



MD5 Council Business Meeting Minutes
Zoom
March 23, 2025 – 10:18 AM

COG Attendance:

CC LeeAnn Haisch, Secretary Lois Reiersen, Treasurer John Emmett,

State/Provincial Reps: SK Rep Don Morris, ND Rep Rick Stark, SD Rep Dave Pigors

DGs: 5SKN Ray Tatro, 5SW Frances Waits, 5SE Dennis Bohmont, 5NE Kirk Tingum, 5NW Lynn Helms, and 5SKS Heather Vermeersch

DGEs: 5SKN Brian Starkell, 5SKS Page Newton, 5SW Daryl Moll, 5NW Karen DaSilva, 5NE Paula Swanson Western

Absent DGEs: 5SE Reid Christopherson

1st VDGEs: 5SE Jackie Cerkowniak, 5SKS Shelly Carroll, 5SKN Randy Braaten, 5NW Jacob Thrailkill, 5NE Kristi Swenson

Absent 1st VDGEs:

2nd VDGEs: 5SEMeridith Clark and 5SKN Nancy Bonyai

GAT Team: GET Chair Lynn Grabow, GMT Mark Koller, GLT Tim Haight

Committee Chairs: IT/Marketing Chair Kevin Bean, New Voices Chair Crystal Dueker, Canada LCIF Chair Rob Hill

PIDs: Bruce Schwartz, Pat Vannett

Others in Attendance: CA2 GAT Gail Haight, PCC Rick Pockett, PDG Grant Kahlbaugh, PDG Beryl Bauer

Meeting called to order at 10:18 AM by CC LeeAnn Haisch.

Code of Ethics – LCI Code of Ethics was reviewed.

Protocol – Voting for GAT and New Voices is scheduled on the agenda at the end of meeting. Voting will be moved prior to 12:00 because IT chair Kevin Bean will be leaving the meeting, and he needs to create the voting rooms. GMT and New Voices Chair are the two positions that need to be voted on. There was no opposition to moving this agenda item.

Eligible to Vote – Those eligible to vote for the GMT position are DGs, DGEs, state and provincial reps, secretary, and treasurer.

Those eligible to vote for the meeting are DGs, state and provincial reps, secretary and treasurer.

Adopt Agenda – Motion by DG Ray Tatro and seconded by DG Kirk Tingum to adopt the agenda. Motion carried.

Correspondence – PID Pat Vannett received a thank you from MD 35 for the MD5 donation for the Intl convention. With our donation, MD5 is invited to send four people to a host party at the space center on Thursday July 10th. Transportation will be provided, and tickets will be given to PCC John or CC LeeAnn.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Minutes from the November 23, 2024, meeting were emailed and posted on the MD5 Council of Governors One Drive by Lion Lois Reiersen.

Page four of the minutes under the Finance report reads, Since the MD membership is below 1250, are the spouses' expenses paid. Spouses do not qualify for travel and registration expenses. The \$500 stipend is given for spouse's travel expenses, but the district has to grow by at least one to get the \$500 from LCI. If the MD gets membership up to 1250 by the convention, the \$500 from LCI could possibly be available.

MD should be changed to district. Motion by DG Heather Vermeersch and seconded by DG Lynn Helms to approve the November 23, 2024, meeting minutes as emailed and posted with the correction listed above. Motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT

PCC John Emmett emailed his report. The dues from two districts were received last week and not shown in this profit and loss statement. The closing of the savings account which was rolled into the money market account is reflected in the balance sheet. Dues are on an accrual basis. The \$4000 for meals is the deposit we paid for the Intl convention breakfast in Orlando. On the designated funds \$5000 was paid out toward PCC John Emmett's campaign as authorized by the CoG. The Youth Exchange balance is due to carry over from previous years' camps to be used in future years. A \$2000 check was sent to Daryl for seed money for the 2025 camp. The finance committee can make decisions about additional funds that may be needed for the camp. The GAT summit expense in the budget was from last year's summit because bills were paid in the new year. Motion by DG Kirk Tingum and seconded by DG Dennis Bohmont to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion Carried.

