



DISTRICT B

Volume I

APRIL 2023

Issue X

THE DOMINO EFFECT



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1121 Ridgewood Lane
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DISTRICT GOVERNOR COLUMN

By: DG Sandy

I am still so thrilled to have had so many of our great friends attend “my” District 25B Convention. I was told so many times that it was “my” convention. You, all of you, proved them wrong...it may have started out that way; but all of you made it “our” convention.

Starting with meeting Lion ID Dr. Dianne Pitts & Lion Dr. Joe Pitts at the Baer Field Airport on **Friday** afternoon to returning them back to that same airport on **Sunday** afternoon, the time just flew by.

On **Friday**, after the airport, we never missed a beat. PCC Jerry and I headed ID Dr. Dianne & Dr. Joe into Waynedale for a very late lunch. Then to Bluffton for a guided tour of the “Wells County Historical Museum.” Make sure you check out PCC Jerry’s photo and my article about this adventure coming out soon in the “Hoosier Lion.” If you have never seen this museum, I highly recommend that you take a guided tour. Information regarding an excellent tour guide is in my “Hoosier Lion” article.

PCC Jerry wanted Lion ID Dr. Dianne & Lion Dr. Joe to witness firsthand his hometown, Berne, with all of its Swiss architecture. Ironically, not far from our guests’ hometown is the town named New Bern, North Carolina, with that same Swiss architecture & those same black bear designs.

Heading back into Bluffton, ID Dr. Dianne & Dr. Joe met some of PCC Jerry’s & my dearest friends, who had gathered at the hotel. Our guests “dined.” I put quotes around that word, because we ate at Milli’s Restaurant in Bluffton, where we

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have our Lions meetings. Hanging on the wall was our Lions banner that CC Jerry had left hanging for our guests to see before he took it down for **Saturday**.

Then bright & early **Saturday** morning, it was convention time. If you missed it, well, you

missed a fun energetic day! Obviously, ID Dr. Dianne had been an exciting teacher! She had that group



of Lions off their seats & engaged in a chanting session of pure energy explosion!

If you had fun with my ID Dianne, then you are fired up for our Indiana State Convention in May! None other than our Lions International President Brian Sheehan is going to be there in Bloomington! I have heard him twice, and I can guarantee that he will have you chanting, "Where's Bird Island?" I have my special socks ready to pack.

They have, well, you'll just have to wait & see what's on my socks! An FYI, my socks were a personal gift from International President Brian Sheehan.



Lion Dr. Joe Pitts, ID Dr. Dianne Pitts, DG Sandy Zeigler, PCC Jerry Zeigler

Keep Roaring!

District Governor Sandy

OFFICIAL CLUB VISITS

By: DG Sandy

Many, many thanks to all of the clubs who have had their Official Club Visit. I have loved the opportunity of getting to meet so many GREAT LIONS! That rumor is true, District 25B is the BEST!!

If you haven't had your Official "Domino Effect" Lions Club Visit, you need to give me a call & set something up.

I think you'll be glad that you did!

1-260-403-3092

**Thanks!
DG Sandy**



IMPORTANT DATES IN OUR DISTRICT

BLOOMINGTON,
KENDALLVILLE, AND BOSTON
DATES TO REMEMBER:

May 12-13: Indiana State Convention, Bloomington. Information can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

May 20th: District Cabinet Meeting
4, Kendallville American Legion,
Kendallville, IN

June 30-July 3: International
Convention, Boston



CLUB EXCELLENCE AWARD

By: DG Sandy Zeigler

On March 25, at the District 25B Convention, PCC Jerry Zeigler presented a Club Excellence Award to the Heritage Lions Club.



Accepting this award for the Heritage Lions Club were on the right, current President Thomas Wolf, current Secretary Cindy Wolf, and current Vice President Jan Hockemeyer, on the left. PCC Jerry Zeigler did this presentation, because PCC Jerry was the District Governor during the year that the Heritage Club earned their award.

TRI-LAKES LIONS CLUB

By Sue L'Esperance

Today we presented a check to the Thorncreek Twp Volunteer Fire Dept for the purchase of scene lights, batteries and 4-port charger. From L to R are 1st Vice District Gov Terry Marker, Fire Chief Doug DeWitt, Pres. Larry Weiss, Lions Pam Arnold (Trustee - Indiana Lions Foundation) and Lions Sue L'Esperance. A huge thank you to the Indiana Lions Foundation for partnering with us to make this a reality for our community! WE SERVE!



4TH CABINET MEETING

WHAT: District 25B Cabinet Meeting

WHEN: May 21, 2023

WHERE: Kendallville, IN American Legion

Doors open: To be announced

Registration will begin at about: To be announced

PDG Meeting at: To be announced

Call to order will begin at: To be announced

WHO: Open to ALL Lions & guests.

All Lions Club Presidents and Secretaries ARE expected to attend.

Zone Chairs, Trustees, and Cabinet Positions are also expected to attend.

If Project Chairs have anything to share, time will be allotted for this.

