



Arkansas Lions MD-7

Council of Governors Meeting

July 10, 2021

Meeting Recap

Participants: Jeremy Kimble, Council Chair
Rene Roberts District Governor 7-L
Carol Allen, District Governor 7-I
Roy Patterson, District Governor 7-O
Don Young, District Governor 7-N

Guests: 1st VDG Travis Burton, 1st VDG Dean Rowland, 1st VDG Kim Earles, 1st VDG Bill Johnson, PDG Gloria Montgomery, Ron Montgomery, PCC Bill Heaston, PDG Mike Benefield, PCC Jennifer Carey, PCC Myrna McGee, PDG Pat Snodgrass, Bec Dwyer, PCC Tracy Price, Rita Price, PDG Jeff Davis, Bonda Moyer, PDG Rich Fischer, Norm Dickson, Jack Wells, PDG Phyllis Fry, PDG Leanna Rich, and PDG Wanda Green, State Secretary.

The first MD-7 Council Meeting for fiscal year 2021-2022 was held on July 10, 2021, at World Service for the Blind - 2811 Fair Park Blvd, Little Rock, Arkansas. The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Council Chair Jeremy Kimble. The invocation was given by DG Rene Roberts and pledge led by DG Roy Patterson.

CC Jeremy Kimble welcomed everyone to the meeting. CC Kimble introduced the sitting Council of Governors for 2021-22.

PCC Bill Heston reported on Lion Sharon Giovinazzo. CC Jeremy thanked Lion Bill for making sure the room was arranged for today.

PCC Tracy Price, treasurer of the Past District Governors Association presented a check in the amount \$3,100.00. Revenues are down from a decline in membership.

The minutes from the Council Meeting, April 30, 2021 and Business meeting May 1, 2021, were reviewed and approved. A motion was made by DG Rene Roberts seconded by DG Don Young to approve the minutes as presented. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

DG Don Young, Council Treasurer, provided a submitted proposed balanced budget which calls for expenses and income of \$31,044.00. A motion made by DG Carol Allen and seconded by DG Rene Roberts to accept the report as presented. Motion approved. A copy will be filed for audit.

Old Business: A recommendation was made to close the UAMS/Lion's grant. PCC Bill Heaton will be purchasing brochures to close account.

New Business:

Lion Jack Wells, co-owner of Sew Perfect Embroidery, presented a program on the Arkansas Lions online merchandise store. A motion was made by DG Rene Roberts and seconded by DG Roy Patterson to have Lion Jack Wells to structure the Arkansas Lions on line store with prices on the bid sheet. Motion passed. The on-line store link will be provided soon.

A brief discussion was held regarding the Special Events Planning Committee. A motion was made by DG Don Young to retain the Special Events Planning Committee seconded by DG Rene Roberts. Motion passed. It was recommended to use the first planning guide. The current policy was reviewed by the Constitution and By-Law committee, it was determined that it was in violation of the MD 7 Constitution and Bylaws. The committee members will serve a two-year term. It was decided that this committee would be available as needed, the events for 2022 have already been planned, and will not need this committee.

A motion was made by DG Roy Patterson and seconded by DG Rene Roberts to accept the bid from Conway Noon Lions Clubs to host the 2022 Mid-Winter Leadership Forum. Motion passed. CC Jeremy reminded everyone this event was for training. Some of the session to be held are Membership, Service, LCIF and Guiding Lions.

A motion was made by DG Roy Patterson and seconded by DG Rene Roberts to provide 25 State pins and 5 prestige pins to the Vice District Governors. Motion passed.

A motion was made by DG Rene Roberts and seconded by DG Roy Patterson to have the auction fund deposited in the State general funds and the 50/50 be donated to the Past District Governor's Association this year. Motion passed.

A motion was made by DG Rene Roberts and seconded by DG Roy Patterson to accept the 2022 State Convention budget. Motion passed. The theme will be "IT" S GREAT TO BE A LION" to be held at the Embassy Suites-Jonesboro.

A report on the Council of Governor's goals for 2021-22:
Digital directories savings of \$600.00, New Inventory on line store, state pins pricing and donations, checking prices on the awards given, and focus on membership.

Committee Reports/District Governor's Report - attached

A motion was made by DG Rene Roberts and seconded by DG Roy Patterson to accept the written reports as presented. Motion passed.

Lion Bonda Moyer stated that a memorial for PDG Norm Moyer will be held August 7, @ 2:00 p.m. at St Peter Episcopal Church-925 Mitchell, Conway.

Mid-South will host a Visiting Lion Day on August 14. Registration is free at www.midsouthlions.org.

