***Business Session - Saturday, April 29, 2023***

Call to Order: Council Chair, PDG Deb Grassi 9:01A; Quorum is 25 - quorum is met

5 Point Opening

Introductions

***Council of Governors Reports:***

Constitution and By-Laws Committee (Rules of Order) - PDG Jeannette McIntosh - 33A - Order of business is outlined in the program. No resolution will be considered unless all provisions & by-laws are satisfied. All resolutions needed to be provided by 8A this morning. Only certified delegates at the meeting shall vote which are Lions in good standing. Voting is complete by raising your delegate card. Each CST maintains the list of eligible delegates received by each club. Quorum will need to be at least 25 at any meeting during this convention. Balloting for the DG, 1VDG & 2VDG will be held April 30, 2023 following International protocol & by-laws. Delegates must receive a simple majority vote. No discussion from the floor until a proper motion has been made & 2nd. After a motion has been made & 2nd, any Lion can be recognized by the CC. The Lion must give their full name & club. CC will allow each side equal time for discussion for items that come to order. New business & challenges can be brought forward. No duly made motion & 2nd motion should be reconsidered unless the reconsideration is brought up in that day’s session in which the original action was taken.

***District Governors Report***

DG Dennis Fountain - Ludlow - 33Y - written report available on MD 33 website

District still completes meetings through Zoom & has thrived. The goal this year is service - challenge to the district for 1 new service project per month. The current members feel useful & appreciated, as well as makes your presence known in the community. Projects of drive thru dinners, boxed lunch deliveries, online basket raffles & more during COVID have stayed post-pandemic. The clubs have also been challenged to stop providing checks but service instead - ex: house fire - didn’t donate but showed up to replace the kitchen floor. 3 clubs have been closed in the past 3 years & the team in place are going to be more observant in the clubs & members needs

DG Marianna Riemer - Grafton - 33A - written report available on MD 33 website

DG took the Global Membership Approach. 5 members have been sent to ELLI, officers training is scheduled for June & membership is growing. + 39 members this year for the district including 2 new Leo Clubs and a branch club (Worcester) sponsored by Grafton with the hopes of forming a new Worcester Lions Club soon. LCI matching grant fund has been closed for a new Sightmobile & replace the ‘02 Sightmobile for eye & ear screening as well as servicing the local communities. A 2nd LCI grant was closed to purchase a mobile food kitchen customized to serve meals to Veterans. Service reporting has moved from 35% to 69%.

DG Tony Pecci - Haverhill - 33N - written report available on MD 33 website

Service reporting is up & membership is up +16 to date, 36 out of 39 clubs have been visited. A number of service projects were completed including blessing bags for the homeless, visit to Braille Press in Boston and food pantry donations. Club Officer virtual training was complete & 5 members attended ELLI. 3 advisory meetings have been completed with the last scheduled for next month - 100+ attendants each time. Journey for Sight Walk is being worked on now & scheduled for June 3. 33N has a full slate of officers for this coming year.

DG Steve Langley - Wrentham - 33K - written report available on MD 33 website

Attendance for district events has been great including an ice cream social and the other advisories. The mid-winter had 180 on Friday & 165 for the awards banquet. Club visitations have been ongoing & have covered the vast majority of the district. The Clubs are doing great work with service & fundraising. Training events have been held by the GLT & reporting activities at a 91% rate. Regional service projects have been held all year. We’ve raised 52K of our 70K goal for MLER. Membership has been a struggle & we’re down 55 members.

DG Bob Coluci - Hanover - 33S - written report available on MD 33 website

Have visited 40+ clubs throughout the year. Challenge to the clubs to do 1 more service project then they usually do & shoot for plus 1 membership. 3 District Strides walks for diabetes will be in the Spring as well as a Lions Day of Service in the Spring. A grant of $2,125 from LCIF will pay for 10K meals of food packaging. Wareham & Rochester have also received a $100K grant to build Damien’s Food Pantry. Overall membership is down 24. Most clubs are doing well & the groups are aging needing to bring in young adults. There is an opportunity to build small clubs but they may need to look to use 2 clubs this coming year as well as an opportunity to build the future leaders.

