

## ***1st Business Session - Friday, April 4, 2025***

Call to Order: CC Coleen Oncay 33A - 3:00 PM

Parliamentarian: Charlie Menard, 33K, Alternate Council Parliamentarian Dr. Deb Wayne, 33K

5 Point Opening & Introductions - we have a quorum.

### ***Committee Reports:***

Constitution and By-Laws Committee (Rules of Order) - PCC Jean Wilder 33Y - Written report available online. Rules of order have been distributed & are set. Motion to move to waive the reading of the rules of order.

Motion to accept - Thom Swift 33Y

2nd - Diana Faust 33K

All in favor

MD33 State Convention Committee Chair - Andy Porter - 33K - 287 total registration, 135 people for dinner Friday, 200 for dinner Saturday, 114 for candidates luncheon Sunday. Any questions, please let them know. Ask to call convention into order.

Motion to approve - Michael Middleton 33S

2nd - Diana Faust 33K

All in favor

### ***Cabinet Secretary-Treasurers' Reports:***

CST Jean Sherman - 33Y - Written report available online. Has been an honor to serve as CST. Was able to publish a district directory for the 1st time in many years. 8,400 grant to Goodwill to distribute to the food pantries in the Berkshires. Mid-Winter was held. Donations 42,050. Under budget as of this date & funds are well funded.

Motion to accept - Jennifer Minellil, Quincy Lions, 33K

2nd - Steven Levy, Marlboro Lions, 33K

All in favor

CST Ann Marie Jameson - 33A - Written report available online. Along with DG Denise, have visited almost all of the clubs in the district & look forward to the remaining visits. 3 Advisory Meetings have been held to date. Meeting held in August for PID Joyce. At the same time, the dues invoices had to be sent out. The district is currently collecting the 2nd half dues with only 2 clubs remaining to pay. There was a delay in updating the club information & distribution of the district directories. Mid-Winter was held Feb 14-16 & very well attended. Honor to have served as CST for Denise & District 33A.

Motion to accept - PCC Ray Moreau, 33S

2nd - Mark Bucchino, 33A

All in favor

CST Meghan Demonico - 33N - Written report available online. This has been a tough year as there was a loss in both the 1st & 2nd VDG's. District has remained active & engaged by attending meetings & events. Was able to ensure training for ELLI & RLLI. Mid-Winter was a successful event which included a service project for Beth's Giving Heart. The district has been involved with the Movement family, attended many club events and is working hard to revitalize the eye glass program.

Motion to accept - Marcel Plouffe 33N

2nd - Jennifer Minelli 33K

All in favor

CST Mike McKenna - 33K - Written report available online. Have visited 33 clubs to date, numerous anniversary events, service projects and 4 sister Mid-Winters. Has been a journey of faith, hope & love spreading the great news of Lionism to all the clubs. Have held 3 cabinet & 3 advisory meetings. June 22 is the DG's testimonial. 95% of clubs have been paid, 3 clubs remain for the 2nd half dues. Bank account is well funded and 186K in donations were received at Mid-Winter. Hope to reach 100K for LCIF for 33K in donations for this year. Helen Keller had faith, hope in the Llons to make a difference & love for those in need. We as Lions are made for these opportunities and for meaningful services.

Motion to accept - Diana Faust 33K

2nd - Kathleen McKenna, Holliston Lions, 33K

All in favor

CS Martin Middleton - 33S - Written report available online. Has been a great year traveling with the DG & have visited about ½ the clubs with him. Several major changes were made including administering the clubs through the brand new portal & is asking the clubs to keep an open mind. Thank you to the club Presidents & Secretaries as some actions were needed within a small period of time. Still have about ⅓ of the year left to grow existing clubs & expand to new ones.

