



MD5 Council Business Meeting Minutes
Zoom
November 23, 2024 – 10:00 AM

COG Attendance:

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

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

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

FVDGs: 5SKN Brian Starkell, 5SKS Page Newton, 5SW Daryl Moll, 5SE Reid Christopherson, 5NW Karen DaSilva, 5NE Paula Swanson

Absent FVDGs:

2nd VDGs: 5SE Jackie Cerkowniak

Absent 2nd VDGs: 5SKN Randy Braaten, 5NW Jacob Thrailkill, 5NE Kristi Swenson, 5SKS Shelly Carroll

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

Committee Chairs: IT/Marketing Chair Kevin Bean, New Voices Chair Crystal Dueker, 2025

Convention Chair Marianne Kramchynsky Canada LCIF Chair Rob Hill

PIDs: Bruce Schwartz, Pat Vannett

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

Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM by CC LeeAnn Haisch.

All in attendance introduced themselves.

Clarification was provided that the council chair, treasurer, secretary, state/provincial reps and district governors have voting rights.

Anthems Oh Canada and Star Spangled Banner

Adopt Agenda – Additions to the agenda – International Convention update is listed under LRP Reports and under New Business iv. All convention information will be provided by PID Pat under LRP Reports.

Under New Business – The numbering is off on the agenda. Peace Poster Calendar continuation should be vi and 2025 International Convention Pin vote should be vii. Youth Camp date will be added as viii. Motion by PDG Rick Stark and seconded by DG Francis Waits to adopt the agenda with the additions. Motion carried.

Correspondence – None

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Minutes from the August 17, 2024 meeting were emailed and posted on the MD5 Council of Governors One Drive by Lion Lois Reiersen. Motion by PDG Rick Stark and seconded by DG Heather Vermeersch to approve the August 17, 2024 meeting minutes as emailed as posted. Motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT

PCC John Emmett emailed his report. The report is in a different format because everything was converted to quick books. All figures are as of the end of Oct. On the profit and loss page on the #450 GLT line, the in person training in Estevan came out of that category. Profit loss #452 – the summit held in May wasn't billed until after the first of fiscal year so shows in this year's financials. The balance sheet shows four bank accounts instead of three. Money market #107 on the balance sheet is new due to the closure of the savings account. The money market will earn more interest. The CD was cashed out and the money moved to the money market. The final pages are the designated funds that the council deemed necessary. It was noted that item 470 on the Profit and Loss statement should be \$4000 instead of \$400. There is \$600+ in accounts receivable because one club hasn't paid their dues. Motion by PDG Don Morris and seconded by DG Dennis Bohmont to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion Carried.

REPORTS

State and Provincial Representatives

PDG Dave Pigors submitted his report with nothing to add.

VCC Don Morris submitted his report. There is a need for districts and clubs to update their constitution and bylaws. The MD5 Constitution and Bylaws Committee could include the district Constitution and Bylaws committee chairs to assist them in getting these documents updated. Documents should be updated by the end of the Lions' year so they can be voted on at the annual meeting at their conventions. Asking for permission from the council to have district C & B chairs be included on the MD Constitution & Bylaws Committee. Having this in place allows the MD to be proactive in assisting the districts. This has been added for action as b viii under new business as an action item.

PDG Rick Stark submitted his report. He would like to see ways to incentivize members who bring in new members. It was suggested to work with the membership committee to bring forward a plan for the council to consider.

Long Range Planning – PID Pat Vannett submitted her report.

PDG Rick Stark – Membership

VCC Don Morris – Leadership

PDG Dave Pigors – Service – District GSTs don't know they are on the committee. Attendance is poor at their meetings. At their last meeting it was suggested to have a contest where clubs would be eligible for a drawing to have their MD dues forgiven. The district GSTs should be informed that their participation is needed in MD5.

CC LeeAnn Haisch - CC elections – The DGs and VDGs are getting ready to put together their team early in the year and they need to know who their team is. When the CC position isn't elected until March there isn't sufficient time to meet with the GA team. The recommendation would be to elect CC earlier than March or change who would be eligible for CC position so their GAT team is identified early on.