***Cabinet Secretary – Treasurers’ Report***

CST Victor Robidoux - 33Y - written report available on MD 33 website written by DG Dennis Foundation

CS John Riemer - Grafton - 33A - written report for CS John Riemer & CT Tony Ash available on MD 33 website

39 of 45 clubs have been visited to date. Clubs are focused on the initiatives to improve their communities. Comments to the clubs have been about DG goals, GMA, service reporting, donating to LCIF, LCICon 2023 & 2 major state service projects. Have completed 3 Advisories to date & 4 cabinet meetings. ZC’s were engaged & very involved in the clubs.

CST Katie Sirois - Peabody North Shore - 33N - written report available on MD 33 website

33N has a team that refuses to quit. Communications were opened, communities served, advisory’s held & a cold Mid-Winter was had. A new club was opened, the dues are paid & together they believed in the vision.

CS Richie Flynn - Waltham - 33K - written report by CS Richie Flynn & CT Lisa Munn available on MD 33 website

Mid-Winter was our breakout event. In September we were selected to meet with a group from Qatar sponsored through the State Department to talk about volunteering bringing the youth & women into the mainstream in Qatar. GMT updated our tri-folds & brochures. GLT ran the ELLI workshop in addition to officers training. Over 563K people were serviced this year in the district working with the homeless, diabetes, sick children, veterans, elders, & HS students. Each district event works with service including restocking the Lions pantry in Boston, Project Just Because, blessing bags, & Friend’s of Boston Homeless. $146,897 collected in donations at Mid-Winter, total of $244,431 when local donations are included.

CT Deb Howland - Dighton - 33S - written report available on MD 33 website

Have visited 23 district events and 13 club fundraising and/or service events. Only 4 clubs without outstanding dues for the 2nd half of the year - those are being worked on. 3 Advisory meetings have been held with a 4th scheduled. Mid-Winter brought in 139,085 including about 85K for MLERF. Let’s remind ourselves of the “why” - why we joined, why we’re here. Sometimes we lose sight of the why.

***Council Reports***

PDG Deb Grassi - Council Chair - Rochester - 33S - written report available on MD 33 website

PDG Colleen Oncay - Mendon - Council Secretary - 33A - written report available on MD 33 website

PDG Jack Walsh, Council Treasurer - 33Y - written report available on MD 33 website

***Committee Reports:***

Constitution and By-Laws Committee - PDG Jeannette McIntosh - Athol - 33A - written report available on MD 33 website - The Council of Governors wished to incorporate a job description for the bookkeeper’s position. No other requests or changes / additions within the timeline.

DG Mariana Riemer, Grafton 33A motions to waive the reading of the information sent to all club members accepting the report as given.

DG Steve Langley, Wrentham 33K 2nd; all approved.

\* Motion was incorrect

Corrected motion: DG Mariana Riemer, Grafton 33A motioned to accept the Constitution & By-Laws Committee Report as written

Barry Almond, Barre Lions 33A 2nd; all approved

PCC PDG Sue Dunphy - Mendon - 33A asked for people who did NOT receive a copy of the bookkeeper description. About 5 people did not

DG Marianna Riemer, Grafton, 33A motioned to retract the original motion & to read the description so the people who did not receive the information know what they are voting on.

DG Tony Pecci 2nd; all in favor

Bookkeepers Description was read by PDG Jeannette McIntosh & will be included in the reports on the MD33 website.

DG Marianna Riemer, Grafton, 33A motioned to accept the report given and the description of the Council Bookkeeper

DG Dennis Fountain, Ludlow, 33Y 2nd; all in favor

PDG Dawn Rice-Norton, Medway 33K - Motions to approve the bookkeeper position as read

DG Dennis Fountain, Ludlow, 33Y 2nd

Lionel Charbonneau, Rutland, 33A The description sounds like an Assistant Treasurer rather than bookkeeper based on the description read & would like the title changed. We are unable to change the name at this time because the proposal was only about the description & there was already a motion on the floor.

PCC Charlie Menard, Randolph, 33K - when the documents were sent out, it stated this person may be preparing the checks but will not be documenting the checks. The paperwork that was sent stated the bookkeeper shall have signature authority on all bank

PCC Susan Dunphy, Mendon, 33A - by giving a person signature authority with the bank, that is what the bank goes by, not what the council says. They can go within the bank & withdraw cash. What checks & balances are there to avoid money from disappearing?