If you have a report but cannot attend, please send report to:

DG Sandy Zeigler
1121 Ridgewood Lane
Bluffton, IN 46714

Please bring a gift for a door prize! Thanks!

There will be a 50/50 Drawing to Benefit "Leader Dogs for the Blind."

Doughnuts, coffee, bottled water, and coney dogs will be provided.



We Serve



THOUGHTS FROM FVDG TERRY MARKER

GOOD DAY LIONS OF DISTRICT 25 B (THE BEST).

Well by the time you get this the District Convention will be over and we will be looking forward to State Convention on May 12-13, 2023 in Bloomington, IN. I hope to see many of you at the convention. It is a good place to meet new Lions, and get many new ideas of how we can reach out to our communities. Even if you can only make it for one day it is worth the trip.

It is also election time in the District and local Clubs. I would ask two things of clubs.

Please get your club officers reported to LCI as quickly as possible, so I have the right information to put in the Directory.

If at all possible, send their Names, Addresses, Phone numbers (both cell and home) and E-Mail Addresses to me. If the Club president or Secretary does not have e-mail designate some one in the club who does to receive info from the district and state. They could be appointed as your club administrator, so they could also send in reports.

I am trying to line up places and dates for upcoming officer training sessions, the end of May and the first part of June. As soon as I have the info, I will send it out to the clubs.

Talking about clubs, it is interesting to get the Club Health Assessment for the District every month to keep track of where we are during the year. We are a little behind in some areas. Reporting of Service activities, we are at roughly 63%. Meaning 37% have reported no activities in over 2 years. We can improve on that. If you need help, contact PDG Roger Cash or myself.

57% of our clubs have added no new members this year. Let us make an end of year push. Ask people to join. Ask them to help you serve and make the work load easier. When they do join, listen to them, they have some pretty good ideas. If you're having trouble getting people to join an older club think about starting a branch that reaches your communities in new ways.

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We have a net growth of 1.29%. So we are in the positive because some clubs are trying very hard to gain members and I hope they keep up the good work. Our District Membership is at 1053 and it needs to be at 1250. We can do it, if we work together.

We have always got room for people to step into leadership rolls. I have zone chair openings in Zone A (LaGrange Area), and Zone E (DeKalb County). I also don't know yet if we will need some trustees for different projects. But let me know if you want to try something that may take you out of your comfort zone but will definitely give you a blessing.

Last, but not least, is our goal for LCIF. We are at 54.92% as of February. Let us work hard to make it 100% by the end of June. We are asking each member to consider donating \$26.00 each for the year or the club working towards donating that much for each club member. Just think of the many causes it supports and the good we are able to accomplish in our district.

Hope to see you at District Convention and may you have a very Happy Easter.

FVDG Terry L. Marker



Continued in next Column

SVDG JIM BUSH

CHANGE IS COMING!

June 15th 2023 MyLion and MyLCI access will be permanently shut down. Lions will be changing systems to Salesforce. It is important that all your Lions' information is up to date and correct. The data in MyLion will be migrated into the new system. If the information is incorrect, the new system will be populated with bad information that will be difficult to clean up. To get ahead of this transition, it may be helpful to print Lion records out and have your Lions make pen and ink changes to any incorrect data. That data can be put into an excel sheet that can be imported back into Lion records. If you need assistance making changes, please let us know so we can coordinate a time to have the District Administrator assist your club. Please don't wait until the last minute.

Membership: People join Clubs, not the International Organization

As a district we still haven't met our goal of bringing in 56 new members. It's still not too late to make a membership push, there are 3 months left in the year and we can do it! if clubs can make the increase, we'll exceed the goal and strengthen our clubs, zones and district. Someone you know is only waiting for an invitation! As we gain members, our ability to serve our communities only becomes easier. Ask yourself if there is anyone you can personally invite to a meeting or recruiting event.

Why do people volunteer?

During my time in the military I observed some interesting things, but one always baffled me. How many of you like to cook? I'm willing to bet, there are a fair number of you that do. Now let me ask another question. How many of you like to clean up, peel potatoes, scrub pots and pans, mop floors, take out the trash, etc? True, some of those activities can be satisfying, but probably wouldn't be at the top of your list of fun things to do. Still, Soldiers would volunteer for KP duty, KP is short for Kitchen Police, which in the military generally means cleaning up messes

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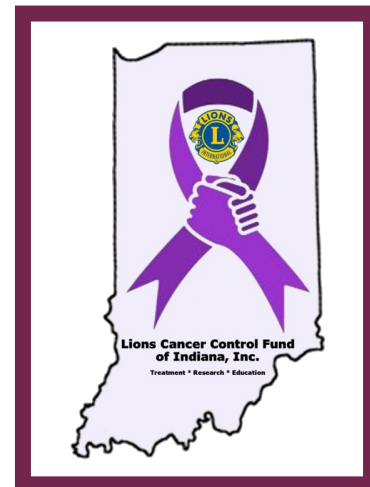
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and other mundane kitchen duties. Why would Soldiers want to do that? The answer is simple, they want something, anything to do. They'd rather do those mundane things than nothing at all. How many of our clubs do nothing at all, or don't engage your new members with jobs to do? If they didn't want to serve, they wouldn't join us to begin with. We need to be mindful of this; if we don't find some work for our Lions to do, someone else will and they'll cease to be Lions. Our motto is We Serve, so let's go do it! Sorry if this is a bit long winded, but we're all here because we want to HAVE FUN and serve our communities in whatever capacity we can.

