a whole, the Eye Bank is in good financial condition. The contributions from SD 10 are down a little from last year, and the Capital Campaign is not doing as well as we had hoped.

Question: Do we still have an Eye Bank representative in the Upper Peninsula? Yes, Rob Chabie is a full-time representative. He is paid in part by the Eye Bank and in part by the Gift of Sight. He is headquartered in Marquette. The amount of money donated by the Lions of SD 10 does not cover the full cost of his position.

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT – Larry Klaus, PDG, Chair

At the start of the 2006-07 Lions year, Governor Nicklas asked this committee to find out what the district can do to improve new member recruitment and current member retention. As Chairman, I asked my committee to study their zones and other prominent service clubs in their area to see which clubs are growing and why.

I got back some success stories from each member of the committee. I also looked at some failures, and I still think there is not much that is new in attracting new members and keeping the members we already have.

International President Jimmy Ross was right on the money with his “club renewal challenge.” What works well for the club down the road might not work as well for your club.

If you really wish to enlarge your club’s membership by attracting new members and keeping present members, the Long Range Planning Committee recommends you open the cover of your 2006-07 organizational roster. There on the back side of the front cover is an excellent way to improve membership in your Lions Club. It is simple, but it is not easy! Here it is in the short form: Club members meet to discuss and identify (a) activities that club members like, (b) activities that club members would like to change, (c) activities that your club would like to discontinue. Have members check with others in the area to see what non-Lion leaders in the area think your Lions Club should support for the betterment of the community. Then when you recruit new members, it will be on the basis of support for community needs. This is a rather simple formula, but it is hard work to do it right. Try it. You may be surprised how well it works for your Lions Club.

NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS – Duke Snyder

There are three positions to fill, with written ballots to be cast for all three. For Trustee of the Michigan Lions Foundation, there is one candidate: Mike Kobasic from the Escanaba Lions Club. For the office of Vice District Governor, there is one candidate, Robert Miller from the Drummond Island Lions Club. The only candidate for District Governor is Duane Goltz from the Drummond Island Lions Club.

The call for nominations from the floor was repeated three times.

MOTION – made and seconded, to close nominations and proceed with voting. Motion carried.

NORTHWOODS AIR LIFELINE – George Kelly, PDG, Chair

This year has been the lowest in donations from clubs in quite a while. The price of fuel and the upkeep of the aircraft have gone up considerably. The number of requests for flights has also increased.

The service provided by this program is greatly appreciated by those who have been involved. This letter is an example of what an amazing difference just one weekend can make in people’s lives:

“Just a quick note to all of you that this weekend for Northwoods Air Lifeline was interesting and exciting. I got a call from the answering service at 5:09 a.m. Saturday for a transplant flight (kidney/pancreas) from IMT-MSN (Madison). I called Dennis at 5:30 a.m. after checking the weather, and he took the flight. He did say on the way back at 9000 feet, the temperature was minus 38 degrees. I believe he said his feet were cold. The patient was extremely grateful for our service. I had to calm him down to get all the information I needed. As you can understand, he was VERY emotional about receiving his ‘new organs.’ Then on Sunday, during the Super Bowl, I got another page for a liver transplant, IMT-ARB (Ann Arbor). Ted and Bruce Jr. left out of here at midnight. So, this weekend we

did two flights for patients that will get a new lease on life again. I thought I would inform you all of the service we provided this weekend.” – Bruce Rutter

At last year’s convention, we renewed our support as a single district to Northwoods Air Lifeline. I know there is a great demand on the clubs for financial support. If your club has not sent in a donation or put on a fundraiser, please give it some thought. Help Northwoods Air Lifeline continue this free service in our district.

LIONS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM – Jim Decremer, PDG, Chair

The committee agreed to award ten scholarships of \$500 each this year. There were 23 applicants from 22 school districts. Each member of the committee read every application, and after three hours, they all agreed on the same 10 recipients.

Scholarships Awarded –

| | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| Adams Broders | North Dickinson |
| Megan Chartier | North Central |
| Carlo Langsford | Kingsford |
| John Manitowabi | Rudyard |
| Kate O’Donnell * | Negaunee (*received last year) |
| Joshua Piippo | Rudyard |
| Joshua Pluthak | Gladstone |
| Tom Polkki | Ishpeming |
| Danielle Schatz | Ontonagon |
| Brett Way | Escanaba |

The district has \$36,000 invested in CDs drawing interest. In order to continue to give \$5,000 in scholarships per year, we are asking that all clubs in the district donate to the Scholarship Fund in 2008. Again this year, if a recipient is in your club area, we would like you to present the scholarship check at the school’s awards night.

