

LCIF:

Let me begin by introducing and thanking your MD 33 LCIF team:

33Y PDG Dennis Fountain

33A PCC Richard Braks

33N PDG Jane Fanjoy

33K PDG Andrew Porter

33S IPDG John Babb

During what has turned out to be an extraordinarily difficult year our MD team has worked hard where they are able to both utilize and support our Foundation bringing change and service to the people of Massachusetts and the world.

We are fortunate that 19-20 was a very strong year as it has offset the challenges of this year – somewhat. This year’s overall contributions to LCIF for this fiscal year are \$87,270 – significantly less than last year’s \$137,000 at this same point but nevertheless a respectable contribution toward our assigned Campaign 100 goal of \$1,306,298. We’re at \$580,210 with 1 year to go in the Campaign– that’s about 45%.

Kudos to those clubs and individuals who have taken up the challenge to make contributing to OUR Foundation a priority. Even the smallest of contributions keeps hope alive and help coming where it’s needed so thank you for your continued commitment.

While we have been generous to our foundation over the years our Foundation has been even more generous with us. This year is no different.

We began the current Lions year with 4 COVID-19 Emergency Grants for \$10,000 each totaling \$40,000 in emergency aid for the people of Massachusetts. All of these grants have been distributed, reported on, and closed. Thank you to the current and immediate past governors on their diligence in applying for and executing this important funding.

We have open matching grants for Massachusetts Lions Eye Research Fund for \$100,000 for Equipment at the Joslin Diabetes Center as well as open grants in the sub-districts for various projects like the Camp improvements at Camp Jack in 33S. We continue to pursue ideas that empower our service through our Foundation’s grants. Look for more work in the area of Diabetes Education in the coming year.

The Districts have utilized the new District & Club Impact Grants in exciting and novel ways. This is a new program that LCIF has created and implemented. It

allows for any club who has donated \$5000 or more in the fiscal year to apply for a grant of 15% of their donation to be used in local projects. The monies may be accumulated from year to year and used in the future as this will be an on-going program.

Districts may apply for this same type of grant on powered by monies donated over \$10,000. Both districts S and N applied for and utilized these impact grants to fund hunger efforts.

Due to the COVID restriction with in-school learning the planned implementation of the Lions Quest social/emotional learning program on Cape Cod was put on hold until the coming year. We continue to explore opportunities to expand Lions Quest across the state in the coming years.

All of this means that, once again, funds above the amounts that we have contributed have been received back into our Multiple District. Thank you for using YOUR foundation to energize your service here in Massachusetts!

If it possible that your club has not exhausted its charitable funds please consider making a last minute donation to LCIF before the end of this month and bring your club's totals and our districts and state totals more in line with expectations. A Melvin Jones Fellowship recognition is a meaningful way to honor someone -- celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion.

I leave you with one last thought: if you knew that your personal donation of \$100 could provide cataract surgery for 2 people, or provide access to clean water to 14 people, or provide measles vaccine to 100 people, or provide a Lions Quest curriculum to an entire classroom for 1 year -- would you try to make it happen??? YOU can be that hero, that Knight not only of the blind but a Knight of Humanity – commit to a monthly donation of \$8.33 or more and save someone's sight, educate them about Diabetes, give them that life-saving clean water – the world is thirsty for your commitment.

Thank you for this opportunity as MD LCIF coordinator -- it is truly an honor to serve in this capacity.

PROTOCOL:

Protocol committee members are: PDG Roger Jones (33 Y), PDG Terry Grant (33 A), PID Chuck Kostro (33N), PDG Paul Calnan (33K)

We've had a most interesting year this year with all conferences having been virtual. As of today we've hosted 6 international officers at our districts' conferences, events, and convention.

ID Jose Marrero from Puerto Rico visited 33S, ID Allen Hunt from British Columbia Canada visited 33N, PID Gwen White from North Carolina visited 33A, ID Bob Block from Illinois visited 33K, and ID Mark Lyon from Connecticut visited 33Y.

The respective district conference committees well-handled the duties of hosting with all requisite protocol observed. This work necessitated much prior planning on behalf of the committees to make sure that connectivity was enabled, stable, and accessible. Negotiating shared screens and microphones was indeed a challenge but our conference committees handled it with aplomb.

Each visiting official reported to LCI a good and successful visitation to the respective districts and their unanimous comment was that they can't wait to come to Massachusetts in the future and spend time with us in-person.

Our last International Guest hosting is once again a virtual one – today – where we have the honor of hosting our International 1st VP Douglas X. Alexander from Brooklyn, New York. Over the course of the year we have been consulted regarding protocol numerous times and the CC and Council of Governors have made every effort to adhere to expected protocol as they are able in this new environment.

Appropriate letter of congratulations and endorsement was sent to Candidate for International 3rd VP Fabricio Oliveira. A letter of endorsement for International President was sent to International 1VP Douglas X. Alexander.

Protocol manual updates have been tabled to hopefully be picked up in the coming year.

Thank you for the opportunity to chair this committee – it is an absolute pleasure to do so.