REPORTS

Finance – DG Lynn Helms reported the committee met a couple of weeks ago and discussed a one-year dues moratorium. Dues are \$5 twice per year. Discussion was held regarding the \$250,000 MD5 surplus. It was noted a dues moratorium was given four or five years ago. When dues are reinstated, it is frustrating for members. The cost would be approximately \$66,000 per year and the question was raised whether the districts will give the dues holiday to clubs and clubs to their members. The last time the MD did a dues holiday the districts used the money as they saw fit. It was noted the MD has no authority to make clubs give a moratorium to their members. Is the only purpose to spend down fund balance? A few years ago, the MD was broke and struggled with how to get through without raising dues. A suggestion was to give a dues holiday of one-half of the dues.

It was suggested the GAT put together a proposal on how they would like to spend funds, and the finance committee would consider the proposal. There is a need for GMT, GLT, and marketing training. The GAT would need to provide a budget to MD and payment would be on a reimbursement basis. Are districts hurting financially? PCC Tim Haight noted that GLT could spend \$80,000 if LCI funds are not received for the RLLI. GLT would like to do an RLLI and ELLI. Training and membership are a good place to utilize the funds. MD funds could be made available to districts with a marketing plan on a reimbursement basis or could districts be given authority to spend funds without having to approve a plan? The MD does not want to spend funds just to spend down the money but rather look at the needs in the MD. Some members feel they are paying dues to volunteer. The MD budget is created with funds for committees that are not using their budgeted funds. Committees know these funds are available because they submit a budget to the finance committee. State and provincial reps have not spent any of their funds.

A dues holiday would start July 2025 because some districts have already paid their second half dues. Since a goal is to bring in new members, an idea was presented to subsidize clubs by providing reimbursement for the \$35 new member fee. Other ideas were to provide funds to districts to provide good training at spring rallies and using dollars for the retention of members. Building leadership at the MD, district and club levels is needed. With the exchange rate the Canadian districts pay, the MD could allow the SK districts to pay their MD dues in Canadian dollars. Should MD funds be provided to districts based on membership numbers since all districts are trying to provide leadership training regardless of the number of members? MD funds could be used to help start new clubs because it costs a lot of money to start a new club. Another idea was to reimburse 2nd VDGs and 2nd VDGEs expenses to attend CoG meetings. The USA Canada Forum is a beneficial training so an idea could be to subsidize Lions to attend this training. Another idea could be to charge \$50 for MD5 members and \$150 for non-members to attend the RLLI. GLT is considering an RLLI in SK and ELLI in ND. It is important to get the training dates set a year in advance. Travel for training is a huge cost so would possibly get better participation if training is done in each state and province.

Motion by DG Kirk Tingu and seconded by DG Heather Vermeersch to move to Action Items on the agenda to form a committee of MD5 members to consider the recommendations brought forward in the discussion. The committee would include the GAT, state and provincial representatives, district governors, district governor elects, treasurer, and secretary. The committee will bring their recommendations to the May CoG meeting. Motion carried.

Rooms created for voting on New Voices and GMT – Lion Crystal Beckman is the only applicant for the New Voices position and CC LeeAnn Haisch is the only applicant for the GMT position. CC LeeAnn Haisch was interviewed prior to the CoG meeting. PCC Kevin Bean created rooms for eligible voters. He reported 20/20 votes were cast and Lion Crystal Beckman is elected as the New Voices chair and CC LeeAnn Haisch is elected as the GMT chair for the 2025 – 2026 Lions' year.

Meeting recessed at 12:00 PM and reconvened at 12:21 PM.

