



# MD33 Massachusetts Lions 2023 State Convention Reports



# MD33 Massachusetts Lions State Convention 2023 Reports

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# MD33 Massachusetts Lions State Convention 2023 Reports

## MD 33 Council Chair

Report of Council Chair Deb Grassi

Welcome back Lions of MD33 to in person meetings and for taking the time to realize the value of Zoom.

Great job, District Governors for getting out in your districts and showing that Lions continue to Serve and more importantly “We Care”.

Thank-you Council officers for your support and availability to assist, on a moment’s notice. Parliamentarian Paul Schleicher and Assistant Parliamentarian Dr. Deb Wayne were ready to answer questions and provide much needed information and guidance when called upon. Council Treasurer John Walsh went to bat with the banks and kept meticulous accounting of each transaction. Council Secretary Colleen Oncay has been an amazing assistant, above and beyond her job description. The information and assistance received from the IPID, PID’s, CS’s, CT’s, CSAT’s, GAT team and MD33 Committee chairs is invaluable and much appreciated. We have proven the state of MA MD33 cannot run without camaraderie and teamwork.

What is it like to hold the position of Council Chair? Imagine a moment in which you see individuals, clubs, districts, and committees find their direction and realize as a team how much can be accomplished. Thank you for this opportunity members of MD33, keep up the amazing work you do.

Council Chair Deb Grassi

## MD 33 Council Treasurer

Report of the Council Treasurer Jack Walsh

Good afternoon MD 33 Lions and Guests:

It has been my pleasure serving as the Multiple District 33 Council Treasurer this year. I have had the opportunity to experience virtual, hybrid and in person meetings.

I have attended all of the Council Meetings. Due to some health issues I have attended the Mid-Winter Conferences virtually. I have been active in my home club, the Agawam Lions Club, assisting the new club treasurer as needed.

All of our various checking accounts have been maintained at TD Bank and Citizens Bank. During this year, we had well over \$300,000 in the TD Bank and the District Governors voted to diversify and put part of our funds in the Citizens Bank, so as to keep the funds in both banks under the \$250,000 FDIC insurance maximum, for each bank.

The bank accounts are multi-signature accounts with the primary signatures of myself and Council Chair, Debra Grassi. Three other signers are Vice Council Chair, DG Anthony Pecci, 33A PDG James Roth, 33K and PCC William Donnellan, 33K.

As Council Treasurer I have received all of the MD 33 funds and have deposited them into the appropriate bank accounts. I have paid all debts and obligations of MD 33 with the approval of the Council of Governors. All checks received from the Council Secretary, Cabinet Secretaries and/(or) Treasurers and Committee Chairs have been deposited. I have maintained accurate records for all transactions.

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With the appointment of Nathan, Garran, PCT, from District S; as Council Bookkeeper; I have set up the books on QuickBooks and recorded the first 4 months of transactions. I have sent Nathan the QuickBooks setup and the transactions through February, 2023, to be entered on QuickBooks. I have balanced the accounts with bank records as of March 31, 2023.

As Council Treasurer, I will deliver the bank accounts and records to the next Council Treasurer, Council Secretary PDG Colleen Oncay at the conclusion of my term in office, and assist with the transfer of the banking records.

I would like to thank all the Lions of District 33 for giving me the opportunity to serve as the 2022-2023 Council Treasurer.

As of March 31, 2023, the Multiple District 33 reconciled accounts are:

## TD BANK

MD 33 Operating checking Account	\$21,603.39
Money Market General Account	\$40,009.91
Money Market Organ Donor	\$51,446.18
LCIF Diabetes Grant	\$10.00
MD 33 Debit Card Account	\$4,000.00
MLLVN (MA Lions Low Vision)	\$101.00
<b>Total TD Bank</b>	<b>\$117,170.48</b>
<b>CITIZENS BANK</b>	
MD 33 Operating checking Account	\$21,019.10
Business Money Market Account	\$65,542.03
LCIF MLERF Grant	\$11.70
<b>Total Citizens Bank</b>	<b>\$86,572.83</b>
<b>Total Cash – All Banks</b>	<b>\$203,743.31</b>

Respectfully submitted,

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*John Walsh*

## MD33 Council Secretary

Report of the Council Secretary Colleen Oncay

Dear Lions of MD33,

In performing the duties of the office, your Council Secretary has:

- Regularly communicated with fellow Council officers
- Distributed agendas for Meetings
- Submitted the Minutes of each meeting to the Council members and to LCI
- Maintained the MD33 Committee listing
- With the guidance of IT Chair Doreen Martel, created a shared Google Drive folder for the Council Secretary to serve as a repository of both current and historical data
- Received and recorded all MD33 Dues payments and forwarded the same to the Council Treasurer
- Supported the efforts of the Cabinet Secretaries/Treasurers/CST's and informed them of voting and dues requirements.

I have learned and grown in this role and look forward to continuing my service.

Council Chair Deb Grassi and Council Treasurer John "Jack" Walsh have been extremely supportive. Working with our current leaders has been an honor and I thank the Lions of District A for allowing me to serve in this way.

Kindly Yours,  
*Colleen Oncay*

## 33Y District Governor

Report of District 33Y District Governor Dennis Fountain

It seems an eternity has passed since I was Governor 15 years ago. The challenges I faced back then are completely different than the ones I face today. They are more daunting and numerous. The challenges may be different and harder, but the Lions remain the same. The core of our friends and fellow Lions still remains focused on helping others. We still care for each other, in fact possibly more now than ever before. Although we have some challenges, the Western Mass Lions are great and our district is doing well.

I remember vividly my 1st time as Governor and how rigid I was in many areas. I've learned to adapt and change, and so have our Lions. I've seen us become creative and innovative thru these tough times. In a geographic area where 20% of Lions still use dial up, or have no internet, the fact we successfully managed meetings via zoom is a testament to our ability to change. Most clubs, although, not all, still met thru Covid; and even better, thrived. My main goal this year is service. In fact, I'll go as far as to say that's my only goal. I pushed every club to hold at least one service project a month. Yes, a big ask, but I know it can be done. I've used my own club as a test club for my ideas, and we've proven not only can it be done, but it works. Having service projects makes your current members feel useful and appreciated. They also begin to realize what it really means to be a Lion. Conducting service projects also makes your presence known and felt in the community. Others see what you're doing and witness the smile on your faces while doing it. That smile is contagious and they want to be a part of it. They want to help others. They want to join. I know this, because it's worked in my own club. Membership is higher now than it's been in decades.

