**Fall A-15 Cabinet Meeting Minutes**

7:00 PM November 9th, 2016

St. George Lions Club, South Dumfries Community Centre, St. George, Ontario

1. **Call to Order and Welcome – DG Wayne Litt**
2. O Canada, Toast to Queen & Country and Lions International – RC Bill Robinson
3. Wake Up! – Roy Steedman
4. Moment of Silence
5. Lions Grace & Dinner
6. Protocol – 1st VDG Charlene Teasdale
7. Additions to and Approval of the Agenda
	1. Moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Carried
8. District Governor’s Remarks

8.1 Thanks to each of you for attending this evening. We are off to great start for our Centennial Celebrations. Most of our clubs have planned, and some completed their Legacy Centennial Projects and their Centennial Service Projects. Later on this evening we will be handing out some awards for the 2015-16 Lions Year. This is your chance to Celebrate the Service that you have done in your community. Well Done. While we have surpassed the original target goal of Service in the areas of Youth, Vision Hunger and the Environment, the target has been raised to service 200,000,000 before the completion of our Centennial Celebrations in 2018. And to echo the words of incoming Canadian International Director Tom Gordon, “YES WE CAN”… We will make the goal.

There is likely not one person today that does not know someone that has not been touched by Cancer. Following our Centennial year, Lions International will be adding another cornerstone Service Objective. Many clubs already champion the race for a cure for Cancer. I urge each club to embrace the challenge. A Presentation was made to the Council of Governor’s this past weekend in Markham. A request for a partnership with The TELUS Ride for Dad which is championing the awareness and cure for Prostate Cancer.

Another Issue that has been recently raised through our district and taken to the Multiple District Level was the system of electing our representative as International Director. This had been turned over to Research and Long-range planning to research and come up with viable solution. Although there were a couple of suggestions brought to the table at the last Council meeting they were not timely enough to allow the Council of Governors deliberate on the issue. This will be revisited at the February Council Meeting in Markham. The present information will be available on the District Web Site.

Now what else do we have to report. Well let’s see the 2 new programs that the district has adopted last year are going strong. Your support is needed for the Special Olympics and the Gift of Life.

Representatives are available to showcase these initiatives to members of our clubs upon request.

1. Approval of Minutes of the August 21st, 2016 Cabinet Meeting
	1. Moved to approve the Minutes of the August 21st 2016 Cabinet Meeting. Carried
2. Secretary’s Report - *See Page 2*
	1. MOVED to acknowledge receipt of the Secretary’s report. Carried.
3. Treasurer’s Report
	1. Report and Financial Statements July 2016 – September 2016, - *See Pages* *2 through 5*
	MOVED to acknowledge receipt of the Treasurer’s report and Financial Statements as presented. Carried.
4. Matters Arising - None
5. New Business
	1. Youth Camp - MOVED that the Youth Camp budget (page 16) approved by Cabinet email be ratified, including the move of the Youth Camp from Five Oaks to Scouts Canada “Blue Springs” camp near Rockwood Ontario. This is a one year commitment. Carried
	2. MOVED that Clubs be encouraged to deliver a Centennial Celebration Demonstration at the Convention on Friday night. A prize of $250.00 will be offered for the best presentation which can be used for Administration Funds if desired by the presenters. The presentation may be a joint venture of clubs as well. Further details to follow. The idea is to showcase our Lions Centennial Service. Carried.
6. Cabinet Reports - *See Pages 8 through 9*
	1. MOVED to acknowledge receipt of the Cabinet Reports. Carried.
7. Committee Reports - *See Pages 9 through 14*
	1. MOVED to acknowledge receipt of the Committee Reports
	2. Long Range Planning – Thom Herman

Since the last Cabinet meeting the committee has met several times. The last time being 3 November 2016 which is why this report was not submitted earlier.

The Committee met for the purpose of reviewing the existing and relevant guiding District documents with a view toward recommending to the Cabinet, suggestions about its Committees and Lions performing various roles as well as all Lion members who have taken on or may wish to take on role(s) in A15. The overall initiative is a long term project with a broad scope and will not be completed this Lions year.