Mission 1.5/GMA Approach - PID Pat Vannett talked about the need to replace what we have lost, move forward into more service to others and increase global service. **MISSION POSSIBLE!** We must believe we can make a positive impact in our MD and make sure we are there for the future. The goal is to reach 1.5 million members by July 1, 2027. We need to try new concepts. District 5SKS was first in CA2 and District 5NW was sixth in CA1 in target achievers. District SKS is positive in the three-year membership retention. Members may need a personal “ask” to retain them as members. When working together we can do it. Leaders create solutions. The GMA strategy is used all over the world. Long range planning is important.

State and Provincial Representatives

PDG Dave Pigors (GST) – No report submitted. The committee feels the district GSTs weren't aware they were on the MD GST committee, so they were reluctant to participate. There needs to be a job description so they know they will be on the MD GST committee. Phone numbers as well as email address of the district GSTs should be included because younger people use text messages vs email. Publicize who leaders are so if they receive emails, they know who they are receiving the email from. Another obstacle was using free Zoom because they were limited to 45 minutes, so the last meeting was

cut short. PDG Dave was not aware he had a \$1500 budget that could have been used for a zoom account.

VCC Don Morris (GLT and Convention) – VCC Don submitted his report. All Lions have a voice in the MD. Chairs with a budget should request reimbursement for expenses. Committees should include their state or provincial representative in their meetings. The representative's role is to give advice when they can. With Zoom there isn't a lot of travel required in the representative position. LR Planning is important, and Pat is a great leader on this committee.

PDG Rick Stark (GMT) – Submitted his report. Nothing further to add.

Long Range Planning – PID Pat Vannett submitted her report. Improving GAT training and communication was discussed. More in person training and communication is key. There is a need for a communication person to coordinate a calendar with what is going on. DGs are busy with meetings and so much information that a calendar would be a one stop place to keep track of dates. A calendar chair job description was included in the attachments emailed to the CoG team.

Creating training teams is important because adults learn in different ways, and it is fun to train with others. In other MDs, the CC position is decided a year or two in advance which gives the CC elect the opportunity to go to VDG training, meld and create a team so they aren't scrambling at the last minute. A recommendation is that the CC position election and pool of eligible candidates should be a long-range plan. The recommendation is to forward this change to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee to explore for the upcoming year. The committee will bring a recommendation to the CoG in the upcoming year so the change can be voted on at the 2026 convention. The election process could be moved to the August or November CoG meeting. This could be discussed further at the MD convention.

Motion by VCC Don Morris and seconded by DG Heather Vermeersch to move to Action Items on the agenda to create the calendar chair and IT coordinator position as soon as possible as it was submitted in the job description. The CoG executive team can make the appointment of this position. The plan is to split the marketing and IT positions because they have very different roles. The IT position would set up meetings. LCI requires the MD to have a marketing committee but not IT. Motion carried.

Motion by DG Ray Tatro and seconded by DG Lynn Helms to move to Action Items on the agenda to split the MD5 IT and marketing positions. Motion carried.

Personnel - CC LeeAnn Haisch reported on the scorecard review and areas of improvement. Lion Lois as council secretary and PCC John Emmett as treasurer are going into their fourth year and both agreed to stay on. PCC Tim Haight as GLT and PDG Lynn Grabow as GET are going into their second year. All of the above received scores from the CoG team to continue in their positions for the 2025-2026 year. Some comments were about communication difficulties and the need for training at a district level.