Motion to accept - Michael Middleton 33S

2nd - Terri Berard Somerset Llons 33S

All in favor

CT report given by Martin Middleton - 33S - As of March 30th, there are 3 clubs with outstanding dues. 148K donated to date to MLERF with additional donations continuing to be received. The activities account has been increased, administration account maintains a positive balance and many donations were received at Mid-Winter

Motion to accept - Terri Barnes, Somerset, 33S

2nd - PCC Ray Moreau

All in favor

### ***Council Reports:***

PDG Jeanne Farrow - Council Treasurer - 33N - Written report available online. Have attended as many council meetings as possible, the bank accounts are reconciled monthly, bills paid and reimbursements

sent out to date. Will make sure the bank accounts are distributed to the new treasurer at the end of the year

Motion to accept - Michel Middleton, 33S

2nd - Mark Alexander 33N

All in favor

PDG Margaret Menard - Council Secretary - 33K - Written report available online. Have distributed meeting agendas, attended all 5 mid-winters, distributed minutes of the meetings, maintained & updated committee listing, communicated w/ fellow officers & shared information on the shared Google drive. Thank you for the opportunity to serve on the council.

Motion to accept - Denise Andrews 33A

2nd - Diana Faust 33K

All in favor

### ***Preliminary Registration Report & Credentials Committee***

CS Martin Middleton - 33S - Written report available online. Y 64, A 89, N 76, K 132, S 130 total of 491 total eligible delegates. Y 16, A 32, N 42, K 68, S 61 - pre-registered delegates 209. Those who have picked up their cards is a total of 70.

Motion to accept - PCC Ray Moreau

2nd - Steven Levy 33K

All in favor

### ***Remarks***

PID Joyce Middleton - 33S - Business & duties of the administrative bodies have been outstanding this year. This year we have J. Frank Moore visiting from the State of Alabama. Thank you for the fabulous job & reports from CST's, CT, Council Secretary & Council Treasurer.

PIP J. Frank Moore III - This morning he was able to visit the City of New Bedford. Have met a lot of good friends over the years & look forward to meeting many more. PIP Frank is an educator by profession & enjoyed the whaling museum and its history today. Congratulations to the Council & nice to see everyone hard at work. Amazing the opportunities we have as Lions to listen, learn & share with others. Thank you for the invitation to be here this weekend.

Announcements:

6:45: Key & Life Member and Melvin Jones Banquet - Ballroom

9:00: Hospitality Rooms Open

Motion to suspend the meeting until tomorrow morning - 3:47 PM, Michael Middleton 33S

2nd - PCC Ray Moreau

## ***2nd Business Session - Saturday, April 5, 2025***

Call to Order: Council Chair, PDG Colleen Oncay, 33A - 8:32A

5 Point Opening & Introductions

Motion made & 2nd to resume the business meeting, Motion carried - we have a quorum.

### ***District Governors Reports:***

DG Thom Swift - 33Y - Written report available online. Have held district & advisory meetings & visited most of the clubs and scheduled visits for the rest except 3. Committees are active & functioning and need volunteers for Pin & All State Band. There are committees that can use volunteers. Ahead of the membership goal by LCI. Have not been able to start a new club but clubs need help & to stabilize. Had 86 members attend Mid-Winter. Reporting on the portal is below state levels but ahead of last year. Need to get the Lions onto the Portal. Small district of 29 clubs with 745 members, has a core of club officers & zone chairs but no interest in people moving up. Have a need for a 2nd VDG for next year. 4 of the clubs are barely functioning and have areas of need in the district. Need to create a culture of growth. Metrics are near where they were a year ago. Need to grow clubs & membership. Quitting is not an option.

Motion to accept - Barry Alman Barre 33A

2nd - Jeff Turner Pittsfield 33Y

All in favor

DG Denise Andrews - 33A - Written report available online. 2nd term as DG. 10K LCIF Humanitarian Award Grant awarded at the International Convention in Melbourne. The Barton Center was a worthy recipient as 28 iPads were purchased to monitor glucose levels for 125 campers 24/7. District is down 7 members. GMT & GET coordinators working to grow & retain members. 1 new Leo Club sponsored by the Worcester Lions. Have 9 Leo clubs with over 400 young leaders. Have visited 30 of the 45 clubs with the remaining visits scheduled. Clubs in the district used the Impact Grant to purchase a storage unit in the town for their town's food pantry. Have had 3 cabinet & 3 advisory meetings. Working on a district wide project with Joslin camp to transform space into a functional bathroom. Reporting rate is at 62%, GLT planning officer training in May for current & aspiring leaders.