During the pandemic clubs began drive thru spaghetti dinners, boxed lunch deliveries, online basket raffles, and so much more. Some of these projects were so successful they continue as regular projects. Maybe your fundraiser can be a service project. For years now the Ludlow Lions have held a fundraising pancake breakfast where they sold tickets. My thought was to switch it up and make the breakfast free, encouraging anyone and everyone to attend, making it a true community service project. My club

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was hesitant at first because we relied on those funds generated, but after a few arm twists, we agreed to switch. Let me tell you, not only was the response from the public overwhelming, we made more money by just leaving collection cannisters on the tables, and we attracted 2 high school students who volunteered to serve, and who have expressed interest in joining when they graduate.

I've also asked clubs to stop writing checks. What? That's insane you say? I know that sometimes it's necessary and beneficial to write a check for MLER or to LCIF, but if it's a local cause why not provide a service instead. For example, a family had a small house fire and was looking for donations through a go fund me page. We wanted to help, and our first reaction was to write a check. But what they really needed was a new kitchen floor. So, what's better, writing the check, or buying the building materials and showing up with some Lions and actually providing hands on repairs? Again, get involved with your community. Really think how you can help and what service really means.

Over the past 2 ½ to 3 years, we lost many Lions. It's been a bumpy ride. This year, we've seen the loss of Great Barrington, Hampden, and Westfield Centennial clubs. Removing those clubs from the equation, membership would be a plus right now in our district. One of these clubs should have been gone a decade ago, but was being held onto by one Lion. One of these clubs perplexes me in its existence. We've never met anyone from this club and it seemed to only existed thru facebook posts. When I contacted their members, I was told they weren't members. This club remains a mystery to me and I offer no reason for its demise.

As for the last club, key movers and shakers of that club have moved away or passed on. Their heart was lost, and covid gave them an excuse to close. We worked hard to try to bring them back, or transfer their members to other clubs, but the costs associated were overwhelming and they ultimately chose to close. On the surface that looks grim, and I'm not happy about it, but it's a sign we need to be more observant of our clubs, and their needs. As District Governor it's my job to make sure our team is in place and identifies issues early on so they can be dealt with. Not every outcome will be positive, but at least we'll be prepared and can say we tried our best. I give the highest praise to our Global Membership team and to my Zone Chairs who have shown up to do the hard work and are performing better than expected.



## 33A District Governor

Report of District 33A District Governor Marianna Riemer

District A, the Awesome District has done a lot with their leadership team. I would like to summarize / highlight some of our accomplishments regarding our GMA program as we launched GMA globally in July of 2023:

### Leadership

- 5 Lions from our District attended ELLI training and returned with fully engaged, reenergized mind set, with new ideas ready to lead and incorporate with succession planning down the road

- Officers training are scheduled on 6/17/2023 in preparation for new incoming officers and LCI system conversion for reporting

### Membership

- Our membership continues to grow, and as of today the district has a net growth of +38 members (a total of 1,287 members) with more hands-on deck which will have a bigger impact to our communities and beyond

- We have established two new Leos Clubs with an additional 61 new Leos, and they are our future leaders

- A branch club (Worcester Lions Club) was formed recently and sponsored by Grafton Lions Club as the previous Worcester Host Club was dissolved a few years ago during our pandemic. The City of Worcester is the 2nd largest city in population in New England and there are many needs from this community. Our goal is to form a Worcester Lions Club to serve this community

### Service

- We formally closed a Sightmobile LCI matching grant on 10-31-2022. This was a \$33,300 LCIF matching grant to replace our old 2002 old Sightmobile with the state-of-the-art brand new fully equipped Sightmobile. Many training sessions were scheduled and many eye and ear testings at schools, community centers and health fair events were performed.

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- Additionally, we closed another LCI matching grant of \$26,250 for the purchase of a mobile food kitchen, a canteen trailer customized to deliver and serve nutritious meals to veterans. This project was chosen by LCI to have a veteran beneficiary to share a few words at our upcoming International Convention in July of how this affects them and the community

***“This project was chosen by LCI to have a veteran beneficiary to share a few words at our upcoming International Convention in July of how this affects them and the community.”***

- Our service reporting has moved our needle from 35% in the beginning of the year to 69%, going to the right direction

We’ve accomplished much, yet a lot still needs to be done. As we are rounding third, I’m confident that our passionate Lions from our Awesome District will continue to work diligently and finish up the rest of the year strong by sharing their time, talent, and treasure. We will improve the quality of our clubs and focus on our membership to take service at an all-new level.

## 33N District Governor

Report of 33N District Governor Tony Pecci

I am pleased to report that District 33N is doing very well. I have visited 36 of my 39 clubs to date. Our clubs are extremely busy serving the needs of their communities and supporting our District efforts. Thanks to our Region Chair Joe Ward and all of our Zone Chairs along with CST Katie Sirois and 2VDG Sharon Pecci for their dedication to our clubs. Because of their efforts our Service Reporting is improving each month. Our current membership status is plus 18 to date.

Our GMA team has done a fabulous job this year. GST Laura Ward has created and ran fantastic service projects. To name a few, Laura ran our highly successful Blessing Bags for the homeless project at our Mid-Winter conference where our Lions donated and bagged over 600 bags of essentials to distribute to homeless shelters in our District. GST Laura also arranged a day at the Braille Press in Boston where Lions from our District assembled Braille Books in two separate sessions. GST Laura also spearheaded our Peanut Butter and Jelly challenge where our club's collected jars of peanut butter and jelly to donate to their local food pantries. GLT Joy Bartlett coordinated extremely well received Club Officer Virtual Training spread out over several well-run sessions. Five Lions from our District attended ELLI this past March. GMT Frank Bertolino has worked with our clubs to assist them in growing and retaining our membership. 2nd VDG Sharon Pecci and CST Katie Sirois have been the anchors of our District and have supported all of our clubs needs throughout the year. I can't thank them enough for their effort this year.

Our "deep freeze" Mid-Winter Conference was held at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Andover this past February 3-5. "Who needs hot water on Saturday morning, especially when we were treated to a free Fire Alarm demonstration during our Saturday Business meeting"? All kidding aside we had a great weekend. A very special thank you to our Mid-Winter Chair, PDG Marcel Plouffe and Mid-Winter Ad Book Chair, CST Mark Alexander, for their hard work and dedication in putting together this great weekend. We have held three very successful District Advisory meetings to date and our last Advisory meeting is scheduled for May 31st. We have also held three well attended Cabinet meetings to date and our last Cabinet

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meeting will be held this coming June. Our District 33N Journey for Sight Walk-a-thon committee continues to work on the details for a fun day scheduled for June 3rd.

I am so pleased to say that District 33N has a full slate of Officers for our upcoming year, including 1st VDG Liz Pettis who recently stepped up to fill this position and will be our District Governor this upcoming year. PCST Mark Alexander has stepped up to fill our 1st VDG position for the upcoming year and of course our own CST Katie Sirois who will be our incoming 2nd VDG this upcoming year. I can't think of three better leaders to help continue the great service to our communities that we have always been so proud of in District 33N.

