



Official Minutes Midwinter Conference

District 2-T2 Lions Clubs International
January 13, 2018
South Plains Church of Christ, Lubbock, TX

District 2-T2 Lions Clubs International held its annual Midwinter Conference on Saturday, January 13, 2018 at the South Plains Church of Christ, 6802 Elkhart Avenue, in Lubbock, Texas. The meeting was hosted by the Lubbock Redbud, Ropesville, and Shallowater Lions Clubs. Approximately 75 Lions and guests registered for the conference.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. by Past District Governor Dan Pope of the Lubbock Redbud Lions Club. He welcomed the Lions and guests in attendance.

DISTRICT CABINET MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

The following District 2-T2 Cabinet Members were in attendance: District Governor Vance Gipson; 1st VDG Terry Hawkins; 2nd VDG James Belk; Cabinet Secretary PDG Carmon McCain; Cabinet Treasurer Greg Freeman; Zone 1A Chairman Michael Hutton; Zone 1B Chairman PDG Danny Leake; Zone 1C Chairman Charles Ragland; Zone 2A Chairman PDG Joe Hargrove; and Zone 2B Chairman James Osborne.

The following Cabinet Members were absent: Immediate PDG Jim Petty; Region 1 Chairman PDG Byron Garrison; Zone 1D Chairman Shane Wimmer; Zone 2C Chairman Tim Walker; and Zone 2D Ron Miller.

A quorum of the Cabinet was present. (10 of 15 members or 67 percent)

OPENING CEREMONIES

PDG Charles Shannon of the Ropesville Lions Club led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag and the Texas Flag.

Lion President Paul Schivally of the Shallowater Lions Club led the invocation.

First Vice District Governor Terry Hawkins led the group in singing “I’ve Got That Lions Spirit.”

Second Vice District Governor James Belk recognized the following Lions as first-time attendees at a District Cabinet Meeting: Lion Allean Jasmin-Malloy of the Lamesa Centennial Lions Club; Lion Traci Cheek of the Lubbock Lions Club; and Lion Michael Nudelman of the Lubbock South Plains Lions Club.

First Vice District Governor Hawkins introduced the 22 Past District Governors in attendance. They are: Dick Van Hoose; James Osborne; James Norton; Peg White; Daniel Warrick; Danny Leake; Fredda Buckner; Terrell Thompson; Gary Linker; Dan Pope; Joe Hargrove; Wendell Dunlap; Jerry Marshall; PCC Bernie Gradel; Charles Shannon; Paul Ellis; Carmon McCain; Duane Howell; Max Von Roeder; Jere Smith; and PID Marshall Cooper. Also in attendance was PDG Bob Edwards, who served in District 2-A1 in 1999-2000.

First Vice District Governor Hawkins then introduced District Governor Vance Gipson of the Lubbock South Plains Lions Club.

District Governor Gipson thanked the Lions for their attendance and enthusiasm at today’s meeting. He also thanked the Lubbock Redbud, Ropesville, and Shallowater Lions Clubs for hosting the 2018 Midwinter Conference.

ROLL CALL OF CLUBS

Cabinet Secretary PDG Carmon McCain asked those in attendance about the significance of today’s date – January 13. It is the 139th birthday of Melvin Jones.

Secretary McCain conducted a roll call of clubs present at today’s Cabinet Meeting. They are: Crosbyton; Lamesa Centennial; Lubbock; Lubbock Hub; Lubbock Lip Lipscomb; Lubbock Redbud; Plainview; Roby; Ropesville; Rotan; Shallowater; and Snyder. (12 of 40 clubs were present, or 30 percent)

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 21, 2017 CABINET MEETING

Secretary McCain presented the minutes of the October 21, 2017 Cabinet Meeting at Lubbock, TX. There being no additions or corrections, a motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by PDG James Norton and seconded by Zone 1C Chairman Charles Ragland. *All voted “aye,” and the motion was unanimously approved.*

PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL REPORT

Cabinet Treasurer Greg Freeman presented the District 2-T2 balance sheet as of December 31, 2017.