After this Fall Cabinet meeting we will forwarding to the Cabinet a series of documents containing suggestions that we ask be reviewed and returned with ideas, suggestions and directives so that final draft documents can be readied for action at the Winter Cabinet meeting.

Drafts of:

 A. District A15 Cabinet Committees Resource Documents

 B. The Responsibilities of a Zone Chairperson In A15

 C. Suggested training schedule for a Zone Chair in A15

 D. A draft Calendar of Events for use by a Governor of A15

will soon be submitted to the Cabinet Secretary for distribution to the Cabinet for study and comment. The LRP Committee asks that Cabinet members complete their reviewed by 2 January 2017 and forward their individual analyses to PDG Thom Herrmann

The committee believes that this process will aid future Lions leaders based on the experience and knowledge of both present and past leaders.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of IPDG Dianne Smith, Past Cabinet Secretary Dennis Lougheed and PDDG George Patton

1. Special Presentations & Awards
	1. A number of awards were presented by IPDG Diane Smith for Club Excellence, Membership, Presidents, Secretary’s and Treasurers.
2. Good & Welfare
	1. Next Cabinet Meeting will be January 31, 2017 in Thamesford.
	2. District Convention – May 5-7 in Elmira. Reminder from ID Art Woods. Registration forms will be coming early in the new year.
	3. Joint Zone meeting in Elmira March 27, 2017
	4. Zone meeting for 51East will be January 17, 2017.
	5. ZC Neil talked about a project to plant trees (Scouts) at Vimy Ridge in France. Looks like a Strathroy project. More to follow. Contact ZC Neil.
	6. Rent-a-Santa – Rockwood – may trespass with permission only.
	7. Cambridge – First of July parade – looking to get 100 Lions in similar dress to commemorate 100 years of Lionism. More to come.
	8. Reminder that Peace Posters must be in DG Wayne’s hands by the 15th of November.
	9. 20th Anniversary of Lioness of Ontario’s Laugh and Leadership Forum
	10. Reminder about IPDG Diane’s Celebration night on November 19th in Elmira.
	11. Stuff the Stockings Campaign from St. Jacobs Lions. Target is 2,000 stockings. Raffle tickets are used to fund this.
	12. Ralph’s Ride for Diabetes. A reminder for Clubs to get behind this campaign.
	13. Thank you to the chefs for the meal.
3. Adjournment

**SECRETARY’S REPORT TO CABINET**

Thanks to the majority of you who provided their reports promptly as requested. It would be greatly appreciated for the next report session if you would make sure that you titled your reports by Committee or Position, and not just “report”. I have to download them all to my computer and if they have similar names it just makes it more difficult to sort through. If you could, save your reports in Cambria(Body) 11 point format, and then I will not have to reformat all the reports. That would be much appreciated.

Lots of interesting questions have come my way, and it has made me a more knowledgeable Lion. Don’t be shy if I have not answered your question fully or you don’t understand. Just ask again. There have been some changes to website information, and all changes are posted to the website under Directory Changes.

**TREASURER’S REPORT TO CABINET**

The financial statements are presented today as at September 30, 2016. Note that Club invoices include dues for the District AND MD ‘A’ again this year. Funds collected on behalf of MD ‘A’ (invoiced a total of $21,445.50) will be remitted to the MD ‘A’ Treasurer. The District is under no financial obligation on this activity – we are simply collecting and remitting funds collected on the invoice. The financial records have been balanced and reconciled to the bank statements as at Sept. 30. The financial statements presented here fairly reflect the financial position of the District.

ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTS

* All Clubs have been invoiced for dues for this Lions year based on actual membership as at Aug 1, 2016. This is based on 1,484 members at that date.
* With respect to Expenses vs Budget, there has been limited activity to date and the report is straight forward. The balance sheet does show a negative balance of $1,930 in the Bank – this is as a result of preparing to issue cheques for printing etc. However, none have been released prior to having enough funds collected to cover.
* As of Oct 25, approximately half of the Clubs have paid their dues.

TRUST ACCOUNTS

* The balance sheet for the Trust accounts is an accurate reflection of all balances held in Trust as at September 30, 2016 and all accounts have been reconciled to the Bank records as at the same date.
* Since September 30, certain key items have been recorded that will be reflected in the next financial report – a) another invoice for the Centennial project for approx. $2,890 to be paid; b) books for the literacy program in the amount $1,918 have been ordered.

MOTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

* I move receipt of the financial reports as submitted.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter Oswald,

Cabinet Treasurer

Lions District A-15.

****

****

**CABINET REPORTS**

**1St VDG** – Charlene Teasdale

Since the last Cabinet Meeting in August I have attended my first MDA Council Meeting as A15 VDG1 as well as VDG1 Training. I traveled to Omaha in September for the USA/Canada Forum & presented on a panel for Advanced Lions Leadership Institutes. On behalf of DG Lion Wayne I had the privilege of visiting the Paris Lions Club and inducting 2 new members into their Club, the Burford Lions Club, the Waterloo Lions Club & inducting 1 new member into their Club, the KW Community Spirit Lions Club, the St. Marys Lions Club & the Plattsville Lions Club, Drumbo Lions Club & Brantford North Lions Club. I look forward to visiting the Oxford Lions Club prior to the November 9th Cabinet Meeting. I have been invited to the Rockwood & District Lions Club in November to induct 3 new members into their Club. I also look forward to attending the 37W Zone Meeting in Exeter. I am very encouraged by the service projects and the interest in retention and increasing membership. I had the pleasure of attending the Membership Workshops in Innerkip, there is an emphasis on membership retention, we seem to be good at bringing new members into our Lions family but struggle with keeping those Lions as active members, our GMT/GLT team is here to assist with those challenges. It is a pleasure to work with our Cabinet to continue to strengthen our District. Celebrate your service to those in need and most importantly celebrate your club’s accomplishments as we continue through our Centennial celebrations. I believe that when we work together and truly believe in what we are doing, we will succeed at whatever we set our goals to be. Keep climbing those mountains!

**2nd VDG** **–** Kevin Banfield

It has been a very busy start to the Lions year. I was able to mix some personal work with Lions business. While out at the Woodstock Farm Show I got to see the clubs of 37 South in action this year. What a sight to see. The one day alone these clubs had over 900 Lions hours in service, feeding the farmers that feed us. Great Job Lions! The following week I was up at the plowing match in Harriston. While yes this is not in our district, I got to catch up with some old friends from the Mount Forest Lions while they were selling tickets.  My club The Lions Club of Kitchener was busy as well preparing for Oktoberfest. It was a good year and we as a club got to see some new leader rise up and take on some key roles during the festival this year. I am so looking forward to the future. I also made it across town to check out the Oktoberfest Lions new home. They had a very nice looking new location at the Kitchener Market, and I wish them the best of luck in their new home. Changes like these are never easy ones for any business, let alone a service club to undergo. I have been out on my visits on behalf of DG Wayne and I would like to thank each of those clubs for their warm welcome. It is always fun to get to a meeting and catch up with old friend and meet some new ones along the way.

I was able to make it to the Copetown 40th anniversary - kicking it off in style; our guest speaker for the evening was PID Art Woods.   I never get tired of hearing a good lawyer joke. Thank you Art for adding a few more to my joke bag! A check for $25,000.00 was presented to RC Deb Cserhalmi our LFC district chair from the Copetown Lions. Thank you to all of the Copetown Lion who made the night a success, but more importantly – thank you to each and every member past and present who for over 40 years have helped to service Copetown and surrounding area.

**RC 9 –** Bill Robinson – No Report

**ZC 9E** –Ray Derouin – Nothing to Report

**ZC 9S –** Tony Davidson

I have visited 9 amazing clubs in Zone 9 South and met a lot of incredible Lions, Lions are dedicated to serving others. There have been members leave some clubs and I hope they will realize what they are missing and return to Lionism. I have been involved with the induction of 5 new Lions Members and have met many others who are considering joining.

I have been asked questions on the Vision Screening and I am working with the Sight Conservation and Screening Chair, Tim DeBlock to resolve the issue.

**RC 51** – Debbie Cserhalmi

Several Clubs have hit the ground running this fall. Events help to give us a presence in our communities yet people still ask ‘What do Lions do’? Are you aware of some of your club’s projects over the years? Are you able to answer if anyone asks? Let people know what you have accomplished and how fun it was working towards your goals. If you show some enthusiasm someone may want to join in your service community.

