

District 20Y2 Cabinet Meeting Minutes of September 12th, 2009 at the Canajoharie Moose Lodge

Submitted by CS/T Lion Verna Plummer

Attendance: District Governor Edward Stano, Partner in Service Lion Elizabeth Stano, Cabinet Secretary/Treasurer Lion Verna Plummer, Past District Governors: Lion Dick Nason, Lion Dick Ralston, Lion Orv Curtiss, Immediate Past District Governor Lion Joan Scott, Club Presidents: Lion Norma Cazzolino –Gloversville, Lion Sheila Comar –Granville, Lion Neila Nowicki – Galway, Lion Kirk Hardenburg –Broadalbin-Perth, Lion Bonnie Keller –Duane, Region Chairs –Lion Tim Brown, Lion Karen Rager, Zone Chairs –Lion Tom Snowdon, Lion Linda Walsh, Lion Scott Rager, Lion Adam Pandori, Committee Chairs – Lion Mike O'Brien, Lion Tom Kevlin, Lion Mary Claire Noakes, Club Secretaries/Vice Presidents/Club Members –Lion Fred Chambers, Lion timothy McGuire, Lion Stephen Lynch, Lion Roseann Laurie, Lion Joyce Hardenburg, Lion Jerry Gordon, Lion Marianne Lynch, Lion David Plank, Lion Francela Plank, Lion Fran Mezza, Lion Harry Haldt, Lion Sheila Nason, Lion Sharon Deifendorf

President of the Central Mohawk Lion Club Lion Sharon Deifendorf welcomed everyone.

Meeting was called to order by District Governor Lion Ed Stano at 9:05am. Flag Salute was led by Lion Linda Walsh. Lion's prayer was led by PDG Dick Nason. A moment of Silence was observed in memory of 911 and those soldiers serving overseas.

District Governor Remarks – There are three things the District Governor will be concentrating on – Youth, Diabetes Awareness and Membership.

Region and Zone Reports were submitted prior to the meeting.

Region L: Lion Timothy Brown Sr. –The Lions Club of Holland Patent hosted an officer induction ceremony at Allies Restaurant in Utica on June 16th. Representatives from Utica, New Hartford and New York Mills Lions Clubs showed their support by attending. Regional Installation banquet was held on June 25th at Orchard Hall in Sauquoit Valley. PDG Lion Lettie Saheim officiated at the ceremony. The event was sponsored by the Clinton Lions Club. With 7 Clubs, 1 Lioness and 1 Ladies Auxiliary club present –it was a wonderful turnout. On August 15th the Utica Lions held their annual picnic for the clients and employees at the Central Assoc. for the Blind. 10 Members on the Utica Lions Club assisted with the event that was attended by 75 guests. On August 28th Lion Tim Brown was able to all members of the Deerfield Lions Club together for a meeting (one via proxy) at Ventura's Restaurant for their first meeting in two years. The Utica Lions have agreed to joint meetings to endure new members will be mentored and to have a large lively group to meet with.

Zone A: Lion Timothy O'Conner

Zone B: Lion Michael Stark

Region I: Lion Valerie Kevlin

Zone A: Lion Adam Pandori – held a zone meeting on August 31. Town of Greenfield and Ballston Spa inducted 8 new members last year. The clubs set membership goals for the year –inducting more women and younger Lions members with the use of Twitter and Facebook. They will focus on retention as well as new members.

Zone B: Lion Linda Walsh –Most clubs are just starting to get underway and have not set up projects as of yet. Gloversville is collecting stuffed animals for emergency room children, planning their 70th Anniversary on October 17th at the Holiday Inn, and a spaghetti dinner for late October. Broadalbin-Perth Lions held a Chicken Take-out, a Bannertown Fair and upcoming will have a booth at school game. Northville –Sacandaga – made three substantial medical donations, plan to have a road race, and a Holiday Raffle for a ton of Wood Pellets -will deliver in a 25 mile radius. Central Mohawk Lions have worked at Manna House, and are planning a variety show on November 6th at the Canajoharie High School.