To end, I want to thank all the great Lions and Leaders of District 33N for their hard work and dedication that made this year so wonderful. I would be remiss if I forgot to thank my DG peers in our other wonderful MD33 Districts. It's been a joy and a privilege working with all of you. I also want to thank our entire MD33 Council and our NELC leadership team for their great support all year long. It's been a privilege to serve with all of you and I look forward to serving with all of you this coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Pecci  
District Governor 33N (2022-2023)

## 33K District Governor

Report of District 33K District Governor Steve Langley

District 33K is healthy and ***“Out of the Darkness, Into the Light – Together”*** has certainly be a wonderful mantra for this year. Coming out of out of Covid has had its challenges, but we have been able to overcome many. Attendance at District Events has been phenomenal. District 33K’s Midwinter had 180 people in attendance at our Friday Night “Wood Choppers” Ball and 165 for our Saturday Night Award’s banquet. I was very pleased with all my District 33K Lions who attended, my committee and my club who did such a great job with the event.

I am also thankful for the support of my fellow District Governors who honored me and my district with their attendance!

Club visitations by myself and my VDGs have been ongoing, and we have covered the vast majority of the district. The clubs are doing great work with service and fundraising, and it is a pleasure to help them with these endeavors. District 33K, Special K, is indeed doing wonderful things!!

We have held training. We have been reporting our activities and our successes at a 91% rate. Our MLERF donations have been healthy, and we are currently at \$52,545 for LCIF with a goal of \$70k. I am hopeful that we will reach that goal before the end of the year – it is eminently doable!

While the district is doing great overall, we have been struggling with membership, currently down 50 members. We have added 77 this year, which is great, but with deaths, loss of members and transfers that get deducted from our rolls, we are down 127. There are several reasons for this, but most of it is that many clubs had been holding onto members during Covid, and now that things have opened back up, they are pruning the membership accordingly. It is unfortunate, and while we want more membership to help us do more, it is important for these clubs to be healthy financially as well, and carrying members who don’t pay dues can be contrary to that desire.

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I have been very pleased to lead District 33K this year. To be selected by the membership to be this year's steward of our district is indeed an honor, and we have accomplished great things together with more to come.

Yours in Lionism,  
DG Steve

## 33S District Governor

Report of District 33K District Governor Bob Coluci

I would like to start by saying it has been an honor to serve as District Governor for this year. I am extremely pleased that the year was a great success and all the clubs seem to be back functioning after Covid. Everybody has treated me with respect and kindness as I have treated them. I want to thank my District Cabinet Team, especially my 1<sup>ST</sup> VDG, 2<sup>nd</sup> VDG, CT, CS, GLT, GST and GMT, as they are the ones that make it all happen. Kudos to all the District committees for their efforts and hard work. It has been a pleasure working with my fellow District Governors and the Council. There are always challenges as a leader and you take them as they come and work them out to the best of your ability. My two words I used a lot were **“flexible”** and **“awesome”**. As you know my theme this year is **“Compassion Thru Service”** and all the 40+ clubs I have visited have been working very hard to provide quality service to our communities and individuals in need. My challenge to the clubs was and still is to do one more Service Project than they usually do and to shoot for a net plus one member for the year. We are having three District Strides walks for Diabetes in the spring as well as our big Lions Day of Service May 13<sup>th</sup> to which we received a \$2,125.00 Grant from LCIF which will pay for 10,000 meals of food packaging for the needy. The Wareham and Rochester Clubs have also received a \$100,000.00 Grant from LCIF to help fund the construction of a Damien’s Food Pantry Building in Wareham to which everybody was excited about.

All the clubs have been very generous in their donations to MLERF and LCIF. When I last looked District 33S was in the lead for donations to MLERF versus the other districts, but this is not a competition but just challenging us to do the best we can.

Membership is always a struggle and we have reduced a lot of our beginning of the year losses, as many clubs have brought in new members of recent. Most clubs are doing quite well. We are an aging group and we need to find ways to

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bring in younger adults. Some small clubs are struggling and I have pushed all year in my travels for clubs to reach out and help each other, let the community know who we are and what we do and use social media. I think there is an opportunity to rebuild some small clubs but we will probably have to close a couple of them this year.

I promote **fun** and **socializing** at all levels throughout the District as this will promote membership satisfaction and retention. We have a NEW DETAILED POWERPOINT ORIENTATION PRESENTATION developed by two of our long-term District leaders which is available to all.

District 33S is very strong and will continue to be with some great future leaders coming on and I will be there to support and mentor them as needed. Our committees will continue to do their thing but we always need new lions to step up in these positions. I would like to thank my wife Francine for putting up with the times I have been out and about on this journey. In summary it is all about serving, giving back and helping others and I feel like I have accomplished that being a district leader with the team around me for this year.

Thank You again.

Respectfully submitted,  
District Governor Bob Coluci



## 33Y Cabinet Secretary

Report of the District 33Y Cabinet Secretary, written by DG Dennis Fountain

The District Governor has visited all but four clubs, with multiple visits to various clubs. Most clubs are performing well, meeting regularly, conducting service activities, raising funds, and making donations.

Three cabinet meetings were held via Zoom with good attendance. Three Advisory meetings were held with an average of 79% club representation and 9% of district members in attendance.

We held a very successful Midwinter Conference at the Springfield Sheraton on February 24, 25, & 26. International Director Jay Moughon was in attendance. This was the first in person conference in a while, and it was well attended.

Our First Vice District Governor resigned  $\frac{3}{4}$  through his term. The District Governor called an emergency PDG meeting, and a new First Vice District Governor was voted upon and approved by Lions Clubs International.

First half dues were paid by all clubs in good standing. There are four clubs that still need to pay district dues for the second half.

## 33A Cabinet Secretary

Report of District 33A Cabinet Secretary John Riemer

Dear Fellow Lions, Leos, and distinguished guests,  
Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Cabinet Secretary for the current Lions year.

We have had a very productive year. We have visited 39 of our District's 45 clubs and I must say that the opportunity for me to visit your clubs, get to know some of you and learn about your projects, results and all the hard work you've put into

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them has been special for me. It's so clear to me that the clubs in our District are focused on initiatives that truly are improving the quality of life for residents in our communities. What a satisfying and wonderful thing!

Our comments during visitations have focused on the DG's goals, GMA, service reporting, donating to LCIF, LCIcon2023 and our 2 major state service projects MLERF and MLLVN.