Dates for Council Meeting: October 9, 2020

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DG Carol Allen, Council Secretary

PDG Wanda Green, State Secretary

Action Items:

1. PCC Bill Heaston to close the grant account.
2. PDG Wanda check on prices for awards.
3. PCC Jennifer Carey to update website.
4. DG Rene to appoint committee member to SEPC.

District 7-L-District Governor Rene Roberts

Number of Clubs to Date: 26 Number of Lions to Date: 659 Status Quo Clubs: 1

Problem Clubs: Benton

Net Gain in Membership to Date: 41 Net Loss to Date: 128

Number of Official Visits Made to Date: 2

Dates to Remember in Your District: District Convention tentative date is March 12, 2022

District 7-I - District Governor Carol Allen

Number of Clubs to Date: 31 Number of Lions to Date: 633 Status Quo Clubs: -0-

Problem Clubs: Gentry, Rogers

Net Gain in Membership to Date: 42 Net Loss to Date: 120

Number of Official Visits Made to Date: 1

Dates to Remember in Your District: District Convention October 29 & 30, Cabinet meeting -July 17th

District 7-O - District Governor Roy Patterson

Number of Clubs to Date: 26 Number of Lions to Date: 568 Status Quo Clubs: 1

Problem Clubs: West Memphis, Fairfield Bay, Jonesboro Noon, Melbourne & Cherry Valley

Net Gain in Membership to Date: 38 Net Loss to Date: 71

Number of Official Visits Made to Date: 0

Dates to Remember in Your District: July 17th Cabinet Meeting Oct 16th District 7-0 Convention

Comments: General Health & Welfare of District:

All clubs are good with the exception of four clubs mentioned

District 7-N - District Governor Don Young

Number of Clubs to Date: 28 Number of Lions to Date: 528 Status Quo Clubs: 1

Problem Clubs: McGhee, Clarendon

Net Gain in Membership to Date: 67 Net Loss to Date: 124

Number of Official Visits Made to Date: 1

Dates to Remember in Your District: Cabinet meeting July 17, District Convention October 9.

Comments: General Health & Welfare of District: Overall, the district is in less than optimum shape. Some clubs are still not meeting and some are only meeting with less frequency. Dewitt is unsure if they can do their annual fund raiser but some of the Carlisle club is going to try to help. The same is true for Clarendon.

Constitution & By-Laws: Myrna McGee, PCC

A question was raised toward the latter part of the 2020-21 Lions year concerning the legality of the SEPC.

It was referred to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. After the Committee reviewed it, it was determined that it was in violation of the MD 7 Constitution and Bylaws. The Committee recommended that it be referred to the 2021-22 Council of Governors to decide the status of help with state events.

Diabetes Chair: Kelli Kimble

Thank you for electing me as Diabetes Chairperson for the 2021-2022 year. I look forward to learning everything I can regarding diabetes so that I may share it with all of you. I have recently begun the process of researching and gathering materials about diabetes. I have also secured a nurse (maybe two) to come to the State Convention in Jonesboro to help educate us lions on what diabetes is and steps on preventing and treating diabetes. I will be looking into programs and activities clubs can hold regarding educating adults and children about diabetes. Again, I look forward to serving as the Diabetes Chairperson. Thank you.

Global Leadership Team: Leanna Rich, PDG

LCI has not given us our curriculum for this year's VDG training. We usually get this information around the end of September. In the meantime, we will be reaching out and making sure that we have updated contact information on all our current VDGs. We are looking forward to another year of opportunity to train our incoming leadership.

We have reached out to last year's DG GLT's but did not receive a response concerning any Club Officer Training. We are aware that District 7N will be hosting a training in August.

We will also be reaching out to our current District GLTs offering our assistance if needed.

Global Membership Team: PCC Tracy Price

Present a packet to all on membership. His theme for six month of this Lions Year is "Gain 1 n 21!" He challenged each Lion in MD7 to embrace this challenge and make it happen.

Global Action Team – Service: Jeff Davis, PDG

Prior to the years affected by Covid, LCI had already exceeded their 2021 goal of serving two million per year, having served 2.75 million 2019. To say "We Serve" is an understatement, literally, because we know many clubs do not file service reports. It's more than bragging-rights! Service reports offer benefits including LCI and its Foundation's ability to seek and encourage cooperate and philanthropic support.

My first effort will be to encourage, and if necessary, provide training in order to capture our service more accurately.