In summary, changes are coming, there's still time to get new Lions and people want to serve!

We Serve!

Yours in Lionism,
Jim



ISBVI WORKDAY

ISBVI WORKDAY IS BACK ON TRACK AFTER AN ABSENCE DUE TO COVID.

This is an opportunity to show others our motto WE SERVE.

INDIANA SCHOOL for the BLIND and VISUALLY IMPAIRED will once again start up its annual workday for Lions and anyone that wants to participate. This event is held at the school in the spring on the weekend before graduation. Coffee and donuts along with lunch will be provided. If you want to bring a covered dish to share that would be appreciated. This event is free we will not be asking for donations or hitting you up for funds. All we need is your help to clean windows, pick up grounds, pull some weeds in main entrance flower beds and maybe place some bark chips in playground areas. We give certificates to any college or high school student that helps this certificate will look good on a college application form or job interview resume. Work starts at 8:30 am with registration and donuts/coffee (of course) Work hours 9am- 1pm. Lunch 1pm (provided by the school)



After lunch tour of school for those interested. (This is worth taking)

After lunch Afternoon work session until done or you are worn out.

Event will be Saturday, MAY 20th 2023.

If interested contact your ISBVI District Trustee or contact

Mike Okuly

260-519-3541

mokuly52@yahoo.com

This is your Indiana's Lions State Project



MEAL	\$13.00
MEAT ONLY	\$13.00
QT POTATO SALAD	\$5.00

MONROEVILLE LIONS CLUB

Dine in or Carry-out Breakfast Brunch and Bake Sale. **Sunday, April 23**, 8:30-12:30, held at American Legion 420, Monroeville. Proceeds to Monroeville Community Park needs.



DG Sandy Zeigler Interviews DGE Terry Marker

By: DG Sandy Zeigler

1.) Do you have brothers, sisters, or both?

REPLY: I have one sister, who lives nearby with her daughter. I also had one brother, who was 7 years older than I am. He died at 58 years old from cancer.

2.) Where do you call your hometown?

REPLY: Decatur, Indiana

3.) Where did you meet your charming wife?

REPLY: Wolf Lake, IN. Her Mom and dad ran a grocery store in a building my folks owned and my mother worked for them. Nikki worked at that grocery store. When I walked into that store one time, Nikki said, "I'm going to marry that guy someday." She liked my hair that looked like Elvis' hair, and she had just completed beautician's school.

4.) How long have you been married?

REPLY: This year it will be 59 years, on the 31st of December

5.) Where were you married?

REPLY: Albion Trinity EUB

6.) Have you always been a Hoosier?

REPLY: Yes

7.) What hobbies do you have?

REPLY: Fishing, especially fly fishing; Flyties; wood carver, loves to carve wood; makes puzzles with a scroll saw; loves to camp, raised kids to camp, camped at Chain 'o Lakes

8.) How long have you been a Lion?

REPLY: This time since 2005, had been a Lion in '70's, '80's, records on microfiche are lost.

9.) Are you a Lions elected or appointed official in your home club:

REPLY: no. Although I have served 5 years as a Indiana Lions Speech & Hearing trustee, 5 years as a member of the Indiana Emergency Management committee, and 5 years on the committee for Indiana State Police camp

10.) What is your goal now as a DGE?

REPLY: Want everyone to have a heart of a Lion for membership, leadership, and everyone to report their service.

11.) How many children do you and Nikki have?

REPLY: We have three children: Keith, Shawn and Lynn. Keith died at age 50 from liver cancer, Shawn lives in North Carolina and is a Security IT Specialist for Ingersoll-Rand, and Lynn lives in Logansport and works from home.

12.) How many grandchildren do you and Nikki have?

REPLY: We have eight grandchildren, and two step-grandchildren.

13.) Do you have any great-grandchildren?

REPLY: We have 6 great-grandchildren.



LIONS DG SANDY ZEIGLER MAKES OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE ARCOLA LIONS CLUB

By: District Governor Sandy Zeigler



Lion Ken Kurtz is congratulated by DG Sandy Zeigler on his 63 years as a member of the Arcola Lions Club.

DG Sandy welcomes a new member to the Arcola Club, Lion Max Krider. ➡



DG Sandy welcomes Lion Pat Lydy as a transfer from the Shoaff Park Lions Club to the Arcola Lions Club. Her sponsor Lion Gerry Lydy looks on.