On the administrative side, we have completed 3 very well attended Advisory dinner meetings and 4 Cabinet meetings. Our Zone chairs this year are engaged and very involved with their clubs – a fact that is essential to maintain our District's reputation as the 'Awesome' District.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the State Convention and at remaining club visits. And please, never hesitate to contact me about District related issues and matters that relate to MA Lions Eye Research Fund and the MA Lions Low Vision Network.

Kind regards,  
John Riemer

## **33A Cabinet Treasurer**

Report of District 33A Cabinet Treasurer Tony Ash

It has been my honor and pleasure to be District 33-A Cabinet Treasurer for DG Marianna this year (and IPDG Cindy LAST year!) I have enjoyed it immensely and continue to learn a lot about all the great Lions Clubs in District 33-A!

For those of you who don't know, at its most basic level, the role of the Cabinet Treasurer involves creating budgets, writing and issuing dues invoices, collecting dues, and paying expenses and donations! Pretty basic stuff.

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Following are some of the important facts and numbers from this year relating to District 33-A:

- 99% of club dues were paid during fiscal 2023 with only 2 clubs delinquent at this time.
- The District 33-A General Administrative Account Budget currently has excess funds with this excess planned to be donated to our Lions Causes.
- The District 33-A Restricted Account is well-funded, but will continue to accept funds.
- The “redesigned” Mid-Winter Donation Form raised checks-in-hand of **\$60,235** and Pledges of \$94,331. The amount of checks raised is **an increase of 20.2%** from last year’s total of \$50,096! Largest causes supported were MLERF at \$24,760, LCIF at \$13,275, S&H Fund at \$6,475 and Barton Center at \$5,500.

What we sometimes forget is that all of the big and little Lions Clubs in 33-A are really simply “small businesses” who serve their communities and the greater community at large and also just happen to raise money to help achieve that goal. The “money-part” is what the Treasurer is mostly responsible for and that is why as CT, I worked hard to emphasize the Club Treasurer Role during my tenure.

In order to make a difference, I viewed that the real value of the CT role was to work with all the club treasurers to create a community of treasurers! I got to meet many of the club treasurers during my tenure and they all demonstrated great technical skills, passion for serving, and dedication to the Treasurer role.

I felt that an engaged Club Treasurer was a better Club Treasurer, so I spent a lot of time working to provide an environment of engagement for all club treasurers! To help foster this, in addition to meeting club Treasurers during club visitations, I conducted Treasurer Training last year, wrote monthly **Treasurer Tips** newsletters covering important things all Lions Treasurers should know, held a couple of Zoom-based **Treasurer’s Fireside Chats**, and once again sponsored the District 33-A “Best Treasurer” Award!

In closing, I encourage anyone with a financial background to be a Club Treasurer or District Cabinet Treasurer. Your skills will be well-utilized and will contribute to the financial health and well-being of our organization in support of the services that we provide.

## 33N Cabinet Secretary Treasurer

Report of District 33N Cabinet Secretary Treasurer Katie Sirois

Well, I beat the drum and held the phone. The sun came out today, we're born again, there's new grass on the field in District 33N. Rounding' third and headed for home, the year is almost over, it's a blue eye girl, anyone can understand the way I feel. Oh, put me in, "Coach" G Tony Pecci, I'm ready to play today, put me in, "Coach" DG Tony Pecci look at me, I can be the CST. Look at me, I can be the CST, Yeah, got it, I got it.

Well, we spent some time in the Mudville Nine, watching it from the bench, we took some lumps, when the mighty Covid struck us. Don't say it isn't so, you know the time is now to pull this district back together. That is what we have done in District 33N.

District 33N has a team that refuses to quit. We came back swinging. We opened the communication, we gave to others, we served our communities. We held 3 District Advisories that had over 120 team players each time. We held our midwinter in February 2023, at the DoubleTree in Andover in one of the coldest weekends in maybe history, with our special guest visiting, International Director Ron Keller & Lion Kitty Keller, from Millersport Ohio.....who experienced frozen hotel pipes, cold showers, fire alarms blaring, walking the streets of Boston in negative number temperatures to departing us with only positive praise, and them looking forward to returning for the International Convention this July.

We chartered a brand new club, our district dues are paid, we believed together in the vision, and all it took was believing and saying put me in, "Coach" DG Tony Pecci "I'm ready to play today". Words that I will never regret, we have a beautiful district with beautiful loving team players, that are filled with compassion and refusing to let anyone strike us out. I could not have done this position without the love from our district team and all the club players. I can't thank everyone enough. Please remember, "There are three types of baseball players: those who make it happen, those who watch it happen, and those who wonder what happened." – Tommy Lasorda - With "Coach" DG Tony Pecci, of District 33N we did make it happen. Thank You DG Tony Pecci, for putting me in.

Respectfully submitted, Katie Sirois, CST (Can't Stand Tony)

## 33K Cabinet Secretary and Treasurer

Report of 33K Cabinet Secretary Richie Flynn and Cabinet Treasurer Lisa Munn

“Out of the Darkness, Into the Light – Together!!” was District 33K’s theme as we continued to move towards, as what is being called “The New Normal.”

We kicked off our “Infectious comeback year” holding our District Cabinet and Advisory meetings in person. Additionally, it was great to have our mid-winter in person. It was truly a breakout event that was enjoyed by all, especially PID Ken Ibarra and partner Amy.

In September, we were honored to be chosen to meet with a group from Qatar via the International Visitor Leadership Program sponsor by the U.S. State Department. The group, accompanied by their interpreters, were interested in:

- Examining the impact of volunteerism in U.S. and how volunteers are inspired to foster a culture of service, civic involvement, and responsibility.
- Discussing best practices in volunteer recruitment, retention and management.
- Discussing successful opportunities to engage youth and women in activities and programs that help them engage in meaningful acts of service that will serve Qatar’s vision for 2030 by empowering youth and women to be active citizens that contribute to the country's development.

One of the visitors was interested in learning more about Lion's and potentially establishing a club in Qatar.

The clubs of District 33K have been coming out of the pandemic while continuing to do amazing work. Events ranging from District contests such as the Youth Speech, Peace Poster and Environmental Photo are a mainstay in our district. Add to that, all the fundraisers that have been happening around the district such as Meat Raffles, Christmas tree sales, pancake breakfasts and summer carnivals. Not to be outdone by the fund-raising aspect of the clubs’ work, there continue to be many service-related projects that range from providing senior breakfasts/dinners,

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delivery of Meals on Wheels, environmental cleanups as well as eyeglass collections and cleanings and blood drives. Each club in the District has a number of signature events that promote the work of Lions in the communities in which they serve ... “Coming out of the darkness into the light this year has allowed us to be better able to do what we love to do.