Those intending to run for positions should submit their letter of intent to the Council Secretary by February 1st.

PID Pat Vannett - Membership is on a mission to grow. Mission 1.5 affects membership, leadership and service. MD5 was a leader in membership in CA 1 last year. It's important to keep it going.

The parade will be hot so a hat will be needed. PCC John is looking to upgrade MD banners to allow for easier transport. DGEs should talk about what to wear. There are registration discounts now. Lions going to the convention should sign up for the Midwest breakfast. It is early morning and kind of expensive but it is an opportunity to get to know the leaders in CA1.

GLT

PCC Tim Haight submitted his report with his plans for training. Dates for VDG training for the upcoming year may conflict with some district meetings. The Estevan training went well. Working on summit but needs to know budget. Districts need to find FDI candidates because there is a need. There are two in the US, PID Pat and PDG Geraldine Ray. There were reimbursement issues for training because we are Intl. Tim couldn't add US trainees due to a portal problem. He could see clubs but couldn't enter members which is supposed to be resolved by the end of the year. CA 1 VDGs will have training for building a team. DGs should have GAT identified by January which is critical for success. There is a nurturing workshop at the end of January. The next committee meeting will be held on Wednesday or Thursday next week. The date of the June training will come out in February. There is a need for training for guiding Lions with new clubs coming on board. The GLT committee will consider guiding Lion training. Mark Koller has been asked to do district guiding Lion training and they could collaborate with SD. Clubs do not have to have a guiding Lion to start a club. The Lion can be identified and certified later. The sponsoring club should identify a Lion in their club to be the guiding Lion. The guiding Lion training should be open to all Lions and not just those who have been identified as a guiding Lion. Marianne completed FDI training and PDG Don Morris is working on his. There are six in the MD. Jay Norby is also FDI qualified. Note the training dates in Tim's GLT report.

GMT

PDG Mark Koller submitted his report. The CA1 GAT meets on a regular basis. Text Mark Koller if you would like to attend. Mark Lyon will be part of the next meeting. Zone chairs are an excellent resource to talk about new members. If there is a zone chair vacancy, the DG should appoint someone to have a zone meeting. MD5 membership is down by 69 members. Clubs should reach out to members that have missed meetings or activities and have the treasurer call those that haven't paid their dues. 5SKS is the only district in MD5 that is in the positive.

GST

PCC Jeanette Bean submitted her report. She has held two meetings. They discussed the Rookie Lion Award and maybe use this to keep Lions engaged. DGs should remind district GSTs to participate in the MD5 GST zoom meetings. Non-Lion members are covered by LCI insurance as long as it is a Lions' event.

GET

PDG Lynn Grabow submitted his report. He worked in 5SW and went to Saskatchewan provincial convention. Work on getting the identified new clubs chartered. There are some new clubs in the works in ND.

LCIF

PDG Rob Hill submitted his report. He encouraged LCIF donations with the end of the tax year ahead. There are some frustrations with the portal because donations aren't showing up. They are about three months behind in getting donations in the portal. They aren't sure what donations with the brackets around them are. Go to My CA in the portal. Pick the title appropriate to get information, find your district title. This loads the box on the right bottom that says reports and click on it to get information. The lead time for MJ is 8 to 10 weeks or possibly 10 – 20 weeks. LCI is short staffed and are struggling to get everything done.

Marketing/IT

PCC Kevin Bean submitted his report. He is proposing to apply for the \$15,000 LCI grant and filter \$2500 down to each district. He would submit a two-three-year marketing plan for the MD and give money to help build marketing plans for the districts. The committee met on October 29th. He would

propose that the MD matches the \$2500. Districts can't apply for LCI marketing grant, but the MD can. There are criteria for the district to receive the grant. The money must be spent, and we would then receive reimbursement. Some districts don't have marketing chairs. The DG would write the plan of how the money would be spent and the amount. All DGs would have to be on board and money spent in a one-year period. This is listed as an action item under New Business.