GLT – PCC Tim Haight submitted a report. VDG training has gone well. AI training was used. PCC Tim submitted documentation to LCI in Oct for RLLI. It bounced back because banking info was needed since the RLLI was being held in Canada but there is no Canadian account. He is proposing the RLLI for August. GLT is considering doing ELLI one weekend and RLLI the next weekend. They want to avoid harvest and the school year. It was noted that younger people spend August together as families and September and October are conventions. The costs for an RLLI and ELLI would be approximately \$30,000 for each. If they include reimbursement for transportation, it would be approximately \$40,000. GLT is asking for \$60,000 for an RLLI and ELLI. Although this would be in next year's budget, they need approval now to hold the training in August. If LCI grant money is approved, the \$30,000 would be reduced with the LCI grant funds. PCC Tim does not have an answer from LCI if the current application will work into the new year. He believes it will be approved but if not, he will start over with the application process. Details will be left in the hands of the committee. GAT coordinators will be asked to provide a budget prior to budget year. 2017 RLLI cost \$21,000 so with increased costs, the

anticipated cost would be \$30,000. Motion by DG Ray Tatro and seconded by VDD Don Morris to move to Action Items on the agenda to host an RLLI in the upcoming 2025 -2026 Lions' year. It was noted multiple locations for the LLI is preferred. Motion carried.

PCC Tim also noted the need for FDI trainers, especially in the US. 1st VDGE Jacob Thraillkill is interested in FDI training.

GST – No report – PCC Jeanette Bean has resigned her position but holds this position to end of this year.

GMT – PDG Mark Koller stress the importance of marketing and the value of Market to Grow. Marketing must happen before a new club is started. All districts have impact grant funds available. Make sure new clubs are aware of these LCI grant funds. One district has \$17,000 in grant funds available. The grant process is fast and efficient. 5SKN used grant funds for a convention service project. A report on how the money was used is required. Spring is an ideal time to start new clubs. There are three months left in the Lions' year to form new some new clubs. 5SKN is doing great work. 5NE has a new club coming on board and their sponsor club paid the \$35 new member fee for them. Putting WE SERVE magnets on your vehicle is helpful when canvassing a town for a new club. These are available in the LCI store. Every district should have six magnets. It gives an opportunity to give your pitch when people ask about the Lions magnet.

PDG Mark Koller is resigning the MD5 GMT position at the end of this year to focus on the District 5NW GMT position in the upcoming year.

GET – PDG Lynn Grabow submitted his report. Growing membership, member retention and new clubs are all important. He is available for anyone who has questions or needs assistance.

Orlando Convention -

2025 LCI Orlando Convention Update - PID Pat Vannett encouraged those going to the International Convention to attend the Midwest Breakfast. You will hear from all the candidates that are vetted to be on the board. The breakfast will be held Tuesday July 15th from 6:30 AM to 8:30 AM ET and the cost is \$45. It will be held across the street from the convention center. Registrations should be turned in to PCC John Emmett by June 5th. Lynn and Marlene Grabow volunteered to assist where needed. MD5 is reimbursing the registration fee for up to 25 Lions to attend the convention. Turn in your registration confirmation to PCC John Emmett.

Parade Attire - DGE Paula Swanson Western said they decided on a western theme for the parade with white or red western shirts. She has a link to Amazon to purchase the shirt. Montana and Wyoming have been invited to join MD5 in the parade. They decided on red and white, so US and Canada are represented. They are trying to keep the outfit cooler because it will be hot. You can wear white or blue jean pant or a skirt. Boot and tennis shoes are okay to wear. DGE Karen DaSilva is arranging for rodeo numbers that say the district that you are from that will be pinned on the back of the shirt. DGE Paula will send the Amazon link for the shirts to Lion Lois and she will send to the group. They need a parade person to get stuff from headquarters and will be told where MD5 will be in the parade. Let DGE Paula know if you plan to walk in the parade. PCC John Emmett has posters, flags and banners.

Protocol and International Guest Reminder - PID Bruce Schwartz

The SD convention will be held October 3 – 4, 2025 in Watertown.

The ND convention will be held October 24-25, 2025 in Bismarck.

The SK convention will be held October 24-25, 2025 in Saskatoon.

The 2026 MD5 convention will be held – May 28 – 30, 2026 in Aberdeen SD.