The Global Membership Team, under the leadership of PDG Margaret Menard, has been working diligently with all the clubs by supporting membership drives and providing the updated Tri-fold visual presentations along with membership brochures. The membership team has also held a “Membership Contest” to engage the individual Lion, the Clubs, and the Zone Chairs. To date the District has added 77 new members, closing in on the DG’s goal of 120. We are all optimistic that District 33K will conclude the year in a positive membership status.

The Global Leadership Team, under the leadership of co-leaders PDG Doreen Martel and PRC Holly Dono, has successfully held club officer training sessions. In March there was an “Emerging Lions Leadership Workshop”. In addition to the regular office trainings offered each year, the GLT has included a training session specifically tailored for club members who have previously served as their club president/secretary.

We continue to use a positive, proactive approach to Service reporting and I am happy to say that, as of April 14, we have 91% of our Lions Clubs reporting-43 of 47 Lions Clubs. This is far above the World and CA1 averages and leads all MD33 Districts. This meets the goal set by DG Steve.

The resilient Lions of 33K Lions have made a renewed commitment to our “We Serve” attitude and continue to impress in the area of service. Over 563,000 people were served in just under 31,000 hours! The visually impaired, the hungry, the cold and homeless, those with diabetes, sick children, our veterans, our elders, the differently abled, promising HS students-looking beyond just the numbers we find these stories and the connections our Clubs have to their communities, and it is amazing.

## MD33 Massachusetts Lions State Convention 2023 Reports

Lives have been saved by regular blood and plasma donations organized by our Lions. The efforts of one of our Clubs supports students at a school halfway around the world. Many local pantries are kept stocked through collections and monetary donations. The homeless are shown compassion.

Service also continues to be a part of each District event. From collecting - virtually (via Amazon) and in person-items to restock the Lions Pantry at Boston House to essentials for Project Just Because at the Second Advisory and packing over 200 Blessing Bags/collecting over 70 gift cards for the Friends of Boston's Homeless at the 3rd Advisory. Fourth Advisory's project is TBD. Together we have made a difference! Another of DG Steve's goals is having a hands-on service project in at least 4 of our 5 Regions. A Braille materials assembly at National Braille Press, landscaping/clean up at Mary's Place family shelter (which will be completed soon with plantings of perennials and addition of mulch) and an Eyeglasses Cleaning/Sorting-have taken place. The fourth-an international project to prepare and send materials to be made into kids' shoes to Uganda will take place in mid-May. At the midwinter, attendees had several choices of mini service projects. We tied blankets, made dog pull toys for shelter animals and colored together to create a beautiful Lion poster. The King Phillip LEOs took the dog toy project back to their Club and created several dozen more to add to the impact.

As usual, the Lions of 33k were exceedingly generous with their donations to Lions causes and their own communities, to the tune of \$146,897 for Midwinter donations, and a total of \$244,431 when local donations are included. Such a tremendous amount of support from our "Special K" Lions. The district is still motivated by DG Steve's promise to shave the hair off his head if we were to meet his goal of donating \$90,000 to LCIF

In closing, we are grateful to DG Steve Langley for his patience and trust during his term as DG. If you haven't already done so, please thank your DG for the incredible service and sacrifice they make every day to keep Lionism alive in our respective districts and beyond!

# MD33 Massachusetts Lions State Convention 2023 Reports

Respectfully submitted:

Cabinet Secretary Richie Flynn

Cabinet Treasurer Lisa Munn

District 33K

## 33S Cabinet Treasurer

Report of the District 33S Cabinet Treasurer, Debra Howland

To the Council and Lions of MD33:

It has been an honor to serve as the Cabinet Treasurer for District Governor Coluci and District 33S. I have visited 23 of the District clubs and attended 13 club fundraising and/or service events this year, with 2 more clubs to visit. I had no idea how much I would learn by visiting the other clubs in the District. There are so many good ideas I'm going to steal (borrow) for my own club.

As of April 28, we have 4 clubs with outstanding dues to District S for the first half of the year and 9 clubs with outstanding dues to District S for the second half of the year. I am working with club Presidents and Treasurers on tying up those loose ends. We held three Cabinet Advisory Meetings in Abington, Raynham, and Easton and are planning our 4th one in Rochester.

For our mid-winter donations, we received approximately \$139,085, including about \$85,000 to MLERF. Our District Activities account has taken in approximately \$26,900 and we have dispersed approximately \$7,800. Our Administration budget has remained at a surplus.

Now that I have gotten all the numbers out of the way, I want to tell a quick little story. When my son Andrew was 8 years old (20 years ago) we were hit with the fact that not



## MD33 Massachusetts Lions State Convention 2023 Reports

only did he have Down Syndrome, but now all the ear infections had caused him to lose his hearing. He desperately needed hearing aids. Back then insurance companies considered them “cosmetic” and not a necessity, even for a child trying to navigate the education system with already too many barriers. We had no idea where to turn, we certainly couldn’t afford to purchase what he needed. Then Rosie Borden, a Dighton Lion, rest her soul, told me “You and Andy need to come to a Lions meeting, I think we can help.” I was willing to try anything, but I knew nothing about the Lions Club. We went, and of course they loved Andrew, his determination, his energy, and his passion for learning. The Dighton Lions, along with the Hearing Foundation, purchased Andy hearing aids as well as outfitted the Dighton Elementary School with an FM system. This system would allow other children with hearing issues, not just Andrew, to hear.

We were so grateful for the Lions’ support, and Andy NEVER forgot what the Lions did for him. I remember when he got his first hearing aids, Andy said “Mom, I can hear the birds chirping and singing and I like that a lot, but I don’t like to hear it when my sister cries.” Andy joined the Leos Club in High School and promised to become a Lion when he turned 18 so he could help someone just like him, and he kept that promise. He was the first DR Leo to become a Lion. Andy has held the office position of Lion Tamer, Tail Twister and currently serves on the Board of Directors in Dighton. He was awarded the Helen Keller Award in 2018. He volunteers for everything (and I mean everything!!!). The reason I tell you all this is I think sometimes we lose sight of why we became Lions; we get caught up in the minutia of who is willing to work with who, who supports who, etc. We need to think back as to why we became a Lion, why do we give our spare time, our spare money, and our spare energy. I, for one, didn’t become a Lion for prosperity, for a title and certainly not for the pay. I joined to help people like Andrew, and I can guarantee Andrew will never forget why he became a Lion. So, when another Lion asks for help, needs volunteers, asks for your support or just needs you to lend an ear, put your differences aside, and do whatever you can to help. Thank you, Andy, for being who you are, reminding me of what’s really important and for continuing to make a difference. And thank you Denise, Ed & Gretchen for sticking by me, guiding me, and helping me whenever possible. Thank you, Bob, for taking me on this incredible journey.