Motion to accept - Barry Alman Barre 33A

2nd - Mark Bucchinoo 33A

All in favor

DG Mark Alexander - 33N - Written report available online. Worked with K in joint training - officer, ELLI & Portal training. Hoping to send Lions to ELLI & RLLI next year. Support for LCIF this year has grown. 12 clubs inquired about grants and 1 has taken advantage of the grant program. Have spoken to community groups & local public officials to speak about Lions and how they support the communities. Supported Peace Poster, Youth Speech, All State Band & Youth Exchange. Need to build leadership. Will soon have a great plan in place & there will be leadership in 33N next year. 1 club has lost all members

& they are trying to re-charter & find new members to take over the charter. Leos continue to grow in membership & the Cubs club has had a lot of fun. 2 Advisories held with 2 more scheduled. Will need to change how the Mid-Win

Motion to accept - Mark Erwich Wyoma Lions 33N

2nd - Brenda Richards

All in favor

DG Diana Faust - 33K - Clubs & members across the district have stepped up to serve the community & the world. Lions have cleaned, read & sorted thousands of glasses to be sent overseas. The clubs have had holiday baskets, sold christmas trees, conducted eye screenings & awarded scholarships. Have visited ¾ of the clubs to date & added 120 members and as of today we're only down 9 members. Actively pursuing a new club and are potentially adding new branches soon. Goal is to leave the district on a firm foundation to those who come after her.

Motion to accept - Dawn Rice Norton Medway 33K

2nd - Andrea Faust Medway 33K

All in favor

DG Michael Middleton - 33S - state wide election held in August to endorse IPID Joyce. Brand new District eyemobile was unveiled at the Seaside Walkfest (was previously known as the canal walk). Lions were in the middle of the park with live bands, food trucks & activities raising over 24K for MLERF. MD effort taken by IPDG Debby Horner raising 17K & over 100 tons of raw materials & supplies. Mid-Winter conference in Hyannis. 3 Cabinet Advisory meetings held and will have their 4th in April. May 10 is the District Day of Service. Raised 70K for LCIF & over 190K for MLERF. ⅓ of the year is left & donations far ahead of us. Underway to relaunch the Dartmouth club as well as one in the Taunton area.

Motion to accept - Jesse Armell 33S

2nd - Kathy Salem Abington 33S

All in favor

Motion to suspend for our guest speakers DG Diana Faust 33K, 2nd Michel Middleton Bridgewater Community 33S

### ***Guest Speaker***

Ashley Colburn, Blind Competitive Paraclimber

Competes at the national level & hoping to be at the international level soon. The 1st competition came in 2nd and the team wanted them to go to nationals with them. The team encouraged her to attend with a caller as a team. She attended the Paraclimbing Nationals in 2024 and received a 2nd silver. The sport is growing internationally as well. Ashley went to the Canadian Nationals and came in 3rd; then the US Nationals where she came in 4th place. She is currently registered for the 2025 World Cup Championships in Salt Lake City in about 6 weeks. Ashley is trying to help grow the sport encouraging people with all disabilities to give climbing a try. Convinced 8 different people, 7 who are

blind & 1 with a joint disability to climb for the 1st time. Sam is her caller - stays on the ground & tells the climber where to go through a bluetooth headset. They have to know the best climbing sequences & techniques to get to the complicated things to do in order to keep climbing. Sometimes they both have to come up with a new plan while climbing. The team is trying to get more respect for the callers & they are now considered athletes due to how imperative they are to the function of the climber. Is working with a personal trainer to gain more strength. \$3,500 donation given to Ashley to help with the trip to the World Cup for both her & Sam. Needs to build her resume of International Climbing in order to get to the Paralympics in LA in 2028

Guest Speaker - PDG Kathy Dorman, Candidate for ID - Vermont, D45 - Have made & met many new friends while traveling including Lions Day at the UN. Am currently the District Leo advisor. Works with clubs to establish Leos clubs & bring the Leo clubs together to collaborate. ID candidates are putting together service ideas to distribute to the districts.

Motion to resume the business meeting - Michel Middleton 33S, 2nd Mark Alexander 33N; All in favor

### ***Report of Council of Governors***

CC Colleen Oncay, 33A - Will be a Lion 28 years in November. Worked with PID Joyce on a special election as well as our MD33 project to help our friends in North Carolina. This year has been a year of team work & each has done her proud. Thank you to all the Lions.

