



*DISTRICT A-15 LIONS CLUBS®*  
**THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
LIONS CLUBS**



**A-15 CONVENTION MEETING AGENDA  
April 15, 2023 - 9:00 AM &  
April 16, 2023, 10:45 AM  
Brantford Best Western and Conference Centre**

**Saturday 9:00 AM**

1. Call to order and Welcome – DG Tony Davidson
2. O Canada
3. Protocol – (Was set at the Friday evening Opening Ceremonies).
4. Additions to and Approval of the Agenda
5. Introduction of International Guest PID Mark Lyon – PID Art Woods
6. Approval of Minutes of the January 19, 2023 Cabinet meeting.  
*Link: <https://a15lions.org/pages/uploads/Events/CabinetMinutesReports20230119Jan.pdf>*
7. Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements.  
**MOVED** to acknowledge receipt of the Treasurer's report.
8. Cabinet Reports  
8.1. **MOVED** to acknowledge receipt of the Cabinet reports.
9. Committee Reports  
9.1. **MOVED** to acknowledge receipt of the Committee reports.
10. Nominations Report – PCC Tim Cronin
11. Elections and Credentials Report – PDG Thom Herrmann
12. Announcements
13. Adjournment until Sunday morning at 10:45 AM

**Sunday 10:45 AM**

1. Call to order – DG Tony Davidson
2. Remarks from International Guest PID Mark Lyon
3. Convention Report
4. Remarks from DG Tony Davidson
5. Awards & Presentations  
5.1. First Timers Contest – 1<sup>st</sup> VDG Garry Ransom
6. Convention Raffle Results
7. Report from Election Committee and announcing of results – PDG Thom Herrmann
8. Motion to destroy ballots
9. New Cabinet  
9.1. Introduction
10. DG-Elect remarks
11. Passing of the Campbell
12. Closing Remarks – DG Tony

## **1 - Message from the Governor – DG Tony Davidson**

Together we Can

We are now three quarters of the way through the Lions year. Congratulations to our Clubs that have seen an increase in membership. Thank you to the Clubs who have increased Service projects in their communities. Your service projects show the dedication of the Lions and Leos in the District. So far this year you have exceeded the Plan that I submitted to Lions International for service and membership.

We are still a little short on accomplishing the goals for donations to LCIF by the Clubs and individual members. These donations are down from what was given last year and the goals were based on last years giving's.

Clubs are now in the process of selecting the executive for the next Lions year. I would ask each Lion in the District to consider how they can serve their Club the District or Beyond. If you have considered taking on a position reach out to someone who has held the position for information.

Its Time to Celebrate the accomplishments of the Clubs of District A15. The Parade of Banners, the Candidate Skits, Passing of the Campbell, the Hospitality rooms, on Friday night. Saturday will have a Cabinet Meeting with special presentations from Dog Guides and Lions Quest, Pediatric Cancer speaker at Lunch, Environmental program, and Strides walk in the Afternoon. The International Guest Mark Lyon will be our Dinner Speaker and then great entertainment. Sunday will be voting, The Memorial service to honour those who have passed away, the Passing of the Campbell and finishing with the Cabinet Meeting where the New Cabinet will be announced.

Come and Have fun at the Place to Be in 23

## **CABINET REPORTS**

### **2 - Immediate Past District Governor – Harvey Wood**

Nothing to report.

### **3 - 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor – Garry Ransom**



One of the highlights of my year as FVDG (First Vice District Governor) is the 3 days of District Governor Elect training at St Charles, a suburb of Chicago. There were 675 District Governors from around the world at the training and it made me realize how large our Lions organization is. The common theme of the training was service. Lions from all over the world serve people less fortunate than us and we all do it in different ways. Serving the needs of individuals for more than one hundred years places us in a unique position at the world level. We do it better than any other service organization in the world. In addition to the St. Charles training, I participated in 2 sessions with my Multiple District A fellow FVDGs. I am looking forward to an additional day of training at the Lions International Convention at Boston.

As FVDG, I am in the process of leading the development of District goals and action plans for the coming Lions year. The emphasis is on District goals not District Governor's goals. Goals and action plans must go together. Some will be short term goals, and some will be longer term goals which will be refined each year. The District Governor's Team in conjunction with GAT have begun the goal-setting process. Following the District convention, the 2023-24 cabinet including Zone and Region Chairs will finalize the goals and related action steps. We will then share the District plan with all Clubs.