Finance – PCC John Emmett reported for the committee. They reviewed the treasurer's report and agreed to move funds as noted in the treasurer's report. They also discussed spending some funds on the Intl Convention including sending \$5,000 for the convention to pay for the registration of up to 25 people. The MD is in good shape financially. The request will be to pay \$5000 to pay for 25 registrations to the 2025 Intl Convention.

MD35 in Orlando is hosting the 2025 International Convention. The cost of a convention is \$200,000 to \$300,000 to host an international convention. Orlando had proposed to host the 2032 convention but due to the decision to move the convention from Mexico City, Orlando stepped in and agreed to host the 2025 convention. PID Robert Littlefield, on behalf of MD35, sent a letter of request for any financial assistance. Anyone assisting at the convention will get their registration at the earliest rate. MD5 will get a banner in the parade.

The question was raised that 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.

Constitution and Protocol

No report

2025 MD5 Convention

PCC Marianne Kramchynsky submitted her report. She is working on the table sponsorship invitation. The Intl guest will be ID John Lawrence from Maryland. The postal service is on strike in Canada so mailing registrations will be an issue. They can accept registrations via credit card. Some registrations are trickling in. Marianne will forward the registration form to Kevin to be placed on the MD5 website. Get registrations in soon so they can repay the MD. She is applying for \$5000 grant from the Potash Mine. They have given up to \$20,000 to other entities. Their first request was turned down so they are resubmitting. In previous budgets she has not included the funds from the MD because it is an in/out but will include the income and expense in future budgets. She was hoping to be able to receive registration funds in US dollars and eliminate some conversion issues.

2025 Youth/Camp Exchange

DG Ray Tatro reported for camp chair Darrell Oster. There are two possible dates, July 6 – 12 and July 13 – 19. One resort has been confirmed. He was informed at the provincial convention that a club has a \$6,000 account designed for youth exchange. This is likely excess funds from a past youth camp. The MD has a youth camp fund also. DG Ray will contact the club and get the funds transferred. The date of the camp is included as an action item under New Business.

New Voices

Lion Crystal Dueker submitted her report. She is planning a one-day seminar/luncheon in March 2025 to celebrate Intl Women's Day. VDGs should be looking for their New Voices nominees early so they can be announced at the state/provincial conventions.

CA2 Area Leader – It was noted that PDG Gail Haight submitted a Mission 1.5 report as CA2 Leader.

DG Convention Reports/names of elected vice district governors

Saskatchewan 5SKN – DGE Brian Starkell, 1st DGE Randy Braaten, and 2nd DGE Nancy Bonyai

Saskatchewan 5SKS – DGE Page Newton, 1st DGE Shelly Carroll, and currently no 2nd VDGE. They did a service project at the provincial convention with 1000 eyeglasses for shelters. Parents talked about organ donation, PDG Lynn Grabow did a session, and CC LeeAnn spoke at the banquet.

North Dakota – 5NE – Paula Swanson DGE, 1st DGE Kristi Swenson, 2nd VDGE Brian Novotny. There were 150 registered at the ND convention and they hosted Hans Neihardt from Kansas. PDG Scott Hildre was inducted into the ND Hall of Fame.

North Dakota 5NW – DGE Karen daSilva, 1st DGE Jacob Thrailkill and 2nd VDGE Brian Beckers

South Dakota 5SW – DGE Gerald Moll, currently no 1st or 2nd VDGEs. They have a possible new club in Box Elder. Two PDGs are working on getting this club started and another in the northern part of the state.

South Dakota 5SE - DGE Reid Christopherson, 1st DGE Jackie Cerkowniak and 2nd DGE Meredith Clark

Motion by DG Dennis Bohmont and seconded by DG Heather Vermeersch to accept all reports. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

COG venue for March 21-22, 2025 - Bismarck Holiday Inn – The March Council meeting is scheduled to be held in-person at the Holiday Inn in Bismarck ND.

NEW BUSINESS

Voting on Peace Poster and Essay

Peace Poster - The top Peace Poster from each district was displayed and PCC Kevin Bean created a voting poll for the council to vote for their top poster. The theme is “Peace Without Limits”. The winning Peace Poster was from SKN with 5SW in second place and 5SE and 5NE tying for third place. PCC John Emmett will send checks to the DGs. CC LeeAnn will mail the winning poster to LCI.