Motion to accept - Michel Middleton 33S

2nd - diana faust 33K

All in favor

### ***Committee Reports:***

Youth Speech - Lion Paul McElheney - 33N - Written report available online. Met last summer to see what was successful & what was needed for improvement & made those adjustments to be sure this year ran smoothly. Have met monthly since August to see what is going on. This year's theme is "The best advice I ever received was..." We need to work to achieve working with the local high schools - drama club - debate club - public speaking classes. Committee will help any way they can. Use the youth speech website. All the forms & information is there.

Motion to accept - Kathy McKenna Holliston Lions 33K

2nd - Ashland Lion 33K

2025 State Convention Chair, PDG Andy Porter - Bellingham - 33K - Written report available online.

Introduced the committee. Printing was reduced by 450%. Negotiated contracts so this convention is only 7% higher than 2019 - 296 registrations, 69 registration only, 134 meals last night, 202 for dinner tonight & 114 for tomorrow's candidates luncheon.

Motion to accept - Diana Faust 33k

2nd - Michael Middleton 33s

All in favor

2026 State Convention Chair, PCS Joy Doherty - 33N - most beneficial to be held at the Seacrest again next year - they have met all our needs & are willing to be reasonable in pricing - about 6% increase in food cost for next year. No other place in the state that has been able to match the room space - March 27-29 to allow an affordable rate for the week.

Motion to accept - Anthony Baliola Boston Host 33k

2nd - Brian Doherty Woburn Host 33N

2027 State Convention, PDG Andy Porter - Bellingham - 33K - we have a void in A this year, when we look at dates we look at all of the respective holidays and International Convention dates. Andy is spearheading a group to research this convention. Price of registration has been locked in for 47 years and we are constitutionally obligated to stay at \$5. Have spoken to 7 hotels, including Sturbridge & Dedham. Meals quickly became \$56. We look for space, cost and location. Not ready to sign a contract yet.

Motion to accept - Dawn Rice Norton 33K Medway

2nd - Jennifer Minelli 33K

All in favor

2025 International Convention - Matthew Richardson 33K - Written report available online. Convention runs Sunday through Thursday rather than Friday through Tuesday. MA welcomes MA lions & the world into the convention. More information will be put out for an exciting event. Can register for the convention today if you haven't registered. Have established a What's App group so everyone can coordinate your happenings.

Motion to approve - Jeff Turner Pittsfield 33y

2nd - Thom Swift 33Y

Questions:

1st VDG's will be in training that Sunday.

Kathy McKenna - Will people be able to attend on Sunday if flying in for the weekend? Yes

IPID Joyce - How permanent is the plan for the time frame? The committee is in the process of finalizing the details.

Bev Dillon - everyone from MA is invited - they have not refused a MA Lion & you do not need to be registered for the convention.

All in favor

LCIF - IPID Joyce Middleton - 33S - Written report available online. Lions have been over the top in both personal & club giving. Each year the giving has been increased & you've seen the benefit in our own state & towns. 84% of the way for the stretch goal. 15 open LCI grants currently, 2 in the process of being closed. Have applied for an additional 5 grants. Application in & pending for a presidential grant for Tufts's University pending approval of the May meeting. Think about participating in the LIONS foundation Telethon on June 1. Your personal donation of \$100 can provide cataract surgery for 2 people, access to clean water to 14 people.

Motion to accept - Denis Fountain Ludlow Lions 33Y

2nd - Dawn Rice Norton 33k

All in favor

Campaign for International 3rd VP - Written report available online. Thank you for supporting and the endorsement. The signed & notarized endorsement was received & published by the 1st week of September and was announced at the USA Canada forum. Our endorsement is the only one from Constitutional Area 1. We anticipate stepping back in Orlando. This may be a process that occurs several times. We will have a campaign presence there. Have been learning about the history of Lions as well as the understanding of all the things that go on in our association. This will be a multiple year effort. There will be a large Zoom meeting in May / June kicking off the campaign with a sign up today at the sales tables.

Global Leadership Team - PDG Doreen Martel - 33K - written report available online. Recognized the committee. We have 4 more training sessions coming up - train the trainer, ELLI, Governor Elect & CST training.

Motion to accept - Kathy Salem Abington 33S

2nd - Diana Faust Medway Lions 33K

Global Membership / Extension Team - PCC Deb Grassi - 33S - written report available online. How do we increase service? More members - everyone needs to bring in a member. MD 33 is going to be amazing - we're doing it altogether as a team.