Region O: Lion Mary Grimm

Zone A: Lion Steve King –The Albany –Troy Lions Club and the Bethlehem Lions held a joint installation and meeting in June at the Normanside Country Club. Forty Lions and guests were in attendance. The evening was highlighted by a surprise presentation of a Melvin Jones Fellowship to longtime Bethlehem Lion Michael Durant. The Albany Troy Lions sponsored a blood drive on August 26th that netted the Red Cross 70 pints. Lion Cindy Otty (Albany-Troy Lions) and her guide dog Yara participated in a fundraising walk for Fidelco Guide Dogs in July in which they raised \$1600. The Albany Troy Lions will participate in an upcoming low vision tech fair sponsored by the Northeastern Assoc. for the Blind at Albany. (NABA) and Beltrone Living Center in Colonie on September 22nd. The Bethlehem Lions sponsored another successful picnic lunch for seniors in the Town of Bethlehem on August 17th. More than 150 residents enjoyed hotdogs, hamburgers and sunshine. Zone A will again be having a zone-wide holiday party on December 22nd at the Normanside Country Club. Both Bethlehem and Albany Troy report one new member each.

Zone B: Lion Thomas Snowdon –Town of Wright/Schoharie Lions Club have a new president Lion Peter Weiss. Their continued fundraiser is a bottle reclamation during the summer. Their board of directors will meet in August to discuss budget and plans for the new Lions year. Richmondville-Cobleskill Lions have a new president in Lion Christine Judy. Their volleyball tournament netted over \$2200. They gave two \$300 scholarships to graduating seniors. Six Lions assisted the Lions Hearing Conservation Society with their Hearing Awareness Program. The Duane Lions Club have a new president Lion Bonnie Keller. They sponsored a 4th of July Chicken BBQ and Grille Raffle. They gave two \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors.

Region N: Lion Karen Rager

Zone A: Lion Scott Rager – Hadley Luzerne Lions inducted three new members, \$1050 was paid out for scholarships, a sign language instructor and an eye exam and glasses, \$300 was paid out for Lion exposure at the painted Pony Rodeo. Glens Falls Lions – based upon projected profits of this year's Balloon Festival –they have been promised a matching grant of \$2000 from USB Wealth, \$1100 was raised selling food and drink at Crandall Park on the 4th of July, upcoming Balloon Festival September 25 thru 27th. Granville Lions Club -50th Anniversary celebration will be held at the Fair Haven Inn, Fair Haven Vermont on April 24th 2010. Club has change their meeting location from the Forum to AJ's, located in the Ames Plaza, and they enjoyed a dinner cruise on Lake George for Lions and guests.

Zone B: Lion Loretta Saheim –

Conventions & Meetings – Lion Mary Claire Noakes reported the Fall Conference will be at Longfellows in Saratoga on November 7th. More details to follow in the district newsletter and district website. Cost will be \$25 per person.

News Editor –Lion Stephen Lynch reported on the “Lions Roar”. Please submit photos files separate in a jpeg format; and club events in a word doc format. Deadline for submittals is the 28th of the month. The newsletter goes out around the first of the month.

Camp Badger – New name is Empire State Special Needs Experience. This will be our District Project for the year (also the MD20 State Project) Dave Nottbaum and his staff have taken care of many of the ADA items; and are looking to increase campership this year. Clubs should consider adopting a cabin, etc or donating to the camper program to help get some funds in the camp.

LCIF – PDG Lion Dick Nason: Lions Club International has changed the goal for the LCIF Program by establishing the District Chairman position as a three year commitment. Their goal is to double funds raised for each year for LCIF. This change is based upon the success of Sight First II Campaign. For the District, we will still be collecting funds for a District Melvin Jones Fellow Awards. Lion Dick is available to visit clubs and zone meetings and present a program on LCIF.

Lions Foundation at Albany – PDG Lion Dick Nason: The Lions’ Foundation function is to raise funds for the Lions eye Institute at Albany, NY, Inc. We will be selling chocolate bunnies again this year. PDG Lion Dick also wants to encourage clubs and individuals to take part in the Knights of the Blind program. A Knight of the Blind designation can become a Bronze Knight of the Blind for an additional \$500 donation. Clubs can recognize one of their members by contributing to the program, similar as is done for Uplinger Awards or Melvin Jones Fellowships.

Lions Eye Institute – PDG Lion Dick Nason: The Lions Eye Institute has been inundated with requests. They are under a lot of pressure from patients that need care. They are also looking for volunteers – contact Lion John MacDonald for more information.

MD20 Magazine – PDG Lion Dick Ralston: More clubs should try to get more items into the state magazine. Ballston Spa Lions had a really nice article in their local paper that will be in the State Magazine. Try to designate someone to write a professional article and include photos. Currently the state magazine is costing the MD20 money. They are considering trying to generate more advertisements to offset the cost of printing. The next state article deadline is in November.