# MD33 Massachusetts Lions State Convention 2023 Reports

This has been my first year of involvement at the District level, and it has been an honor and a true learning experience.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra Howland,  
Cabinet Treasurer, District 33S

## Global Leadership Team

Report of Chair PDG Doreen Martel District 33K

Team Members: Gregg Prentice 33Y, Lisa Nelson 33A, Joy Bartlett 33N, Kathy Salem 33S

This year thanks to the efforts of the New England Lions Council, several Lions from MD33 were honored to participate in the Faculty Development Institute. Some of these Lions have already completed their participation for the next level of training thanks to participating in the successful ELLI training which was held in March of 2023.

The MD33 Leadership team, along with help from the DGs held the ELLI session during the first week of March with 17 Lions participating. This was a good showing for our first “mostly in person” session since COVID19. We did receive a grant from LCI for this training and as a result, we were able to keep the costs low and upgraded two of the four laptops which have been used.

***In June we will be hosting the annual Region/Zone  
Chair training as well as the DGE /VDGE / CSTD  
training at the Holliston Senior Center.***

In April, we elected to postpone the RLLI training until the Fall. This helps with two issues we have been grappling with for several years. First, a lack of participation, second a heavy spring schedule for the leadership team. We also have the added

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benefit of being able to request funding from LCI for the RLLI since they only allow one grant per Institute per calendar year.

The Leadership Committee has also created a file folder in the MD33 GDrive for the purpose of storing all Leadership training sessions and the participants in each session. This will be a good tool moving forward for all Leadership Development teams

In June we will be hosting the annual Region/Zone Chair training as well as the DGE /VDGE / CSTD training at the Holliston Senior Center. We will be including two additional laptops for reimbursement bringing our total laptop purchases for the current year to four.

The purchase of upgraded laptops allows us to continue offering high quality hybrid training which has proven to be very successful across MD33 as it has allowed us to keep the costs of training down while still offering the highest quality training available. We will be working with the IT committee to reformat the “old” tablet-style computers for use by the Council Officers beginning in the 2023 – 2024 Lions Year.

The Leadership team continues to be committed to not only offering training on the MD level but in working with each District to assist in any way possible with District level and club level trainings.

Our entire committee thanks the DGs for the 2022 – 2023 Lions year for their capable assistance and leadership.

## Global Membership Team

Report of Chair PDG Andy Porter, District 33K

We began the year with 6335 members. As of the writing of this report, membership stands at 6270, down 65 members.

We have 3 clubs that have been cancelled and 1 that stands in status quo. We have 53 clubs that have 12 or fewer reported members. There are a total of 211 clubs in the MD, and 34 Leos Clubs.

At the beginning of the year, I proposed that each Governor utilize \$500 each for membership activities in their district. For a total allotment of \$3000. To date, approximately \$375 in total has been sought and reimbursed to only one district. We of course were presented with immense challenges with the Coronavirus for two years and the virtual halt to all activities. Given the concern that I raised to the Governors about its impact on membership and urged a “hands on approach to Membership” and not to leave it to designated coordinators. Two very membership active Districts, A and N, plus 35 and 19 respectively, prove what a district wide approach with due priority can create. You are going to need members to serve.

Since 2017, MD 33 is down 1295, or 16%. Since 2020, the MD is down 732.

It has been a pleasure serving this Council this year and for the last 7 years, as I take a step away and turn the reigns over to a new leadership. MD33 is fortunate to have dedicated servants like yourselves who understand our mission and our continued need in this ever-changing world. But changes need to be made if our association will survive, let alone thrive. Be patient, be supportive, have an open mind and be welcoming to new people with new ideas. Change is not always for the act of changing alone, it can be healthy, sustaining and necessary .

## Global Service Team

Report of Chair PDG Dawn Rice-Norton 33K

Our Members: all terms expire 2023

Y	DG Dennis Fountain	A	PDG/CS Colleen Oncay
N	Lion Laura Ward	K	PDG Dawn Rice-Norton
S	PDG Sandy Fife		

The 2022-2023 goals put forth by the MD 33 GST committee were as follows:

**Barton project:** refine the fundraising efforts for the project, including at least one MD-wide event to raise awareness as well as funds; support its completion and develop ways for our Clubs to utilize the resources we have created, collaborating closely with Barton in these efforts. Closely monitor and status of the LCIF grant and the distribution of the LCIF funds. Hold a Lions celebration upon completion of the physical portion of the project.

❖ The fundraising for the matching funds surpassed our expectations in the speed at which it happened as well as in the support districts and clubs demonstrated. Funds continue to be pledged to the project for the “next step” phase-resources and implementation.

❖ Our grant process is ahead of time. The majority of the budget items have been purchased. We are awaiting a few more invoices and we will be ready to submit for the remaining grant funds.

❖ We do not yet have a date for the celebration.

❖ We need to decide upon verbiage and design for the Lions plaque.

### **Encourage ALL MD33 Clubs to each complete at least one Diabetes related service project**

❖ Ongoing in each District. Each District does have projects reported in this focus area. Each GST is continuing to encourage their district. It remains the second lowest reported category for our MD overall. We do hope that as we increase programming and expand upon the Barton services that this

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will improve. Some notable examples: Harvard Lions in District 33A is planning an extensive improvement to the Lions Den at Barton and will be supporting the kitchen project implementation as well. The 1 VDG in 33K hosted a diabetes friendly breakfast at midwinter, similar to one done a few years ago. 33S included EMTs at a screening project and tested blood sugar.

**Support Boston 2023:** LCI has expressed their desire to have service remain a part of each International Convention. The current DG group has been designated as the Service Committee for Boston 2023. The MD 33 GST Committee will support their efforts to identify and carry out meaningful service projects during the Boston Convention.

❖ We have met virtually as a varying sized group with LCI staff on multiple occasions and two GST chairs met in Boston with Sarah Hermann of LCI to visit some of the proposed projects. Five off-site projects, a collection of feminine products and two in person projects were planned and filled quickly. Discussion is ongoing re: adding 1-2 more projects which have been identified.

**Support ongoing development of the Kid Sight Screening Program as an additional MD-wide service in MD33:**

❖ We continue to await a meeting with a key MD of the new eye screening protocols in MA and will support Lions involvement as indicated. There has been discussion of developing a pilot project in one District to expand to the other five if successful.

**Encourage, support, and provide resources to have at least one service project occur at each midwinter and at the state convention:**

❖ Anyone attending the 33N midwinter was left with no doubt that we are Lions from MD 33 where it is we SERVE. An impressive number of Blessing bags were assembled and will be distributed to the homeless and others in need. Equally, in 33S several projects took place, including blanket making and a Braille book assembly. 33A held a pantry collection, 33K had several “on the go/as you wish” projects, including blankets, coloring and dog pull

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toys for a shelter.