Lion Gerry Lydy receives a “Domino Effect Keychain” from DG Sandy Zeigler for bringing in one new member. ➡



DG Sandy Zeigler presents her “Domino Effect Governor’s Pin” to Arcola Lions Club President, Lion Igor Buran.

My Official Visit to the Zanesville Lions Club to Do a Service Project

By: DG Sandy Zeigler

First, we had a short business meeting with Lion President Melba Edwards in charge. On the table were the handout agendas for the meeting.



PDG Roger Cash, up front on the right, in the baseball cap, was also present for the meeting.

Then came the work, sorting and matching eggs, and finally filling them with candy.



This was no small task. No, two halves, do have always make a whole.

What fun it was when there was a match and the candy fit inside



I think there's still a lot of work to do trying now to decide where the Easter Bunny should hide these eggs!





2023 Indiana Lions 102nd State Convention

Hosted by District 25E

May 12,13,14, 2023



**Bloomington/Monroe County Convention Center with special guests:
International President Brian Sheehan and Lion Lori**

PLEASE RESERVE YOUR OWN LODGING BY APRIL 11, 2023

Courtyard by Marriott Convention Hotel (attached to Convention Center)

310 South College Avenue, Bloomington, IN 47401 (Free Parking available at Convention Center)

Room Rate: \$109.00 per night, plus tax, until April 11, 2023.

Call 1-812-335-8000 for Reservations and mention LIONS CLUB 2023 in making the reservation

Hyatt Place Hotel: 217 S. Kirkwood Avenue, \$119 per night w/ breakfast

Hyatt Hotel does charge for parking; 1 ½ block north of Convention Center & free parking Call 812-339-5950 and use block code LION for the reservation.

Come and visit several Lions project tables and related booths including a USA/Canada Forum apparel vendor. Friday Golf Outing to be at Stonecrest Golf Club – 18 holes at \$39. Meet in the hotel lobby.

Scooter rental is \$120 for Friday thru Sunday.

Friday, May 12th 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM, MONROE COUNTY LIMESTONE PRESENTATION

Registration Form (one per person)

Register Online and pay with PayPal: www.indianalionsconvention.org

Deadline: All Registration Forms must be post marked by April 30, 2023. Please print name/Lions Title as desired on name badge:

Name and Lion Title: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

District: _____ Club: _____ Email: _____

Is this your FIRST Indiana Lions State Convention (circle one) **Yes** **No** Attend the Friday morning Monroe County Limestone Presentation (circle one) **Yes** **No**

Friday Evening BBQ Dinner at Monroe County Fairground Sponsored by Ellettsville Lions Club

Choose pulled pork: _____ or pulled chicken: _____ \$ 18.00= _____

Saturday Lunch: sandwich bar: chips, seasonal fresh fruit, pickle spear & drink

Choose warm beef & swiss sub w/ lettuce & tomato: _____

Or grilled ham & cheese on sourdough bread: _____ \$ 20.00 = _____

Saturday Night Banquet: Choose 1 Entrée below

Choose: citrus glazed pork chop _____ mushroom chopped steak _____ \$ 28.00 = _____

Sunday Brunch: fried chicken, scrambled eggs, fresh fruit, bacon, french toast \$ 20.00 = _____

Saturday Strides Walk T-shirt Size (S to 3XL, other) _____ \$ 18.00 = _____

2023 Indiana Convention Pin \$ 4.00 = _____

Scooter Rent (Friday thru Sunday) \$120.00 = _____

Total Registration Paid: \$ _____

Special dietary needs, list here: _____

Mail this Registration Form and Your Check, payable to

Indiana Lions State Convention 2023 to

CT Debbie Ellis, 8262 East Center Road, Sullivan, IN. 47882

Contact Info: 1-812-798-2096 or ellisdebbie259@gmail.com

IT IS NOT TOO LATE, BUT IT IS GETTING CLOSE

The time is quickly coming upon us for the 2023 Indiana Lions Multiple District Convention in Bloomington Indiana on May 12 through the 14th, 2023. Final preparations are taking place by your convention committee and District E as the host district is very excited to welcome International President Brian Sheehan and Lion Lori to Indiana as well as the rest of the Lions of Indiana to Bloomington.

The Lions of Indiana have been registering for the convention, but now is the time to make sure you get your registration mailed to Lion Debbie Ellis as soon as possible. The Courtyard hotel is full at this time and we are now using our block of rooms at the Hyatt Place on West Kirkwood. These are great rooms, and are an easy walk to the Convention Center down the B&O walking trail. And did I mention, the Hyatt Place includes breakfast each day with the room? Don't forget to drop your luggage off at the Hyatt Place and then park at the Monroe County Convention Center to avoid the parking fees at the Hyatt Place. The cutoff date for rooms at the Hyatt Place is Sunday, April 16th. After April 16, any rooms not reserved in our block will be released to the general public and will not be held for Lions. Reserve your room today so that you do not miss out on the great rate of \$119.00 for the room.