Essay – There were three essays submitted by 5NE from the ND School for the Blind. The three essays were emailed to the council prior to the meeting. PCC Kevin Bean created a voting poll for the council to vote for their top essay. The theme is “Peace Without Limits”. The winning essay was written by Ellie Oberhauser. Lion Lois will submit the winning essay to LCI.

2025 International Pin Convention Pin Vote

The three 2025 International pin choices were emailed to the council prior to the meeting and displayed via Zoom. PCC Kevin Bean created a voting poll for the council to vote for their top pin choice. The winning pin was #C.

ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

Marketing/IT – MD5 Marketing Grant – The request would be to apply for the \$15,000, 10% match grant with the idea that the DGs would submit their district plan and this information would go into the MD grant.

DG Heather Vermeersch moved, and DG Ray Tatro seconded the motion to apply for the \$15,000 grant, with 10% match with the idea that districts will submit their marketing plan to PCC Kevin Bean. PCC Kevin will notify districts of the deadline to have information to him. Motion carried. PCC Kevin will submit the proposal for the additional \$15,000 from the MD to PCC John to be considered by the finance committee.

Finance – MD5 Summit – paid registration

The registration was paid for every Lion that attended the summit last year. Elected or appointed GAT members, two zone chairs and DG teams should have registrations paid. Anyone that attends is given one night lodging and meals. The incoming teams should be invited so it's important for DGEs to get positions filled so Lions can plan to attend.

Motion by DG Heather Vermeersch and seconded by DG Kirk Tingum to pay for expenses as outlined above. Motion carried.

MD5 Convention Start-up loan

Discussion was held regarding the \$10,000 given to the convention committee as a loan and the expectation that it is to be paid back. The MD hasn't given more than \$2,000 in the past years to be used for down payments. The question was asked if the MD should be more financially responsible for the convention vs the host district, but then should the MD have a say in the convention. The MD convention in Minot made money and lost money in Cypress Hills and Spearfish. There is \$6,000 in MD reserve funds to cover convention loss. Costs have skyrocketed and should the MD support the convention in a financial way? If cities have a relationship with a hotel, they may be more apt to work with the group. The decision was to move this topic to the finance committee for further consideration.

Long Range Planning

Support for portal access – PDG Rick Stark

PDG Rick Stark visited with LCI and district administrator on how to help clubs with new portal. There is a live weekly webinar on Monday mornings from 8:00 – 9:00. Get the word out on this webinar to clubs and club administrators. It may be helpful to go to every zone and explain the portal and the training available. Practicing on the portal will help Lions figure out how to use it. Many of the issues are user error. It's important to find key people in the districts to be a resource. District 5NW is utilizing a computer lab for their spring rally with one computer available for every three or four Lions to do hands on in a secretary training. There is a step-by-step guide on LCI with pictures which is a good way to learn.

PDG Rick also brought up the idea of providing an incentive for members who sponsor new members and also clubs if they grow by one - \$100, 2 - \$200, and 3 or more \$300. This could be a lot of work for the treasurer but possibly use the club excellence award to determine which clubs meet the criteria. This item is referred to the finance committee for further consideration.

Leadership mtg and MD 5M – VCC Don Morris

It's important for the MD to assist districts to get their district Constitution and Bylaws up to date.

Motion by DG Heather Vermeersch and seconded by Dennis Bohmont to encourage the Constitution and Bylaws committee chair from each district to work with the MD5 Constitution and Bylaws committee to ensure all district Constitution and Bylaws are updated based on MD5 and LCI.

Clarify CC election policies – PCC John Emmett

The MD5 Policies and Procedures manual was updated March 25, 2023. The procedure outlined states that the current year DGs will declare their intent to seek the CC position 30 days prior to when the election will occur. We have typically asked for the letter of intent to be submitted by February 1st which includes the state and provincial reps.

Service through zone initiative – PDG Dave Pigors – PCC Jeanette Bean will set a meeting to have direct contact with districts and try to get district GSTs going.