Next year we are celebrating 100 years of Lions. As a group, Lions don't like to toot their own horn but now is the time! Consider having an Open House to show off what your club has done in your community. If your club in involved in your own centennial project, be sure to promote it. Do an interview with your local paper. Anything to help promote the best service organization in the world will do.

Celebrate!

**ZC 51E** – Neil Hoogendoorn – Nothing to Report

**ZC 51W** – Lion Linda Litt

Lionism is alive and well in 51W. I have made official visits to five clubs and am looking forward to visiting the remaining clubs in early November.

We are off to a great start and I have been impressed with the creativity I have seen in the clubs, both in attracting new members and in their service projects. I had the privilege of conducting my first induction ceremony at my home club, the Woolwich Community Lions Club.

Our zone started the year with 13 dropped members but has gained 8 new Lions so we are more than half way to positive growth.

Our Zone meeting will be held Thursday, November 24th at the Paradise & District Lions Club and we look forward to seeing you there.

**RC37** – Tracey Leary – No report

**ZC 37S** – Paul Lalande

All clubs visited so far are doing well and are active, 3 clubs have inducted new members. It is nice to know that 37S is growing and doing well, my goal that all 37S clubs grow by at least 1 new member.

**ZC 37W** – George Corrin

I have visited 9 Clubs, all are actively pursuing the goals of Lionism. I still have the St Mary’s Leo Club and Stratford’s Lion meetings to attend.

Each Club has such familiarity to each other, when one enters a room they know they are in the presence of dedicated men and women to Lionism. Agendas – minutes, committees, finances. Some have just business meetings while some have 2 meals a month and some have one. All of their communication is serving the public under the banner of Lions. Technology is still not being used to its potential. All Clubs want to pursue better ways to do things and still reflect the integrity of Lionism. The time to change appears to be a concern and the belief that all Lions objectives are already being managed effectively and efficiently. The strength in their collective thoughts as an organization is to be complimented and recognized. During the rest of my year I will be customizing each club with the best experts we have to help their clubs meet their expectation and desires as well as the direction of our District Governor as well as Lions International.

Alternative to a regular meeting

During my visit to Exeter Lioness Club passion was demonstrated and everybody was dressed in a Halloween costume (except myself and Lion Barb). It was the most unusual and fun meeting that I have ever attended in all my years as a Lion! I will admit that it was a bit of a challenge to speak with a room full of people who were dressed in their costumes and makeup as either a go-go dancer, a nun, a witch, Fred Flintstone or another impersonation. However, everyone still had the wonderful ability to discuss serious business, organize events and put together an implementation plan for each event.

**IPDG** – Diane Smith – Nothing to report.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Bulletin & MDA Magazine Liaison –** Lion Bob Pearson

Plan of Action:

- Continue with the established quality of the newsletter issues.

- Continue with quality submissions to the MDA Magazine.

- Encourage A15 Clubs to ensure they have a bulletin editor in place and there are regular entries for the district bulletin contest. Individual club bulletins will identify future district editors.

- Revisit the need for a district logo.

Observation:

The October issue of the A1 5 Bulletin was posted approximately two weeks ago. As of the date of this report (October 21s), very few submissions for the next issue have been received from district clubs. It goes without saying that timely submissions make for a better product. It is realized the time of year has much to do with this area and the rate of submissions will increase at the start of the new Lions year.

There will be one more issue in this calendar year and that should be available in early December. Please send your material as soon as practical. Submissions can be in most formats, PDF’s are preferred, but most other platforms can be converted.

**Centennial Coordinator** – PDG Dan Ayim

I have visited clubs, attended zone meetings and workshops to encourage Lions to plan and bring their centennial projects to conclusion by June 30, 2018. The need for clubs to consider completing visible lasting centennial souvenirs as legacy to their communities was discussed. I emphasized the importance of promptly reporting completed projects in MyLCI, the LCI monthly activity report program.

**Entranceway Project – Breslau.**

Work on the district centennial project on Chilligo road at the Dog guides breeding facility is progressing well. The foundation for the columns has been laid. Construction is now at ground level.

