



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



A-15 Convention Meeting Minutes

April 15-16, 2023

Brampton Best Western Hotel and Conference Centre, Brantford, ON

1. Call to order – 9:08 AM

2. Governor's Remarks – DG Tony Davidson

Governor Tony expressed his concern regarding the email spam that happened under his account a few times in this past year. He advised the members to be vigilant regarding any questionable requests from district email accounts.

He also expressed his appreciation to the members and clubs of A15 regarding the goals that he set out at the beginning of the year. We are up in numbers. Our service reporting is up.

3. O Canada – led by Lion Linda Vinette

4. Introduction of Guests

PID Art Woods introduced our International Guest – PID Mark Lyon and hi wife Lion Lyn Lion. Lion Mark is a member of the Brookville Lions (CT) and is currently the endorsed candidate for 3rd Vice President, Lions Clubs International. PID Mark acknowledged the Lions of A15 as welcoming and enjoyed the Convention hospitality on Friday night. We sure know how to have fun.

DG Tony also introduced his guests, a fellow member of MDA Council, from District A3, DG Linda Zwier and her husband PDG Bill Zwier.

5. Presentations

a. Lions Foundation of Canada (Dogguides)

PRC Deb Chzerhalmi gave a comprehensive presentation in respect to the Dog Guide programs and the new fundraising initiative for the new Dog Guide facility in Oakville.

6. Approval of the Agenda without changes affirmed by Governor Tony.

7. Approval of Minutes of the January 19, 2023 Cabinet Meeting

Motion: CS Denis Vinette, Second: ZC51E Kevin March.

8. Treasurer's Report

CT Linda reported that her report was in the package.

Moved: To accept the Treasurer's Report: 2nd VDG Bill Robinson, Seconded: ZC9S Ken Linington.

CARRIED

9. Cabinet Reports

Motion to accept the Cabinet Reports: 1st VDG Garry Ransom, Seconded: Kevin March, CARRIED

10. Committee Reports

Nominations – PCC Tim Cronin

The nominations chair announced the following as nominees for District Cabinet positions.

DG – 1st VDG Garry Ransom, Guelph

1st VDG – 2nd VDG Bill Robinson, Stratford

2nd VDG – None

RC 9 – None

ZC9E – None

ZC9S – None

Region Chair 37 – None

ZC37S – Lion Rick Bell, Sweaburg and District

ZC37W – Lion Evelyn Albers, St Marys

RC 51 – ZC Kevin March, Rockwood and District

ZC51E – None

ZC51W – None

As outlined in our Constitution and Bylaws, PCC Tim called for nominations from the floor for the position of 2nd VDG. (NOTE: RC and ZC positions are not open for nomination from the convention floor)

Nomination of 2nd VDG –

Lion Linda Vinette, Rockwood and District Lions

Lion Linda accepted the nomination.

A further call for nominations was made. Seeing no further nominations, Nominations chair PCC Tim Cronin called for the close of nominations.

Motion to close nominations: PDG Nancy Ransom, Second: PDG OJ Wilura CARRIED.

The nomination chair then asked the chair for a brief recess to allow the nomination committee to review the application and confirm the qualifications. Granted.

Nominations report suspended.

Lion Tony took this opportunity to invite Lions Quest to speak regarding their program. Lion Joanne McQuiggan, Executive Director of Lions Quest Canada spoke about our (Lions) role is promoting and delivering the Lions Quest program throughout our District. She said that it take a village to raise a child and she asked all Lions to be a caring and supportive villager.

Nominations report resumed.

PCC Tim Cronin reported that all the necessary qualifications have been met and Lion Linda was invited to present. PDDG Darry Nichol, Rockwood and District Club President, introduced Lion Linda. Lion Linda spoke of the reasons why she decided to take this opportunity to be a candidate for 2nd VDG. She explained that she believes that we have only a limited time to help people and our organization and if not now, then when. She wants to work with the clubs to help grow our association in Service, Leadership and Membership.

Elections Chair Thom Herrmann stated that at this time we have a very low number of registrations at the credentials desk. There will be an election (confirmation) for the position of DG, VDGs and a bylaw change. It will take place between 7:30 and 9:30 on Sunday morning.

Motion to accept the Committee Reports: 2nd VDG Bill Robinson, Second: Kevin March, CARRIED

Announcements:

Lions Home for the Deaf - Lion Gary Eves

Lion Gary advised that there is a new Lions Homes for the Deaf initiative. In a partnership with other agencies in Brantford and Brant County, LHFD is committing to raise \$100,000.00 for a home for the deaf/blind. The total cost is currently estimated at \$6,000,000.00. It will be located on Henry Street. Lions are asked to consider supporting this project.

