



## 2021 District Convention goes Virtual

SUBMITTED BY VDG LION CHRIS MILES

Our first 100% virtual convention took place on Saturday, February 27 with 87 people online. All the feedback has been positive, and mercifully the technical glitches were few.

“Be Patient, Enjoy the Ride, and Relax!”, I urged attendees at the outset, and you all did! The technology can sometimes be a mystery, but we were all patient and in so being, we enjoyed ourselves.

After the convention kicked off with our national anthems and pledges, Lion Anita introduced the Memorial Program, (which can be viewed anytime on Youtube at [tinyurl.com/3yem2exr](https://tinyurl.com/3yem2exr) ) where we honored Lions Ken Gill, Bob Cuddington, Larry Squance, Alan French, Garnet Gompf, Nelson Olson, Keith MacDonald, Edith Hofer, Walter Haggberg, and Merv Smith. These Lions have passed away since our last convention in Russell in November 2019.

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## JFS raffle raises over \$11,000 for Lions Eye Bank

SUBMITTED

BY PDG LION DWAYNE MONCUR

Even with no Journey for Sight ride taking place in 2021, the JFS raffle was still held and the draw took place on February 28, 2021.

The winner of the raffle was Robin Coombs of Reston, Manitoba. She was very excited to win and said it would be a welcome upgrade from her 1997 Ski-Doo.

The final audit has not been completed but we can report that 4,740 tickets were sold, quite an accomplishment considering COVID-19.

After all expenses have

been paid, the raffle will have generated just over \$11,100 and it will be sent to the Lions Foundation in support of the Lions Eye Bank. The JFS ride and

raffle continues to be the largest fundraiser for the Eye Bank.

Thank you to all who helped sell and purchase tickets. It is very much appreciated.



Lion Brad Henderson with Robin Coombs, winner of the JFS raffle taking home a 2021 Ski-Doo Renegade SPT, a retail value of \$11,758.

## Friendly reminder to Lions Club Presidents and Secretaries

Please check your email promoting your attendance at the Multiple Convention May 1, 2021.

An opportunity that will probably never happen again, to be able to attend the MD5M Convention from the comfort of your homes at no cost or no travel expense.

REGISTER:

**GOOGLE: MD5M Lions**

click on 101st Annual MD5M Lions Bend in the River III Convention 2021, Saturday, May 1st.

Then follow the prompts.

**Hope to see you there!**

Contact Lion Cheryl McKitrick if you have questions, 204-873-2091 [cemckit@gmail.com](mailto:cemckit@gmail.com)



SECRETARIES

Be sure to register your club delegates for the MD5M Virtual Convention May 1st, 2021.

<https://forms.gle/bQF398KjhoMR1u4L7>

“We need your support vote for ID Candidate Lion Joanne Ogden’s endorsement” at the business meeting.

Questions, contact Lion Cheryl McKitrick 204-873-2091 [cemckit@gmail.com](mailto:cemckit@gmail.com)



# 2021 District Convention goes Virtual

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Past International Director Yves Léveillé was introduced by PID Lion Ben Ward. Lion Yves reminded us of the importance of four key elements essential to our commitment to service: Supporting Local Service, Supporting the work of LCIF, Inspiring Kindness and Diversity, and Empowering Clubs to serve safely.

Focusing on the Environment, Youth, Hunger, Vision. PID Yves spoke of service actions from his own home club, the Ormstown Lions Club in MDU-1. The club organized a recyclable bottle return fund that brought in more than \$5000. From this, they were able to provide meals three times daily for several days to Health Care workers. They also raised more than \$15,000 in a community fundraising campaign that served much needed food to 80 families of two to eight people per family. After working so hard to create this change, the club was very gratified. Raising money for food to extended care homes and staff is an ongoing project. Lion Yves' club was not stopped by Covid-19 but the pandemic did change the way they meet and serve.

PID Léveillé urged 5M13 Lions to individually invite friends and neighbors to join Lions as we emerge from the pandemic and begin to become more active again. Service at both local and global levels is the glue that knits a club together. Together, last year, Lions clubs served millions of people. If all

clubs reported all their service activities, we would automatically have an increase in service levels, so please remember to report your club's activities!

The great advantage we have now from the pandemic, stated PID Yves, is that many of us now understand the concepts involved with working from home, Zoom Meetings, e-mail and MyLCI. Younger people live their

The great advantage we have now from the pandemic is that many of us now understand the concepts involved with working from home, Zoom Meetings, e-mail and MyLCI. Younger people live their lives enhanced through social media and all the related technologies. As Lions, we will need to re-think many of the ways we start clubs and set direction in those clubs, and we have great tools now at our disposal.

## PAST INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR YVES LEVEILLE

lives enhanced through social media and all the related technologies. As Lions, we will need to re-think many of the ways we start clubs and set direction in those clubs, and we have great tools now at our disposal. Lion Yves' call to action is to be more willing to say "yes" when you are called upon to help in your community. Your contribution of time and effort to service is no small thing and it makes a difference.