The convention committee has plans for a very exciting 3 day convention. I am looking forward to renewing acquaintances and meeting many of you perhaps for the first time.

Lion Garry  
FVDG District A15

### **4 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor – Bill Robinson**

It's that time of year again when we all get together share in fun, fellowship, and to celebrate our accomplishments. It has been a busy 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter with new member orientations as well as new member inductions. It has been proven that many hands make light work, and once we get these new members in the club, we need to hold an orientation session for them so that they are informed of what Lions do not only in our community but in the district and around the world. Remember that the district

team is here to assist all the clubs to succeed in achieving their goals. Keep up the great service, it is appreciated.

Respectfully

Bill Robinson

#### **5 - Cabinet Secretary – Denis Vinette**

I thank Governor Tony for entrusting this position to me this year. As with any role, it takes a little while to get rolling and I expect that I will be able to execute my responsibilities better in the coming year.

#### **6 - Cabinet Treasurer – Linda Vinette**

For April 15<sup>th</sup> Cabinet Meeting, the financial reports have been balanced and reconciled to the bank online balances (reconciled to statements as at March 31 2023).

##### ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNT

- Some of the New Club Contra Account has been reimbursed from a LCI grant that was applied for by VDG Garry Ransom in the amount of 2028.98 for the setup and ground work of the Listowel Lions Club Branch.
- We received a grant of \$1000 from MDA for GAT in January 2023.
- We received 2 Lions Promotional Grants from MDA totaling \$4,151 which has been applied to the District Canopy unit and the balance of the funds are for Club rollup banners.
- With respect to the balance of Expenses vs. Budget, there has been very little activity and the report is straight forward.

##### TRUST ACCOUNTS

- The balance sheet for the Trust accounts is an accurate reflection of all the balances held in Trust and all accounts have been reconciled to the Bank records as of March 31, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted



# District A-15 Lions Clubs

## Administration Account - Balance Sheet

As at Mar 31, 2023

### ASSETS

#### Kindred

Kindred Emergency Fund Cash	24,886.49
Kindred Cash	49,526.12
Total Cash in Kindred	<u>74,412.61</u>
Shares in Kindred	25.00
Total Cash	<u>74,437.61</u>
District Dues Receivable	(20.80)
	-
Total Chequing/Savings	<u>74,437.61</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>74,416.81</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>74,416.81</u>

### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

#### Liabilities

##### Current Liabilities

MDA Dues Payable	-
<b>Listowel Branch Club dues in trust</b>	-
Centennial Project Fund	1,000.00
Convention Fund	99.58
DGE Partner Travel	3,600.17
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>4,699.75</u>
Total Current Liabilities	4,699.75

##### Long Term Liabilities

International Director - Contra	8,451.50
New Club Assessment - Contra	5,263.08
Total Long Term Liabilities	<u>13,714.58</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	18,414.33

#### Equity

Emergency Reserve Fund	23,000.00
Retained Earnings	21,245.26
Net Income	11,757.22
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>56,002.48</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u>74,416.81</u>