- ❖ With the MD 33 Convention being reduced in time, the decision was made to host a collection of pajamas and books to benefit The Pajama Project.

**Support our Clubs in their reporting efforts with a goal of at least 5% more of clubs successfully reporting in each of our five sub-Districts; taking a pro-active, positive approach doing so and monitoring the progress toward this goal on at least a quarterly basis. Attain at least 70% reporting MD-wide:**

- ❖ Reporting across the world is at 59%. CA1 is at 61%. MD 33 is at 61%-with ranges 35-91% and 3 of our 5 sub districts above 70%. Although-as of end of March reporting-we did not yet hit our 70%, reporting did increase as the Lionistic year progressed and each District is above their previous year totals. This time last year we hovered around the 50% average as an MD.

- ❖ Each GST continues to support their district Clubs in their efforts, with districts 33 A, K and N providing follow-up training on reporting .

- ❖ 3 of our 5 sub districts have eliminated the MD33 reporting forms, due to its superfluous nature and noted increased reporting percentages.

- ❖ LCI percentages include LEO Club reporting, and while we initially planned to try to address this/encourage increased LEO Club reporting, we feel the challenges presented, for instance many schools prohibit it, are beyond us

- ❖ We continue to monitor the roll out of the new reporting system and will share information with our Clubs as it comes out.

**Continue to utilize the communication methods we have developed to communicate and effectively celebrate the service successes of our Lions, Clubs and Districts**

- ❖ Meaningful celebration of the many successes of our AMAZING Lions and Clubs remains exciting and ongoing! Our FB page is updated as we see/receive info about projects. We have also shared resources and ideas from Clubs throughout Lions

- ❖ We are collaborating on a MD Service presentation for the MD Convention to further communicate/celebrate all that our amazing Lions do in MD 33

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**Collaborate with the other GAT members, LCIF Chair and GMA teams to further our shared objectives**

❖ We have had 2 NE GAT shared sessions thus far with many of us in attendance and our MD LCIF chair provided valuable input on the CCG process for 33N

**Provide sufficient resources to our Clubs to help each carry out meaningful service projects that keep our Lions engaged, satisfied and participating as active Lions; encouraging the participation of LEOs and non-members in these efforts**

❖ All Chairs are aware of updated LCI resources to support project planning and implementation for their Lions.

**Explore LCIF grants, especially CCGs, available to our Districts and episodic LCI grants-for example through Elevance (formerly Anthem) to our Clubs to help them support/expand service**

❖ The committee continues to self-educate re: the ins and outs of the LCIF grants process through our work with the Barton Diabetes grant. This process has been a very POSITIVE experience

❖ Each Chair was made aware of the presence of CCGs-at least 3 of the sub Districts have utilized some funds for projects in their areas and another is in the process. In 33N Dunstable-Tyngsboro-received (one of only a few given out anywhere) Elevance grant funds and used these to leverage a huge hunger project. Also in 33N CCG funds were received to support the Barton kitchen. 33S has received a \$100,000 hunger grant to create a community food pantry.

**Continue to advocate where/whenever possible to further the causes of our Clubs and our international organization**

❖ Two of our GST Chairs were invited to part of a 4 member roundtable of NE GSTs and presented at the NELC Winter service themed in CT. This seminar was well received

❖ At least two MA projects will be presented as LCIcon 2023 mini stage presentations



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- ❖ Our Barton project idea and grant process has been shared to several other states wishing to do a similar project.
- ❖ We are carefully documenting this project in hopes LCIF might want to share it as a grant success story

## **Support the IP theme “Together We Can”**

We continue to leverage the many talents of our team and work together as a cohesive unit. Our service presentation will be “Together We Did”.

# Constitution and Bylaws

Report of the Constitution and Bylaws Chair, PDG Jeannette McIntosh 33A

The committee was approached by the Council of Governors that they wished to incorporate a job description for the Bookkeepers position.

We received no other requests for changes/additions within the timeline.

The job description for the Bookkeepers position was distributed to all clubs in MD33 by Council Secretary Colleen Oncay, as well as the Rules of Order for the Business meetings of the State Convention.

I will present each of these during the appropriate time during the business meeting.

## International Convention

Report of the Co-Chair, PZC Mary Swift, 33Y

Boston Massachusetts July 7-11, 2023

International pins have been distributed to each pair of district committee members for their districts. Pin supplies have experienced brisk sales thus far, and we are discussing the possibility of ordering more in time for the actual International Convention in July. The location for the caucus and reception will be the Imperial Garden in Chinatown on Sunday, July 9-at 6:00 PM. Invitations are in process. Bev Dillon and Ben Ellis are in charge of invitations. The estimated number of attendees is difficult to reach, but we now estimate between 200 and 250. The committees' budget has been revised due to estimated increased caucus attendance from \$5,000 to \$9,000.

***The location for the caucus and reception will be the Imperial Garden  
in Chinatown on Sunday, July 9-at 6:00 PM.***

Members of the committee have donated toward the fundraising raffle to conserve budgeted funds. Joe and Laura Ward are coordinating the parade and are looking for someplace for volunteers to change into parade uniforms. Business has been conducted by in-person and zoom meetings depending on the weather and availability of committee members.

# MA Lions Low Vision Network

Report of the MA Lions Low Vision Network Chair, CS John Riemer

Dear Fellow Lions, Leos, and distinguished guests Let me see by a show of hands, how many of us in this room became Lions to serve residents in our communities. Let me see by a show of hands how many of us have actually had a direct impact this year on one person's quality of life.

Not that many.

***“LIONS (Lions Clubs International) to the rescue, we really do have super-powers. My soon to be 88-year-old mother's life has improved dramatically thanks to MA Lions Low Vision Network.”***

All of us know people who have experienced significant vision loss resulting from an inherited eye disease, acquired conditions like Macular Degeneration, Diabetic Retinopathy or Glaucoma. They are suffering from permanently impaired vision or Low Vision. Let me now give you one of many examples of how one of our statewide projects, the MA Lions Low Vision Network provides every Lion in this room a program through which you can significantly improve someone's quality of life.

“I came home this morning to a message from my mother ecstatically saying I got Site scope my glasses - I got my glasses. The timing was perfect as we brought my brother home from Florida yesterday for a small surprise party for her 88th birthday on Sunday. She is like a kid in a candy shop. She can see the faces on TV, and this afternoon we are having a 4-year-old birthday party for her great granddaughter. All her grandchildren will be present. She will see some of their faces for the first time. My family can't thank you enough for all you did to make this happen. We had been told by her local eye doctor there was nothing they could do for her. Her sight would just progressively get

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worse. LIONS, The International Association of Lions Clubs (Lions Clubs International) to the rescue, we really do have super-powers. My soon to be 88-year-old mother's life has improved dramatically thanks to MA Lions Low Vision Network. Her joy today is immeasurable and her quality of life markedly improved. I am forever grateful." This was one case. We have 20 others just like it, that we have processed in the last year.

