

**Lions District 26-M7**  
**Quarterly Cabinet Meeting**  
**August 5, 2023**  
**Eldon Lions Club**

**Meeting Called to Order:** Following a member social at the Eldon Community Center from approximately 8:30 a.m. (start delayed by approximately 30 minutes due to a fire alarm that caused the building to be evacuated) until 9:00 a.m. and a delicious breakfast of biscuits and gravy, various egg casseroles, donuts, breakfast pastries, fruit, coffee, and orange juice served by the Eldon Lions Club, the meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by District Governor (DG) Lion Ed Bierbower.

**Invocation:** Prior to the start of the business meeting, the invocation was given by Immediate Past District Governor (IPDG) Lion Rev. Bill Foglesong.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Lion Linda Bierbower.

**Roll Call of Clubs:** Cabinet Secretary (CS) Lion Steve Duncan called the roll of clubs in attendance. Approximately twenty-seven Lions from ten clubs were in attendance. Clubs represented included Auxvasse, Chamois, Eldon, Hermann, Holts Summit, Jefferson City Breakfast, Jefferson City Host, Lohman, Owensville, and Rocky Mount. Among the attendees were three club presidents and seven club secretaries. Lions District 26-M7 Cabinet members in attendance included DG Lion Ed Bierbower, CS Lion Steve Duncan, Cabinet Treasurer (CT) Lion Larry Brandhorst, two Zone Chairpersons (Lion Polly Scott and Lion April Underwood), Global Membership Team Coordinator Past District Governor (PDG) Lion Mark Schaeperkoetter, and Global Service Team Coordinator Past District Governor (PDG) Lion Lou Ann Hathcock.

**Approval of May 6, 2023 District Cabinet Meeting Minutes:** On a motion by Past Council Chairperson (PCC) Lion Jeff Hilke and a second by Past International Director (PID) Lion Donal Knipp, attendees approved the minutes of the Lions District 26-M7 Cabinet meeting held on May 6, 2023.

**Cabinet Treasurer's Report:** Cabinet Treasurer (CT) Lion Larry Brandhorst presented the June 30, 2023 financial report. This is the final financial report for the 2022-2023 Lions year. For the 2022-2023 Lions year, the district had general revenues of \$20,602.96 and expenses of \$19,348.59 and the eyeglasses recycling program had revenues of \$17,050.22 and expenses of \$22,527.59. The district has total cash assets of \$43,782.18 with \$28,782.18 in the checking account and a \$15,000 certificate of deposit. Of the \$28,782.18 in the checking account, \$14,613.72 is the general balance and \$14,168.46 is the eyeglass recycling account balance. On a motion by Lion April Underwood and a second by Lion Pat Mills, attendees approved the district financial report.

As this is the first Cabinet meeting of the 2023-2024 Lions year, two additional items of financial business were addressed. On a motion by IPDG Lion Bill Foglesong and a second by PCC Lion Jeff Hilke, attendees voted to approve Legends Bank as the depository financial

institution for Lions District 26-M7 and to designate CT Lion Larry Brandhorst, DG Lion Ed Bierbower, and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor (1<sup>st</sup> VDG) Todd Miller as authorized signers on the checking account.

The second item of financial business addressed was review and approval of the 2023-2024 budget for Lions District 26-M7. Budgeted revenues are \$20,150.00 with a like amount budgeted for expenses. On a motion by PID Lion Donal Knipp and a second by PCC Lion Jeff Hilke, attendees approved the 2023-2024 budget.

**District Governor Report:** DG Lion Bierbower offered remarks on several important issues.

DG Lion Bierbower reported that the Lions International Convention in Boston was a wonderful experience with approximately 11,000 Lions from over 200 countries in attendance. The Lions were friendly and welcoming. A goal of the new Lions International President is to increase worldwide membership to 1.5 million Lions by June 2027. At present, there are approximately 1.4 million Lions worldwide.

DG Lion Bierbower stressed the need for clubs in Lions District 26-M7 to recruit new Lions and to make every effort to retain Lions members.

DG Lion Bierbower promised to try to attend Zone meetings, to visit clubs, and if possible to attend and assist with club fundraisers.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor Report:** 1<sup>st</sup> VDG Lion Todd Miller was unable to attend the meeting, but sent a very detailed written report and outlined his accomplishments to date and goals for the future.

1<sup>st</sup> VDG Lion Miller will meet with the other 1<sup>st</sup> VDGs by Zoom and those future District Governors plan to discuss 22 separate questions that address issues not yet covered in Lions 1<sup>st</sup> VDG or DG training.