Motion to accept - Holly Dono Sharon 33K

2nd - Jennifer Minelli Quincy 33K

Kathy McKenna - comment - remember to just ask

All in favor

Global Service Team - PDG Dawn Rice-Norton - 33K - written report available online - just 880,000 people have been served. So many local needs have been met. None of this is possible without each one of the LIONS members. Every project & act of kindness contributes to a compassionate world.

Motion to accept - Anthony Baliola 33K

2nd - Dr Deb Wayne Malden Lions 33K



All in favor

MLERF President PDG Beverly Dillon - 33S - written report available online - thank you to everyone in the room & Lions in the state to support MLERF - we're hoping to reach \$1M by the end of the year. At the last meeting, voted on the grants & seed money. Last visit last week was to Children's & it felt like we came full circle. 1st grant was given to a Harvard professor for the value of helping cure blindness for babies born prematurely. Researcher working on drops to help with the babies born prematurely rather than injections. August 2 - banquet at the end of the year

Motion to accept - Bill Cahill Randolph Lions 33K

2nd - PCC Jean Wilder

All in favor

Leo Advisor - Lion Donna Frett - 33S - report is forthcoming. No report given at this time.

All State Band - 2nd VDG Kristine Shanahan - 33K - sales table is the last time to contribute to our money wars. Put the money in the jar you would like to see win. All state band concert April 26 - tickets are \$10. Still looking for sponsorship for 5 students. All State Band is in need of committee chairs as well as helpers.

Motion to accept - Cynthia Savoia 33K

2nd - Kathy McKenna Holliston Lions 33K

All in favor

Youth Exchange / Youth Camp - Lion Jesse Arnell - 33S - there will not be a youth camp held this summer. The program takes many meetings through the year & many of the people on the committee will be away at the convention this summer. Going forward for the following year we will need committee members & host families. We see interested Lions from each of the districts next year - please find interested parties.

Motion to accept - Kathy Salem Abington 33S

2nd - Christine Cedrone 33K

International Pin Design - PDG Paul Viano - 33K - council is meeting on Sunday to hear the progress. No report given at this time.

Information Technology (IT) - PDG Doreen Martel - 33K - Written report available online. Thank you to Michael for keeping the MD website up to date this year. The rest of the IT committee hasn't had to do a lot as there has been a lot of work the past 5 years.

Motion to accept - Anthon Baliola 33K

2nd - Jeff Turner Pittsfield 33A

Constitution & Bylaws - Jean Wilder - 33K

Proposal 1 - To eliminate the MD33 Lions Eye Health Program Committee as it is no longer supported by LCI and its efforts can be incorporated into the Marketing committee.

Motion Bill Kane Millbury 33A

2nd Christine Cedrone 33K

Paul Calaschefskey Ashland 33K -Marketing committee is to market to Lions on eye health

Matthew Richardson Boston Host 33K - recommends opposing the proposal voting it down because lions have been engaged with screenings for school children. That would come under the old program of the eye health. We should be looking at how we should become relevant.

The role of helping the committees and districts will fall under the eyemobile & marketing committee. We still support the initiative. But we don't have the support for a committee

Barry Alman Barre Lions 33A - our districts are doing our jobs & support through eyemobiles

Kathy McKenna - Holliston Lions 33K - hopes we don't cancel the program

DG Michael Middleton - when it was discussed on the council, never was the discussion to remove the scope of what the program does. It is about how we can best promote the program in our state. We proclaim ourselves as Knights of the Blind. We're not choosing to remove the program. The eye health program was promoting & giving information about eye health. It's giving better information & marketing materials.

Matthew Richardson - under current regulations, blink spot are not acceptable methods

Bill Kane motion to move the motion, 2nd

2 opposed

Proposal 2 - To allow appointment of MD (State) GAT Chairpersons for 3 years. The 2nd & 3rd year appointments may or may not be reaffirmed by the following Councils.

Motion to approved Debbie Kerrigan - 33K

2nd Ivette Mesmar 33K

All in favor

Proposal 3 - To eliminate the Countersignature requirement on MD33 Council checks, as banks no longer recognize more than 1 signature.