You will want to make sure that your preferences for seminars and meals selections also need to be made. Make sure you are one of the first 200 registration forms into CS Debbie so you can receive your souvenir mug at no cost. Registration number 201 will be too late. Registration needs to be made by April 30, 2023 and mailed into CS Debbie Ellis at 8262 East Center Road, Sullivan Indiana, 47882; ellisdebbie259@gmail.com. Do it today so you do not miss out.

If you are a club president, you will definitely want to sign up for the 1:30 seminar with International President Brian to hear what he has to share with you as to his vision for our organization. Small and medium size club members will want to hear from our President how our work internationally is so important around the world. This may give you some ideas to help grow your club in your towns, but also to spread your club's influence beyond the town borders. Speaking of the seminars, plan to get to Bloomington early on Friday morning to attend a seminar on the limestone industry and how our state is world famous for limestone building materials. A special speaker has been arranged for this presentation and is willing to share his experiences and knowledge with us in this area. A special gift for those who attend will be waiting for you, so plan on getting to Bloomington early Friday morning and attending this presentation at 9:00 AM.

The final countdown is on for our 102nd State Convention and you want to be a part of this exciting event. Don't wait another day and get your hotel reservation made at the Hyatt Place, 812 339-5950, and send in your registration form today.

We look forward to seeing you in Bloomington and having a great weekend as Lions.

PDG Mark Clark and PDG Gary Ochs



MD25 LCIF NEWSLETTER ARTICLES - 04/01/2023

Hello Lions of Indiana.

Our State Convention in Bloomington IN is soon approaching. During the Saturday Luncheon, would you like to have someone recognized and awarded a Melvin Jones or a Progressive Melvin Jones? Now is the time to order or make that \$1000 donation to LCIF. We are in Convention season which means they are very busy and back logged with requests. If you haven't done this already then please do it now.

LCIF requires all Districts to have goals regarding fund raising just like your district has goals. Here are the following goals per district and total funds raised through January 2023.

District A, FY 2022-2023 Goal \$29,988.00, Total Funds raised thru January 2023-\$12,401.00
District B, FY 2022-2023 Goal \$25,628.00, Total Funds raised thru January 2023-\$10,864.45
District C, FY 2022-2023 Goal \$34,833.00, Total Funds raised thru January 2023-\$24,176.00
District D, FY 2022-2023 Goal \$29,096.00, Total Funds raised thru January 2023-\$11,540.22
District E, FY 2022-2023 Goal \$31,263.00, Total Funds raised thru January 2023-\$ 5,875.10
District F, FY 2022-2023 Goal \$33,533.00, Total Funds raised thru January 2023-\$16,536.50
District G, FY 2022-2023 Goal \$31,824.00, Total Funds raised thru January 2023-\$15,073.60
TOTALS FOR MD 25- FY 2022-2023 \$216,165, TOTAL Funds raised thru January 2023 \$96,469.87

As you can see, we are only at 44.6% of our target fund raising goals through January.

My hope is as LCIF catches up with their reporting figures, we will get closer to our goals. But you can help by making a small donation to LCIF. IF every Lion in Indiana gave \$26.00 then we would meet our goal. Will you help us meet our goal?

This year's signature cause is childhood cancer. When you come to the State Convention, and you are coming right? You don't want to miss the big announcement by our state project, Lions Cancer Control Fund of Indiana, INC. Deadline for registrations is April 30. Come join us and If you have gift basket you'd like to donate, send Cheri Faulkner an email to clermontlionlady58@yahoo.com or text 317-271-3314 and let her know, She still needs baskets to assist in making this a great convention.

Respectfully Submitted,

PDG Ken Faulkner, MD25 LCIF Chair, 317-847-7884



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION

MEETING MY MATCH: A LEADER DOG DIARY

By Joey J., Guide Dog Client



Day 1

If anyone is interested and wants to see my daily activities or training I am going to try and update every evening and post any pics I am able to take. Each pic will have a description. So, after breakfast we had a meeting to introduce ourselves and the trainers. We are the very first class to welcome some students from the UK. We have four students plus an instructor being taught by Leader Dog. They have a massive waitlist in England for people who need a guide dog. America stepped up to help. After the meeting we were taught how to harness the dog and use the special made leash. Then we had our first “Juno” walk, which is a human holding the harness while I give her the directions. Kind of “practice” before handling my actual dog. Then we broke for lunch and had some free time. After lunch we loaded up in buses, or what our British friends called carriages. Lol. We headed downtown for another “Juno” walk, this time a couple city blocks around the other [Leader Dog] facility. Once back we had a fire drill and GPS training, as they give you GPS units that help with traveling by yourself. It’s a \$900 device that they provide for free. Pretty cool stuff. Then we had dinner and the rest of the evening off.



My humble abode. The door heads out to the courtyard.