1<sup>st</sup> VDG Lion Miller has attended budget meetings held by the Missouri State Lions and the Lions District 26-M7 Cabinet officers. In both groups, there is a need to cut expenses as membership statewide is declining and expenses continue to rise.

1<sup>st</sup> VDG Lion Miller expressed concern about the State Lions IT Committee and the state of the Missouri State Lions website. The Missouri State Lions website is not working and to date the State Lions IT Committee has been unable to have a quorum present in order to hold a meeting.

1<sup>st</sup> VDG Lion Miller has attended meetings of the State Lions Investment Committee. The investment account has a balance of \$112,000, but returns over the life of the account have not been good. Given the current attractive rates on CDs, 1<sup>st</sup> VDG Lion Miller would like to see funds invested in CDs and not gambled in the stock market.

Finally, 1<sup>st</sup> VDG Lion Miller reported that he is working on a membership drive initiative. Such an initiative could utilize the best of the LCI "Just Ask!" pamphlet and

“The Ask” pamphlet. Lions Clubs need to make a list of potential members, then directly invite each person to join, and if they join offer a special induction ceremony and then mentor the new Lions. Statewide, Missouri Lions are losing approximately 5% of our membership each year. Lions District 26-M7 has lost three Lions Clubs in the past year. Member recruitment and most importantly member retention are critical to the survival of Lions Clubs.

**Zone Chairperson Reports:** DG Lion Bierbower called on the Zone Chairpersons to report:

Zone 1 (California, Cole Camp, Florence, Jamestown, Stover, and Warsaw)—Vacant

Zone 2 (Brumley, Camdenton, Eldon, Iberia, Lake Ozark, Rocky Mount, and Versailles)—Lion Polly Scott (Eldon Lions Club)

Lion Scott was in attendance. Plans to have three Zone meetings and is working on scheduling.

Zone 3 (Chamois, Freeburg, Hermann, Linn, Owensville, Vienna, and Westphalia)—Lion Nelson Sieg (Chamois Lions Club)

Lion Sieg was not in attendance, but Lion Beth Sieg was in attendance and reported on behalf of Lion Nelson Sieg. Hopes to schedule a meeting and would like to see all clubs in the Zone represented.

Zone 4 (Brazito, J C Breakfast, J C Capitol, J C Evening, J C Host, Lohman, Russellville, and Wardsville)—Lion Bruce Berger (J C Host Lions Club)

Lion Berger was not in attendance due to illness. Sent a written report. Lion Berger attended the Lohman Lions Club meeting on July 13, has a Zone meeting scheduled for September 14, and plans to visit all clubs in his Zone.

Zone 5 (Auxvasse, Cedar City, Holts Summit, Millersburg, Mokane, and New Bloomfield)—Lion April Underwood (Holts Summit Lions Club)

Lion Underwood was present. Thanked Lion Betty Knipp for her efforts as Zone Chairperson during the past year. Has scheduled a Zone meeting for September 14 at 6:00 p.m. The New Bloomfield Lions Club will host a BBQ for this meeting. Hopes to attend club events during the upcoming year.

**Coordinator & Committee Reports:**

**Board Reports:**

**Lions Business Opportunities for the Missouri Blind:** PDG Lion Don Soph is the LBOMB representative. Not present. No report.

**Saving Sight:** Lion Patrick Mills is the Lions District 26-M7 representative to the Saving Sight Board of Directors. Was in attendance. Submitted a written report and an InfoGraph. Since the start of the past fiscal year in July 2022, Saving Sight has provided 3,351 corneas for transplant and processed 14,519 orders for Vital Tears (autologous serum eye drops). Distributed \$60,000 in charitable grants to four organizations with sight conservation missions—Mid-South Sight & Hearing Services \$5,000, Show-Me Eyeglasses Recycling Program \$5,000, Missouri Lions Eye Mission Foundation \$7,000, and KidsSight \$43,000.

**KidsSight:** PDG Lion Mark Schaeperkoetter is the KidsSight representative. Was in attendance and provided a written report. During the past year, Lions District 26-M7 Lions Clubs have donated \$21,131 to KidsSight. During the 2022-2023 Lions year, KidsSight staff and volunteers provided vision screenings for 42,938 children at 774 screening events around the state. 3,682 children were identified who needed a full eye exam to include 870 children who were at high risk for vision loss. Lions District 26-M7 had 6,235 children screened. Volunteer screeners from Jefferson City Lions Clubs screened 4,543 children, a team from the Owensville Lions Club screened 4,112 children, and a team from the Hermann Lions Club screened 1,177 children.