5NW Spring Rally will be held in Dickinson ND April 5th, 2025

5NE Spring Rally will be held in Fargo on April 12th, 2025

5NE and 5NW have talked about switching the 2027 MD5 convention from 5NE to 5NW and considered having it in Medora ND. ND should come to the MD5 convention in May with a proposal for a vote. LCI is going from twelve IDs available as speakers to nine so it's important to get requests in early.

LCIF – PDGs Rob Hill and Dave Czywczynsky submitted reports. LCIF is not supported with personal donations like it used to be. Those in leadership positions should consider support because it is our foundation. There are district and club grants available. There are several in ND being utilized. In SK they are doing an appeal for Ronald McDonald houses and a lot of clubs are supporting this so after that is done, more clubs will likely support LCIF.

2025 MD5 Convention – Co-chair PCC Tim Haight reported for the committee. A schedule of events was emailed. The summit will be held on Thursday with the council meeting following. Friday there will be plenary sessions, awards luncheon, and a service project at the youth camp plus a four-hour certified Guiding Lion session. There will also be portal training to assist those who need to get access to the portal. They will have a hospitality room on Friday evening. Saturday will begin with state and provincial breakfasts, plenary sessions, memorial service, DG team luncheon, Q&A with the ID, and banquet. DGEs are in charge of introducing speakers at the sessions.

GAT Summit Update - PCC Tim Haight stated they are doing a “how to” vs presentation. For example, how to accomplish Mission 1.5. The summit starts at 9:00 with breakfast starting at 8:00. GET Chair Lynn Grabow will pitch potential new members. GMT chair Mark Koller will talk about membership. There will be handouts at the summit to utilize in the future. DGs should try to get their District GAT and zone chairs to attend the summit. The summit will run from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. If all district GAT and zone chairs attend, the cost would be approximately \$35,100. The reimbursement would be \$300 per attendee. Currently there are 50 registered for the convention. Incoming DGs should inform zone chairs immediately so they can plan to attend. New Voices chairs should be included. PDGs will show up on the day of the event to sit in. They will be provided with a meal but no reimbursement.

Governor's Jacket Luncheon - CC LeeAnn Haisch stated the luncheon will be held on Saturday. PCC John Emmett informed the group that only the council treasurer and secretary are authorized to place orders. Individual Lions cannot make purchases so all purchases must go through the secretary or treasurer. PCC John has jacket patches.

Senior Councilor Award Luncheon - Lion Lois Reiersen reported three of the recipients are eligible and will attend. One of the recipients has chosen the clock and the other two chose the donation to LCI in their honor. DGs from 5NW, 5NE and 5SKN need to provide current information on the senior councilor from their district for the luncheon brochure.

Credentials Committee State/Provincial Breakfasts - CC LeeAnn Haisch reminded DGs that each state/province needs to do their own credentials for the breakfast. Those voting need to be active Lions to vote on the state and provincial reps.

2025 International Youth Camp Exchange – DG Ray Tatro reported for the camp chair. He is very passionate about youth exchange. He is expecting twenty out of continent and 20-25 from MD5 and neighboring areas. Three days will be at a camp that has zip lines and a small lake, and the last 4 days will be at a camp that is 10 minutes from the Dunes. Some meals will be provided by the Lions, and

some will be provided at the facility. There will be three students from Mongolia and they are looking for ND host families for these students. The kids will need a passport and a notarized letter from parents to cross the border. There is a letter online that can be used for parents to sign so their child can cross the border. DGs should distribute the camp information. The cost is \$400 US funds to sponsor a student. A bus is arranged from Saskatoon to camp and back to Saskatoon after camp. DG Ray Tatro will email camp information to Lion Lois and it will be forwarded to all districts.

OLD BUSINESS

DG Annual Reports due 5/1/2025 - CC LeeAnn Haisch reminded DG to get their final reports in by 5/1/25.