Thanks to the clubs that donated this year and also my committee.

TRADING PINS – Bill Whippen, PDG

Only 600 SD 10 pins were ordered this year. The amount was cut back so there would be none left over. They sell for \$3.00 each.

LIONS OF MICHIGAN FOUNDATION REPORT

The Lions of Michigan Foundation is going through the process of becoming an official state project. The Cabinet has recommended adoption of a resolution to endorse the Lions of Michigan Foundation as a district project.

MOTION – Andrews, Munsell, to adopt the resolution. Motion carried.

WELCOME HOMES REPORT – Nancee DeVogel

Nancee DeVogel asked for time to address the delegates during the Business Session following a recommendation from the District Cabinet on Friday to remove Welcome Homes as a district project.

“I would like to address some of the concerns that I have heard about Welcome Homes since arriving here. It is my understanding that there may have been some communications with the Tendercare facility

in Munising. There are concerns regarding duplication of services, still waiting to see and hear from Welcome Homes, and what the benefits are to the homes we partner with.

“First, let me address the issue regarding duplication of services. The services we provide under our revised business model are NOT provided through the State of Michigan. The services are also not currently paid for through Medicaid, Medicare or private insurance. Under our new model, we have two levels of membership—full service and associate. Currently the Munising home is an associate member under which Welcome Homes will provide (1) facility environmental assessments, (2) staff orientation, (3) specialized consultations, (4) low vision aids, and (5) information and referral services. We are currently seeking a qualified O&M specialist in the area to bring the facility to full service membership.

“Secondly, with regards to the lack of response by Welcome Homes, negotiations with Tendercare’s corporate office have been going on since mid 2006. These negotiations have included conversations with facility administrators, the president and vice presidents, and other officers of their company. On January 30, Welcome Homes received signed contracts from Tendercare’s attorneys for homes in Munising, Adrian, Frankenmuth, and Gaylord. Our general policy is that our initial facility assessment and staff orientation will take place within 45 business days of the time we receive the signed contracts. Yes, I will admit we are a bit behind schedule, but communication has been ongoing with their corporate office.

“Third, what are the benefits to the homes we partner with? The training we provide to the staff is credited towards their state requirements for training. In addition, our office receives calls seeking locations that are friendly to the needs of the vision impaired. As member homes are trained across the state, we are able to refer individuals to our partner homes.

“For over 50 years, Welcome Homes operated an assisted living care facility in Grand Rapids. During those years, we were constantly being asked about opening new homes across the state. We can finally say we are striving to accomplish that goal with the addition of our new ‘member’ homes.

“In addition to the homes we currently have agreements with, Tendercare owns and operates over 30 properties in the State of Michigan. Although the majority are nursing care facilities, they operate assisted living care facilities as well. One of the things we experienced in our own facility was, as the needs of our residents increased, they had to be move to a nursing care type of facility. The one thing we would hear from family is that the staff didn’t know how to work with the vision impaired like we did.

“Due to the increase in competition and in order for both assisted living and nursing care facilities to keep their census up, more of these homes are opening rooms to rehab patients that require short-term care. Many of these individuals have vision impairments.

“In closing, I would like to share with you some recent facts that you may not be aware of. In 2004 when our Board of Directors found itself re-evaluating the changing needs of our future residents and looking at our ability to accommodate the projected growth, it was determined that we would need to change our business model in order to keep serving the vision impaired.

“Last May, Multiple District 11 voted to maintain Welcome Homes as a state project and gave us time to show the Lions of Michigan that we are on the correct path of helping more vision impaired individuals. Under our new model, our cost per resident has gone from \$37,000 a year to \$307 per year. More of your dollars are now going to the individual and not a facility.

“Over the past 10 years, Lions donated an average of \$250,000 for 28 residents. Under our new model, we can serve over 800 residents for the same amount. The plan is working!

“On April 9, PDG Brian Shepard accepted a position as the new Director for Welcome Homes. He is a great addition and is dedicated to moving the program forward. We are doing what we promised the Lions we would do. We are providing instruction to help vision impaired residents in homes throughout the state.”