Lion Yves closed his address by urging all Lions to register for the upcoming Virtual convention which was originally scheduled for Montreal. Canadian Lions leadership is hoping to see great representation from each club in Canada, at least one registration per club. Lion Yves' challenge was to raise

money for Lions of Canada Fund for LCIF by agreeing to undergo a total beard shave (being grown since July 2020) and true to his word, shaved it off. A Clean-shaven Lion Yves re-joined the meeting near the end, as we were able to raise more than \$1000 for the foundation.

Presentations from Lions Quest (Lion Joanne McQuiggan) and from Diabetes Canada (Lion Andrea Kwasniki) followed the keynote. We also had a special surprise visit from Vice-President, Lions Clubs International, Lion Brian Sheehan. Lion Brian complimented DG Lion Anita on handling a difficult year, and pointed out that we're all stuck at home, but it's a hopeful time that the pandemic will start to wind down. The 5M13 business meeting followed a short break.

The minutes from the meeting are online at 5m13lions.org.

This meeting went well although we certainly missed all the social interaction fun that usually goes with a convention. Hopefully in November 2021 we will return to the in-person format. At the same time though, I think we will highly likely continue to make ourselves available in some form of online presence. There are Lions who just cannot make it to a meeting but can tune in through their phone or computer at home, and we do not want to miss getting the fun of convention out to as many Lions in our District as possible.

*Lion Chris Miles 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor, Convention Chair*

## Hope Medal recognition

In June 2020, The Minnedosa Lions Club presented Mark Saler and Griz with the HOPE medal in recognition of the countless hours of comfort and joy they brought to the many patients and residents of our local hospitals and Personal Care Homes they visited. The HOPE medal is given to an individual who demonstrates outstanding charitable achievement.

The Club also made a donation of \$500 to help Mark with his travel expenses. While Mark was very grateful for the donation, he decided to go one step further. Mark approached the Heritage Co-op and the Neep-

awa-Gladstone Co-op with an idea of once again of giving back to the communities Both the Heritage Co-op and Neepawa-Gladstone Co-op generously matched the \$500.00.

As Mark and Griz are no longer able to continue their visits to the hospitals and Personal Care Home due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the funds were used to purchase 170 stuffed St. Bernard puppies. These stuffies will be given to those who need an extra hug to just let them know that someone is thinking about them. This is what community support is all about.



Brian Hedly (Neepawa/Gladstone Co-op) Donna Illerbrun (Minnedosa Lions Club) Mark Saler Griz Lorne Zachrais (Minnedosa Heritage Co-op)



## Distict wide Blanket Project



I would like to challenge all of the clubs to make one, or more, no sew blankets. I know a lot of your members have been wondering what project can be done that is no contact. Look no further! I'm including a link explaining how to make them. Super easy to make. <https://www.instructables.com/No-Sew-Fleece-Blanket-1/>

I'd like to collect them all by May 31, and donate them to places that treat children with childhood cancer. If we have too many blankets (what a wonderful problem to have) we can donate them to the police, fire fighters, EMS to distribute when they have children that they have to tend to. But I'm open to all of your suggestions on where to donate them to after we donate to all of the children going through cancer treatments.

Logistically, the blankets can be sent to Lions who are willing to store them for me and I can make arrangements to pick them up. If your club chooses to participate, please share it with your community on your websites and facebook pages, and anywhere else you think you should/can. You never know when someone in the community is wanting to do a project and may just join your club at the same time. Take photos of the blankets as they come in to your club, either by the public or from members. Let the media know of your good works.

Questions contact DG Anita Hart  
lionanitahart@gmail.com



BY DG ANITA HART  
AND SERVICE DOG LION JETTI

This has certainly been an interesting year, hasn't it? However, so many things done and learned, it's wonderful!

We had our first ever online convention on February 27, 2021 and I'm so thankful to all who were able to attend. Fun was had as there was a challenge issued by our guest, Past International Director Yves Leveille, to raise money for LCIF. If we were to raise \$500, he was going to shave off his beard. So, in true 5M13 style, we managed to raise way more. We've raised over \$1500 and money is still to come in from various places. If any clubs or members want to make a contribution to this challenge, please let me know.

I'd like to recognize some of the people that have done a lot for me, our district, and for Lions in our districts.

### International President's Certificate of Appreciation

Lion Dwayne Moncur for taking my many calls, for helping me figure things out, for taking on so many of the roles that he has taken on. All while he is doing projects with his club and the community.

Lion Cheryl McKitrick for stepping into a few unexpected roles part way through the year, for all of the advice and guidance she's been able to provide me and district members.

Lion Gwen Argue for all of her hard work in setting up a great team for Lions Quest Canada, in our district. Under her passion and energy, 5M13 is one of the top districts in Canada for re-energizing the program, putting on workshops and developing partnerships.

### Certificate of Appreciation – Global Action Team Honours

Lion Lorna Hislop for doing so many projects that are Lions focused, but also because she helps other groups with their projects within her community. It doesn't seem like she ever sleeps!