If you are thinking about and looking for ways to gain the satisfaction that comes from helping people in our communities, go to [www.lowvisionnetwork.com](http://www.lowvisionnetwork.com) – the MA Lions Low Vision website – and see how this program can help improve the quality of life in your community...one person at a time.

Kind regards,  
John Riemer

## **MA Lions Eye Research Fund, Inc.**

Report of President Jean M Wilder, PCC

Your MLERF BOD has accomplished a great deal this year. Our Installation of Officers and Awards Banquet were different but were well received. We are transferring our accounting to QuickBooks. The Environmental Photo calendar sale is finished, the Walk Across Mass is in process, President's pins are \$20, coasters are \$3 each or 2/\$5, calendars are \$5 and a letter has been sent to all clubs advising of their Presidential Challenge Goals. If every club meets their goal (see our website at [www.mlerfi.com](http://www.mlerfi.com) to find your club's goal) we will definitely meet our goal of \$1,000,000. I know it is possible, and you will all do your best to help us meet this goal. Our Directors will continue to support the MD33 Lions fundraisers, when possible. Please get your donations in early, as our books close on 7/1/23.

Many patients have been referred to the Boston Institutions via our 2nd opinions referral program. This is available because we've granted over \$40,000,000 since 1951. In the 3rd week of April, a patient had a detached retina, dislocated lens, and bent optic nerve, and couldn't see out of that eye—the earliest appointment was July 29th. Due to our 2nd opinion process, he was

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seen at Mass Eye & Ear in 7 days. He had 3 pre-surgery visits, surgery and a follow-up before the original appointment. He said, "I can see your eye lashes, the color of your eyes, and my eyesight keeps getting better", and he was in tears. He is so grateful, asked me to personally Thank each Lion in MD 33 for saving his sight!!! The Lions of MD33 are the reason he can see, and it should make all of you feel special and AWESOME! We have been able to do this so many times, because of your dedication, support, and commitment to the Lion's goal of eradicating and/or preventing blindness.

The MLERF BOD have finalized updates to our Constitution and By-Laws, Policy Manual, created the Procedural Manual and have approved the new awards available thru MLERF, available next year (current year awards remain the same). We have updated brochures & a video presentation in the sales area.

Thank you so much for the time you donate to "our" Lions, our communities and MLERF. No matter your position in life, moms/dads, executives, doctors, lawyers, clerks, or students, each of your contributions makes a difference in this world, and you inspire me. I am honored to work with each of you, and so glad to count you as my friends.

HUGS (Helping Us Grant Sight)  
Pres. Jean M. Wilder, PCC  
MLERF President 2022 - 2023

## **State Convention**

Report of the Chair, PDG Ray Hebert, PDG 33S

Welcome to the 95th annual Massachusetts Lions State Convention. Our very special guest for the weekend is Lions International 1st Vice President Dr. Patti Hill and her husband Greg Holmes from Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Our convention is shortened this year to help you save money that can be used at the Lions International Convention in Boston this July.

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Although shortened, there is still much to do. The Saturday business meeting where important issues for our multiple district will be discussed. Sales tables for clubs to display. The finals of the Youth Speech Competition. The District Governor's banquet with a flag ceremony, the induction of new members, and the keynote speech by 1st Vice President Dr. Hill.

The Sunday morning memorial service where the names of our fallen Lions members will be read. The breakout meetings where the leadership teams for our next Lionistic year will be voted on. And finally the luncheon to honor those new leaders.

The committee has strived to make this an informative and enjoyable convention for you.

Thank you all for coming.

PDG Ray Hebert

## **Youth Camps and Exchange**

Report of Chair William P. Donnellan IPCC

We are happy to be hosting a camp this year. As of today, we have sixteen students participating in our camp, July 20, 2023-August 5, 2023.

We have ten male students and six female students visiting Boston. The students are arriving from: France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, and Spain.

We are fortunate to have on our committee to make this a successful camp the following from the Multiple District: District A- Andrew Keane and DG Marianna

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Riemer; District N- CST Katie Sirois; District K- RC Anthony Baliola; and District S- Jesse Armell. We also have many other Lions who will assist us during our camp week.

We are still looking for anyone who would like to be a host family from  
July 20- July 28, 2023.

On July 29, 2023, the host family will drive their student(s) to the hotel which the students will be staying until August 5, 2023 and join us for lunch.

If you wish to volunteer, you will need a CORI check. You may contact anyone on the committee to assist you with the CORI form.

We have many activities planned and we hope like in the past that we will get support from the various clubs in our Multiple District.

Thank you and Yours in Lionism,

*Bill*

## Youth Speech Competition

Report of Chair Pamela Tosi Hodgkins, PDG

On behalf of the MD33 Youth Speech Committee, I can report that we have held our meetings via ZOOM. Prior to the Covid pandemic this committee met in Boxborough, with most members having to drive over an hour and a half each way from all points in Massachusetts! Communication is greatly improved, and we will continue to meet via ZOOM.

At the December meeting, the committee chose the topic for the 2023-2024 competition.

It is "With Which Historical Figure Would You Most Like to Speak?"

## MD33 Massachusetts Lions State Convention 2023 Reports

Our Committee works diligently to achieve objective judging as the contestants move forward. Reviewing our policies and procedures is ongoing with regards to the competitions, students, judging, awards, and issues in general.

The Committee wishes to thank each district for its \$700 Assessment. This sum is assessed so that the award checks totaling \$3,500 can be given here today at the State convention. We have encouraged clubs to donate to their district youth speech fundraising efforts so that this worthwhile program for high school students will continue for many years.

As we interact with one another, each Committee member has diligently prepared for their District competition, culminating in today's final State Convention Competition. Committee assignments in our five-year commitment and rotation have been completed according to our timeframe. Additionally, we have maintained and updated our website: [www.lionsyouthspeech.org](http://www.lionsyouthspeech.org).

Our Lions Youth Speech Program provides a great lesson in the art of public speaking for all high school students, building confidence and self-esteem. A special thank you to the dedicated teachers and families, committee members, and to all of you, for your continued support!

The topic for this year's speech competition today is: "Environmental Crisis: Fact or Fiction?" We encourage all of you to attend today's competition to hear these excellent speakers who have worked very hard to reach the level of competition today. It has been my honor to have served on the District Y & MD33 Youth Speech Committee for the past 30 years of the 35 in which I have been a Lions Club member. Our Committee is a very cohesive group of dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers, working together to achieve our goals and maintain fiscal responsibility.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pamela Tosi Hodgkins, PDG