# District A-15 Lions Clubs

Profit & Loss - Budget vs. Actual

Administration Account -July 2022 -Mar 31 2023

	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under Budget)
<b>Income</b>			
District Directory	198.00	120.00	78.00
District Dues	10,891.34	10,914.00	(22.66)
Interest Earned	132.69	120.00	12.69
Leadership Seminar Income	1,205.33	1,375.00	(169.67)
Membership Assessment	1,926.00	1,926.00	-
Pin Sales	200.00	500.00	(300.00)
MDA PR Grants for Canopy and Banners	4,151.00		4,151.00
GAT Grants from LCI and MDA	1,685.56	1,650.00	35.56
			-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>20,389.92</b>	<b>16,605.00</b>	<b>3,784.92</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
Awards - Cabinet	45.20	1,000.00	(954.80)
Awards - Other Accrual		600.00	(600.00)
<b>Total Awards</b>	45.20	1,600.00	(1,554.80)
Badges & Patches	502.32	800.00	(297.68)
Bank Charges	2.79	100.00	(97.21)
Cabinet Expense	1,095.00	2,000.00	(905.00)
Convention Expense	323.18	1,200.00	(876.82)
<b>District Chair Expense</b>			-
Comm Chair		1,600.00	(1,600.00)
District Chair - Other		300.00	(300.00)
<b>Total District Chair Expense</b>	-	1,900.00	(1,900.00)
District Directories	1,628.65	1,700.00	(71.35)
Global Action Team		2,000.00	(2,000.00)
Internet	142.00	175.00	(33.00)
Canopy and Banners from PR Grant	2,009.14		2,009.14
Leadership Seminar	280.46	1,375.00	(1,094.54)
Leadership Institutes		450.00	(450.00)
Pins Purchased , District	2,162.18	1,500.00	662.18
Postage	51.98	100.00	(48.02)
Office Expense	69.80	560.00	(490.20)
Zoom Licence fee		345.00	(345.00)
USA / Canada Forum	320.00	800.00	(480.00)
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>8,632.70</b>	<b>16,605.00</b>	<b>(7,972.30)</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>11,757.22</b>	-	<b>11,757.22</b>



## District A-15 Lions Clubs Trust Accounts - Balance Sheet

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>31-Mar-23</b>
<b>Chequing/Savings</b>	
Trust Sight Imprest	5523.38
Youth Exchange Imprest	33718.41
Total - Youth	<u>33718.41</u>
Kindred-Trust Account	15374.08
<b>Total Cash</b>	54615.87
Trf fm Admin for Interest Income	-13.21
<b>Total Cash and Receivable</b>	<u>54602.66</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>54602.66</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><u>54602.66</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Camp Dorset	1000.00
Camp Lake Joe	500.00
Centennial Project- Gates	1820.20
Effective Speaking Acct	3536.13
Hearing Equipment	803.07
Hearing Conservation	0.00
LFC Dog Guides	500.00
LCIF- Disaster Relief	0.00
LCIF- Campaign 100	0.00
Diabetes Canada	1000.00
<b>Lions Foundation of Canada</b>	
Leash Free Park	1604.86
Total Lions Foundation of Canada	<u>1604.86</u>
LIONS Quest Contra Account	4348.23
LIONS Quest Canada	0.00
Peace Poster	726.18
Peace Poster MDA	0.00
Vision Screening	3795.58
Youth Camp / Y. Ex. Contra Acct	26702.37
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>46336.62</u>
<b>Long Term Liabilities</b>	
Youth Camp Capital	8266.04
<b>Total Long Term Liabilities</b>	<u>8266.04</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>54602.66</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u><u>54602.66</u></u>

**7 - Zone Chair 9 East – Juan Monterroza**

No Report.

**8 - Zone Chair 9 South – Ken Linington**

No Report.

**9 - Zone Chair 51 East – Kevin March**

Hello Everyone,

I have completed all my club visitations and filed the required reports. I have enjoyed visiting with the clubs in my zone and am happy to report that I have inducted 8 new Lions members in 51 East. All clubs in the zone are busy doing service activities and fundraising and I have tried to participate in some of their activities. Several of the clubs in my zone will be represented at the upcoming convention.

I also visited a number of clubs in 51 East to promote the convention and sell books of draw tickets. On March 21<sup>st</sup>, Zone Chair 51West Mike McCourt and I hosted a joint zone meeting in Atwood. We had an excellent guest speaker from Lions Foundation of Canada, who talked about the capital campaign and the new facility to be built in Oakville. We also had a round table discussion regarding the impact that Covid has had on the day-to-day operations of Lions clubs in our zones, such as holding meetings, fundraising and serving the community under such extreme circumstances. I would like to thank ZC Mike McCourt for hosting the joint meeting, allowing clubs from both zones to exchange ideas, coping mechanisms and experiences during Covid.

I will continue to serve the clubs in my zone to the best of my abilities in whatever capacity I can. I hope to see a great turnout at our upcoming convention in Brantford, April 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted

**10 - Zone Chair 51 West – Mike McCourt**

No Report.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**11 - Global Leadership Team – Lion Jim Sanders**

Lions Online Learning

A series of online Courses are available to all Lions. The range from fifteen to thirty minutes. If you are unable to complete the course in one sitting, you can leave and when you return, you will be placed back to where you left off. Here is a sample of some of the courses available:

Club President's Learning Path

Club Secretary's Learning Path



Effective Listening

Time Management

There are more than fifty courses with new ones added regularly.