International Relations: Bill Heaston, PCC

Fellow Lions: All is going good with the Lions of MD-7 and Lions Clubs International. The Leadership at Lions International changed on July 1, 2021 with the election of Lion Douglas Alexander of Brooklyn, New York as our International President. His Theme for this year is; "SERVICE FROM THE HEART". These are the feelings of our 105 th International President who will lead our Association in the coming year: "Lions are a family; a very big global family – one of which the only requirement is pure and simple: A Heart for Service."

Lions Alert: Don Ellis

The 2020-21 Council voted unanimously to provide \$8,000.00 from the Alert fund to WSB to help them with expenses incurred during the frozen pipe's emergency situation. Asking for ways to replace the funds.

Information Technology: PCC Jennifer Carey

The Arkansas Lions website has been updated.

Peace Poster: Jeremy Kimble, CC

Peace Poster Contest - "We Are All Connected". Lions' clubs around the globe have been sponsoring a very special art contest in schools and youth groups. Creating peace posters gives children everywhere the chance to express their visions of peace and inspire the world through art and creativity.

To sponsor the Peace Poster Contest, Lions clubs can order a contest kit from January 15 to October 1. *To order a kit by phone, call Club Supplies Sales at (630) 571-5466*

LCIF: Mike Benefield, PDG

CAMPAIGN 100 FUNDS RAISED PERFORMANCE REPORT AS OF 7/1/2021 12:00:00AM Area Leaders - Group F: PID Sam Lindsey (TX)

| MD | Coordinator %Mbrs | Total Funds Raised/ Donated | Cash and Pledge Donated | Cash Received | Model | %Clubs |
|-----------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------|
| | | | Balances | Clubs | | |
| 2 TX | Bill Smothermon 81.46 | \$1,574,464.56 5.84 | | \$1,510,199.82 | \$1,475,431.66 | 23 |
| JOE AL PICONE | | | | | | |
| 3 OK | Wm Clovis 50.35 | \$199,546.28 2.75 | | \$198,246.28 | \$194,006.72 | 6 |
| 7 AR | Michael Benefield 63.96 | \$158,319.38 3.56 | | \$158,319.38 | \$155,069.38 | 1 |
| 8 LA | Michele Waskom 51.82 | \$347,375.54 4.58 | | \$335,475.54 | \$308,610.54 | 10 |
| 26 MO | Don Noland 93.09 | \$571,642.49 4.05 | | \$564,640.41 | \$558,583.51 | 8 |
| Group F TOTALS: | | \$2,851,348.25 | | \$2,766,881.43 | \$2,691,701.81 | |

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Public Relations / Newsletter: Jeff Davis, PDG

Again, I must thank all the club reporters for sending in articles and photographs of their club activities. The newsletter continues to expand as club participation increases.

I ask MD leaders to encourage even more clubs to share their successes with us and I would like to see committee chairs and GAT leaders submit reports and comments too. The newsletter is a great tool for sharing and providing needed information.

PDG's Association- PDG Phyliss Fry

The PDGA met at the State Convention in May 2021. New members were inducted. New officers were installed. 50/50 Raffle was conducted. Silent Auction was held with the proceeds going to the Arkansas Eye Bank. 6 new members joined the PDGA. The Memorial Service for Lions was conducted at the State Convention. The bank account was moved to Centennial Bank in Clarksville.

State Office: Wanda Green, PDG

2021-22 State Directories are digital and on MD7 Webpage. Thank DG's for working on this!
2022 State Pins are on ordered. The selling price of the state pin is \$2.00 and \$6.00 for the Prestige.
The Financial books have been prepared to send to Lion Libby for Audit.
The State Office is closed. 1161 Essex Driver, Benton, AR 72019
The Semi-annual dues statements are ready to be mailed. (A copy is in DG's folder)

Youth Exchange: Bonda Moyer

Now that countries are beginning to be open to persons from other countries, I hope that the Youth Exchange Program will be back in full swing before this Lions year is over. I would ask all District Governors to appoint a Youth Exchange chair for your district. We can begin now to work toward recruiting Clubs to sponsor a youth to go on an Exchange and host families to receive a student from another country. I am assuming this would be for the 2022-23 school year or the preceding summer

Strategic Plan: Rich Fischer, PDG

The COVID-19 situation has continued to impact Lions worldwide in their ability to achieve established goals and/or objectives. Consequently, the numbers for Arkansas Lions Multiple District 7 very likely continue to reflect a reduction in overall Lions club activity even though the pandemic seems to be winding down allowing Lions to once again go out into the community and "serve".

As the Council enters a new Lions year one of the challenges before it is to reenergize and motivate the membership in various aspects of Lionism.