Motion Bill Kane Millbury 33A

2nd Mark Erwich 33N

Matthew Richardson - regardless of what the banking policy is, this is a change of the internal financial controls of the council. If you want to eliminate this, you are eliminating one of the financial controls.

Jeanne Farrow - have not written any checks unless they are approved by the council of governors - with receipts & documentations. With 2 signatures it would take a longer time to reimburse someone. Does not see the need for 2 signature

Lionel Carbenout - motion to move the question

2nd Christine Cedrone 33K

All in favor, no opposed to accept the proposal

Proposal 4 - transfer the balance of funds of the MD33 Lions Eye Health Program as of 6/30/25 (\$3,200+) to the Marketing Committee.

Bill Kane Millbury 33A

Maureen Wojnar Grafton 33A

1 opposed, remaining in favor

Proposal 5 - To transfer \$3,000 from State Lions Programs & Projects Fund to State Flag Committee which requires approx. 1K annually for storage, new flags, repairs, etc.

Dennis Fountain 33Y motion to approve

Willy nelson 2nd

Kathy Salem - what is in the programs & projects?

Approximately 9,000

Matthew Richardson 33k - the special projects account was developed about 10 years ago. The convention at that time gave some flexibility to the council of governors to use the funds for smaller activities. The council of governors has the right to move the funds & a no vote today on this will still permit the

Expenses of the flag committee have been more than in the past. In the past they have been stored for free & now they are in a climate controlled facility & we need to pay rent for the facility. We have to repair & purchase new flags also.

Matthew Richardson - the council has the authority to fund & pay for the flag committee through this account.

Dennis Fountain 33A Call to move the question

3 opposed - motion carries

Proposal 6 - Reallocate \$0.015 of MD33 Dues reserved for Lions Eye Health Program to Marketing  
Motion Bill Kane Millbury 33A  
2nd Barry Alman Barre 33A

Charlie Menard 33K - The proposal is reallocating future dues

All in favor, motion carries

Proposal 7 - To reallocate \$0.06 of MD33 dues from Programs & Projects to Flag Committee to continue to fund the maintenance of the flags

Dennis Fountain 33A Ludlow Lions  
2nd IPDG Mariana Reimer Grafton Lions 33A

Barry Alman Barre 33A - commend Council of Governors for protecting an important asset

All in favor

Proposal 8 - To eliminate the countersignature requirement on Council check in the bylaws, as banks no longer recognize more than 1 signature.

Motion to accept Ashburnham Lion 33A  
2nd Christine Cedrone 33A  
All in favor

Proposal 9 - to detail the duties of the council bookkeeper with the following responsibilities that may be assigned to the council bookkeeper by the Treasurer.

Motion to move the question Jeff Turner Pittsfield 33A  
2nd IPDG Ivette Mesmar Wellesley Centennial 33K

PCC Ray Moreau - there's nothing saying we have to use the bookkeeper. The bookkeeper should be corresponding with the treasurer

Lionel Carboneau - we want some kind of permanence for this function. We want something more permanent & in the by-laws of the job.

Matthew richardson - this does not reconcile the duties between the treasurer & the bookkeeper & we must have a bookkeeper. The policy manual can be changed at any time.

PDG Ivette Mesmar 33K - when someone has viewing permissions only, someone cannot move or transfer aunity money

Motion to move the question Bill Kane Millbury 33A

2nd - John Smith Quincy 33K

11 opposed - motion carries

Long range planning - Written report available online. New manual will be completed shortly.

Motion to accept Kathy Salem 33S

2nd Jeff Turner Pittsfield 33A

***Remarks:***

PIP J. Frank Moore, III - Thank you for having us this morning for a very busy meeting

Motion to dismiss Barry Alman 33A 11:32A

2nd Jennifer Minelli Quincy 33K

Motion carry

***Announcements:***

9:00 - 3:00: Sales Tables

10:30 - 12:30: Service Project

11:30 - 1:00: Prepaid pizza lunch

1:30 - 3:00: Youth Speech

2:00 - 4:00: Registration & Delegate Registration

3:00 - 4:15: Round table discussion with PIP J. Frank Moore, III

5:30 - 6:30: DG Reception

6:45: District Governors Banquet & Award presentations

9:00: Hospitality Rooms Open