Please take the time to work your way through at least one to not only learn but have an appreciation of its ease of navigating. Visit Online Learning: [lionsclubs.org](http://lionsclubs.org)

Training Session For In-coming Leaders

The In-Coming and First Vice District Governors with support from the Global Membership, Service and Leadership Teams are developing Orientation and Training Workshops for Region and Zone Chairs during the months of May and June. In addition, In June, similar Workshops will be held with content specific to fulfilling the roles of Club President and secretary.

New Member Orientation

I would like to recognize PDG, Lion Tracy and VDG2, Lion Bill who designed and held the first New Member Orientation session with a total of twenty six members. There will be one every two months. Please consider this a “must” for all new members.

### **12 - Global Membership Team– PDG Tracey Robinson**

Cabinet members and Lions. Wow what a busy year!!!! Lots of new members have joined our district. Let’s keep it going. We have a new Branch Club in Listowel!! They have been busy. Listowel has had a bottle drive to kick off a fundraising effort for the first time in January. They were actively looking for a camper for the Monkton Lions Kids camp. The Kinsmen Club invited them to volunteer at Patty Fest and paid for them to get Smart Served certified. They are holding their first Dance for ages 2-10 on Saturday April 1<sup>st</sup>. They just started the eye glass collection and had a box filled within an hour. Listowel is still actively looking for new members to come out and join them. They have had a couple more people come out to the meetings, and help with functions. In March all 5 of the New members of the Branch club were inducted in Atwood, the sponsoring club. Thank you Atwood for showing the Listowel Club some fun, fellowship and hospitality. Thank you to the Sponsors for helping our new members get started!!

The Membership Team has also been busy. I had the pleasure of going to Paris for an information night open house. We just finished two nights of the New Member orientation. Then I will be off to Innerkip for a personalized club New Member orientation night. Thank you for all the support from the clubs and District. I’m still available to help wherever I can. Please do not hesitate to contact me. 😊

### **13 - Global Service Team – PDG Nancy Ransom**

The Clubs of A-15 continue to provide outstanding service in their communities and the world!

Congratulations to the Zone 9 East Clubs who jointly sponsored a Supportive Housing apartment in February at One-Roof Youth Shelter (for homeless young people ages 15-22), Kitchener.

KW Community Spirit Lions Club is pleased to announce a new branch of our club – the University of Waterloo Lions with 5 registered Lions and a number of friends of Lions. Activities to date have included used eyeglass collection and a campus candygram sale.

The Listowel Lions Club branch of Atwood Lions hosted a successful Kids Dance in the afternoon on April 1st; their second fundraiser for community projects.

We hope to have many Clubs enter this year's District Club Service Competition. The criteria can be found on the A-15 website under Service; or request a copy by email. There will be paper copies at the convention as well. Deadline for submissions is June 10, 2023.

To date, there have been 39 of 57 Clubs in District A-15 who have reported on MyLion this Lions year – this would indicate a 68% of Clubs reporting. In addition, Lion Raymond Taylor has periodically posted St. Marys Lions Club activities on NewsFeed. Congratulations and thank you all for doing your share and providing data important to Lions International for their global endeavors.

Together We Can!

Respectfully submitted

#### **14 - Bulletin Editor - Lion Bob Pearson**

Newsletter - Plan of Action:

Continue with the established quality of the newsletter issues but we do realize there is always room for improvement. The March DG's original version and a correction were distributed March 30<sup>th</sup>. Imagine that one day to spare.

The next issue is under construction, looking for submissions and photos, event advertising is not only allowed but encouraged. This will be a post convention version, if you have any worthy images, send them along.

The newsletters are distributed electronically, photo resolution is not quite as important as it is for print versions, however our submissions may find their way into the LION magazine and quality photos are important.

The popularity of the bulletin contest seems to have waned somewhat and there have been no entries in the last couple of years. As a result of feedback from club members it has been suggested that it might well be time to consider changing the format of the bulletin contest to promote more interest within district clubs and the rating system perhaps be based on regular submissions as opposed to a one-time entry for the contest. In my last report I mentioned there was more to follow. Unfortunately, there is no new information on this front.