PDG Jim Roth, Belmont, 33K - Past Treasurer of MLERF. He was involved in the description of getting this bookkeeper's position in the by-laws 14 years ago. It was left up to the Council of Governors to see how they were going to use this position. The only way to do this is to get it in the Constitution. In order for the bookkeeper to obtain the financial reports to help manage the accounts. The Council of Governors will not allow the bookkeeper to withdraw funds or sign checks. The Treasurer was worked & changed to the checks & balances so the bookkeeper position could be added - they will be working together for the finances & not having to involve the Secretary how it is now.

PCC Dave O’Brien Methuen 33N - Has been a bookkeeper & in all the years of the bookkeeper position that he is aware of, one has only been used once. He feels this position does not exist and is asking to vote the motion down.

2VDG Michael Middleton Bridgewater 33S - We’re updating the description so it can be of our use. The bookkeeper is currently in the description & by-laws. This is the description they’re asking to be put in place. We’re looking to make the adjustments to make it easier.

Barry Almond, Barre Lions 33A, Director of MLERF asked Dr. Roth if he agrees with this motion - Yes

ZC Betty Lopes, Lynn Wyoma, 33N - suggested for 2 signatures to be on the checks & for the bookkeeper to be bonded

PCC Ray Marone, Raynham, 33S - the bookkeeper position is already written in the policy & procedures in the MD. This can be accomplished by editing the policies & procedures instead of within the by-laws. The by-laws only say there needs to be a bookkeeper.

PDG Matthew Richardson Boston Host, 33K - found we needed consistent & professional support to manage the finances of the multiple district. The Lions voted to retain it as they understood the benefit. The description of the bookkeeper was never entered into the by-laws until now. The description written this year is flawed & would vote no as it is currently written. It needs to be revised. We need to be sure the finances are given the proper handling. The bookkeeper is a professional resource. The part of the description he has an issue with is being able to transfer funds in & out of the accounts - not just the signature on the check. At the adoption of this description, an unknown person not known by Lions you vote on in managing your funds.

CS Colleen Oncay Mendon 33A - Rules of order were

There is not a description of the bookkeeper position in our policies & procedures

PCC Charlie Menard Randolph 33K to move the question - needs ⅔ vote for constitution changes & simple majority for the by-laws

2nd Tom Merritt, Hollison 33K 2nds - 3 opposed, remaining in favor

Motion to accept the bookkeeper position as read - 46 approved / 40 - motion does not move as the ⅔ vote

Jim Roth asked for the Parliamentarian to review if this is the Constitution or the by-laws

Because the wording was sent as a Constitutional change in the Constitution & by-laws & NOT has an administrative change, the article does not pass.

Youth Speech, PDG Pam Hodgkins - Deerfield, 33Y - written report available on MD 33 website

Meetings met via Zoom. Communication has greatly improved & will continue to meet by Zoom. Next year’s topic will be “With which historical figure would you most like to speak?” Reviewing policies & procedures are always reviewed. $3,500 will be given in prizes today. Website has been maintained & updated. As of last week, there is a QR code. Clubs are encouraged to donate to the program to continue working with the high school youth for years to come.

2023 State Convention PDG Ray Hebert - Attleboro, 33S - written report available on MD 33 website

95th annual state convention. Smaller this year than usual due to anticipation of the LCI International Convention. 300 pre-registration - no report on the walk-ins so far today. Tonight's banquet will be 220 & 120 for the Sunday banquet. The 2:00 round table will now be in the Parliament room & tomorrow’s Council meeting in the Wedgewood Room

2024 & 2025 State Convention PDG Stephan Karch Pelham, 33Y, PCST Phil Robo Leicester, 33A & PDG Andy Porter Bellingham 33K

For our size & what we do, and best case scenario if we have a band & 300 to 400 people, there are very few hotels willing to accommodate our need for hotel rooms & banquet rooms. Will be at SeaCrest for 24 & 25 - they confirmed in writing the food will only be 5% higher & rooms 10% higher. SeaCrest will be comping us 1 room for every 15. We can ask them to subsidize & lower the overall costs. Dates will be April 19 - April 21, 2024.