Continued on next page

MEETING MY MATCH: A LEADER DOG DIARY CONTINUED

Day 2

Today will be the last day we start the day without our dogs. So it started with coffee as usual and breakfast. Afterwards we all loaded up again and headed downtown. Once there we did our 3rd and final “Juno” walk. This time we did a larger route and worked on crossing a busier street and correcting the dog when it has distractions. He/she IS a dog and sometimes needs to be reminded that it has a job to do. After lunch we FINALLY got to work with a real dog. Just not OUR dog. So we practiced the feeding and watering process, how to “park*” our dog and just the overall rules for the dog while in the room with me. For example, always on tie-down or leash for at least the first week, not allowed on the bed, etc.



My training buddy for the day, the beautiful Shaylen.

After that lesson, I practiced the commands of sit and down and “heeling” the dog while walking and keeping the dog from getting distracted. Super fun and it didn’t last long enough. My training dog for the day was a career changed yellow lab named Shaylen and she was beautiful and brilliant. For the final activity of the day we had a lesson about the dogs’ “point of view.” These guide dogs were born in someone’s home, then moved back to Leader Dogs for the Blind for a few weeks, then given to their puppy raiser for a year or so, then taken from them and sent back to Leader Dogs for the Blind for at least four months of intense training. And finally now, they will transition to me and the other clients. Lots of change for these dogs and just to be patient with them. So tomorrow is the day!!! Tomorrow we all get to meet him/her. Stay tuned!

* “Park” is the command word taught to Leader Dogs to relieve themselves.

Day 3

Well, to state the obvious, today was issue day. Man, is Tucker full of energy! After I received Tucker, we spent a little time together in the room and then practiced “heeling” in the hallway. He is EXTREMELY attached to Mary, his trainer, but he’s starting to figure out that I’m his master. Just takes time. Then, we had our very first walk in harness, and let me tell y’all, this is where he shined. Very fast walker, stopped at every curb like a champ, maneuvered around a tree branch for me. Just spectacular!

Continued on next page

MEETING MY MATCH: A LEADER DOG DIARY CONTINUED



Then, Tucker was taken to the cafeteria with me and I ate lunch while “trying” lol to keep him from being too excited every time he saw Mary. Then we “parked” and that was successful. He’s VERY good at the park command. Then we had a seminar on using T-Touch, which is a form of doggie massage. It helps calm them down in stressful situations like this owner transition. Then we had dinner, and Tucker was already waaaay better at laying at my feet while I ate. (Fish and chips, yummy.) Then, he “parked” again, lol. Then we have one more “heeling” session tonight, one more chance to “park” at 8 p.m. and then Tucker is done for the night and I will be “tuckered” out. Been a fun day and also a little stressful. But I know he’s gonna be a success.

DAY 4

Today me and Tucker had two more “test sessions” around the practice track [at Leader Dog] first thing after breakfast. This consists of him working in harness and guiding me as I direct him. He also has to stop at every curb before we can proceed. Trust me when I say it, he knows what he’s doing. Even veered me left when I was getting too close to the edge of the sidewalk. Truly amazing dogs they are. After lunch we loaded up for the very first time in buses and made our way downtown to walk a few city blocks and encounter distractions and light traffic. Once we waited on the other side of the street, Tucker showed his stuff. While we waited on the other side of the street, Mary tried to distract him and the unannounced and also with food in her open hand. They were rewarded with treats if they remained in a sit-stay. Do I have to tell you that Tucker even ignored his beloved trainer? He did! And



Me and Tucker on our

first city walk together.

Continued on next page

MEETING MY MATCH: A LEADER DOG DIARY CONTINUED

Once back at the residence hall, we “parked and watered.” Following that was a grooming lesson on the importance of grooming daily as this keeps the dog from being denied access in public places. They must be clean and well kept. It also allows you to check their bodies for any irregularities. Sadly I left my phone and didn’t get grooming pics. After me and Tucker ate dinner we had a few more distraction lessons walking down the hallways. I think he did swell and after a couple days together we are slowly becoming a better team. Poor guy just wants to go and go and go! Kinda feel bad keeping him on tie-down or leash 24/7 but you can’t argue with their process.

Day 5

Well, just like in all areas of life and learning, there are ups and downs. Today started on a down. And honestly I blame myself more than Tucker. Park time isn’t until 6:30 a.m. I wanted to go get a cup of coffee at about 5:50 and didn’t want to leave him behind. So off we went, and... he decided to “park” in the front office. It’s happened with other dogs I’m sure, just hate that it happened. So going forward, as soon as we both wake up, we don’t have to wait until scheduled park time anymore.



Tucker says, “Can I play now?”

But, as with all lows, there are the ups. This morning we had three scheduled “traffic checks” where [Leader Dog instructors] pulled out in front of us while Tucker was guiding me. He nailed it every time. This pup isn’t gonna let me walk out in front of a car. Then the afternoon session was just a regular route downtown, but this time, unbeknownst to me, Mary unhitched from us, and me and Tucker did our first solo walk. Also, his love affair with Mary is slowly fading. But he still keeps an eye on her. Then we had one-on-one obedience lessons. We practiced sit, down, stay, come... He’s a rockstar. So, with that being said, since his behavior and loyalty towards me are growing, he no longer has to wear his Gentle Leader [head harness] and Tucker gets free play-time off leash in the room with me. This budding partnership is getting better, even if we fall a couple times.