Submissions can be in most formats, PDF's are preferred, but most other platforms can be converted. Contact the bulletin editor if you have questions about file formats. Microsoft Word seems to be the most popular format and that is suitable.

I understand Dundas Lions are transferring to A15 from A7/11, I am not sure when that officially takes place, at any rate we are looking forward to reporting on their many service activities. Something in the back of my mind there was another club migrating our way, but for the life of me I cannot remember any details.

To quote Mark Twain: *"Of All the Things I Miss, I Miss My Mind the Most!"*

Respectfully submitted



**14a - Communication Chair – PRC Jim Keron**

Nothing to report.

**15 - Constitution and By-Laws – PCC Bill Carson**

We have been involved with considerable dialogue, correspondence and occasional need of consensus related primarily to drafting of revised District A15 Policy and Procedure in the matter of authority to effect change of wording related to limiting number of Lions Clubs in Zone and Region vis-a-vis resorting to an overall District A15 restructuring.

Ultimately, Cabinet supported January 2023 motion to move the changing of wording, thus requiring bringing exact recital in having the matter brought to a vote at this A15 Convention on April 16, 2023.

It has been privilege of this Committee Chair to interpret and react to needs of other A15 Lion committee chairs and those Lions on Cabinet at various times during 2022-2023 Lions year, trusting that we have best served our District.

Lions of A15 look forward to continued strong leadership of Cabinet in ensuing years.  
Respectfully submitted

**16 - Convention Advisory – PDDG George Patton**

Nothing to report.

**17 - Convention Host Committee – PDG J. Doug Smith / ZC Ken Linington**

Verbal report at convention.

**18 - Election and Credentials – PDG Thom Herrmann**

Verbal report at convention.

## **19 - District Historian – PDG Nancy Ransom**

Nothing to report.

## **20 - Honorary Committee – IPDG Harvey Wood**

Nothing to report.

## **21 - Information Technology – PCS Ted Rypma**

I have tried my best to keep the District web site up-to-date this year. The Directory page is constantly updated with new information, and the electronic copy of the printed directory kept current. I would ask that as Clubs have events planned, and advertise them, that they send the information to me, together with any posters to be distributed. As soon as I receive these, I try to get them on the “District Events” page in a timely manner.

The Memorial portion of the site has unfortunately been growing, and provides information on all reported departed Lions over the years. If available, I post both obituaries and pictures.

At this time, the “History” section of the web site has past District officers and past Club officers available, by year. When time permits, I try to add some of the material published by District Historian PDG Nancy Ransom - it is a work in progress.

Thank you for allowing me to serve. Lion Ted Rypma

## **22 - Lions Clubs International Foundation – IPDG Harvey Wood**

Nothing to report.

## **23 - Leo Advisor – PDG O.J. Wilura**

Nothing to report.

## **24 - Long Range Planning – PCC Kevin Banfield**

Nothing to report.

## **25 - Nominations – PCC Tim Cronin**

April 4 2023

This report is for the A15 Convention 2023

From the A15 Nomination Committee, Tim Cronin PCC , Diane Smith PDG

We would like to thank Governor Tony and the Cabinet of A15 for allowing us to serve the Lions of A15 this year.

The role of the Nomination Committee is first to encourage qualified Lions to seek leadership positions on the A15 Cabinet and then vet the Nominations submitted to the District Governor to ensure that the nominee has met the qualifications for the office nominated for.

We need to thank First Vice Governor Lion Garry Ransom for his sincere efforts in recruiting candidates.

A15 is entering new territory in that this is the first time that there is no qualified candidate nominated to be Second Vice District Governor, which is a qualification to be first Vice Governor and District Governor.

We also have NOT received nominations for the positions of:

Region Chair Region 9

Region Chair Region 37

Zone Chair Zone 9 South

Zone Chair Zone 9East

Zone Chair Zone 51 East

Zone Chair Zone 51 West

The Qualified Nominations received by the deadline of March 17,2023 include:

For District Governor 1<sup>st</sup> VDG Lion Garry Ransom

For First Vice District Governor 2<sup>nd</sup> VDG Lion Bill Robinson

For Region Chair Region 51 ZC Kevin March

For Zone Chair Zone 37 South Rick Bell

For Zone Chair Zone 37 West Evelyn Albers

Respectively Submitted, Lion Tim Cronin, Lion Diane Smith

## **26 - Accessibility – PDG George Corrin**

As of today the premier of Ontario, Doug Ford, has not changed any guidelines for the AODA to be implemented in Jan of 2025. People in Ontario should expect that any and all Lions clubs and members would be doing everything possible to ensure that our organization believes in inclusivity and equality for every person that resides in Ontario. Many of the members struggle with hearing, vision, mental, Ageism And mobility concerns behavioural issues. Your cabinet officers are fully aware of the importance of ensuring that each member or potential member will be treated equally. Please reach out if assistance is needed.