As of this date, District 2-T2 has \$14,023.44 in total assets. Of this, \$2,814.23 are liabilities, which includes Promote District 2-T2 funds, Texas Lions Camp funds, District scholarship funds, and funds due to Leader Dogs for the Blind.

In addition, \$3,682.50 is held in reserve for travel funds for Texas Lions Camp attendees. Net income during this time period was \$7,526.71. This results in the \$14,023.44 balance for total payable and fund reserves.

Actual revenue for this time period is \$43,887.41 with \$27,728.73 in total restricted funds, which leaves a balance of \$16,158.68 for District use.

Total operating expenses totaled \$8,631.97, which leaves \$7,526.71 in net revenues over expenditures.

A motion to accept the financial report as presented was made by PDG Paul Ellis and seconded by PDG Dan Pope. *All voted "aye," and the motion was unanimously approved.*

TAILTWISTERS IN ACTION

District Governor Gipson asked Tail Twister PDG Max Von Roeder and District Queen Sara McClain to raffle door prizes at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

District Governor Gipson presented the following awards to clubs:

Member Satisfaction patch: Abernathy and Whitharral Lions Clubs.

Centennial Excellence patch: Lubbock Hub Lions Club.

Fast Start Membership: Denver City and Muleshoe Lions Clubs

NEW BUSINESS

DISTRICT COMMITTEE REPORTS

District Governor Gipson called for the following committee reports:

PEACE POSTER: PDG Peg White announced that the Muleshoe Lions Club had the winning District 2-T2 entry in the Lions Clubs International Peace Poster contest. She added that PDG Tom White is at home and doing well. District 2-T2 sends its well wishes to him.

GLOBAL SERVICE: PDG Terrell Thompson said a report will be compiled at the end of the year which will provide a “snapshot in time” of the service activities completed by District 2-T2 Lions in 2017-2018. He added that the MD-2 Texas Lions Hall of Fame nominating committee met and has selected a 2018 nominee for induction at the MD-2 Texas Lions Convention this May at Corpus Christi.

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP: PID Marshall Cooper reminded the group of the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum to be held September 20-22, 2018 in Columbus, Ohio. The theme is “Building Teams through Leadership.”

GLOBAL MEMBERSHIP: PDG Dan Pope said membership is discussed at least four times per year at District meetings. However, it is something that clubs must work on each month. At present, District 2-T2 is at 1,282 members. During 2017-2018, approximately 68 new members were added – but 126 were dropped, which results in a -58 membership at today’s meeting. It is important to bring in new members and retain them. In addition, starting a new Lions Club will help the membership total. There is discussion about reorganizing the former club at Idalou and starting another club at Petersburg.

There are five Lions Clubs in District 2-T2 with positive membership as of today’s meeting. PDG Pope said he hopes additional clubs will have a positive membership and that two new clubs will be chartered by the time of District Convention in April.

TEXAS LIONS CAMP: PDG Pope, who also serves as Texas Lions Camp Director, gave a brief update on the 2017 camping season. Texas Lions Camp served a total of 1,507 campers. Of these, 46 were from District 2-T2. Approximately 36 were physically challenged, eight were diabetic, and two had Downs Syndrome. He shared the dates of the 2018 camping sessions with those in attendance. District 2-T2 will provide transportation to campers attending the second session in June 2018.

He also reminded the clubs of the opportunity to sponsor a hole at the 25th annual Harry Wickersham Golf Tournament benefitting Texas Lions Camp.

LEO CLUBS: Lion Jean Anne Stratton encouraged clubs in the District to consider sponsoring a Leo Club. There is interest among the Brownfield Evening, Lubbock Redbud, and Shallowater Lions Clubs in forming Leo Clubs.

TAILTWISTERS IN ACTION

District Governor Gipson asked the Tail Twisters to raffle door prizes at this time.

RECESS

District Governor Gipson recessed the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

RECONVENE

District Governor Gipson reconvened the meeting at 10:41 a.m.

REPORTS FROM REGION AND ZONE CHAIRS

No reports were received at today's meeting. An end of the year report will be given at the District Convention.