Much support has come from many clubs. The committee is grateful to the following clubs, mostly in Zone 51E, which have committed and delivered material and labour in kind – Hillsburg & District, Belwood and District, Fergus, Marsville & District and St. Jacobs Lions. Lion Todd and Elmira Lions donated labour – block laying.

We are also thankful to other clubs that have contributed cash including Innerkip & District Lions, Stratford, Woolwich Community, Cambridge Highlands, Exeter Lions, Thamesford, Paris, Waterloo, Guelph Royal City, Guelph Lions, K.W. Community Spirit, Marsville & District, St. George, Galt Cambridge and Wellesley & District Lions.

We thank local businesses for donated materials/material savings and/or labour in kind: Orangeville Building Supply and Selco Landscape. We also thank Lion Melissa Galvao for her labour commitment in making centennial T-shirts from which we realised $614.70

From donated materials/material savings, committed labour in kind and cash donations, approximately 60% of estimate has been realised. Clubs that have not contributed are encouraged to seriously consider supporting our district legacy project.

**Constitution & By-Laws** – PDDG George Patton – Nothing to report

**Convention Report** – Co-Chairs PID Art Woods and ZC Linda Litt

Your hosts for this year's District A-15 Convention are planning a truly exciting convention to commemorate Lions Clubs International's Centennial Celebration.

Mark your calendars to join us May 5 - 7th, 2017 at Lions Hall, 40 South Street West, Elmira, Ontario.

Accommodations have been arranged at the Courtyard Marriott, 50 Benjamin Road East, Waterloo (St. Jacobs), Ontario, with shuttle service available. Information with respect to rooms is included in the registration package. There is also non-serviced RV parking available.

Stay tuned for more information on what promises to be a memorable weekend to "Celebrate Service."

Our convention budget is attached for consideration. (last page)

**Convention Advisory (Future)** – DG Wayne Litt – No report

**Cultural Events** – PZC Fran MacFarlane – No report

**Diabetes Awareness Report –** Lion Rick Bell – No Report

**District A-15 Technology Report –** Lion Ted Rypma – Nothing to report

**District International Relations** – PID Bruce Murray – No report

**Effective Speaking** – Lion Ernie Kaethler – No report

**Elections & Credentials** **–** PDG Doug Smith – Nothing to report

**Environment** – Jason Crowe – No report

**Gift of Life:** Lion Bob Rutter – No report

**GLT District Coordinator** – IPDG Diane Smith

Your Global Leadership Team for the District is made up of many people-zone chairs, region chairs, our Vice –District Governors, our Governor and the GMT/GLT coordinators and our Past District Governors. . Your Zone Chair acts as the link between your club members and the other District officers. If questions or concerns arise please feel free to contact your Zone Chair.

We will be planning several leadership learning opportunities throughout the remainder of the year. If your club wishes a specific session or meeting to help address ways to strengthen your club that can be arranged.

Remember we are all working to the same end. We want to serve and our clubs are the means through which we bring about community service.

Your GLT team is there to help!

**GMT District Coordinator** – PRC Jim Keron

In October we planned two Membership Workshops on Oct 23 in Innerkip and Oct 29 in Hillsburgh. The Innerkip workshop went very well but unfortunately we had to cancel the Hillsburgh workshop because of poor attendance. Looking to the future we will be looking for other ways to deliver this information to the district membership, possibly through webinars and/or more local visits. In preparing for the membership workshop, I compiled the district membership stats over the past seven years. The good news here is that over that period we grew by almost 2% whereas the all Canada stats show a drop of almost 8%. Further our yearly recruitment over those same seven years amounts to almost 75% of our total membership over the same time period. But we also lost almost that many. At the cabinet meeting I will add a verbal update on the latest membership numbers for the district.

Looking forward, to my mind, one thing we need to work on is retention. If we could significantly reduce our losses we would be growing by leaps and bounds. There are some good stats out of the Canada-USA forum in September as to why people leave Lions. To that end the membership workshop concentrated heavily on some of the top reasons particularly the quality of our meetings.

**GMT Membership & Club Growth Team Leader** – PRC Vic Bovingdon – No report

**GMT Club Success Team Leader** – RC Paul Anstett

I am happy to report that I have attended the Membership Workshop recently held in Innerkip. This workshop was well attended by approx.30 Lions. The presentations were lively and generated great discussion pertaining to membership growth & retention.