*Link to AODA Report:*

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CID9eBdEuvNToi9gKDgDMEQOqm48asEd/view?usp=sharing>

## **27 - Childhood Cancer – Lion Susan Martin**

Presentation at convention luncheon.

## **28 - Diabetes Awareness – PDG Thom Herrmann**

Verbal report at convention.

## **29 - Effective Speaking – Lion Lyle Fair**

Nothing to report.

### **30 - Environment – Lion Juan Monterroza**

Nothing to report.

### **31 - Gift of Life – Lion Jess Bailey**

Lions' member sign ups for the project has not increased in months.

However; the A-15 Lions Gift of Life Website has been updated.

### **32 - Hearing and Speech Action – PDG George Corrin**

As this is my last report to the cabinet as the Hearing Chair term has come to an end. I encourage all clubs to budget and offer assistance to the Homes for the Deaf committee. The Helen Keller Fellowship is an amazing opportunity to honor someone in your club.

I have inserted the speech from 1925 from Helen Keller (Appendix A)

Respectfully submitted

### **33 - Hunger Relief – Lion Victor Chaux**

Nothing to report.

### **34 - Lions Foundation of Canada – Lion Cheryl Bauman**

*See Appendix "A" for the complete report.*

### **35 - Lions Quest – Lion Joanne McQuiggan**

Thank you to the 15 clubs that have invested almost \$9,000 in Lions Quest Canada this year and we hope to double that number by the end of June – it's a great time to present a Lions Quest Fellowship or join the QBear Fan Club. We have trained eight new educators from across the Lions District, plus the entire staff at a school in Waterloo.

There are three upcoming virtual workshops on May 6, 16, and 29<sup>th</sup> – please share information on our programs with the educators in your network – there is lots of information on the website at [www.lionsquest.ca](http://www.lionsquest.ca). Lions Quest has launched a service project fundraiser – Child ID Kits are available at a cost of \$2 each, plus shipping. These kits are stored at home by the parents/caregivers and provide much need information if a child is lost or missing. Clubs have taken them into schools or distributed the kits at public events like home shows.

### **36 - Peace Poster and Essay for Visually Impaired Youth - Lion Debbie Nelligan**

I enjoyed my first year as the Chair for the peace poster/essay contest, many connections were made and over 15 kits were distributed throughout the District. I am hoping now that schools are back in action that we will be able to get into more schools for this great cause next year. The students benefit from this contest and truly love the art they produce.

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the peace poster contest this year; we had some new clubs join this year. We did not have any essay contests submitted for the visually impaired, but I did make some calls to special assignment teachers and I am hoping next year we may have some essays entered as well.

Our winner from the A15 District was a submission from the Rockton Lions Club – student - Clay Ferber. Clay also won 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the MDA level. Congratulations Clay.

I am looking forward to another year of supporting youth in our communities. The poster/essay kits have been ordered for next year. Interested Clubs can please contact Lion Debbie Nelligan at email [peaceposter@a15lions.org](mailto:peaceposter@a15lions.org) or call 905 870-7709 and I will send out a kit. Kits are limited, do not be disappointed and order yours early. Any questions I would be happy to speak to you. See below an overview of the contest.

### **Are you Interested in supporting youth in the community here is a quick overview of the contest**

- Contact your local school in late June and again in September to meet the timelines, ask to speak with the grade 7 or 8 art teacher and tell them your club will sponsor this event. Give the teacher in charge the information from your kit. This contest is open to children ages 11, 12 & 13.
- Ask your club to sponsor this event possibly with prizes. In your kit is also a flyer for the Essay contest for the visually impaired.
- Important that the students' artwork is done on the proper size poster paper. Artwork must be no smaller than 13 inches by 20 inches (do not matt or frame artwork). Full contest rules will be in your kit.