**Mid-South Lions Sight & Hearing:** PDG Lion Ron Jordan is the Mid-South representative. Was absent. No report.

**Eyeglasses Recycling:** PCC Lion Jeff Hilke is the Eyeglasses Recycling Director. PCC Lion Hilke was in attendance and offered a detailed report. For the first seven months of 2023, approximately 29,000 pairs of eyeglasses have been distributed via mission trips. PCC Lion Hilke reported that the building is in need of repairs. Bathrooms need to be updated, the lighting system needs to be upgraded, the handrail into the building is in poor shape, and there is a definite need for better signage to highlight the building. Thanked Saving Sight for the grant funds and encouraged clubs in Lions District 26-M7 to volunteer at the center. School groups are most welcome to volunteer and the groups of youth who have volunteered in the past find the experience most fulfilling. Suggested that Zone Chairpersons consider hosting a Zone meeting at the center and combine the meeting with some time spent sorting, cleaning, and reading the prescriptions on the glasses.

Lion Bruce Berger sent information in regards to an eyeglasses mission trip on September 9-17, 2023 to Panama. Volunteers are responsible for airfare and personal expenses but lodging and meals will be provided. If interested in making this trip, contact Lion Bruce Berger at 573-694-2072 or e-mail at [bruce9949@aol.com](mailto:bruce9949@aol.com).

**MyLCI Administrator:** PCC Lion Jesse Hathcock is the MyLCI contact for those Lions Clubs who need assistance in accessing and using MyLCI (the Lions Clubs International database for reporting membership and officers). PCC Lion Hathcock was absent but did send a written report with PDG Lion Lou Ann Hathcock. MyLCI is the membership reporting tool and MyLion is the service project reporting tool. Both of those tools are going away and will be replaced by "The Portal". The new tool will roll out in the near future. Users will need a unique unshared e-mail address to access and a phone number will no longer be supported as a login credential. Clubs need to promptly report membership and service projects. Club secretaries need to ensure that individual member information is correct to include a good e-mail address.

## **Coordinator/Committee Reports:**

**Alert:** Lion Michael Rayhart is the Alert Chairperson. Was absent. No report, but is enthused about this committee assignment.

**Athletic:** Lion Amy Bell is the Athletic Chairperson. Was absent. No report.

**Band:** Lion Patrick Anderson is the Band Chairperson. Was absent. No report.

**Constitution & By-Laws:** Lion Amy Bell is the Constitution & By-Laws Chairperson. Was absent. No report.

**Convention:** Lion April Underwood and PDG Lion Lou Ann Hathcock are the Convention Co-Chairpersons. Both were in attendance. PCC Lion Jeff Hilke and PDG Lion Hathcock have volunteered to co-chair the 2024 Missouri Lions State Convention and along with Lion Underwood reported on the 2024 Missouri Lions State Convention, which Lions District 26-M7 will host. The convention will be held on April 18-21, 2024 at Old Kinderhook. The convention theme will be "Mission Possible Agents of Change". This will not be the same old Missouri Lions State Convention. There will be a social event, perhaps a hayride and s'mores around a fire pit, on Thursday night. There will be a service project on Friday, a hospitality room on Friday night with dueling pianos as entertainment, and the banquet will be held on Saturday night. There will be much less emphasis on plenary sessions and perhaps more focus on motivational speakers. The theme and new convention format have been well received by Lions from other districts. Old Kinderhook has booked 84 rooms and reservations are being made. Room rates are \$119 per night. Lions State Convention T-shirts were displayed and are being sold at a cost of \$20 for small to XL and \$25 for 2XL and above. \$10 from the sale of each T-shirt will help to fund the convention.

The 2024 Lions District 26-M7 Convention will be held on March 8-9, 2024 at the Wardsville Lions Building. International Director Marie Cuning of MD21 in Arizona will be the featured speaker.

**LCIF:** PDG Lion Melissa Anderson is the LCIF Chairperson. Was absent. No report.

**Global Leadership Team Coordinator:** PID Donal Knipp is the GLT Coordinator. Was in attendance. No report.

**Global Membership Team Coordinator:** PDG Lion Mark Schaeperkoetter is the GMT Coordinator. Was in attendance. PDG Lion Schaeperkoetter, DG Lion Ed Bierbower, and 1<sup>st</sup> VDG Lion Todd Miller plan to meet in regards to membership in Lions District 26-M7. Four years ago, the district had membership of over 1,400 Lions. Now, the membership is less than 1,200 and four clubs have closed. Each Lions Club should have a Membership Chairperson.

