



DISTRICT A-15 LIONS CLUBS®
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Winter A-15 Cabinet Meeting Minutes

7:00 PM February 9th, 2016

Ariss & Maryhill Lions, Heritage Park Community Centre, Maryhill

1. Call to order and Welcome by DG Diane Smith – 7:03 PM

2. Attendance as indicated:

VOTING CABINET

IPDG Tim DeBlock (R)	DG Diane Smith	1 st VDG Wayne Litt	2 nd VDG Charlene Teasdale
CS Dennis Loughheed	CT Peter Oswald	RC Kevin Banfield	RC Debbie Cserhalmi
RC Jim Keron	ZC Rick Banks	ZC Aline Chan	ZC Ian MacFarlane
ZC Tracey Leary	ZC Eric Peterson		

COMMITTEE CHAIR

PRC Paul Anstett	PDG Dan Ayim	PRC Rick Bell (R)	Lion Lorea Boogerman
PRC Vic Bovingdon	Lion PCC Bill Carson (R)	Janet Dawson-Brock (R)	PDG Thom Herrmann
Lion Ernie Kaethler	Lion Rudy Boogerman	Lion Linda Litt	Lion Fran MacFarlane
Lion Pat Mclean	PDG Karen McNeight	Lion Joanne McQuiggan (R)	PRC Robert Montgomery
PID Bruce Murray (R)	PDDG George Patton	Lion Bob Pearson (R)	Lion John Pepper (R) PDG
Norma Peterson (R)	PDG Nancy Ransom (R)	Lion Bob Rutter	PCS Ted Rypma (R)
PDG Doug Smith	PCC Bob Tanner (A1) (R)	Lion Linda Vinette	PDG Larry Wainwright
PCC Todd Wilson	PDG OJ Wilura (R)	PID Art Woods (R)	

In attendance also were approximately 53 other Lion Members including Guests

PCC Tom Gordon, Lion Gillian Gordon, Lion Glen Conduit, PDG Stan Durwood, PDG Eleanor Colwell, Dr. Daphne Maurer

(R) – Regrets

3. O Canada, Toast to Queen & Country and Lions International, Moment of Silence, Lions Grace, Dinner

4. Setting of Protocol –VDG2 Charlene Teasdale

5. Introduction of Guest, Dr. Daphne Maurer – Lion Pat McLean

Dr Maurer from McMaster University thanked us for our long-term involvement in Vision Screening. She pointed out that in the mid 1970's provincial funding and operation of Vision Screening in all Elementary schools in Ontario was dropped because of a lack of documentation of its value. In Ontario 5000 children will suffer permanent vision loss due to undiagnosed lazy eye. She has made it her goal to acquire documentation showing the effectiveness of screening. Because of our long term commitment and success in this area, she has partnered with District A15 to do so. Using our existing procedures, and augmenting with an in school full eye exam by optometrists for referred children, she hopes to bring about a province wide consistent vision screening program for all JK/SK children in the province. She notes that in Toronto there are have been some false identifications during screening but there is no evidence of any missed identifications.

6. Additions to and Approval of the Agenda - Carried

7. Approval of Minutes of the November 4th, 2015 Cabinet Meeting - Carried

Available at <http://a15lions.org/pages/uploads/Events/CabMinNov2015.pdf>

8. District Governor Remarks & Updates

- 8.1. Lions Quest Donations Year to Date – District A15 ranks Number 1 in the country
- 8.2. US Exchange – Clubs are advised to pay their invoices within the same month in order to avoid additional charges due to changing exchange rates. Clubs are also encouraged to make use of electronic payment where possible to ensure payment within the same month.
- 8.3. Peace Poster - Lydia Wilson of Elmira has won at the MDA level and her poster is now on display at LCI in Oak Brook
- 8.4. DG Diane has been participating in a provincial consultation group working towards production of a guide titled Plan Your Event with Accessibility in Mind under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005. Changes and recommendations are expected to be in place by 2025.



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- 8.5. USA/Canada Forum information for next year is now available. Members are encouraged to consider attending.
- 8.6. Lions Memorial Services – Cabinet is in receipt of a draft document outlining a possible service that could be used for a Lions Memorial Service prepared by PCC Dave Rumble. When finalized cabinet will make a determination as to how this resource will be made available.
9. Treasurer’s Report
 - 9.1. Report and Financial Statements 2015-2016 - *See Pages 4 through 7*
MOVED to acknowledge receipt of the Treasurer’s report and Financial Statements as presented. Carried.
10. New Business
 - 10.1. Needed Changes to District Constitution and By-Laws
Whereas, A review of the LCI document, “Constitution and By-Laws, Standard District, Fiscal Year 2016-2017 (Effective 7/16) la4.pdf” by Constitution and By-Laws Chair, PDDG George Patton has resulted in proposed amendments to the District Constitution and the District By-Laws in order to ensure compliance; therefore,
MOVED, To forward the proposed revised A-15 District Constitution for a vote by voting delegates at the April 2016 Convention. Carried.
MOVED, To forward the proposed revised A-15 District By-Laws for a vote by voting delegates at the April 2016 Convention. 11 – Yes/ 1 No. Carried.
While the changes made by International do not take place until July 1st, 2016, should the proposed changes to the District documents to ensure compliance be approved at convention, the District changes would take place immediately following the vote.
 - 10.2. A15 Policy Manual, Article 25 – Volunteer Screening and Police Check Policy
MOVED, That for those Lions District committees or activities for which a criminal records police check is required by Cabinet, the Committee Chair, in consultation with the individual requiring the criminal record check shall determine the method to be used to obtain same. In the case where the individual has no internet access, the individual shall obtain this check independently. Where a Vulnerable Sector Police Check is required either by Cabinet or a third party the individual must, by statute, obtain this independently. Carried.
MOVED, That the cost of obtaining any type of police check, as a requirement by Cabinet or a third party to participate in a District sanctioned activity, will continue to be borne by the District until the end of this Lions year, June 30th 2016. After that date all committees where Cabinet, or third party, requires any type of police check the committee chair shall be required to build the expense into the committee budget to be approved by Cabinet. Carried.
Members are strongly advised that should they elect to obtain their police check through any method other than MyBackCheck, they should not surrender their copy unless the agency to whom they are surrendering the document can provide proof that they have a secure document storage system in place. It is personal information, is protected under the Privacy Act and the member must take responsibility for securing their own information.
11. Cabinet Reports - *See Pages 7 through 9*
 - 11.1. MOVED to acknowledge receipt of the Cabinet Reports. Carried.
 - 11.2. Committee Reports - *See Pages 10 through 19*
 - 11.3. District Centennial Legacy Project – Chiligo Rd LFC Property/Breslau Breeding Facility
MOVED, That the District A-15 Cabinet approve looking further into fundraising opportunities and club interest in adopting the project. Carried.
 - 11.4. Gift of Life Supplement – Cabinet will take under consideration a proposal to implement a banner patch recognition program for those clubs with a 50% member sign up for Organ Donation.