I am also currently working with GMT/GLT on assisting Clubs with membership issues and providing advice and help with membership growth.

**Hearing and Speech Action** – PDG Tim DeBlock

We are growing!....and need your help. The inclusion of a hearing screening partnered with the vision screening program by the Kitchener group in the Waterloo School Board, and the same program in all schools in the Avon Maitland and Huron Perth Catholic Boards means we are including 6800 more students in a hearing screening program. Thank-you to the volunteers for who ultimately make this possible. With this growth and the School Boards hope of including this component in more schools we need financial support for more equipment. Please have your Clubs consider contributing some funds as part of their services for children outreach. I am available for Clubs and Lions who would like to explore possibilities for their own communities.

**History Report –** PDG Nancy Ransom

Regretfully, due to family commitments, I am unable to attend this Cabinet meeting.

At present, data submission from our District Clubs has been very slow. I am still collecting stories and photos for the District History on my home computer.

I received a large number of photos and written documents from Lion Marg DeBoer about the Cambridge Lioness Club, right up to the time they became the Cambridge Highlands Lions Club. This is very interesting, and I welcome all materials from Lioness, Leo and Lions Clubs. All photo albums, and precious documents will be returned to a Club after I have scanned the information – you may have to wait awhile to get it back but I will return everything.

To facilitate, when sending your club’s activities and accomplishments by submitting stories and photos to our District Bulletin Editor, Lion Bob Pearson; it would be much appreciated if you would also copy your submission to me.

**Honorary Committee** – IPDG Diane Smith

The Honorary Committee met on October 20th in Stratford. Fifteen members were in attendance. All members entered into discussion as to the role of this committee. It was felt that PDGs are an underutilized resource. Our job should be to identify future leaders both for the club level and beyond; to make suggestions to Cabinet in their decision making process, when called upon to do so and to focus on providing information to zone chairs as they are the vital link between members and Cabinet.

For those Past District Governors who are willing to perform ceremonies for Clubs [marked with an asterisk (\*0) in the directory], it should also be an opportunity for delivering current information from LCI.

It was decided to maintain the same format –to meet twice per year, once in the fall and once at the annual District A15 convention.

**LCIF** –2nd VDG Kevin Banfield

Recently LCIF sent support to Louisiana ($10,000), Italy ($100,000) to aid in disaster relief and it has just been announced that through the efforts Lions around the world River Blindness has been eliminated in Guatemala and became the fourth country in the Americas to be verified free of the disease.

Last year only 36% of the clubs in MDA supported our Foundation. Please see below all the stats y.t.d. I as district A15 LCIF Chair, appeal to all clubs presidents to please encourage their clubs to support OUR foundation monetarily this year. $20.00 from some 1300 members in A15 would be $26,000. This money help support grants application applied by Lions Quest, Dog Guides, and your club projects. It’s not just disaster relief around the world.





**LEO** –RC Tracey Leary – No report

**Lions Foundation of Canada (LCF) – RC** Deb Cserhalmi

As usual it’s been a busy summer and fall for our Foundation.

The spring Walk totals are in: $1,305,517.38. Once again we are up in our totals. Thanks to all who participated.

Last year we graduated 169 teams. We hope to graduate 200 teams this year. More teams means more puppies. Well, we have the puppies but what we need are more foster families to get these superstars off on the right paws. The commitment begins when the pup are 7-8 weeks old and lasts about a year. But the feeling of knowing you have helped a disabled Canadian lasts a lifetime. People often ask ‘how can you give them up after a year’? Just as raising a child means letting them go, so it goes with a pup. Just keep in mind, someone needs him more than you do. Think you can help? Contact LFC at info@dogguides.com.

Finally a HUGE shout out to the Copetown Lions. I was at their 40th Anniversary dinner where they presented a cheque to at the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guide Program for $25,000.00! The money will be used in the Canine Vision Program. Well done Copetown. You will be making a huge difference in others’ lives. Thank you SO much!