First, I would encourage all the new DGs to read and familiarize yourselves with the state level plan which is posted on the MD7 website. Then, working with your district level Strategic Plan chairs and entire leadership team, use the plan as a roadmap to identify areas and goals contained within on which focus might be given in your overall reenergizing efforts. Maybe it's Service or possibly Membership.

As for myself in my role as District 7-O Strategic Plan chair, I feel that the Membership Growth & Retention area is the most critical at this time. The Lions of Arkansas, like those of all North America and Canada have experienced continuing membership decline over the past few years. So, this challenge is not unique to us.

The plan does not provide specific tactics to be used to achieve the stated goals, but rather a high-level guide as to where we need to go. This is purposeful as how a club goes about working toward goal achievement will be unique to each.

For example, in the area of membership. . . how many of your clubs have Facebook pages that are regularly updated with local activities including invitations to page visitors to attend the upcoming club meeting? How many regularly send press releases to their local papers keeping readers updated on what the Lions are doing in the community and how someone might get involved? When a new member is enrolled is a photo with short caption posted on Facebook and sent to the paper? These are some of things right off the bat that could be done to increase visibility and possibly motivate folks to become Lions.

Something else that I would recommend the Council do after reviewing the most recent state level plan is to identify areas or items in need of updating or revising in some way. An example might be to update the language to reflect new programs that are being rolled out by LCI that may be replacing prior programs. . . like GMT to NAMI or whatever the new membership development program is called this year. Some goals may need to be modified, added or deleted given the current environment.

In my role as state Strategic Plan chair, I will be sending out an email to each of the district level Strategic Plan chairs * (see copy provided) which provides some guidance and direction as to what their roles might entail. Hopefully this communication will clarify for those who are unfamiliar with what they actually could do in their respective roles to move the ball forward.

In conclusion, we have challenges before us as Lions that I am confident we can meet with your leadership and commitment. If I can assist you, please don't hesitate to reach out.

* Greetings MD7 District Strategic Plan chairs!

In my role as state level Strategic Plan Chair, I would first like to recognize and thank you all for stepping forward to facilitate strategic plan implementation within your districts. I believe that at one time all districts and the Lions of Arkansas had approved "roadmaps" for the future in the form of strategic plans!

In District 7-O, where I currently fill the same role as you of Strategic Plan Chair, a district level strategic plan was formally approved and adopted during the final Cabinet meeting of the 2011-12 Lions year. I believe your respective districts did similarly, however I would encourage you confirm that such action was taken at that time or in the ensuing years and that a plan was developed and put in place in your districts. It has always been my belief that formalizing a district plan in such a way lends a higher level of credibility to the plan

and may serve to motivate Lions within the district to assist in achieving the goals and objectives set forth by the plan.

I'm sure you all may have asked yourselves, "What am I supposed to be doing as District Strategic Plan Chair? Am I responsible for doing all the work and making sure it happens?" As state level Strategic Plan Chair and someone with years of experience in strategic plan development and implementation, I would respond. . . "No, you are not responsible for doing the work yourself." What I see us doing at the district level includes in part the following:

- Serve as a facilitator and promoter of the plan within our Districts
- Communicate and share our respective plans within the District
- Answer any questions and provide clarity on the goals and objectives set forth by the plan
- Provide guidance and tools to those who have elected to move various portions of the plan forward
- Request, receive and capture achievements against plan goals/objectives
- Monitor and report progress on plan implementation to District leadership team
- Receive proposed modifications to the plan from any Lion within the District and pass along to your DG for consideration
- Update and modify the plan as directed by the District Governor with the aim of keeping it current and relevant over time

As both the MD7 state level plan and the lower district level plans were initially developed with a 5-year time horizon, they most likely have been updated to reflect the goals and objectives relevant to today's environment. I know that was done to the state plan a couple of years ago. Updating the plans is not your job, however facilitating it's update by your respective district leadership teams is. . . That said, after confirming a plan was at one time adopted by your district, I would recommend you surface the need to review and possibly update it to your District Governor and then let him/her move the ball forward from there. You of course should be available to facilitate whatever process is decided upon be used to achieve a revised/updated plan.

As you update your plans I would recommend that you make an effort to tie or link your district plan to the higher-level state plan. What this means may be as simple as noting when a district level activity or accomplishment also helps to move a state level goal forward. . .and when this happens, to share it with me in my role as state level Strategic Plan chair so that I may capture it as progress against the state plan. I have attached a copy of the state plan for your info, review and respective files. Notice that it is captured in a format similar to the District 7-O plan for consistency and ease of access.

I would again thank you for your willingness to serve and also offer myself to you if there are any questions or comments regarding how we can support moving your respective District plan, as well as the state plan, forward.