

DISTRICT 35-O MEETING
AUGUST 16, 2014
Hosted by the Homosassa Lions Club

The first 35-O District Meeting for 2014-2015, held at the Homosassa Lions Club, was called to order at 10:00 am by Lion President Barbara Comeau from the Homosassa Lions Club. District Chaplin Lion Ruth Levins gave the Invocation. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Vice President Bob Roswick from the Homosassa Lions Club, the group sang "God Bless America" led by Lion Carol Curicio from the Homosassa Lions Club. After welcoming everyone to Homosassa President Comeau introduced 2nd Vice District Governor Steve Hilaire. VDG Hilaire introduced 1st Vice District Governor Jacquie Tripp who in turn introduced District Governor Carolyn Lloyd.

DG Carolyn welcomed all to the first District Meeting and recognized the following Lions: District I 1st VDG David Skillin and his Partner In Service PCC Jackie Cameron, GMT-MD Coordinator - PDG Catherine Walton, GLT-MD Coordinator- Lion Larry Feldhusen, District O IPDG Al Becker and District I IPDG Andrew Moos.

A motion was made by PID Neil Spencer and seconded by PDG Shel Reichard to approve the combined meeting minutes of the Organization Meetings held in Crystal River, FL on July 12, 2014 and in Orlando, FL on July 19, 2014. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by PID Neil Spencer and seconded by PDG Norma Callahan to approve the Financial Report as presented by District Treasurer, PCC Donna Spencer, subject to audit. The motion passed unanimously.

DG Carolyn Lloyd presented International President Joe Preston's *Centennial Challenge of 100 million Acts of Service* and encouraged District O Lions to help reach the Centennial Service Challenge goal by 2017 through participation in the four (4) *Global Service Action Campaigns*: Engaging Our Youth, Sharing the Vision, Relieving the Hunger and Protecting our Environment.

DG Carolyn asked all clubs to strive for the Club Excellence Award this year. This is an award for clubs that complete three (3) community projects, make a donation to LCIF, achieve a net increase in membership (*Note: "Net increase" can be just one member more!*), communicate information about their club to the public and members, fill all officer positions with qualified Lions, have the club represented at Zone Meetings, have a majority of the club officers participate in a leadership training program, meet regularly, submit reports to MyLCI and maintain good standing. Each club must fill out an application in order to be eligible for this award.

DG Carolyn stated her goal is to have all clubs submit service activities this year. Secretaries who are not computer savvy can share their logon/password with another club member who is for entering membership and service activity.

DG Carolyn reminded everyone why we support our entities. When there is a disaster, a need for eye surgery, etc. these are the people who support our communities. They can do more to help than any one club can do alone.

DG Carolyn discussed the "Ask One" Program. Every Lion is asked to invite at least one person to join Lions this year.

DG Carolyn explained the SMILE program - Social Media Including Lions Everywhere. She encouraged everyone to visit the District 35 O website, to read the online District Newsletter, to take advantage of online training and to submit pictures of Lions in action!

DG Carolyn, assisted by President Barbara Comeau and Executive Administrator PCC C. David Lloyd, conducted an Installation Ceremony inducting three (3) new Lions into the Homosassa Lions Club! Next she recognized all new members since July 1, 2014 and presented the new members and their sponsors a recognition ribbon.

Lion Mary Yochum, District Chairperson for Disaster Preparedness and Relief, made a very informative and timely presentation to the group since it is hurricane season in Florida. She instructed the group on the various preparations that should be made prior to a disaster. She introduced the free FEMA disaster preparedness brochures to the group and suggested all clubs order them to distribute in their communities.

Lion Lynn Hawkins, District Chairperson for Leo's, Lions Quest and Lions Services For Children told the group that Lions can help youth in our communities by being Community Partners. Lions can provide ideas for Community Service projects, be a partner in service to the youth and fill out the form certifying their community service hours. She will be sending a PowerPoint presentation out to all club presidents.