The posters are due to Debbie Nelligan in early November.

Take the poster entries back to your club so they can vote on the winner, and then arrange pickup of your poster by the deadline. Email for the contest is: [peaceposter@a15lions.org](mailto:peaceposter@a15lions.org)

Lastly, if your club would like to donate to this great cause, and help support youth in your community, you can send your donations to the treasurer of the A-15 District

### **37 - Sight Screening and Conservation – Lion David Millard**

Nothing to report.

### **38 – Youth Camp & Exchange – Lions Mark & Allison Henkell**

We are thrilled to announce that after a hiatus since 2019, we are finally able to host our camp again! Although it may be smaller than usual, with 15 youth coming from 12 different countries, we are excited to create a fun and inclusive environment for everyone.

This year, we are trying something new by inviting a youth from Ukraine, who is living in Canada, to join us at the camp. We are grateful to the Innerkip Lions who have generously agreed to sponsor the youth, and we are working with someone who works with Ukrainian refugees to find a suitable candidate. We believe that this exchange program will provide an excellent opportunity for cultural exchange and personal growth for everyone involved.

The youth will arrive in Canada on Thursday, June 29th, and the camp will open on Saturday, July 15th, at the Blue Springs Boy Scout Camp located outside of Acton. We would like to extend a warm welcome to any Lions who would like to attend the opening ceremonies. Please let us know in advance if you plan to attend as a BBQ lunch will be provided for all attendees.

We will also be holding an International Night on Sunday, July 25th, in Copetown. We welcome everyone to join us for this fun-filled evening, and we will provide more information about the event as it approaches.

If you are interested in hosting a youth, we would love to hear from you! We particularly encourage new hosts who have children close in age to those being hosted but this isn't a necessary criteria. We have over 20 youth and for many of the years we hosted, we didn't have any kids living at home. Hosting youth is a unique and rewarding experience that can help create long-lasting friendships, on our trip to Prague in the fall, we were picked up at the airport by a youth we hosted our first year, in 2008.

We are also looking for support from clubs that have provided meals in the past, as well as other clubs that are interested in helping. If you would like to help, please contact us at [ycex@a15lions.org](mailto:ycex@a15lions.org).

We are excited to announce that one youth from our District will have the opportunity to participate in an exchange program to Germany, thanks to the support of the Paradise and District Lions Club. We are also collaborating with the Ottawa-Vanier Club to send another youth on exchange to Germany, as their District does not have a Youth Exchange Program. Upon the youths' return, we look forward to receiving reports from each of them about their experiences, which we will share with everyone. We are grateful for the support of these Lions Clubs in providing such valuable opportunities for our youth.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to another successful camp this year.



## **Appendix "A"**

### ***Helen Keller's Speech at 1925 International Convention***

Cedar Point,  
Ohio, USA June  
30, 1925

Dear Lions and Ladies:

I suppose you have heard the legend that represents opportunity as a capricious lady, who knocks at every door but once, and if the door isn't opened quickly, she passes on, never to return. And that is as it should be. Lovely, desirable ladies won't wait. You have to go out and grab 'em.

I am your opportunity. I am knocking at your door. I want to be adopted. The legend doesn't say what you are to do when several beautiful opportunities present themselves at the same door. I guess you have to choose the one you love best. I hope you will adopt me. I am the youngest here, and what I offer you is full of splendid opportunities for service.

The American Foundation for the Blind is only four years old. It grew out of the imperative needs of the blind, and was called into existence by the sightless themselves. It is national and international in scope and in importance. It represents the best and most enlightened thought on our subject that has been reached so far. Its object is to make the lives of the blind more worthwhile everywhere by increasing their economic value and giving them the joy of normal activity.

Try to imagine how you would feel if you were suddenly stricken blind today. Picture yourself stumbling and groping at noonday as in the night; your work, your independence, gone. In that dark world wouldn't you be glad if a friend took you by the hand and said, "Come with me and I will teach you how to do some of the things you used to do when you could see?" That is just the kind of friend the American Foundation is going to be to all the blind in this country if seeing people will give it the support it must have.