Review of GAT positions – CC LeeAnn Haisch

The GAT positions are a three-year stint but they are scored through a scorecard annually. If they are not performing, they can be removed. The GET, Lynn Grabow, GLT Tim Haight and GST Jeanette Bean are in year one of their three-year term. GMT Mark Koller is in year two of his three-year term. All of

them as well as the Treasurer John Emmett and Secretary Lois Reiersen will be scored to determine if they are eligible to continue in their current positions.

Score cards – CC LeeAnn Haisch

DGs and CC complete the scorecards.

Notices of Intent by February 1, 2025

Letters of intent should be sent to council secretary Lois by February 1, 2025.

Council Chair, GLT, GMT, GST and GET – CC LeeAnn Haisch

State and Provincial Reps – LeeAnn Haisch

State and provincial reps can only serve one year. Make sure the interested person meets the criteria, so those individuals are identified. Lion Lois will send an email to PDGs that would qualify for the state/provincial rep positions. DGs may want to consider a change on when the CC is elected or if a VCC should be elected who then moves into the council chair position after a year of training for the position.

Lions International Convention 2025 – Pat Vannett

Covered above under reports

District Governor Jackets – VDE Karen DaSilva

DGE Karen has communicated with Hansen's Menswear and they can order a women's cut jacket. She would just need the women's size for women and men should provide their chest size and sleeve length. There has also been discussion regarding switching from red jackets to black. All DGEs that were in Canada for training are in agreement to switch to black. All DGs and VDGs would have the same color. They should be available in March for VDGs to try for size. They are then taken back to Hansen's to have patches sewn on. Motion by DG Ray Tatro and seconded by Dennis Bohmont to switch to black jackets for the incoming DGs.

DG Kirk Tingu moved and DG Dennis Bohmont seconded to amend the motion to allow VDGs to have a vote on this motion. Motion carried.

Original motion carried.

It was noted that VDGs can vote on the Council Chair at the March meeting.

Peace Poster Calendar continuation – CC LeeAnn Haisch

This is the last year of MD5's commitment to LCIF for the PP calendar. There has been a cost of \$1000 for each district which has been billed to each district in January. The cost is about \$3200 – \$3500. 200 calendars are sent to SK and 150 each for ND and SD. John would continue to coordinate the calendar project if the MD chooses to continue. It was noted that there are calendars left over from previous years. CC LeeAnn called for a motion and with no motion to continue, the MD will discontinue the Peace Poster calendar. Districts can consider doing their own calendar.

YOUTH CAMP Dates

The dates to consider are July 6 – 12, 2025 and July 13 – 19, 2025. Motion by DG Ray Tatro and seconded by DG Heather Vermeersch to have Lion Darrell Oster pursue the July 6 – 12, 2025 dates in SKN. Motion carried.

2025 International Pin Convention Pin Vote

Previously voted on

Note the Saskatoon Provincial and ND State Conventions are on the same weekend. For future reference, typically ND has their convention on the 3rd weekend and SK has theirs on the 4th weekend of October to prevent overlap.

Future Meeting Dates and Conventions

February 11 – 13, 2025 – FVDG/DGE Seminar – St. Charles, IL
 March 21 – 22, 2025 – Council of Governors Meeting – Bismarck Holiday Inn
 April 12, 2025 – 5SE Spring Forum – Crossroads – Huron SD
 April 12, 2025 – 5NE Spring Rally – Place TBA
 May 29 – 31, 2025 – MD5 Convention - Dakota Dunes Casino and Resort south of Saskatoon.
 July 13 – 13, 2025 – 107th Lions International Convention in Orlando. FL
 September 18 - 20, 2025 – USA/Canada Leadership Forum – Atlantic City, NJ
 October 3 – 4, 2025 – South Dakota State Convention – Watertown, SD
 October 24 - 25, 2025 – North Dakota State Convention – Radisson Hotel, Bismarck ND
 October 24 – 25, 2025 – Saskatoon Provincial Convention –

FVDG/DGE Training dates with MD5 GLT Tim Haight (Jan 11, Feb 1, Feb 22, Mar 8, Mar 21-22)

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,
 Lion Lois Reiersen
 MD5 Council Secretary