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- 11.5. Lions Home For The Deaf – Lion Gary Eves
Clubs are asked to consider support for the three major projects being taken on by Lions Homes For the Deaf as describe in a Club emailing earlier this year. Two of the three projects are in our District and Lions have pledged support in the amount of \$290,000. Lions may also use the Helen Keller award as a way of recognizing a Lion or a member of the community and donating to Lions Homes For the Deaf at the same time.
- 11.6. GLT Supplement - PDG Denis Vinette made the following observations and comments for Cabinet consideration.
 - 11.6.1. A thank you to those members of cabinet and the committee chairs who make such a concerted effort to provide reports and keep the District membership informed as to what they are doing on our behalf in fulfilling their roles.
 - 11.6.2. The MDA Western Region GMT/GLT workshop will be held on February 20th in Woodstock and is open to all members. Topics include,
 - Seeking Excellence in Service
 - Our Past Our Future: the Centennial Project
 - Turning Forward
 - LCIF: The Power of the WholeContact Lion Denis should you wish further information.
 - 11.6.3. While District A15 surpasses all others with respect to attendance at cabinet meetings and the District Convention, we suffer with respect to candidates for District leadership positions. He poses for consideration, whether having the Governors give oral reports at Cabinet Meetings might result in;
 - a greater connection between them and the membership,
 - grow awareness of the need for individuals to take on leadership positions,
 - awareness of the opportunities which exist in leadership positions.In addition the perceived workload associated with the Zone Chair position might be addressed through a future cabinet reopening the discussion of re-zoning of the District to reduce the size of the Zones.
- 11.7. MOVED to acknowledge receipt of the Committee Reports. Carried.
12. Special Presentations & Awards
Lion Neil Hoogendoorn of the Marsville Lions presented a check to RC Deb Cserhalmi, Chair for LFC in support of the Dog Guide Program.
13. Good & Welfare
14. Adjournment



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TREASURER'S REPORT TO CABINET – FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

District "A"-15 Lions - Admin
Balance Sheet
As of 31 December 2015

	<u>31 Dec 15</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Chequing/Savings	
Cash	
CIBC - Bank Account	8,757.13
CIBC - Investments	30,616.25
CIBC USD Account	8.57
International Director Fund	5,304.23
New Club Assessment Fund	1,870.56
Total Cash	<u>46,556.74</u>
Total Chequing/Savings	46,556.74
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	3,234.05
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>3,234.05</u>
Other Current Assets	
Accrued Interest Receivable	400.00
Total Other Current Assets	<u>400.00</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>50,190.79</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>50,190.79</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
A/P USD for LCI	0.01
Total Accounts Payable	<u>0.01</u>
Other Current Liabilities	
Convention Fund	3,604.07
DGE Partner Travel	3,104.60
International Director Suspense	383.25
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>7,091.92</u>
Total Current Liabilities	7,091.93
Long Term Liabilities	
International Director - Contra	5,304.23
New Club Assessment - Contra	1,870.56
Total Long Term Liabilities	<u>7,174.79</u>
Total Liabilities	14,266.72
Equity	
Balance - July 1/00 - Net	690.54
Emergency Reserve Fund	23,000.00
Retained Earnings	2,799.70
Net Income	9,433.83
Total Equity	<u>35,924.07</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>50,190.79</u>



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District "A"-15 Lions - Admin Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual July 2015 through Oct 2, 2015

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	Jul '15 - Jun 16	Budget	Over Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Advertising	500.00	500.00	0.00
District Directory	220.00	250.00	-30.00
District Dues			
Dues - Collected	13,030.50	13,039.00	-8.50
Total District Dues	13,030.50	13,039.00	-8.50
Interest Earned	72.72	543.00	-470.28
Leadership Seminar Income	1,450.00	1,450.00	0.00
MD 'A' Dues	0.00		
Membership Assessment	2,299.50	2,301.00	-1.50
Pin Sales	835.00	1,500.00	-665.00
Total Income	18,407.72	19,583.00	-1,175.28
Gross Profit	18,407.72	19,583.00	-1,175.28
Expense			
Awards			
Awards - Cabinet	0.00	750.00	-750.00
Awards - Other	529.82	350.00	179.82
Total Awards	529.82	1,100.00	-570.18
Badges & Patches	1,072.85	700.00	372.85
Bank Charges	41.72	200.00	-158.28
Cabinet Expense	978.53	1,850.00	-871.47
Convention Expense	0.00	1,100.00	-1,100.00
District Chair Expense			
Comm Chair Expenses	0.00	1,100.00	-1,100.00
District Chair - Other	0.00	1,500.00	-1,500.00
Global Leadership & Membership	1,344.72	2,350.00	-1,005.28
Leo Clubs	0.00	400.00	-400.00
Total District Chair Expense	1,344.72	5,350.00	-4,005.28
District Directories	1,997.84	1,750.00	247.84
Internet	112.69	100.00	12.69
Leadership Institutes	0.00	675.00	-675.00
Leadership Seminar	0.00	1,450.00	-1,450.00
Liability Insurance	0.00	500.00	-500.00
Pins Purchased	1,757.71	1,760.00	-2.29
Police Check Fees	688.17	660.00	28.17
Postage & Telephone	0.00	200.00	-200.00
Printing & Stationery	89.84	350.00	-260.16
USA / Canada Forum	360.00	1,800.00	-1,440.00
Total Expense	8,973.89	19,545.00	-10,571.11
Net Ordinary Income	9,433.83	38.00	9,395.83
Net Income	9,433.83	38.00	9,395.83



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District "A"-15 Lions Clubs Trust
Balance Sheet
As of 31 December 2015