The cost for a Helen Keller Award will rise from \$500 to \$600 this summer. This is to offset the cost of production of the award.

St. Jacobs Anniversary – Lion Karen Cronin

St Jacobs Lions will be celebrating their 70th Anniversary on September 21 and all Lions are invited to help celebrate. Details to follow.

LFC Memorial Forest – PCC Todd Wilson

Lion Todd informed the Lions that this year's memorial forest cleanup day will be June 7, 2023. It will run all day. The Lions of Elmira will be providing food and refreshments.

Electric / Hybrid Car Display – ZC Ken Linington

Lion Ken spoke about the afternoon electric / hybrid car display just outside the main ballroom. An area has been set aside for this and he asks that the participants please bring their cars to that area. After the main presentation at lunch, we will have a guest speaker with extensive knowledge about the electric car and hybrid car options and the merits of both.

Choir – CS Denis

There will be a choir practice at 3:00PM in the ballroom and all are welcomed to join. Whether you are a professional singer or just someone who can carry a tune, please come and help.

Promotional Grants

Lion Garry explained that we have received 2 marketing grants this year. One was for the District Canopy program and another was for the Club Banner program. There is an online form to reserve the Canopy and an email was sent to the clubs, club presidents and secretaries on the banner program. If you need any further information or assistance, CALL CS Denis.

DG Tony declared the meeting adjourned at 10:42.

Sunday, April 16, 2023

Convention meeting was recalled to order at 10:42am.

DG tony called on PID Lion Mark Lyon to say a few words.

PID Mark was impressed by the work and by the conversations he had with members of A15. He wondered if the EXIT sign behind him was an omen. In addition, he complimented DG Tony for the work done in Leadership, Membership and Service this year and he asked us to keep up the good work! He also emphasized that District A15 is #1 in his book.

Convention Report – PDG Doug Smith

Lion Doug reported that it appears that all attendees have enjoyed the convention. He informed the District that there were 233 Registered (over the 250 he had hoped), 90 meals were served at Lunch and 85 meals were served at the Banquet. He was pleased with the presentations made at the Luncheon (POGO) and the information provided from the Electric Vehicle presentation. The Strides Walk raised over \$3000.00. The Cleanup was good and resulted in a few garbage bags of litter.

Lion Doug asked the attendees to PLEASE fill out the Convention Surveys. This will help future conventions in their planning.

The Hotel was very pleased with our event and we have to say that it was a great facility.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to the Convention committee of the Paris, Rockwood and District, South Wellington and St. George Clubs. A great team!

Youth Camp – Lion Mark Henkell

Lion Mark stated that we have (at this time) 16 Youth coming to camp. This year, we have 2 from Mongolia and 2 from Tanzania; countries that have not been a part of the camp in the past.

Lions Allison and Mark are looking for volunteers to be camp directors. The camp means a great deal to them but they can't do it alone.

Lion Allison and Mark will be travelling to Prague this year and will be visiting with a former Youth Camp participant who just had her first child.

Lion Mark expressed that the Camp's purpose is to make a difference; one person at a time.

Governors Remarks

DG Tony informed the members that this was not HIS year... it was THEIR year and that going forward, he offers his support to the upcoming members of Cabinet and to the District. He appreciates everyone that has helped him along and that he believes that fun is essential to a volunteer association. Although his target has not yet been met, he asks the clubs to donate to LCIF if possible.

As the slogan says, Together we can, together we did!

First Timers Report

1st VDG Garry announced that we had printed 30 First Timers sheets and we ran out. A good sign when members attend the convention. The winner, Lion Debbie Sarre from St. Jacobs had so many PDG names that she filled the page. As is tradition, she received a banner with PDG Pins from the past 10 Governors. Congratulations to Lion Debbie.

Convention Raffle

PDDG Lion Darry Nichol listed the prizes.

- \$500.00
- \$250.00
- 2 Nights stay at the Best Western

Our convention Guest, PID Mark Lyon was asked to draw the winners.

\$500.00 – Thamesford Lions Club

\$250.00 - Dave Biehler - Copetown Lions Club

2 Nights Stay Best Western – Belwood and District Lions Club

Thank you to all who participated in the draw.