**Lions Quest** – PDG Todd Wilson – No report

**Lions Opportunities For Youth** – Lion Joanne McQuiggan – No report

**Lions Services For Children** – Interim – District Team – No report

**Literacy** – PZC Aline Chan

In 2014, President Palmer encouraged Lions to continue their efforts to address illiteracy and improve access to education as part of the READING ACTION PROGRAM (RAP). At that time, Lions reported over 69,000 education and literacy related projects, serving 8.4 million people worldwide.

During my visits to A15 Clubs, we have seen several Little Libraries established, mentoring programs introduced, involvement with the CNIB reading program. One club donated books to a library in Africa.

A partnership with Scholastic and early reading and book distribution saw the purchase of books at half price.

In conjunction with Vision Screening, books purchased through Scholastic will be distributed in the next few days. Clubs that have made donations for this purchase will receive the equivalent in books. The books will be given to the schools of their own choosing. We will be delivering books to those who donated money for book purchases.

We have targeted children in kindergarten as children who do not have a good grounding in reading by Grade 3 may never catch up.

Our most recent contribution to the Literacy program was from the Hillsburgh Lions Club. The community now has a beautiful literacy ‘little library’ box in their village.  It is filled with all kinds of books and readers are using it.

This past summer, the Lynden Lions initiated a local program in conjunction with the Dolly Parton Foundation’s Imagination Library. The project provides a free book each month for each child enrolled, until their 5th birthday. The program encourages parents to ‘read’ to the younger children and as the children mature, to ‘read’ their books as well. They chose to support the Lynden, Jerseyville and Troy postal codes as their designated area.

If you would like to buy books for young readers, please see me. If you are doing a project to promote Literacy, please let me know so that the Lions community can be aware of your project.

**Long Range Planning** – PDG Thom Herrmann – See the Agenda

**Nominations** – PCC Bill Carson – No report

**Peace Poster & Essay for the Visually Impaired** – Lion Janet Dawson-Brock

I would personally like to Thank Governor Wayne for asking me to take on my third term as Peace Poster Chair.

It has been fun and I have let Vice District Governor Charlene know that this will be my last year as Peace Poster Chair.  If you are interested in doing this wonderful job, please speak to Lion Charlene.

My most successful year was when we had "Lions Now" in early September.  It gave me the opportunity to tell the Lions about the contest and it was my best year with so many students being involved.

This year the Theme is "A Celebration of Peace."  I am anxious to see what the students will draw to promote this theme.

To the Clubs who are participating **REMEMBER OUR DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 15**, 2016.
Your club Peace Posters are to be mailed to Governor Wayne by that date.

Thank you to the Lions and Lioness Clubs who are participating.

**Police Check Gatekeeper**: PDG George Patton – No report

**Protocol** – PID Art Woods – No report

**Public Relations & Club Visits Liaison** – PDG Nancy Ransom – No report

**Sight Conservation and Screening** – PDG Tim DeBlock

Our screening program continues to grow with the addition of all schools in the Huron Perth Catholic District School Board. We must thank the volunteers from the Clubs that make this possible. But with growth also comes expense. In the last two years we have added 3000 students to the program so please have your Clubs consider a financial contribution as part of their services for children budget to help cover the cost of new equipment. I am available for Clubs and Lions who would like to explore possibilities for their own communities.

We are trying some administration restructuring within the screening program to create a more fluid communication between School Boards and the volunteer groups. Thank-you to the groups for their patience during our learning curve.

I have received a shipment of Used Eye Glass collection boxes. Please contact me to arrange delivery to meet your needs and follow the shipping instructions on page 154 in the directory.

**Technology Support Coach –** PRC Rick Banks

There are still a number of issues with forgotten passwords and making sure that as one officer leaves a position, that they ensure someone still has access to the club email. There is some information on the website which requires updating and we are looking at that as well. PCS Ted Rypma is also looking at some automation and the database for next year. Suggestions for changes to the website can be submitted to either of us. There may be some nerdy reason why we cannot make some changes, and we will try to communicate that with the Lion making the suggestion.

**Lions Camps Coordinator –** RC Bill Robinson – No report

**Youth Camp & Exchange** – Allison and Mark Henkell

The Bruce Murray International Exchange Camp has a new home for 2017! We have confirmed the use the facilities at Blue Springs Scout Camp which is located just outside of Acton.