Continued on next page

MEETING MY MATCH: A LEADER DOG DIARY CONTINUE

Day 6

Today was a FUN day. We started out the day with some “patterning” exercises. This is where I train Tucker to “find my chair” or “find my door.” Whatever you want him to take you to, I learned how to train him to remember these things. He caught on very quick. We also practiced off-leash “come” commands while Tucker was in the play area. Fun stuff. And he is so good.



Tucker says, “Thanks

for the long walk.”

After lunch we went back downtown and went on our longest walk yet. Untethered from Mary, we walked about a mile. Tucker loved it. He REALLY likes to work and constantly wants something to do. Then the evening consisted of some off-leash play on the room, which was pretty much playing fetch and watching the good boy get the zoomies and chase his tail. Tomorrow the instructors are off, so we have the entire day to ourselves.

Day 7

Sunday. Today brings a close to one full week at Leader Dogs for the Blind and five days with Tucker. With the instructors off, we were left to make the day alone. Full of bonding time and some practice. We practiced some basic obedience, a pattern-signing exercise (he shows me to my assigned bench outside), and just on the track for exercise. ing exercise (he shows me to my assigned some walking (not guide work)

When you are in Detroit and watch the Cowboys game.



have a Velcro dog, this is how you

Continued on next page

MEETING MY MATCH: A LEADER DOG DIARY CONTINUE

Other than that, we played together in the room, played bingo with the other students, and he watched football with me. Well, sorta. Tomorrow starts the next week of training as we branch out to other locations and many other exciting skills. So much still to learn.

Day 8

Today started with a week “touch-up” meeting with the instructors. This consisted of my thoughts so far on the program and what I want to work on more in the next coming week. We will be branching out into stores, malls, other cities, and of course downtown Detroit soon. I need some sidewalkless travel practice as we have many neighborhoods [at home] that don’t have any. So that is my focus and I requested a night walk as my night vision is pathetic to say the least. Then we had another “Juno” walk. This time on working around obstacles like cones or construction barriers on the sidewalk, people in the way, etc. After that we had a fascinating presentation from the puppy development coordinator. She explained the process from birth, to puppy raiser, to being chosen as a guide dog, or getting career changed (i.e. drug sniffing dog, explosives, maybe diabetes dog, etc.). Then we learned about our own dog... Tucker Johnson was born April 3rd, 2021 and was raised in Michigan. His dad is Whiskey and his mom is Tasha. And they must have good genes, because that litter of pups has four dogs that are going to be guide dogs. Tucker comes from some great lineage.



After lunch we made our way downtown and practiced our obstacle avoidance with our dogs. Once again, Tucker was better than me. He’s practiced this way more than I have. But I’ll get there. Gonna have to work at it though. Then back at the facility we had a presentation from the on-site veterinarian. She explained some dos and don’ts and stuff like that. We will have one-on-one visits with her on Thursday. We also were informed that we may get to meet our puppy raisers on Saturday. I’d love to meet the family that helped train and raise my Tucker for a year. I know it has to be hard to love a dog like that and know that you have to say good-bye. That takes special people to do that and I am extremely thankful for their love, devotion, and dedication to Leader Dogs for the Blind. Without them, it would not be possible.

EDITOR’S NOTE: *Look for more of this story in next month’s newsletter.*



DG SANDY AND DISTRICT B **CALENDAR** **APRIL 2023**



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7 Good Friday 	8
9 Easter 	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 Hamilton Lions Club 	21 	22
23 Monroeville Lions Clubs Breakfast & Bake Sale 	24	25	26	27	28 PCC Jerry's Birthday 	29
30						

DG SANDY WELCOMED EVERYONE

By: DG Sandy Zeigler

When: March 25, 2023, at 8:30 A.M.

What: District 25B District Convention

Where: First Church of Christ, Bluffton

Who: Lions from All Over Indiana (And ID-Dr. Dianne & Dr. Joe Pitts from Chappels, South Carolina)

On Saturday, March 25th, 2023, I called the District 25B District Convention to order. Lion FVDG Terry Marker led us in the saying of the “Pledge of Allegiance,” followed by Lion SVDG Jim Bush leading us in the “Lions Pledge,” which was written in the District 25B Convention Agenda. Lion Cabinet Secretary Carol Bittner led us in singing one verse of “America,” followed by the Invocation by Lions Chaplain PCC Jerry Zeigler. After I introduced the head table, except for my International Director and her husband, Dr. Joe, who would be introduced later.



After I introduced the head table, (except for the International Director Dr. Dianne Pitts and her husband, Dr. Joe Pitts, who would be introduced later,) I took a moment to have all of the Lions Club Secretaries stand and be acknowledged, and then all of the Club Presidents stand and also be acknowledged with applause.



Then I introduced those who were present from my husband's, PCC Jerry's, Council, and then those present from my Council.