Motion to destroy the draw tickets – Move: CS Denis Vinette, Second: ZC51E Kevin March, CARRIED

Election Results – PDG Thom Herrmann

Lion Thom thanked everyone who helped in the election process. It takes a lot of energy and his health is not the best at this time.

A quick mention about the Strides walk. Monies from the walk will go to research and this will help a good number of Diabetics in years to come.

Election Report

DG Tony will become a PDG.

Total possible delegates – 144

Total registered Delegates and Alternates – 82

Total ballots cast – 73

\$94.55 was raised in fines at the credentialing desk.

Results

For the position of DG – 1st VDG Lion Garry Ransom, Guelph Lions

For the position of 1st VDG – 2nd VDG Lion Bill Robinson, Stratford Lions

For the position of 2nd VDG – CT Lion Linda Vinette, Rockwood and District Lions

ByLaw amendment – Carried.

Motion to Destroy the ballots by 2nd VDG Bill Robinson, ZC9S Ken Linington: CARRIED

Introduction of the Cabinet for 2023-2024

DG – 2023-2024 –Garry Ransom, Guelph

Zone Chair 9S – Ken Linington, Paris Lions

Zone Chair 9E – Juan Monterozza, Cambridge Highlands Lions

Zone Chair 37W – Evelyn Albers, St Marys Lions

Zone Chair 37S – Rick Bell, Sweaburg and District Lions

Zone Chair 51E – vacant

Zone Chair 51W – Cheryl Bauman, Woolwich Community Lions

Region Chair 9 – Ray Derouin, Kitchener Oktoberfest Lions

Region Chair 37 – vacant

Region Chair 51 – Kevin March, Rockwood and District Lions

IPDG – Tony Davidson, St. George

1st VDG – Bill Robinson, Stratford

2nd VDG – Linda Vinette, Rockwood and District

CT – vacant

CS – Denis Vinette, Rockwood and District

DGE Garry thanked his wife, PDG Lion Nancy for the help and encouragement she gave him along the way. She thanked Lion Linda Vinette for asking him if he would like to step into the role of Zone Chair back some years ago. He accepted and the rest is history.

He expressed his appreciation to DG Tony for allowing him to run with some new ideas and for VDG Bill and PDG Tracey for their assistance in making many of these ideas come true.

Thank you to everyone for their support.

Passing of the Campbell

From eldest to newest. The Campbell is now passed to DGE Garry for safe keeping throughout his year.

In closing the convention, DG Tony extended his assistance to DGE Gary in any capacity he might see fit. He stated that Garry is the DG-e and that he is the DG-was

Motion to close the convention: Moved ZC9S Ken Linington, Second: IPDG Harvey Wood.

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 - 1st 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 - 2nd 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 3rd 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 15th 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>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>74,416.81</u>

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

MDA Dues Payable	-
Listowel Branch Club dues in trust	-
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>
Total Liabilities	18,414.33

Equity

Emergency Reserve Fund	23,000.00
Retained Earnings	21,245.26
Net Income	11,757.22
Total Equity	<u>56,002.48</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<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)
Income			
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
			-
Total Income	20,389.92	16,605.00	3,784.92
Expense			
Awards - Cabinet	45.20	1,000.00	(954.80)
Awards - Other Accrual		600.00	(600.00)
Total Awards	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)
District Chair Expense			-
Comm Chair		1,600.00	(1,600.00)
District Chair - Other		300.00	(300.00)
Total District Chair Expense	-	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)
Total Expense	8,632.70	16,605.00	(7,972.30)
Net Income	11,757.22	-	11,757.22



District A-15 Lions Clubs Trust Accounts - Balance Sheet

ASSETS	31-Mar-23
Chequing/Savings	
Trust Sight Imprest	5523.38
Youth Exchange Imprest	33718.41
Total - Youth	<u>33718.41</u>
Kindred-Trust Account	15374.08
Total Cash	54615.87
Trf fm Admin for Interest Income	-13.21
Total Cash and Receivable	<u>54602.66</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>54602.66</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>54602.66</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
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
Lions Foundation of Canada	
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
Total Current Liabilities	<u>46336.62</u>
Long Term Liabilities	
Youth Camp Capital	8266.04
Total Long Term Liabilities	<u>8266.04</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>54602.66</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<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 21st, 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 14th to 16th.

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

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 1st. 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 30th. 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 1st VDG Lion Garry Ransom

For First Vice District Governor 2nd 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 29th – please share information on our programs with the educators in your network – there is lots of information on the website at 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 3rd 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 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

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.

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.

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