For 2025 - will be 5% increase in food & $7 per room - undergoing $20M renovation & will be more AV friendly. Do we want to go 1 night in the future or stay at 2. To avoid all the different holidays, 2025 will be a week earlier - April 11 to 13. 2025 is a package deal with 2024 to keep those small increases. State must now be 60 days prior to the International Convention.

International Convention, PZC Mary Swift, 33Y - written report available on MD 33 website

LCICON 2023 Boston Int Conv, IPID Joyce Middleton - Bridgewater Community 33S -

We’re 70 days away from the convention. Parade will be on Saturday. Host committee has been meeting more frequently as we move forward towards the event. Monthly Q&A’s by Zoom are still being held. We have met with delegations from different countries as site inspections. LCI has been here in August & November - 22 hotels & walked the parade route several times. Right now, will be starting at the Common, ending at Exeter going down Boylston. Every club has received letters at least once for volunteers & donations. $113K to date has been received for donations. We’re only paying for water, police detail, etc which is about $120K to $125K. Our guest this weekend International 1VP Dr. Patti Hill will be the incoming LCI President.

Global Leadership, PDG Doreen Martel - 33K - written report available on MD 33 website

ELLI was held back in March. RLLI will be held in the fall. Computer systems will be upgraded - a Grant has been given from LCI for that help. Dates for training have been given - watch your emails.

Global Membership, PDG Andy Porter - 33K - written report available on MD 33 website

6,335 members - now have 6,270 - down 65. 3 clubs have been canceled, 1 will be going into a status quo. 53 clubs w/ 12 or fewer members. Total of 211 clubs with 34 Leo Clubs. Districts A & N are in the plus. We’re down 732 members since 2020. Be open & welcoming to new members with new ideas.

Global Service, PDG Dawn Rice-NortionCollen Oncay - 33K - written report available on MD 33 website

The DG’s set the tone for the year for focusing on service. Just under 765K persons have been served with 90K service hours. Reporting percentages range from 30 to 91%. Service has been made a part of most districts amongst the state, especially at Mid-Winter. 174K Grant for a kitchen. Currently being used. 2 of our project will be presented in Boston - the canteen & Barton project.

M.L.E.R.F, President PDG PCC Jean Wilder - 33Y - written report available on MD 33 website

CS John Reimer, 33A presenting for Jean - changes made to the committee on how they connect with each other. Updates have been finalized to the Constitution & By-Laws. New awards will be available next year. Brochures & video presentations have been updated.Over $40M have been donated to research facilities since 1951.

Youth Camps & Exchange, Bill Donnellan - 33K - written report available on MD 33 website

CST Katie Sirois, 33N presenting for Bill - we have 19 kids this year for our Camp from July 20 to August 5, 2023 - 10 male & 6 female students over 12 countries. We still need host families from July 20 to 28. On July 29, the kids will go to a hotel the kids will be staying at until August 5. If you wish to volunteer, you need a CORI.

MA Lions Low Vision Network, CS John Riemer, - 33A - written report available on MD 33 website

Many of us or those we serve have a direct impact on quality of life due to low vision. Please visit their website for more information on how the program can improve the quality of life in the community.

LCIF, PID Joyce Middleton - 33S - The chairs in each district exceeded their fundraising goals. MA has received 407K from LCIF in grants this year. The money we’re donating to LCIF are coming back & getting used here locally.

***Remarks:***

IPID John Pettis - Haverhill 33N - Thank you to those in attendance & for all the work done in the state.

DG Marianna Reimer motion to approve

Steve Langley 2nd; all in fvaor

Steve Langley

Tony Pecci

Adjourn @ 11:37

Announcements:

9:00 - 3:00 Sales Tables

Lunch at your leisure

12:30 - 2:00 Youth Speech

2:00 - 4:45 Registration & Delegate Registration

2:00 - 4:00 Roundtable w/ 1VP Patti Hill

5:30 - 6:15 DG Reception

6:30 DG Banquet

9:30 Hospitality Rooms Open