You have heard how through a little word dropped from the fingers of another, a ray of light from another soul touched the darkness of my mind and I found myself, found the world, found God. It is because my teacher learned about me and broke through the dark, silent imprisonment which held me that I am able to work for myself and for others. It is the caring we want more than money. The gift without the sympathy and interest of the giver is empty. If you care, if we can make the people of this great country care, the blind will indeed triumph over blindness.

The opportunity I bring to you, Lions, is this: To foster and sponsor the work of the American Foundation for the Blind. Will you not help me hasten the day when there shall be no preventable blindness; no little deaf, blind child untaught; no blind man or woman unaided? I appeal to you Lions, you who have your sight, your hearing, you who are strong and brave and kind. Will you not constitute yourselves Knights of the Blind in this crusade against darkness?

I thank you.

District A15 Lions

April 5, 2023



LIONS FOUNDATION OF CANADA  
**DOGGUIDES**



# A15 LFC Chair Cabinet Meeting Report

## Dog Guides Update

Dog Guides celebrated the graduation of 24 Dog Guide teams during its Spring graduation on April 5, 2023. Watch the new Dog Guide video to learn more about how these trained Dog Guides change the lives of the Canadians who receive them: [https://youtu.be/qaz\\_OZ9Uktw](https://youtu.be/qaz_OZ9Uktw).

The **Difference Campaign** focuses on raising funds for Dog Guides' new state-of-the-art training school. Lions' clubs across Canada are making the difference in the future of Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides. Already, 110 Lions clubs have contributed \$1.4 million and donations are arriving every week. The goal is to raise \$25 million with \$4.5 million donated from Lions. Donations can be pledged and paid over 5 years or given as a onetime gift. Donations of \$100 or more from individual Lions will receive a special commemorative pin.

The [National Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides](#), the foundation's largest annual fundraiser, takes place on Sunday, May 28, 2023. Email [Andrea Stevens](mailto:Andrea.Stevens) register a team, support walkers, or find a local walk.

The [Ride for Dog Guides](#) takes place on June 24, 2023 starting at the Oakville Dog Guide facility at 10 am and ending at the Breslau facility. Learn more or register for the ride by emailing <mailto:events@dogguides.com>.

# District A15 Support for Dog Guides

It costs \$35,000 to raise, train, and place a Dog Guide, which are provided to qualifying Canadians with medical and physical disabilities at no cost. With no government assistance, the foundation relies on fundraising events and donations from many sources including Lions Clubs. District A15 Lions Clubs continue to support Dog Guide's mission to empower Canadians living with disabilities navigate their world with confidence and independence, by providing a Dog Guide at no cost and supporting them in their journey together.

## **The Difference Campaign**

Several committed Lions on the Lions Campaign Leadership Committee and Team Ontario have been visiting District A15 clubs to share details about the new training school and The Difference campaign. To date, the following clubs have committed to supporting the new building capital campaign: Elmira Lions, Floradale Friends of Dog Guides Lions Branch Club, Mosborough Busy Busy Lions Club, and Woolwich Community Lions Club. The following district clubs have also donated to Dog Guides: Fergus Lions, Kitchener Lions, Marsville & District Lions, St. George Lions, St. Marys Lions, and West Coast Lions.

## **Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides**

PDG Lion Larry Wainwright (Ariss and Maryhill Lions Club) and his Dog Guide Otis are the faces of this year's Pet Valu Walk for Dog Guides, which is being held nationally on Sunday, May 28, 2023. There are several District A15 Lions Clubs who have registered teams for this year's walk. Register a club team, join a District A15 team, or support a walker in these clubs:

- Bayfield Lions Club
- Exeter Lions Club
- Fergus Lions Club & Marsville & District Lions Club
- Floradale Friends of Dog Guides Lions Branch Club
- KW Community Spirit Lions Club, St. Jacobs Lions Club & Bridgeport Lions Club
- Mosborough Busy Busy Lions Club
- Paris Lions Club
- Sheffield Lions Club
- Wellesley and District Lions Club
- Wilmot Lions / Lioness Club

## Summary

From guiding their handlers through their daily lives to getting help when it is needed most, Dog Guides play a crucial role in the lives of Canadians with disabilities. Thanks to the generous support from Lions Clubs such as those in District A15, the foundation can continue supporting its volunteers/fosters, staff, and Dog Guide teams as the demand for trained service dogs grows.

*If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together – African Proverb*

*Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Bauman, District A15 LFC Chair*