MOTION – Kelly, Andrews, to give Welcome Homes another year as a state project before re-evaluating their status. Motion carried.

It was noted that getting information about the “new” Welcome Homes has been a big problem. There is a need for better communications. Lions have been trying to compare an organization with one facility in Grand Rapids with an organization that will have a presence in homes throughout the state. The Cabinet would like to have a report on Welcome Homes at every meeting.

COMMENTS BY INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR KEN SCHWOLS

“At the convention in Chicago this year, some amendment proposals will be presented. One will change the designation of a transitional district. It will simply be referred to as a district with fewer than 1,250 members. Transitional was always considered a negative label, and we’re trying to turn that around. Part of that change is that these districts will be allowed to elect their own District Governor. The other part is that the District Governor’s spouse’s travel to the International Convention will be reimbursed at the end of the year if the district shows positive growth.

“Also we are changing the job descriptions for District Governors, Vice District Governors, Region Chairs and Zone Chairs. The emphasis will be on extension and membership growth. This is an effort to turn around the declining membership trend in North America. Right now, India and the Orient have a net membership gain of 8,000 plus. North America is down 7,000.

“We need to change our direction by changing the way we do things in our clubs and in our communities. Community service is the key. Young people have limited time. They are raising families. Both husband and wife work. But they still want to contribute to the community. Let them help. Bring them in to assist with a project and make it fun for them to participate. You may have to accept that young members will not attend every meeting—100% attendance is not something they are going to strive to achieve. The biggest thing is to listen to our young people. Let them fail if they have to, but let them ‘fail forward’—in other words, learn from their mistakes.

“Another thing to consider is that club members don’t have to participate in meals. If this is creating a hardship for members or making excessive demands on their time, consider changing what you do.

“Our population has become highly mobile. There are people who come into our clubs, but after a short time, they move. If we don’t follow up with them, we will lose them. It is important to keep them as Lions, wherever they go. To retain members, we have to keep them happy and emphasize fun along with community service.

“Another thing we need to do is make sure our meetings are not boring. Generation X and Y, which is who you are going to be recruiting as future members, are looking to get business done without wasting time. “

Question: What do you know about the 20K program?

“Basically it is the goal of our incoming Lions International President. He wants to have a net gain of 20,000 members worldwide. We have been losing membership every year. We went from 1.5 million down to 1.3 million. We could be less than 1.3 million by the end of the year.”

Question: There was a rumor at the convention in Boston last year that the Lions International office would be moved to Asia. Is that true?

“There are no plans at this time to establish an LCI office in Asia. However, there is a proposed change in the number of directors from the United States. The number will drop from 15 to 14, and there will be an additional director from the Orient.”

Question: When we look for new members, the first thing they ask is how much it’s going to cost. How can we justify asking people to pay \$51 a year to be volunteers?

“It breaks down to just a couple dollars a month. Compared to what other service organizations charge, it’s a bargain. The other thing to remember is that meal charges are not dues. Meals cost money, whether it’s at a Lions Club meeting or a night out. Sometimes small clubs can’t afford to include meals.”

Question: Is Lions International planning any type of public relations program?

“LCI is starting to look at that strongly and will be coming out with a PR program soon. But clubs need to promote their own projects and the things they do for the community. If you’re looking for PR, remember that the media wants action. If you’re doing a pancake breakfast, invite some local celebrities to serve the pancakes—that will attract media attention. Don’t expect LCI to do all the work for you.

Question: The financial report that was presented earlier showed that International dues went from \$24.00 to \$39.00 over a 4-year period. That seems like an awful lot. The cost of living didn’t go up 20% during that time.

“The answer is very simple. LCI asked for that increase in 2003—and they asked for it over a 3-year period. But before that increase was approved, they didn’t have an increase in dues for nearly 10 years. Remember also that when membership goes down, dues have to go up in order to cover the costs. LCI has cut staff by nearly 25%, and they are still offering the same amount of service.”

Question: Do you believe that Leo Clubs and Campus Clubs are a good solution to the membership problem?

“The biggest problem with Leo Clubs is that the members graduate. You have to constantly recruit younger people from the classes coming up to replace them. The same is true of Campus Clubs. There is a lot of turnover.”

USA/CANADA FORUM REPORT – Jim Olson, PDG, Chair

If you want to have fun, come to the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum. This year it will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan on September 6-8. We would like to see as many Lions as possible from the Upper Peninsula at the Forum to show our support of having the 2007 Forum in Michigan this year.