PDG Norma Callahan celebrated the receipt of a \$179,000 grant with the group. This continues the climb towards being able to do screening without dilation! – Congratulations and "Thank You" to Lion Norma for the work she has put into this over the past 18 months!

The District Tail Twister, PDG Norma Callahan, was "*out and about*" while a tasty barbeque lunch was being served by the Homosassa Lions Club. Later in the meeting she challenged the group by asking questions about Lions with fines for wrong answers!

DG Carolyn thanked Lion Rita Fawcett and CS Donna Norton for the August Newsletter. Lion Rita asks that clubs try their very best to get newsletter submissions in by the 10th of the month preceding publication.

President Nick Jones, from the Clermont Minneola Lions Club, and new Lion John Bomm told the group about Boxcar Racing for Kids which is made possible by sponsorships - Kids Race For Free. The first race is planned for Sept. 17 in Groveland.

Guiding Lions were reminded to be aware of the expiration date of their certification! Certification is good for three (3) years. Classes for recertification can be taken online.

Zone Chairperson Lion Mary Pezzo, President of the Board of Directors of the Florida Lions Conklin Center for the Blind, made a short presentation about the Conklin Center to the group. She reminded Lions that the day they joined Lions they automatically became part of the Conklin Center and the Florida Lions Foundation. "It's YOUR Conklin Center" She recapped the activities and needs of the Conklin Center.

PDG Lois Malecky, Secretary/Treasurer and PR Chairperson for the Florida Lions Foundation for the Blind , reported on the Foundation's activity. The Foundation has handled 104 cases since April 1st. This includes 67 cases approved by the Board of Directors on August 2, 2014 (Cataracts (51), Cornea Transplant (2), Glaucoma Surgery (1), Lasers (6), Prosthesis (1), Pterygium (1), Retina Repair (1), Strabismus (1), Vision Therapy (1), Vitrectomy (2)) The retail cost of the 104 cases is \$ 494,334. After club co-pays (\$19,850) and negotiated service provider savings (\$324,267) the cost to the Foundation for these 104 individuals served was \$150,217.

DG Carolyn encouraged all clubs in District O to do their best to send a donation to Lions Foundation. Do what you can to help!

Lion Ted Erion, Ovideo-Winter Springs Lions, provided an update for Project Right-To-Sight. They are in need of strong hands and strong backs! Glasses must be sorted before being sent to the Department of Corrections for processing. There is a procedure manual which explains what needs to be done. Any Lion can follow the procedures and sign off on each box . Part of the process being done by a club saves Project Right-To-Sight time. For more info contact Lion Ted.

A presentation by Lion Windy Wilson representing International Hearing Dogs was enhanced with the inclusion of a splendid example of a hearing dog who enthralled the audience with not only his service but his personality as well ! Lions don't just collect glasses -- Used hearing aids are needed - Remember to collect!

2nd VDG Steve Hilaire will be contacting District Chairpersons for additional reports.

Cabinet Treasurer- Donna Spencer, PCC reported on the Parade of Checks. A total of \$9025. was collected for distribution to the entities. (350 Hearing Program-\$1000, Conklin Center \$2,275., Diabetes Awareness/Camp \$550., Florida Guide Dogs for the Deaf \$75., Florida Lions Foundation \$1250., Florida School for the Deaf and Blind \$250.,LCIF \$750.,North Florida Eye Foundation \$750., Project Right-To-Sight \$1250. Southeastern Guide Dogs including Paws for Patriots -\$875). An addition \$10,000 was mailed directly to Southeastern Guide Dogs for a total of \$19,025.

DG Carolyn made closing remarks thanking everyone for attending and reminding everyone that the second District Meeting will be held at Cypress Creek High School in Orlando on Nov. 15th, 2014. The main presenter will be Southeastern Guide Dogs.

Lion Ruth Levins gave the closing prayer and the meeting was turned back over to Lion Barbara Comeau, who adjourned the meeting at 1:57 PM.

One hundred forty Lions attended this District Meeting representing 30 Lions Clubs.

Respectfully submitted,
Lion Donna Norton
Secretary, District 35-O