Dates for the 2017 Youth Exchange Program (YEP) are as follows:

Saturday July 8 – Youth arrive at Toronto International Airport and travel to their host families

Friday July 21 *or* Saturday July 22 – Camp begins (details being worked out with the camp)

Sunday July 30 – International Night – location TBD

Tuesday August 1 – Camp closes – youth return to their host families

Saturday August 5 – Youth fly out of Toronto International Airport

The dates this year are a little later than they have been in the past. This will accommodate those of you who wish to attend the International Convention in Chicago and also host youth.

Because of the new location we are looking at the activities done during camp to determine if there are activities to be added, dropped, or revamped. We will also be contacting (by email) all of the clubs that have been involved in preparing and/or providing meals for the camp to confirm their availability for the upcoming year. Any clubs that have not been involved in the past, who would like to be involved this year are welcome to contact Mark and Allison by email at ycex@a15lions.org or by telephone/text (Allison 226-228-0874; Mark 519-788-5000).

The new venue offers plenty of space for campers so we are looking forward to having lots of host families which will allow us to increase the number of youth able to travel to our camp in 2017. Please discuss the need for host families at your clubs. With Rudy & Lorea’s retirement we are also looking for camp counselors for the upcoming year. A video is in the process of being produced that will be made available to the clubs which highlights the benefits of hosting and being involved with the youth. If there are any questions about hosting or volunteering during the camp please contact Allison and/or Mark.

District Clubs should begin recruitment for possible candidates to go abroad as a participant in the YEP. Lion Marysa Rumble-Lauriault is once again coordinating the outbound program. Applications should be received by her no later than December 31, 2016. She can be contacted at ycout@a15lions.org. Lion Marysa would be happy to assists clubs with process, please contact her directly.

Thank-you to all of the clubs in the District who have supported this program in the past, we look forward to your continued support in the future. We are also looking forward to new clubs becoming involved in the awesome adventure that is the Lions International Youth Exchange Program!

**Convention Budget**

|  |
| --- |
| District A-15  |
| 2017 Convention Budget |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  2,017  |  |  2,016  |
| **Income** |  Budget  |  **Actual**  |  |  Budget  |  Actual  |
|  | Lion/Lioness Registration |  6,800  |  **-**  |  |  7,650  |  6,817  |
|  | Leo Registration |  -  |  **-**  |  |  100  |  -  |
|  | Non Member Registration |  450  |  **-**  |  |  450  |  675  |
|  | Banquet |  5,250  |  **-**  |  |  8,400  |  5,334  |
|  | Rooms |  7,000  |  **-**  |  |  7,000  |  7,140  |
|  | Luncheon |  2,250  |  **-**  |  |  3,600  |  2,196  |
|  | Pins |  1,000  |  **-**  |  |  1,000  |  1,055  |
|  | Advertising |  800  |  **-**  |  |  800  |  3,700  |
|  | Hospitality room |  750  |  **-**  |  |  750  |  900  |
|  | Raffle Draw |  750  |  **-**  |  |  750  |  4,646  |
|  | PDG breakfast |  200  |  **-**  |  |  300  |  190  |
|  | Bar |  -  |  **-**  |  |  -  |  261  |
|  | MISC (DISTRICT BILLING) |  -  |  **-**  |  |  -  |  1,882  |
|  | Total Income |  25,250  |  **-**  |  |  30,800  |  34,796  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Expenses** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Advertising |  800  |  **-**  |  |  2,500  |  531  |
|  | Entertainment |  2,500  |  **-**  |  |  2,000  |  2,363  |
|  | Facilities |  8,115  |  **-**  |  |  6,933  |  8,456  |
|  | Function and program |  1,900  |  **-**  |  |  1,780  |  1,793  |
|  | Hotel expenses |  6,885  |  **-**  |  |  6,630  |  8,430  |
|  | Meals |  8,350  |  **-**  |  |  13,525  |  7,687  |
|  | Office |  1,700  |  **-**  |  |  1,175  |  2,080  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Total expenses |  30,250  |  **-**  |  |  34,543  |  31,339  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Total Net Revenue | - 5,000  |  **-**  |  | - 3,743  |  3,457  |