	<u>31 Dec 15</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Chequing/Savings	
CIBC- Lions Quest Imprest	333.74
CIBC - Eff.Speaking Impst	2,193.44
CIBC - Trust Account	12,390.97
CIBC - Youth	
Youth Exchange Imprest	20,331.51
Youth Investments	12,512.05
Total CIBC - Youth	<u>32,843.56</u>
Investments	
QUEST - Investment	7,567.73
Investments - Other	5,156.20
Total Investments	<u>12,723.93</u>
Youth Camp Capital Fund	<u>7,744.50</u>
Total Chequing/Savings	<u>68,230.14</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>68,230.14</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>68,230.14</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Camp Dorset	2,000.00
Camp Huronda	500.00
Cultural Festival	217.11
Diabetes Awareness	526.60
Diabetes Tag Day	210.00
District Cook Book	440.40
Effective Speaking Contra Acct	2,193.44
Hearing Conservation	250.00
Hearing Equipment	553.07
Lions Foundation of Canada	
Leash Free Park	5,055.90
Total Lions Foundation of Canada	<u>5,055.90</u>
Lions Home for Deaf People	550.00
LIONS Quest Contra Account	7,901.47
Peace Poster	1,880.37
Reading Action	700.00
Vision Screening	3,316.56
Youth Camp / Y. Ex. Contra Acct	34,190.72
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>60,485.64</u>
Total Current Liabilities	60,485.64
Long Term Liabilities	
Youth Camp Capital	<u>7,744.50</u>
Total Long Term Liabilities	<u>7,744.50</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>68,230.14</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>68,230.14</u>



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TREASURER'S REPORT TO CABINET

The financial statements are presented today as at December 31, 2015. All bank accounts have been reconciled to their respective statements. The financial statements presented here fairly reflect the financial position of the District.

ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTS

- Administration balance sheet includes satisfactory bank balance (admin account \$8,757). At Dec 31, there were outstanding amounts for dues owing (combined MDA and District) of \$1,870.56. As of Jan 26, all but 1 Club has now paid – the outstanding amount of \$713.22 remains owing from the University of Guelph Campus Club. The appropriate members of Cabinet have been notified and efforts are underway to try and collect these dues and bring this new club into good standing.
- With respect to Expenses vs Budget, we are track – less than 50% of the budgeted expense funds have been allocated to Dec 31.

TRUST ACCOUNTS

- The balance sheet for the Trust accounts is an accurate reflection of all balances held in Trust as at December 31, 2015. All accounts have been reconciled to the Bank records as at that date as well.
- There is a transfer of funds from the Trust to the Youth account in the amount of \$1,347.16 required – deposit from a club was inadvertently placed in the trust account.
- Committee Chairs have received a summary of any fund activity for their respective committees to date.

CABINET REPORTS

1st VDG – Wayne Litt

None Submitted

2nd VDG – Charlene Teasdale

Happy New Year Lions of A15. 2015 brought challenges and accomplishments for many of our Clubs in our District. It has been very refreshing to hear of the Literacy Projects that have been formed as well as ideas and sharing of information for membership growth and retention. I have attended the Lions Now seminar in Kitchener where we learned more about adult literacy programs in the region as well as information about the newest Committee “The Gift of Life” program, what a priceless gift. On behalf of DG Lion Diane Smith I have had the pleasure of visiting with the Milverton Lions Club, the St. Jacobs Lions Club as well as the Elora Lions Club where I also had the honour of inducting 2 new members. It has also been an honour to present Years of Service Chevrons. Leadership is just one of the important pieces of my position as 2nd VDG and I encourage all Lions to think of not only furthering your leadership skills within your own Clubs but as well as at our District level. This is another way for you to provide “service” not only to those in need but also for the betterment and future of this great District. We have tremendous tools within our grasp for Leadership Learning and I would be only too happy to discuss this with all Lions at any time. We have challenges but I believe when we work together, we can further the incredible service for our own goals as well as for those within our own Clubs and the District. I look forward to the future serving alongside of all of you.

IPDG – Tim DeBlock

Nothing to report.



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RC 9 / ZC 9S – Kevin Banfield

While I have been on the road visiting clubs with in the region, I was also able to attend ZC Tracy's zone meeting in Jan. It was great to catch up with some old friends from 37W. Very happy to report that St. George Lions has brought in 8 new members so far this year, and Rockton has 4 new members with what I think will be 2 more very soon.

In Region 9, at the end of the month the Lions Club of Brantford will open their doors, and host our second Joint Zone meeting in Region 9. At the Joint Zone meeting we will focus on new member orientation. The Orientation of our new members to Lionism is an important part of member retention but can be highly variable from club to club and region to region. This session will be a great refresher for senior members of your clubs as well.

If you and your new members are not able to attend your regions Joint Zone meeting Please feel free to join us in Brantford on Feb 23rd. You will want to see one of the three presentations, and take back the information shared to your fellow club members.

ZC 9E – Aline Chan

The Clubs I have visited have had enthusiastic meetings and show positive action. They are all striving for membership growth. It is heartening to see their attendance at Zone meetings, Lions events, Membership and Cabinet meetings. Attendance at these meetings not only keep one updated on what is happening locally but globally as we head into the 100th anniversary of Lions Clubs International but provide support and networking links. Keep on working with your Sesquicentennial projects. Congratulations to those Lions celebrating milestone membership anniversaries! Your length of service is impressive!

RC 51 – Debbie Cserhalmi

As RC for 51 I am proud to see all the great work done by our clubs. From food drives to eye screening Lions are making a difference.

These cold winter months might be a great time to work on building those little libraries. I hope to see some pictures soon.

This year's Joint Zone Meeting will be having an orientation component. All club members are invited. This will be a great way of introducing the world of Lionism to our new Lions as well as a refresher for the more seasoned Lions out there. Please plan to attend the meeting in Rockwood on March 2.

Thank you for all you do as a Lion. I hope you are enjoying your year.

ZC 51E – Eric Peterson

It is now just about the end of Jan. and all my club visits are done, except for the U of G Campus Club they haven't returned any of my e-mails or calls and others are also trying, so I hope that they are well and doing fine. I inducted a new member at Hillsburgh before Christmas and my club Fergus inducted one before Christmas and we are planning two more In Feb. At our last Zone meeting we took up the Region Chair's project of Little Libraries and I know that in the spring Fergus is planning for two of them and I am sur that there will be more throughout Zone 51E.

On Jan. 26 Zone 51E held there second Zone meeting that was attended by all of the clubs but one and all enjoyed a great meal with fantastic fellowship with lots of swapping of ideas and projects. The Guest speaker was Elizabeth Debergh from the Wellington County Learning Centre in Arthur; she gave a talk on all the programs that the Centre provides for young adults and adults alike. This was the way Zone meetings should be fun and informative and everybody leaving with a good feeling.