Lion Willie Brown for taking on the role of NAMI (North American Membership Initiative) chair and being available to all of the clubs for information, helping them set up



zoom meetings and so much more.

Lions Cheryl McKitrick for all of her hard work in helping clubs develop their leadership. This has been a difficult year for trainings and yet she has been able to do so much. Some of our training was done online and we were able to reach more people because of this.

### Dr. Patti Hill Zone Chair Award

These awards are given to clubs by their zone chairs. These are to be given at the convention following any Lions Year ie: 2019-2020 winner will be presented at the 2020-2021 convention.

- Zone 4- Dauphin
- Zone 5- Hamiota Lions Club
- Zone 6- Pipestone Lions Club
- Zone 7- Wawanesa Lions Club
- Zone 8- MacGregor Lions Club
- Zone 9- Crystal City Lions Club
- Zone 10- Warren Herizon Lions Club

### 5M13 Hall of Fame 2020-2021

PDG Roland Hainsworth was voted as this years recipient. He is a member of the Waskada Lions.

There were a few awards that I was unable to present during the convention as they had not arrived yet.

**I'd like to propose that we,  
as a district, hold an online awards  
night near the end of May.**

**Everyone will be able to present  
awards to their Lions and non-Lions.**

Thank you to all of our clubs for all that you do. From bringing in new members, re-thinking and implementing your projects, trying out having online/hybrid meetings, coming up with new projects and taking care of each other and the communities you serve. You all are amazing to me and I thank you!

Here's hoping our lives will start having more personal contact but don't forget to check up on one another. You all matter.

*Yours in Lionism, DG Lion Anita*



# Welcome to the new normal!

SUBMITTED BY  
VDG LION CHRIS MILES

It's been more than a year since we went into "the Red Zone" and it has been an interesting one, and certainly unique. If someone told me back in the old days of 2019 that one day I would best be able to serve my fellow humans by staying home and not going out for anything non-essential, and wearing a protective face mask when I do, I would have been mystified. How about you?

At the time of this writing, my partner in service Lion Myrna has an appointment for the vaccine on April 4, and I just got signed up for April 13! There is no snow in our yard anymore, and we have one tiny crocus appearing in our garden. Our epidemic numbers are looking OK, and we hope that things continue on a positive track. To emphasize the point that it's getting better every day, we had a call here from the Austin and District Lions Club to book the KidSight Materials for next week! That's even better than a crocus and a sure sign that things are starting to lighten up!

My club, the MacGregor Lions, had a couple of small meetings in the fall, and since then we've been staying in touch by text messages and e-mail. We've still been able to help our local sports facility with their Public Skating program (it ran, and then it didn't) and help out local citizens who have been hard-hit by medical issues during the pandemic, and contributing to the Parade of Green, like many other clubs. But—it's been quiet.



Personally, I have been in training and preparing for my year as your District Governor, commencing July 2021. All the training this year has been via Zoom and Distance Education. I will not have the opportunity to meet with fellow DG-Elects as we normally would, with the convention in Montreal having been cancelled. However, I have learned a lot and I know I have your support to help us get back on our feet as this health crisis recedes into history. I had a sad day earlier this month when I went to Morden on behalf of our District Governor and retrieved that club's regalia and charter, as they have closed up after many years of service to Morden and District. That area is too populous and too much in need of a Lions Club to let this go quietly, and I intend to work with all who are willing to work toward regaining a new club

there in the near future—perhaps a focussed service club, or a cyber club, or both!

We will emerge from all this slightly changed, both individually and as a Lions District. We have discovered how effective and useful these remote "Zoom" meetings can be, and more of us are getting familiar with them. We also know that we can get a lot more done with this technology, save many driving miles, and allow for better communications between clubs and the District. I am excited about how much clubs can do together and independently when using technology, and I expect we will all find that a greater focus on e-mail newsletters and virtual meetings of all kinds will be the new normal.

I am now in the process of establishing a new cabinet for 2021-22. I may be contacting you to ask for your help with this effort. Please remember that many hands make lighter work, and that the more Lions helping, the more fun we can have and the less odious it is for that 20% who always seems to do 80%. We need to lighten that load for each one of us. Burn-out is a real thing that can happen to anyone who overworks. Please know that if I ask you for something it is because I respect you and I value what you do and your skills and talents. I don't want the load or responsibility of volunteering to be too much for anyone, and I know that we all feel that way, so I will thank you in advance for your ongoing support as a Lion. I look forward to working with you all as we start up our club service offerings again in the coming months.

## Supporting our front line workers

To show our appreciation and support to local businesses during these difficult times, the Minnedosa Lions Club recently delivered trays of dainties and pizzas to our front line workers.

Staff at the Minnedosa Hospital and Personal Care Home; Members of our local RCMP; members of the Minnedosa Fire

Department; teachers and staff at Tanners Crossing School and Minnedosa Collegiate.

Thank you to Rosie's Bakery; Farmhouse 50 and Minnedosa Bowl Gutter's Pizza.

PHOTOL Minnedosa Lions member Alan Tarn and Fire Chief Dean Jordan