Letter of Intent and GAT Members - CC LeeAnn Haisch reported the GST chair, marketing chair and Council Chair positions are all open with no applications. Also, there has been no letter of intent for the ND State Rep position.

Action Items

Venue and Date for August COG Meeting – Lion Lois Reiersen reported the Radisson Hotel in Bismarck has the August 15 and 16, 2025 dates available with two rooms for training and council meeting. The meeting room is \$350 but if more than \$500 is spent on food and drinks, the room fee will be waived. DG Kirk Tingum moved, and DG Ray Tatro seconded to approve the Radisson Hotel venue for the August 15 & 16, 2025 CoG meeting. Motion carried.

COG Call to 2025 MD5 Convention - CC LeeAnn Haisch asked for a motion for the call to convention. DG Heather Vermeersch moved and DG Dennis Bohmont seconded giving CC LeeAnn permission to call to convention for the Council of Governors. Motion carried.

Finance Committee – Motion made by Lion Lois Reiersen and seconded by State Rep. Rick Stark to approve a \$5000 donation to MD35 for the 2025 Intl Convention and approve the registration fee for up to 25 MD5 attendees for the 2025 Intl Convention. Motion carried.

Motion to form a committee – VCC Don Morris moved, and St. Rep Rick Stark seconded to form a committee of MD5 members to consider the recommendations brought forward in the finance committee report discussion regarding the MD excess funds. The committee would include the GAT, state and provincial representatives, district governors, district governor elects, treasurer, and secretary. The committee will bring their recommendations to the May CoG meeting. Motion carried.

Long Range Planning

Split IT and Marketing Positions - Motion by DG Kirk Tingum and seconded by DG Heather Vermeersch to split the MD5 IT and marketing positions. Motion carried.

Create Calendar IT Position - Motion by DG Heather Vermeersch and seconded by St. Rep. Rick Stark to create the calendar chair and IT coordinator position as soon as possible as it was submitted in the job description. It was suggested VCC Don Morris serve in this position for the first year. This position would be a one-year term that is renewable for a three-year term. Motion carried.

GLT Committee – DG Heather Vermeersch moved and VCC Don Morris seconded for MD5 to host an RLLI in upcoming 2025 -2026 Lions' year. It is critical to set the date and venue as soon as possible so Lions can plan for the training. Motion carried.

New MD5 Council Orientation Meeting - June date/time

CC LeeAnn recommended doing the MD5 Council orientation during MD5 convention. It would be helpful to do this earlier than June like it was last year. Council members should get their dates planned for the year ahead and have those dates available at the MD5 convention.

Ratify State/Provincial Reps for 2025-2026 – CC LeeAnn reported she received a Letter of Intent for the SD State Rep. position from PDG Robyn Tyler. She also received a Letter of Intent for the SK Provincial Rep from PDG Bernie Kramchynsky. All CoG were in favor of the ratification to allow the names of PDG Robyn Tyler and PDG Bernie Kramchynsky to come forward for SD state and provincial rep positions at the state and provincial meetings at the MD5 convention. There are policies in place to fill the ND state rep. position since there were no applicants.

CC LeeAnn Haisch Comments – The discussion today allowed everyone to be heard and gave the council a chance to talk through everyone's thoughts and ideas.

Important Dates:

May 29 - 31, 2025 - MD5 GAT Summit and Convention, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

July 13 - 17, 2025 - LCI Convention, Orlando, FL

September 18 - 20, 2025 - USA/Canada Leadership Forum, Atlantic City, New Jersey

October 3 - 4, 2025 - SD Lions State Convention, Watertown, SD

October 24-25, 2025 - Saskatchewan Lions Provincial Convention - Saskatoon

October 24-25, 2025 - ND Lions State Convention, Bismarck, ND

Future MD5 Conventions:

May 28 - 30, 2026 Aberdeen, SD

2027 Medora ND?

2028 Saskatchewan

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 3:32 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Lion Lois Reiersen
MD5 Council Secretary