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ZC 51W – Rick Banks

Since my last report I have completed all the visits to my clubs with the exception of Milverton which I will visit on February 4th. It is truly a pleasure to see all the good work being completed by clubs in their communities and through District and LCI projects. All the clubs I visited were involved in many projects, where fundraising and looking to see how they could do even more.

Most clubs are struggling with membership in one form or another and there is some concern about the lower Canadian Dollar and what that means to membership dues at least over the next year or so. Administration accounts are suffering and it is more difficult to attract younger members if dues are increasing.

Zone 51W had its second Zone Meeting on January 25th in Elmira. Thanks to Lion Chief Pat and the Woolwich Community Lions for hosting. We had a good turn out from most of the clubs. Clubs were updated on District events; we discussed rules and regulations for lotteries, discussed fund raising and told some stories.

I encourage the clubs to put forward a candidate for ZC and RC for 51West. It's a great opportunity for personal development.

RC37 – Jim Keron

I enjoyed the 37W zone meeting this month; a good meeting organized by ZC Tracey with a lot of good dialogue on issues facing Lions. The challenge upcoming for the next month is organizing a new member orientation session which will be delivered at three Joint Zone meetings next month and early March. Getting new members integrated into their clubs is an ongoing challenge in light of statistics that show a high dropout rate in Lions in the first couple of years with the club. We need to find a better way to make new members aware of all the community service that we do as Lions and we need to find a better way to get new members integrated into the clubs and out working on community service projects. The other challenge facing us is getting people interested in running for the various district positions. Convention is fast approaching and it would be great to get all positions filled going into convention rather than leave the District Governor scrambling to make appointments to fill out cabinet. I have often said and still hold to it that the Zone Chair position is the best position in the District. I cannot really think of a position that I have held in Lions that was more fun. I met a lot of good people and made a lot of new friends. So get out there and get your clubs support and get your nomination in soon.

ZC 37S – Ian MacFarlane

The clubs in 37S had a busy pre-Christmas schedule. Nov 2nd was a Zone Meeting hosted by the Woodstock Lions. Nine clubs were represented with a total of 44 Participants. Guest speaker was Bob Rutter, Committee Chair, Gift of Life. Reports from the clubs were brief and concentrated on future plans. It is worth noting that without exception, all reports described cooperation and involvement with various community groups.

Following the reports the participants were divided at random into five subject groups to discuss strategies to meet International and District Goals; Developing two new literacy projects, Leadership Development, Effective Speaking, Youth Exchange, and LFC Dog Guide Program.

The responses, which will be collated, were varied and innovative.

ZC 37W – Tracey Leary

On January 21, Zone 37 W had their second Zone Meeting in Stratford. It was a very good turn out from the clubs. Everyone did very well in sharing their stories on Membership achievements, club growth, and projects. There were a lot of good ideas to help out the other clubs in the zone. We also had a guest with us that evening. She commented on some of the ideas that were floating around. Her suggestion was to bring your guests to the events that the Lions are hosting instead of just a meal on meeting night. They should get an idea of what the clubs do for fundraising or just to see what Lions do!! When we get ideas, it's good to share. You are not only helping your club, you are also helping others that could be in the same situation. Lion's to me are like a second family, and communication between families is what makes us work together as a big team.



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COMMITTEE REPORTS

NOTHING TO REPORT AT THIS TIME OR NO SUBMISSION

Constitution & By-Laws – PDDG George Patton, **District Historian** – PDG Nancy Ransom, **District International Relations** – PID Bruce Murray, **Effective Speaking** – Lion Ernie Kaethler, **GLT Liaison** – PDG Denis Vinette, **GMT Membership & Club Growth Team Leader** – PRC Vic Bovingdon, **GMT Membership Renewal** – PDG Larry Wainwright, **Hearing & Speech Action** – Lion John Pepper, **Information Technology** – PCS Ted Rypma, **LEO** – RC Jim Keron, **Lions Quest** – PDG Todd Wilson, **Long Range Planning** – PDG Thom Herrmann, **Nominations** – PCC Bill Carson, **Protocol** – PID Art Woods, **Special Olympics** – PCC Bob Tanner (District A1), **Yearbook** – PDG Karen McNeight

Camp Coordinator – PRC Rob Montgomery

All of the camps have their Wish lists displayed on their websites as to their needs for the upcoming season; if you can assist in any way please feel free to do so.

We all support our Youth Camp and that is good, but we have five other Camps and they need our support as well. With the other five Camps we donate approximately:

- * 40% to Lions Camp Dorset
- * 40% to CNIB Lake Joseph
- * 20% to Camp Huronda while the other two Camps Kirk & Trillium are being left out with little or no sponsorship at all.
- * Roughly 30% of the clubs of A-15 donate to the Camps.
- * Approximately 6-8 clubs of District A-15 donate approximately \$5-10 thousand to these camps.

We should support all of Camps fairly equally, that way if someone from our District has a need then we would feel a lot better about sending them to Camp.

Camp Trillium was created in 1984, with a simple vision: to reach children with cancer by providing them and their families with fun and enriching recreational opportunities. They began their mission with one camp, 28 campers and 18 staff in London. Since then, they have grown across Ontario, and have over 2000 people attending every year

Annual workweek at Lions Camp Dorset is June 9th - 16th, 2016 if you are interested please contact the camp director Steve Woolman at the camp.

Centennial Coordinator – PDG Dan Ayim

It is proposed that we erect two stone pillars, one on each side of the entrance to the laneway leading to Lions Memorial Forest property from Chiligo road. A short fence will be attached on the south side, simulating the original fence line. The pillars will be of stone to match the original stone building on the property.

With cabinet approval, this project may become “A15 Centennial Legacy Project.”

In 2017, an LCI centennial plaque will be attached to one pillar followed by a second plaque on the other pillar in 2020 to commemorate Lionism in Canada.

At their meeting during the weekend of October 24 2015, LFC Board of Directors approved District A15’s request to build a centennial gate on their property in Breslau on condition that LFC incurs no expense. They also requested that a Dogguides logo appear somewhere on the gate since there is no signage at the entrance indicating whose property it is.



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Working Cost Estimate

PCC Lion Todd has volunteered his professional expertise and presented the following retail price estimate which does not take into account asking for a price break from suppliers, donations of material or labour and any other cost savings. The cost of the plaques is extra.