REPORT ABOUT HYBRID LIONS CLUBS BY FIRST VDG TERRY HAWKINS

First Vice District Governor Hawkins shared her recent experiences with two hybrid Lions Clubs.

For the past 100 years, the concept of weekly club meetings, meals, and programs has worked well for Lions Clubs International. However, today's millennials do not join churches, organizations or other affiliations. This generation has never known a world without Internet and iPhones!

The membership of the Post Lions Club had dwindled to two active members. Many of the other members have moved away. This made it difficult to grow the club. However, the club has many good relationships with Salvation Army and other charitable organizations.

Remaining members made "door-to-door" contact with the business owners on Main Street to gauge their interest in an active Lions Club in Post.

Six persons attended a follow-up meeting. Post is considering rebuilding their club as a "hybrid club," having a combination of regular meetings and other communication among members online. It is their belief that this is the way to grow their membership!

VDG Hawkins also discussed the Lubbock Tech Lions Club, which uses a public and private Facebook page to communicate with its membership. The club members are active in their service to others—but they do not want to come to meetings. Use of social media helps them stay in touch with club members.

District Governor Gipson thanked Vice District Governor Hawkins for her report. He encouraged clubs to consider the "hybrid club" concept as an optional tool in the Membership Toolbox.

VISION THEMED PRESENTATIONS

District Governor Gipson told those in attendance that "Vision" is the special theme for today's Midwinter Conference. With that in mind, he asked PDG Fredda Buckner to

give a brief presentation on “Conducting a Community Vision Screening” and PID Marshall Cooper to demonstrate the SPOT™ Vision Screener.

ROBY LIONS CLUB VISION SCREENING

PDG Buckner told the group that the Roby Lions Club chose to celebrate its 75th anniversary with a service project—rather than a banquet for themselves.

The club decided upon a community vision screening. During the event, 14 adults were screened for vision-related issues. Of these, 10 were fitted with eyeglasses and two were fitted with readers. In addition, seven children were screened and five were fitted with eyeglasses.

Roby Lions Club worked with their local health care system to get the word out about the screening. Your local system may have grant funding for public information available.

She said the club knew that this was a needed service project since so many asked when they would do it again.

A second vision screening was held in conjunction with the club’s health fair. The Roby Lions Club met all criteria for the LCI Centennial Service award with this one project. The fair included eye health and diabetes information, since it was held on World Diabetes Day. In addition, the environmental component was covered by the Texas Forest Service, who had information on how to prevent rural wildfires.

Approximately 150 students had vision testing in the morning and 20 adults were tested in the afternoon. PDG Buckner noted that this was about 3.5% of Roby’s total population.

All of this was accomplished by nine Lions Club members and others who helped with the project.

On November 29, more than 400 pre-K to Grade 2 students received vision screening from the Lamesa Centennial Lions Club. There were many positive comments about the Lions and the vision testing.

PDG Buckner said the vision screening project truly takes the “We Serve” philosophy to the public. The screenings are open to the public. Many persons are too proud to ask for help—and will take advantage of such a project.

SPOT™ VISION SCREENING

PID Marshall Cooper discussed the SPOT™ vision screening machine. This is a hand-held, portable device that quickly and easily detects vision issues on persons ranging in age from six months to adult. It checks both eyes at once from a three-foot distance.

The SPOT™ unit costs about \$7,000 and eliminates the need for vision screening using the Snellen or “Big E” eye chart. Those using the SPOT™ vision screener must be trained and certified. Most screenings take place at the beginning of the school year and at the start of the spring semester.

The time for vision screening with the SPOT unit usually takes about four seconds. It checks eye pupillary distance, eye alignment, pupil size, complete refraction, spherical equivalent, sphere, cylinder convention, and axis.

The device will tell the screener if a complete eye exam is recommended for the participant. It will indicate if hyperopia (farsightedness), astigmatism, or anisometropia (unequal refractive power) is present in one eye or the other. It can also be used to detect glaucoma and cataracts.