What does the Forum offer? There are excellent seminars, inspirational speakers, panel discussions, and informative presentations. The registration fee also includes four meals.

Michigan Lions are needed to help host this year's Forum. See you in Grand Rapids. Plan your vacation and show your support.

FUTURE SD 10 CONVENTIONS

The Heart of the North Lions Club wants to host next year's convention at the Island Casino in Harris, Michigan on April 25-27. One hundred rooms have been blocked for the convention, and a casino package is included with every meal.

MOTION – Kelley, Lanaville, to accept the bid from the Heart of the North Lions to hold the 2008 convention at Island Casino. Motion carried.

The Drummond Island Lions Club bid on the 2009 SD 10 Convention, to be held on April 30-May 3. Proposed activities for Thursday night include bowling and pizza. Meals on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday would be at the Town Hall or Woodmore Gym.

MOTION – Sweeney, seconded, to accept the bid for the 2009 convention on Drummond Island. Motion carried.

ELECTION RESULTS – Duke Snyder, Elections Chairman

Mike Kobasic was elected Trustee of the Lions of Michigan Foundation. Robert Miller was elected Vice District Governor, and Duane Goltz was elected District Governor. Officer patches were presented to DGE Goltz and VDGE Miller. Acceptance speeches were made.

MOTION – made and seconded, to destroy the ballots. Motion carried.

The Business Session adjourned at 11:30 a.m.



**PARTNERS LUNCH
May 5, 2007 – 11:30 a.m.
St. Charles Parish Hall**



**AWARDS LUNCH
May 5, 2007 - 11:45 a.m.
Rapid River Lions Clubhouse, Rapid River, Michigan**

Awards were presented to the following Lions for outstanding service during the year:

Project Kid Sight – Chuck Nicklas, Willie LaMarche, Bob St. Peter, and Don Connors

Campaign Sight First II – Marquette Lions Club and Bark River Lions Club

District Convention – Jim Decremer and Jenny Ware

Youth Exchange – Bernie Haeusler, Heart of the North Lions Club

District Governor's Certificates of Appreciation – Joe Potvin (for work on CSFII), Bob St. Peter (for always being there to help when needed); Ed Vinoski, Bob Miller, and Don Wojakowski, (for outstanding work as Zone Chairmen)

Awards were also presented to Cabinet Secretary Tom Lanaville and Cabinet Treasurer Bruce LaBelle. Lion LaBelle was also recognized for his work on the magazine.



GOVERNORS BANQUET
May 5, 2007 - 6:30 p.m.
Danforth Place, Escanaba, Michigan

ID Ken Schwols from Loveland, Colorado was the featured speaker. He emphasized the need to let new, young members make decisions, grow and reach for their dreams. At the same time, it is important to recognize and value older members. Lions should work on developing three things: Enthusiasm, expertise and knowledge, and positive energy.

Director Schwols presented his banner to DG Chuck Nicklas, PID Jim Frendewey, VDG Duane Goltz, DG-Elect Bob Miller, Cabinet Secretary Tom Lanaville, Cabinet Treasurer Bruce LaBelle, and PDG Jenny Ware.

Several awards were presented during the banquet. The 100% Secretary's Award was presented to Norm Muench from Drummond Island. The district's highest recognition, the Ralph Sheehan Award, was presented to PDG Jenny Ware of the Days River Lions Club.

A plaque for SD 10's winner of the Peace Poster Contest, sponsored by the L'Anse Lions Club, was presented by Lion Joe Baczkowski. There were 10 entries in the contest this year.

The International President's Leadership Medal was awarded to Willie LaMarche from the Wells Lions Club and Helga Anderson from the Iron Mountain-Kingsford Lions Club. The International President's Medal went to PDG Sara Doubledee from Marquette.



NECROLOGY & BRUNCH
May 6, 2007
Rapid River Schools, Rapid River, Michigan

PDG Don Myers conducted the necrology service. The memorial roll call was read, honoring club members who passed away during the year.

The convention's Traveling Trophy was claimed by the Drummond Island Lions Club. It had been refurbished by last year's winner, the Heart of the North Lions Club. The plaque is awarded annually to the club that drives the furthest and has the most members at the convention.

The convention concluded with brunch and closing comments from DG Chuck Nicklas. Thanks were expressed to the Days River and Rapid River Lions for hosting the convention.