Traditional Farm Stone Gate and Fence Post Pricing	
Excavation	\$ 1,000.00
Concrete footing (material)	\$ 600.00
Concrete footing (labour)	\$ 300.00
Foundation (block, mortar, grout fill and rebar)	\$ 2,250.00
Concrete ground level (material)	\$ 350.00
Concrete ground level (labour)	\$ 300.00
Back up block wall (block, mortar, grout fill, rebar)	\$ 1,600.00
Labour block	\$ 4,400.00
Stone 450 sq. ft.	\$ 4,050.00
Mortar	\$ 450.00
Caps x 6	\$ 6,800.00
Labour stone	\$ 6,500.00
Fence - replica antique, 4 pcs	\$ 1,400.00
Fence install	\$ 500.00
TOTAL	\$ 30,500.00

Convention Host 2016 – Lion Linda Litt & PID Art Woods

The 2016 District A-15 Convention will be held in Elmira from Friday, April 29th to Sunday, May 1st, 2016.

The Host Convention Committee has been busy putting together an exciting convention program and we invite all A-15 Lions, spouses and friends to join us. Our International Guest is Sitting International Director Kembra L. Smith of Decatur, Georgia.

The activities planned will follow the usual A-15 convention format plus an exciting and fun-filled evening of entertainment following the dinner Saturday night as well as special activities at the Saturday afternoon luncheon

Convention activities will be held at the Elmira Lions Hall, 40 South Street West in Elmira. Accommodations have been reserved at the Courtyard Marriott, St. Jacobs. Full shuttle service will be available throughout the weekend between venues.

Don't forget to order tickets for your chance to win one of our two raffle prizes, a beautiful Handmade Mennonite Quilt or a Theatre Getaway Package. This draw is restricted to Lions members only.

A copy of the Convention Poster and the Registration Form has been forwarded to the District by email.

Cultural Events – PZC Fran MacFarlane

Diversity in our daily lives is a given. We celebrate equally Robbie Burn's Birthday and Cinco de Mayo. Lions eat Irish Stew, curry dishes and pad Thai with gusto. Lions International celebrated in 2014 in Toronto with Lions gathering from all over the world. Yes we are a diverse group in many ways.

Lions in A15 reflect the change in our communities but there are additional opportunities at local Cultural Events to tell more people about the good works your club does. It's a great way to recruit new members too. Our Leadership Training event in May will feature a guest speaker talking about welcoming refugees and ways in which Lions can help. Reaching out will make a real difference for A15 Lions of the future.



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Diabetes Awareness – PRC Rick Bell

Since our last cabinet meeting, things have been going well for Project Bunk Bed. In the latest update from Nicole Holder, Community Engagement Coordinator for the Canadian Diabetes Association, she indicated that \$15,347.15 has been donated by clubs in A-15. That's a fantastic amount when you consider that there will be more clubs donating yet. When you combine this amount with the donations from other Districts in MDA, we are currently at \$32,320.23. This makes the goal of replacing 50 bunk beds at Camp Huronda within reach; just another \$23,000 to go. The clubs in Regions 9 and 51 have been leading the way. When I return home in March, I will be contacting the clubs in Region 37 to give them a nudge.

District Bulletin & MDA Magazine Liaison – Lion Bob Pearson

The editor encourages all A15 clubs to submit items for publication in a timely fashion. The established deadline is the 15th of each month. There is no limitation on the number of submissions. Editing and formatting assistance is available.

Also part of the newsletter process is the district bulletin contest, the rules and submission guidelines are part of the October issue. There has not been an abundance of entries to date.

Elections & Credentials – PDG Doug Smith

At the time of writing there are no Candidates for five Zones and no Candidates for 2 Region Chairs. We need to have these positions filled if we are to operate effectively.

Demonstrations and/or Speeches by ZC and RC Candidates will be at their respective Joint Zone Meetings.

Candidates for 2VDG, 1VDG, and DG will be introduced by name only.

At the Convention on Friday Evening, Demonstrations and/or Speeches will be by 2VDG, 1VDG and DG Candidates. All others will be introduced by name only.

Saturday Cabinet Meeting, all Candidates will be introduced by name only.

Our Conventions are actually the District A15 Lions Annual General Meeting and as such we conduct the business of the day. As shareholders, we elect our officers for the upcoming year and vote on Constitutional Changes. To this end your vote counts.

Voting Delegate Forms will be mailed to your Club Secretary's email address. By now everyone should be on track as to how the procedures work. Last year there were excuses about not receiving them. We received no bounce backs so please open your email.

In order to vote you must be a member of a club that is in good standing i.e. does not have any outstanding balances with A15, MDA and LCI. Unpaid balances must be paid 15 days prior to the vote. You must have a signed Delegate Form and have a valid Membership Card.

If not you know the rules ... Donation, Donation, Donation.

Environment – Lion Linda Vinette

A request for the Environmental Photo contest has been sent to all the clubs and I'm happy to say I've already received one. The criteria for participation are an 8X10 picture of your immediate surroundings of Animal life, Plant life, Urban or natural landscape, or Weather phenomenon. Last date for submission to me is April 20th. Photos will be displayed at the District A-15 Convention in Elmira on April 29th and the winning Photo will be sent to MD"A" to be voted on May 26th in North Bay. The winning Photo from MD"A" will be sent to Lions Clubs International.

On Nov. 30th I participated in the Lions Now event at the Kitchener Oktoberfest promoting Environmental projects and involvement in the Centennial Service Challenges.

On January 12th I attended meeting at the Breslau Memorial Forest to discuss plans for 2016. This year's cleanup project in anticipation for the Breslau Memorial Service will occur on Wed. June 1st from noon till dark. The Breslau Memorial Service will be on Sat. June 11th. Plan to get involved and volunteer.



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Future Convention Advisory – PDG Doug Smith

We have met with the 2016 Convention Committee and everything is in order to Host the best Convention ever. Lion Art and Lion Linda will have a more detailed report.

We have received 1 Bid for the 2017/18 Convention.

We have met with the 2018 District Convention Host Committee. This will be held from April 6 - 8, 2018 at the Guelph Holiday Inn, hosted by the Guelph Lions Club and the Guelph Royal City Lions Club. Working with them, Room Rates have been negotiated to a better price but we are still awaiting their written offer. As it is 2 years in advance, it will be difficult to tie prices down and as we get nearer to the event (Sept./Oct. 2016) the Host Clubs will be signing a contract with them.

Hospitality Area/Rooms have been an issue in the past with all hotels and we will be working with all parties to alleviate noise and access control concerns.