**Global Service Team Coordinator:** PDG Lion Lou Ann Hathcock is the GST Coordinator. PDG Lion Hathcock encouraged clubs to perform service projects in their communities and to be more diligent in reporting these projects and the number of persons helped to LCI.

**Hearing:** PDG Lion Bill Foglesong is the Hearing Committee Chairperson. PDG Lion Foglesong reported that the hearing trailer is complete and insured. State Hearing Committee is working on the rules for use of the trailer. The new trailer has state-of-the-art hearing tests equipment. A question was raised as to the location of the audiometers previously used. No one seemed to know where these devices are.

**Information Technology:** DG Ed Bierbower is the Information Technology Committee Chairperson. Was present. No report. Some IT issues were addressed in 1<sup>st</sup> VDG Lion Todd Miller's report.

**Investment:** 1<sup>st</sup> VDG Lion Todd Miller is the Investment Committee Chairperson. Was absent. Some investment issues were addressed in 1<sup>st</sup> VDG Lion Todd Miller's report.

**Marketing/Communications:** DG Lion Ed Bierbower is the Marketing/Communications Committee Chairperson. Was in attendance. DG Lion Bierbower stressed the need for Lions to be visible. Wear Lions apparel. Have Lions Club stickers on vehicles. Use social media to publicize Lions Club service projects. Consider having a Missouri Lions special license plate for vehicles.

**Leader Dog:** Lion Lisa Foglesong is the Leader Dog Chairperson. Was in attendance. Submitted a written report. There are 1,300,000 people in the U S who are legally blind. Only 10% of these persons travel independently with a white cane or leader dog. Each year, 200 leader dogs are matched with a client and 100 clients are provided with white cane training. German Shepherds are no longer bred as leader dogs. Labs and Goldens are bred as leader dogs.

Holts Summit Lions Club will host a "Dinner in the Dark" event on October 14, 2023.

Lion Lisa Foglesong raised a potential leader dog Aria. Aria was not chosen to be a leader dog. There continues to be a need for puppy raisers.

**Lions Opportunities for Youth:** Lion Linda Bierbower is the Youth Chairperson. Was present. Lion Bierbower reported that there is a need for host families for foreign exchange students. Usually the host function entails one week during the Summer.

Will contact local school guidance counselors about youth service projects and the Lions Peace Poster Contest.

**World Services for the Blind:** Lion Ron Pharris is the World Services for the Blind Chairperson. Was absent. No report.

**Sight Conservation:** PDG Lion Don Soph is the Sight Conservation Chairperson. Was absent. No report.

**Long Range Planning:** PCC Lion Jesse Hathcock is the Long Range Planning Chairperson. Was absent. PDG Lion Lou Ann Hathcock did report the PCC Lion Hathcock wants the Council of Governors to

emphasize the need for a plan. The State Long Range Planning Committee tried to meet via Zoom but did not have a quorum. Hope to schedule a future meeting.

**Club Announcements:** Lions Clubs and Cabinet officers were given an opportunity to make announcements. The following announcements were made:

- Jefferson City Host Lions—Plan to have the annual “Go-for-Gas” raffle.
- Auxvasse Lions—Selling 50/50 raffle tickets.

Loafers Week is September 11-16, 2023. There is a lunch and door prizes each day.

- Eldon Lions—Hosting the Culpepper/Merriweather Circus on September 6 & 7, 2023. Shows each day at 5:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- Holts Summit Lions—Hosting a Trivia Night to benefit KidsSight on August 11, 2023.

T-Shirt Night scheduled for September 9, 2023.

Will host Dinner in the Dark on October 14, 2023.

- Chamois Lions—Chamois Day is scheduled for September 16, 2023.
- Hermann Lions—Participating in Oktoberfest (last Saturday in September through October). Will sell kettle corn.
- Rocky Mount Lions—Corn Festival is September 2, 2023. Will sell BBQ.

Hosting a Pre-Black Friday event on October 28, 2023.

**Date and Place of Next Cabinet Meeting:** The next Cabinet meeting is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, November 4, 2023 at the Rocky Mount Lions Club House. Free breakfast and social from 8:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. Meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will adjourn prior to 12:00 noon.

**Adjournment:** DG Lion Bierbower adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lion Steve Duncan, Cabinet Secretary