Next, I acknowledged other guests who were also in attendance from out of our District 25B. Lions PCC Jerry Zeigler read a “Veteran's Salute.”

This Was Followed By the District 25B Memorial Service.

Prelude music, “Amazing Grace,” was played by Lion Cabinet Secretary Carol Bittner. Names of those whose service had ended between March 1, 2022, and March 1, 2023, were individually read by Lion Chaplain PCC Jerry Zeigler, acknowledged with the lighting of a candle for each by Lion SVDG Jim Bush, and ringing the bell for each by Lion Dr. Joe Pitts.

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DG SANDY WELCOMED EVERYONE CONTINUED



Postlude music, “How Great Thou Art,” was played by Lion Cabinet Secretary Carol Bittner.

Following the memorial service there was a break for Silent Auction shopping and for viewing the Lions Indiana State Projects’ Displays.



Then, PCC Jerry Zeigler introduced Lions International Director Dr. Dianne Pitts who held a “Town Hall Session,” of questions & answers.

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DG SANDY WELCOMED EVERYONE CONTINUED



Following was an invocation by Lion District Chaplain PCC Jerry Zeigler, and then an adjournment was announced to go to the Youth Center for lunch.



I felt so humbled by the outpouring of the loving support that I had been given. There were 71 for lunch, plus 3 others who came just for the convention.



Next, PCC Jerry Zeigler gave another warm welcome to our guest speaker, Lion ID Dr. Dianne Pitts from Chappells, South Carolina.

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DG SANDY WELCOMED EVERYONE CONTINUED



Lion ID Dr. Dianne Pitts had the Lions on their feet as she directed them through some familiar songs. By the audience's response, it did not seem like those Lions had just met ID Dr. Dianne that forenoon.



Then a special award was presented by me to my husband, Lion PCC Jerry. This eagle plaque was very special because Jerry and I both love our country and this national bird. The plaque is titled: EXCELLENCE. Then it reads: "Excellence is the result of caring more than others think is wise, risking more than others think is practical and expecting more than others think is possible."

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DG SANDY WELCOMED EVERYONE CONTINUED



(And) Books, books, and more books were our gifts for our guests, Lion ID Dr. Dianne and Dr. Joe Pitts from South Carolina. ID Dr. Dianne had shared privately with me on the telephone that they both love to read, and that they were interested in learning more about my area's history. Now, they have new books to read.

SPECIAL CONVENTION HELPERS

By: DG Sandy Zeigler

Special thanks to our dear friend, Lion Wendy Semans, for being our District 25B Convention photographer. Lion Wendy is from District 25A.

Special thanks to Cindy and Tom McElhaney for lending us their three, big coffee urns. They live outside of Bluffton.

Special thanks to our dear friend, Jeannie Meekin, from New Haven who came down to Bluffton to oversee the food set-up, to oversee the serving of the potatoes, and the clean-up in the Youth Center.

Special thanks to Bluffton Lions Club for being the host Lions Club for the District 25B District Convention. Special thanks to members who worked [Thursday](#) night setting up the Sanctuary and the Foyer of Bluffton's First Church of Christ and for setting up their Youth Center. Thanks also to the Lions who covered General Registration, Delegate Registration, Silent Auction, and the Collection of any money.



DG SANDY WELCOMED EVERYONE CONTINUE

DISTRICT 25B LEADERS' DINNER

Saturday Night's Leaders' Dinner, Fort Wayne, Indiana, at the "Tavern" of Coventry Restaurant



Lion Linda Madden & PDG Pat Short

Starting with the teal scarf, PDG Pat Short, CC Scott Smith, PCC Mitch Semans, ID Dr. Dianne Pitts, Dr. Joe Pitts, and Lion Linda Madden

Across from PDG Pat Short, was her husband, PDG Charlie Short, Lion Christine Woodward, Lion Wendy Semans, DG Bob Hrdy, & DG Sandy Zeigler .



On the right) Lion Bob Hudson, ZC Susie Hudson, FVDGE Jim Bush, Lion Peggy Bush, Lion Pam Arnold, PDG Alan Arnold, & (On the end) DGE Terry Marker

(Across the table on the left) PDG Roger Cash, Lion Gaye Cash, Lion Nikki Marker

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DG SANDY WELCOMED EVERYONE CONTINUE



On the left) ID Dr. Dianne Pitts, Dr. Joe Pitts, & Lion Linda Madden



(On the left) Dr. Joe Pitts, Lion ID Dr. Dianne Pitts, DG Sandy Zeigler, & PCC Jerry Zeigler



ID Dr. Dianne Pitts & Dr. Joe Pitts

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DG SANDY WELCOMED EVERYONE CONTINUE



Lion Nikki Marker & DGE Terry Marker



Lions Peggy Bush & FVDGE Jim Bush

PDG Alan Arnold & Lion Pam Arnold



ZC Lion Susie & Lion Bob Hudson





DG Sandy Zeigler
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Bluffton, IN 46714

April 2023