Only the results of the screening are provided. A follow-up eye exam is needed in order to receive a prescription.

Several school districts have their own machines. Lions Clubs are encouraged to develop partnerships with their school districts to provide SPOT™ vision screening.

“Be innovative in your thinking and find a way to serve your community without the total cost of the SPOT™ screening unit being the responsibility of the local Lions Club,” Cooper said.

TEXAS BOYS RANCH

District Governor Gipson then invited Traci Cheek with Texas Boys Ranch to provide a brief update about the organization and its services. Gipson said he was pleased that Texas Boys Ranch had a manned information table at today’s Midwinter Conference.

Texas Boys Ranch meets the emotional, spiritual, and physical needs of children who come to live in one of the four on-campus cottages. They have the opportunity to work on the Ranch and attend school at Roosevelt ISD.

About three years ago, an emergency shelter was started with 16 beds. This was the first stop for children that are removed from homes. They can stay there 90 days before being going back to family, going to foster care, or going to Texas Boys Ranch. There were 25 children adopted in 2017.

She thanked several District 2-T2 Lions Clubs for their support of Texas Boys Ranch and its programs.

TAILTWISTERS IN ACTION

District Governor Gipson asked the Tail Twisters to raffle door prizes at this time. In addition, a table with a Lions logo was auctioned off to a lucky winner. The table was donated by PDG Jere Smith, who asked that the funds be given to Leader Dogs for the Blind.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH CONTESTS

PDG Duane Howell urged District 2-T2 clubs to continue their support of the Opportunities for Youth contests.

He shared a thank you note from the 2015 Diabetes Awareness Contest winner. Her first year at college went very well. She is currently taking a 16-hour class load.

The current donations to Opportunities for Youth by clubs are only half of what is needed to support the scholarships.

LUNCH RECESS

District Governor Gipson recessed the meeting at 11:56 a.m. Lunch was catered by River Smith's.

"Monsieur Boudreaux" (a.k.a. PID Marshall Cooper) stopped by to tell a few stories about Duplechin, Thibodeau, and life down on the bayou.

RECONVENE

The meeting was reconvened at 12:36 p.m.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH CONTESTS

District Governor Gipson introduced PDG Danny Leake, Opportunity for Youth Contest chairman.

He told the group that Middle School and High School students compete for scholarships in the three categories on the District and Multiple District (state) level. The prize money is used to help defray some costs of their college education.

PDG Leake encouraged clubs to expand their participation in the contest in 2018-2019. He hopes to grow the contest every year.

PDG Leake recognized the individual contest chairs: Lion Marilyn Gipson, Lion Jamie Reynolds, and Lion Jamie Reynolds. He also recognized judges Lion Joyce Hargrove, Lion Karen McCain, Lion Barbara Norton, and Lion Sharon Pope.

He recognized the parents of today's contestants.

PDG Leake thanked the judges for today's Diabetes Awareness Essay Contest, Drug Awareness Speech Contest, and Outstanding Youth competition.

- Julia Smith is the winner of the Diabetes Awareness Essay. She was sponsored by the Lubbock South Plains Lions Club-- but was unable to stay for the luncheon due to another engagement. Abigail Rasberry, the second place winner, filled in for Smith by reading her own essay. She was sponsored by the Shallowater Lions Club.
- Rebecca Morales gave her winning Drug Awareness speech. She was sponsored by the Lubbock Lions Club.
- Luke Wilson won the Outstanding Youth competition. He was sponsored by the Lubbock Lions Club—but was unable to stay for the luncheon due to another engagement. Abigail Rasberry filled in for Wilson by discussing the subject of “Change Makers.”

District Governor Gipson thanked the contestants, parents, judges, and supporting clubs for their work in this year's contest.

ADJOURN

District Governor Gipson reminded the Lions to “Save the Date” for 2018 District 2-T2 Convention to be held April 27-28, 2018 in Lubbock.

There being no other business, District Governor Gipson adjourned the 2018 Midwinter Conference at 1:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Carmon E. McCain

Lion PDG Carmon E. McCain
2017-2018 Cabinet Secretary