As the revised Bid Package becomes available, Members of the Voting Cabinet will receive such to peruse to be able to make an informed decision. The Convention Committee recommends that A-15 accepts the Guelph Lions and the Guelph Royal City Lions Clubs' Bid and endorse such at the 2016 Convention Cabinet Meeting. As a tie in to the Elections and Credentials Committee, there is a lack of Candidates for Zone and Region Chairs. There are many reasons for this one of which may be the cost of Campaigning and the Hosting of a Hospitality Suite. Unless there is a contested position, we are suggesting for the upcoming Convention that consideration may be given to Zones as a whole host a room. I applaud PZC Rae Rotchell from 9S who thought out of the box and hosted a Zone 9S Hospitality Room. No need for a motion - just a point for the Cabinet and the Audience to ponder.

Gift of Life Coordinator – Lion Bob Rutter

The holidays and a continuing problem with sorting out the District's registration website has delayed accounting of the efforts by the District to gain registrations for Trillium Gift of Life Network.

The website was corrected prior to new year, but business card handouts with our District web address were not delivered until the third week of January.

At this time, it is critical that efforts be initiated to capture publicity for the annual Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness month held in April. What is the easiest and most simple activity is to convince local municipalities to pass a resolution declaring the month, and to encourage citizens to participate.

In the next two or three weeks, each club will begin receiving a beadonor.ca flag that the municipality can fly during the month. MDA and Trillium Gift of Life Network are hoping to have flags flying in most of the communities where Lions serve. A request for a flag raising must be made shortly to ensure the request can be approved. Hint: the flag raising is a great photo opportunity both for Clubs and for local politicians.

In communities with multiple clubs, a solidarity approach to councilors may be considered. In Guelph, the Guelph Lions Club will join with me in an approach to city council.

During the period leading up to April, I will be visiting clubs; starting this month with West Coast, which is sponsoring an event to have me speak. I will also attend a Region 9 joint zone meeting.

Two significant events took place in the past two months: the creation of a video outlining the need for organ and tissue donations which was shown at the Lions Now event in December; and my participation along with a Guelph representative of the Life Donations Awareness Association in an interview on Rogers Cable TV show Inside Guelph. A tentative promise was made by Rogers to have another interview conducted during Organ Awareness month in April.

My effort to speak to local groups is making headway. I have a commitment to speak from the Beta Sigma Phi Sorority; and a second tentative (awaiting confirmed date) to speak to United Church Women in Guelph. A further inquiry has been made to speak to the Waterloo Presbytery of the United Church which represents churches in Waterloo-Wellington and parts of Huron and Perth Counties.

On a final note, from my recent teleconference with MDA Chair PDG Eleanor Colwell, many Lions Clubs in the GTA are supporting the Transplant Games with volunteers. The Canadian games will be held this year in Toronto Aug. 8 – 13. Some competitors will then attend the World Transplant Games.



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Discussion during this meeting also surrounded the distribution of a banner patch. Criteria for earning the patch are still being worked out.

GLT District Coordinator – PDG Denis Vinette

On November 2nd, I was invited to speak at the Zone 37 W meeting and told of the opportunities that come from leadership development and a commitment to leadership at the club and at the District. Unfortunately, due to limited numbers in attendance, the presentation may have fallen only on the converted. Having said that, it appears that one member in attendance has shown an interest in taking on a club directorship position and will keep the District opportunities in mind, going forward.

Lions Now! is a program that allows District committees to display their programs and provide resources and a venue for the District membership to be better informed regarding the various service programmes available. This year, in an effort to bring more awareness of leadership opportunities, the Region chairs provided their own display to present information on the various roles in Voting Cabinet. Again, although lightly attended, some members came away better informed of the leadership roles and I believe that this might positively influence their decisions to step forward in the future. Kudo’s to Char, Deb and Jim for this.

On December 14, I sent an email reminding the Zone and Region chairs once again of their role in the GMT and GLT and again, requested that they make an effort to compile potential candidates for District office and encourage clubs to put candidates forward for District service. I received a report form 2 of 9 “possibles” and will make an additional effort to reinforce the need for us to discover and inspire the potential that exists in current club Presidents and executives.

Since the beginning of the new year, I have observed that our Zone and Region chairs have taken more responsibility of encouraging and promoting the benefits and characteristics of taking on Leadership positions beyond the club level. In particular, 2nd VDG Charlene made a clear and direct appeal the Zone 51 East meeting and offered additional clarification regarding cost and subsidies available to Zone and Region Chairs as part of a way to lessen the financial costs of the role. Wonderfully done, Char!

GMT District Coordinator – PDG OJ Wilura

There are 5 Districts in all of Canada that have positive growth this fiscal year. Our district is not one of them. Overall we have lost 661 members in Canada and some 29 in our own.

Since my last report all has been quiet. There have been no requests for assistance from any club. Should I surmise that all is well? Clubs losing members, not reporting their WMMR, behind in monies owed to LCI, a stagnate membership, low meeting attendance and the list can goes on. District Governor Team members observe those listed concerns and hear about them from disgruntled members. So clubs suffering in a couple of these areas should take note and inquiry about support. It’s there; it’s free and done with pleasure.

	July 2015	New Members	Dropped Members	January 25/16	Difference
A15	1534	75	101	1508	-26

Did you know that in May 2014, we had 1613 members in A15?

Let us all try our best to move to the positive side to make this district stronger and better able to serve our communities.

GMT Club Success Team Leader – RC Paul Anstett

Since the last Cabinet meeting in November, I have continued to work with Clubs that I have assisted with CEP and CEP follow-up. Also continuing the ongoing monitoring and postings on the District’s Facebook page. I have attended both Zone 37W meetings and provided information on resources and ideas on membership growth.



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Honorary Committee– IPDG Tim DeBlock

The PDG Honorary Committee met on Oct 15th in Stratford. Addressing the meeting were DG Diane, PDG Denis and PCC Bill C. There was a good conversation about the role of the Committee in regards to leadership and continuing to help maintain a positive environment in our Clubs. Since our last Cabinet meeting we also mourn the loss of one of our members, PDG Jim (Jymmer) Ryan. Our next meeting will be the Saturday morning of convention (April 30th)

LCIF –RC Kevin Banfield

Did you know that?