Sight & Hearing Team – PDG Lion Surnoff Judy: If you have not scheduled your eye exams with NABA for the pre-schools, then you should contact the school nurse and set a date with NABA. Richmondville-Cobleskill Lions donated 400 pairs of used eyeglasses to Dr. Peter Liljeburg to take on his return trip to the back country of Guatamala this month. All clubs are collecting used glasses and I hope they are tuning them in to the various places to be recycled. Schools are starting up next week, and clubs will be called upon to help needy children with eye exams and glasses. When clubs have special projects on sight –please send me an email and I will include it in my report.

Over the summer the Hearing Conservation Society has handed out 6000 pairs of ear plugs, along with brochures on hearing awareness. Thanks to Lions Pat Donnelly, Lee Latimer, Henry and Renate Sweet, Jim and Mary Grimm, Dick and Sharon Deifendorf, Michael Clark, PDG Joan Scott, Nick and Darin Palmetto, Jim and Sandie Clark, Joe and Ruth Grono and Christine Judy for volunteering for this worthy project. These handouts took place at the Albany Saratoga Speedway, Truck and Tractor pulls at the Cobleskill Fair, Washington County Fair and the Fonda Fair. This fiscal year we will be continuing our Hearing Awareness Program and working on getting grants and raising funds to purchase 2 OAE Machines to test hearing in pre-school children, as well as assisting clubs with hearing aid requests. Clubs that would like to help with the purchase of the OAE machines could hold a special fund raiser for

this project. If you do have a special fund raiser, let me know and I will get literature for the public to view. Our next meeting will be September 28th, 7pm at the RCIL office on Route 5 on Amsterdam.

VCB –Lion Michael O’Brien: New name is Visions Center for Blind. They are currently working on employment and technology training to benefit the visually impaired. The Capital District Council on the Blind in sponsoring a “Dinner in the Dark” Halloween Night at \$50 per person.

Webmaster – Lion Jerry Gordon: Reminded everyone to sign up on the district website to get the district newsletter. Please have your club cyber rep check to see if your club information has been updated recently. Please check the District Directories and let Lion Jerry know of any changes that need to be made. PDG Joan Scott presented an award from her May testimonial to Lion Jerry.

Diabetes Presentation –District Governor Lion Ed Stano gave a presentation on the Diabetes Research Institute. Themes of the Diabetes Diplomat program are to: 1- Educate the Elementary and/or Middle School Children on Diabetes, 2-be a fundraiser for the DRI and local Lions Clubs, and 3 – Be a Community Outreach on Diabetes. DG Lin Ed began a short power point presentation on the program. He will be going to the Superintendent of the Saratoga Springs City School District, and will receive help from Lion Linda Walsh and Lion David Jarvis, who both have diabetes. Kids are the central point of the entire project which promotes diabetes awareness. The program runs for three weeks, and teachers are given flexibility to run the program. A form letter goes home to the parents, an assembly is set in school, and a walk-a-thon is planned. Flat donations are accepted and split between the Diabetes Research Institute and the local Lions Club. Diplomats are kids, or teachers, who have diabetes. The walk happens in school, possibly during gym class. Teachers are free to come up with ideas to motivate the kids.

Membership and Retention Brainstorm Session- presented by DG Lion Ed Stano: LCI President Eberhard Wirfs theme is *Move to Grow*. Region and Zone chairs will request a written membership plan from every club. Plan can be very simple. Set attainable goals that are time restricted. If it is not working –get a new plan. Every District Governor had to come up with a projection. Zone and region chairs will get a copy of DG Lion Ed’s plan. Every time a new member is added to a club – please email the DG or VDG. We need strong Zone chairs to take care of the clubs.

DG Lion Ed printed out cumulative membership totals for MD20. 20Y2 was the top district in the state with 20 plus new members. We are still a transitional district with 1171 members and 38 clubs. Redistricting is more of a possibility now. The membership plan that DG Lion Ed submitted to International was one new club and one new member per club. Then he changed his plan and dropped his estimate down to a more attainable goal of net 20 members and one new club. He feels we can do more than that. We will be seeing the Global Membership team come in for a three day period. They will go out in teams to generate Lions awareness. We need to set a target area – Clifton Park and Latham/Colonie. LCI President Eberhard Wirfs is also pushing for more women Lions. We also need to get more young people involved in Lions activities.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:59am and Lunch was served at noon.