- the Lions Clubs International Foundation each and every day, works to fulfill our mission as Lions: "To support the efforts of Lions clubs and partners in serving communities locally and globally, giving hope and impacting lives through humanitarian service projects and grants."
- since our founding in 1968 we have strived to sustain Lions' humanitarian service goals throughout the world, awarding over 12,000 grants totaling more than US\$900 million, in the four key areas of sight, youth, disaster relief and other humanitarian efforts.
- LCIF is providing vision for those in need all over the world by combating eye diseases, creating infrastructure to improve eye care delivery, increasing the number of trained eye care professionals and making vision care more equitable and sustainable.
- LCIF believes that all young people deserve to have an education, feel cared for and experience healthy development so they can have the chance to achieve their dreams. Through our positive youth development program, Lions Quest, LCIF is helping children learn to work together, make positive decisions and serve their communities. The Foundation also supports youth through constructing schools, youth centers and vocational training centers.
- Lions are often some of the first to arrive at a disaster to provide relief, and Foundation support is right there with them. We help devastated communities survive after disasters and bring hope by assisting in long-term efforts of rebuilding of homes and lives.
- from working to combat global health issues such as measles and diabetes to empowering those with disabilities to lead more independent and fulfilling lives, LCIF is dedicated to a range of humanitarian service projects. The Foundation continues to develop and expand programs that meet emerging needs worldwide.

Don't forget, that we are all part of a greater organization which spans past our own back yard and that your club, zone, region and district are ALL eligible to apply for grants from our foundation???

As your District A15 LCIF Coordinator I have been tasked with oversee the implementation of LCIF development strategies within our district, to educate our members about the mission and success of LCIF and its importance to Lions Clubs International, and to encourage the support of LCIF through all aspects of fundraising in our district

Today I am challenging each member of District A15 to make a personal donation of \$20.00 to our Lions Clubs International Foundation.

I like to ask each club treasure to coordinate collecting all funds members donate and update the excel spreadsheet attached. If a member is not listed on the spreadsheet please add them. If you are not familiar with Excel send me an email with the Lions name and I will updated and send back to the club.

LFC – RC Deb Cserhalmi

The Lions Foundation of Canada (LFC) has started the year with several puppies being born. All these pups need a solid foundation before they start their 'studies' at 'Dog Guide University'. If you are interested in fostering a puppy for about 12-14 months there is an application on the www.dogguies.com website.

This fall I participated in my first Canine Challenge. This is open to Lions Clubs who can make it to the school in Oakville for the day. Working with these amazing dogs from the clients' perspective was awe inspiring. All the dogs were eager to work with us as they went through what they had been taught. From guiding the blind, to opening driers, to giving hugs during a meltdown all the dogs were perfect. I came to realize what a difference



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the dogs make in the lives of the people who have them. Enough cannot be said about the trainers who spend countless hours training and loving these dogs. Also the volunteers at both Oakville and Breslau cannot be thanked enough. If you have a chance to attend this event, please do. The cost is \$500.00 for a team of four plus 5 spectators and lunch is served. This is a great opportunity to see where your donations are going.

Open House: Spring March 5, 2016 9:30-3:00 pm 152 Wilson St Oakville, ON

Walk for Dog Guides: National Date May 29, 2016 (date is up to you) mlethbridge@dogguies.com

Ride for Dog Guides: June 18, 2016 Starts Oakville ends in Breslau events@dogguies.com

Please consider joining with another club to start a walk this year. I am available to come to your club for a presentation and I have dogs and puppies available for your events lfc@a15lions.org

Lions Opportunities For Youth – Lion Joanne McQuiggan

The mission of Lions Opportunities for Youth theme is to provide the young people of the world with opportunities for achievement, learning, contribution and service, individually and collectively, through sponsorship of activities identified as best practices in the field of youth development. Lions Opportunities for Youth activities include the following: Leo clubs, international youth exchanges and youth camps, International Peace Poster Contest, Lions Quest, drug awareness, youth volunteerism, Scouting, Special Olympics, speaking and essay contests, scholarships, and Young Leaders in Service Awards. In District A15 we have excellent chairs/committees working on all of these portfolios, and my goal over the next six months is to pull the group together share ideas, strategies and ways that we can collaborate to improve all of these important projects. A quick check on our numbers, we have already impacted over 16,000 youth in District A15 since the start of this Lions year toward the Centennial Service Challenge goal of impacting 25 million young people worldwide. Please remind club secretaries to report activities related to children and youth under the “Engaging Youth” theme.

Lions Services For Children – IPDG Tim DeBlock

Since our last Cabinet meeting I was present at the Lions Now event and presented a short address to encourage Clubs to explore reaching out to youth through our current Lions programs but also to think about opportunities specific to their communities and Clubs. In working under the guidance of Committee Chair Pat and in partnership with A9 we have completed our first vision / hearing screening program with the Avon Maitland District School Board which involved seven A15 Clubs and fifteen communities in this youth program for the first time. We will be approaching the Huron Perth Separate Board to hopefully reach out to more children and involve more Clubs. We have also approached 10 new Clubs in A15 to see if they would be interested in finding disadvantaged youth in their communities to attend the Monkton Lions Fishing and Outdoors Camp for Kids. This will be a new service to youth in their communities. In doing this we have had interested Lions offer to be part of this project giving them a new opportunity to serve. I included these projects as part of my report to not only update what I have been involved in for youth but also remind us that when working together with other Clubs we do great things. I know there are lots of Clubs and members doing amazing things for youth in their communities. Please share what’s new with our committee chairs. Our Governor Diane was hoping for some new literacy projects so let’s chat it up. Chair Aline has some wonderful ideas especially for youth.

Literacy – ZC Aline Chan

Often we are faced with the dilemma – why support literacy when the money spent teaching people how to read would be better spent fighting LEGITIMATE issues like world hunger. If someone were dying of hunger, she would rather have a bowl of rice than a book.

Handing out food is not enough to end the problem of hunger. Lasting solutions are those that empower individuals and community to provide for themselves. United Nations Secretary-General and Nobel Laureate Kofi Annan said that literacy is a bridge from misery to hope. Literacy and education is a basic human right through which everyone can realise her true potential. **TEACH A MAN TO FISH AND YOU FEED HIM FOR A LIFETIME.**



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The Reading Action Program began in 2012 and became a 10-year commitment to increasing literacy rates around the world. Lions everywhere participate by donating books to local schools and libraries, reading to children, and starting programs that encourage parents to read with their kids, and more.

Clubs can donate money to A15 so that we can purchase high quality books at a reduced price from Scholastic. Lions have identified that the distribution process that would be most effective would be through the VISION SCREENING PROGRAM. It has been determined that the best venue for reaching the maximum number of children while building community recognition comes in conjunction with vision screening. Each child gets a single book.

\$300 will provide 60 books for two classrooms. The books will be channeled back to the Clubs to distribute when they go vision screening. The Clubs can determine which schools and Kindergarten classes they wish to get the books. The \$300 is a guideline and you can donate more.

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

A very Big Thank you to all of the clubs who were able to enter the Peace Poster Contest this year. The entries were beautiful and I am very pleased to report that Lydia Wilson from the Elmira Lions Club won this year for the second time.

Congratulations Lydia, I hope to come to her school shortly and present a cheque to her again this year for \$250.00

Another Big Thank you to PCC Lion Dave Cole on having 38 posters to choose from, that was quite a job Dave. New Hamburg Lioness were able to get two schools involved this year, great job Lioness Kathy Lantz.

I know it is a lot of work to get schools involved. I think what I would like to stress to all of the Lions and Lioness who are doing the Peace Poster project make sure the teachers know the dimensions of the finished project. We had to disqualify some this year because of the size.

We did send \$100.00 to the Peace Poster Chair, Ellen at the M.D. A level.

I would like to encourage next years chair to order the Peace Posters in advance so the Lions/Lioness can pick them up at a Cabinet meeting.

Public Relations & Club Visits Liaison – PDG Norma Peterson

As club visits liaison, I email a reminder notice, and biography of the District Governor or her VDG designate, one or two weeks prior to the official visit, and try to answer any questions you might have or refer you to the appropriate person. I've already sent out the majority of these letters, which means that Governor Diane, 1st VDG Wayne and 2nd VDG Charlene, have visited most of the clubs in our district.

On November 30, along with other committee chairs, I participated in the Lions Now! event with samples of my letter, and other materials, including some resources from Lions Clubs International about public relations. I also encouraged those present to acknowledge my emails with a quick and brief reply so that we know that you've received the information. A simple "RWT" is sufficient.

Regarding the PR aspect of my title, I'd be happy to share my ideas in using the more traditional forms of public relations methods such as club bulletins or press releases to promote your clubs.

I'd also like to congratulate all the clubs that have turned to social media to publicize their activities and events. In the latter case, I'm sure I could use your advice!

Sight Screening & Conservation – Lion Pat McLean

EXPANSION

Thanks to the efforts of IPDG Tim DeBlock and Charles Liddle of District A9, the Avon Maitland School board welcomed our Lions volunteers to the 31 schools in their district. Nearly 1800 students were screened in District A15 and the program was well received. The Separate school board is now interested in participating in the same program.



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Thanks also to the patience and perseverance of Pat Evangelisto of the Rockton Lions club who had approached the Hamilton District School board more than a year ago and now is very close to final approval for screening some schools in their area.

HEALTH CANADA CLINICAL STUDY

In 2014, David Whitehead and I were contacted by the School of Optometry at University of Waterloo. Two medical professionals were interested in our screening program and wanted to partner with the Lions clubs in our District as we had a very active screening program. With funding approval early in 2015, the study moved forward after the teacher's labour issues were resolved.

The study team chose a variety of schools in District A15: Fergus, Rockwood, Wellesley, Cambridge, Guelph and three in Kitchener. After the screening is done, all children that were referred are seen by an Optometrist in the school for further testing. The study team has also worked in different areas of the province including the north. Results are expected by summer. Both David and I believe that this work will support and improve the program we are currently doing.

CURRENT

Our regular screening program in all the other schools is ongoing. There were some delays due to the teacher labour issues. However, all screening is expected to be completed. A big thank you is due, to the many volunteers who volunteer weekly to do this important work. Without them it would not be possible. One additional issue that has happened this year, is the need for Vulnerable Sector Police Checks. We anticipated this request would come at some point; however, there are questions about cost and timing to be resolved.

EYE GLASS COLLECTION AND SHIPPING

We no longer have the services of Manitoulin Transport to ship glasses. Although they have been a willing partner for a couple of years, we have had problems at the Montreal end with picking up the shipments in a timely fashion. Manitoulin was clear from the beginning that they didn't have the space to store these shipments. The information on the web site will be changed.

We still have the support of Home Hardware Head office in St. Jacobs. All boxes must weigh less than 30 lbs and be delivered to St. Jacobs. Shipments are to be addressed to the Montreal address.

Youth Camp & Exchange – Lions Rudy & Lorea Boogerman

At the Nov 4 Cabinet meeting, it was agreed that the Zone Chairs would be responsible to recruit at least 3 host families from each zone and the Region Chairs would be responsible for the coordination, implementation and securing of host families in their respective areas by no later than March 15. This was also confirmed at the meeting of Nov 29 in Elmira.

From the desk of our **Outbound Youth Coordinator** – Lion Marysa Rumble-Lauriault

I process all District A15 applications for youth that have been sponsored by a District Lions Club to go on exchange for the summer. I also answer any questions the youth (or Lions Club) may have, ranging from specific questions about culture in their chosen country, requirements for travel, insurance, flights, questions regarding their camp in said country, host families and expectations, etc.

Their applications are then forwarded to their country of choice for approval. I also answer any and all questions from chairpersons of the YEP who have accepted youth from our district.

Currently I have four applicants for exchange this summer. One has been approved and is awaiting further documentation to be completed. Three are pending, I am hopeful I will receive approval soon.

I would encourage all clubs to make the YEP known to any youth in their communities who would be a good candidate for the program, as there are still open spots with camps available. Most have application deadlines of mid-March, so time is of the essence!



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Inbound Youth Update

A number of applications have been received to date - 4 youth have been approved to participate in this years' camp. We will only accept a maximum of 20 participants with the current number of staff available.

If you have an interest in becoming a host family, please contact your Zone Chair.

COUNSELLORS Needed/Wanted - If interested contact Lion Rudy or Lion Lorea.

MEALS - Clubs who supported the meal schedule last year (Thank You) will be contacted shortly.

Dates for the 2016 Youth Exchange Program (YEP) are as follows;

May 13/14, 2016 - Camp clean up dates - 'mark' it on your calendars

June 25, 2016 - Youth arrive at Toronto Int'l Airport

July 9, 2016 - Youth Camp begins at 5 Oaks - 11:00 am (Youth register @ 10:00 a.m.)

July 17, 2016 - International Night at St George - (starts at 3:00 p.m.)

July 19, 2016 - Camp closes

July 23, 2016 - Youth depart from Toronto Int'l Airport

Thank you to all the District Clubs who have supported this program in the past and we look forward to your continued support in the future.