



# Official Minutes Midwinter Conference

District 2-T2 Lions Clubs International  
District Governor James Belk  
Saturday, January 18, 2020  
Plains Cotton Growers Conference Center  
Bayer Museum of Agriculture, Lubbock, TX

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District 2-T2 Lions Clubs International held its annual Midwinter Conference on Saturday, January 18, 2020 at the Bayer Museum of Agriculture, 1121 Canyon Lake Dr., Lubbock, Texas. The meeting was hosted by the Ropesville Lions Club.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m. by Ropesville Lions Club President Thomas Hicklen. 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 James Belk; First Vice District Governor Ted Boyd; Second Vice District Governor Ron Miller; Cabinet Secretary PDG Carmon McCain; Cabinet Treasurer Bill Cross; Region 1 Chair Barbara Norton; Zone 1A Chair Vonya Tongate; Zone 1C Chair Audra Gregory; Zone 1D Chair Robert Millican; Region 2 Chair PDG James Osborne; and Zone 2D Chair Doug McDonough.

The following Cabinet Members were absent: Immediate Past District Governor Terry Hawkins; Zone 1B Chair Gary Smith; Zone 2A Chair Zach Cummings; and Zone 2C Chair Mitch Grant. The Zone 2B Chair position is vacant.

A quorum of the Cabinet was present. (11 of 15 members or 73 percent)

## **OPENING CEREMONIES**

Ropesville Lions Club Secretary Bobby McNabb led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag and the Texas Flag.

Ropesville Lions Club member John Donnerburg led the invocation. He asked for special prayers for the families of Police Officer Nicholas Reyna and Lubbock Firefighter Eric Hill, who were killed while working a crash scene Jan. 11. He also asked for continued prayers for Lubbock Firefighter Matt Dawson, who was seriously injured at the accident scene.

Past District Governor Terrell Thompson of the Lubbock Lions Club served as song leader.

Second Vice District Governor Ron Miller recognized the following as first-time attendees at a District Cabinet Meeting: Lions Chris and Jennifer Edwards of the Brownfield Noon Lions Club; Lion Charla Wiley of the Roby Lions Club; and 13 members of the Plainview Leo Club.

First Vice District Governor Ted Boyd introduced the 17 Past District Governors in attendance. They are: Jim Petty; James Osborne; James Norton; Peg White; Danny Leake; Fredda Buckner; Terrell Thompson; Gary Linker; Joe Hargrove; Wendell Dunlap; PCC Bernie Gradel; Charles Shannon; Carmon McCain; Duane Howell; Jere Smith; & PID Marshall Cooper. Also in attendance was PDG Bob Edwards, who served in District 2-A1 in 1999-2000.

First Vice District Governor Boyd then introduced District Governor James Belk of the Plainview Lions Club.

District Governor Belk recognized the Ropesville Lions Club as the conference hosts. Special thanks were given to Lion Dan Taylor, who arranged the use of the Plains Cotton Growers Conference Center. He serves as president of the Bayer Museum of Agriculture's Board of Directors.

District Governor Belk introduced Executive Director Lacey Hoelting, who provided an overview of the museum's history. Several District 2-T2 Lions are involved with the museum. Among these are PDG Charles and Jerry Beth Shannon who have helped share the history of the Ropesville Resettlement Project. One of the 1938 houses is located on the museum grounds.

Both Governor Belk and Ms. Hoelting invited the Lions to tour the museum at the conclusion of today's meeting.

District Governor Belk then introduced Queen Justice Carrizales, representing the Shallowater Lions Club.

### **TAILTWISTERS IN ACTION**

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

## **ROLL CALL OF CLUBS**

Cabinet Secretary McCain conducted a roll call of clubs present at today's Cabinet Meeting. They are: Brownfield Noon; Crosbyton; Levelland Evening; Lubbock; Lubbock Hub; Lubbock Lip Lipscomb; Lubbock Llano; Lubbock Redbud; Lubbock South Plains; Plainview; Roby; Ropesville; Shallowater; and Snyder. (14 of 42 clubs were present or 33 percent)

## **MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 12, 2019 CABINET MEETING**

Cabinet Secretary McCain presented the minutes of the October 12, 2019 Cabinet Meeting at Lubbock, TX. There being no additions or corrections, a motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Zone 2D Chairman Doug McDonough and seconded by Texas Lions Camp Director Joe Freeman. *All voted "aye," and the motion was unanimously approved.*

## **CABINET TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT**

Cabinet Treasurer Bill Cross presented the District 2-T2 Financial Report as of January 17, 2020.

District 2-T2 has \$11,783.86 in total assets. Of this, \$3,246.91 is liabilities, which include Bark & Brew reserve funds of \$620.00.

In addition, \$2,626.91 is held in reserve for travel funds for Texas Lions Camp attendees. Net income during this time period was \$1,268.34. This results in the \$11,783.86 balance for total payable and fund reserves.

Actual revenue for this time period is \$38,841.88 with \$32,175.88 in total restricted funds, which leaves a balance of \$6,666.00 for District use.

Total operating expenses totaled \$5,036.21, which leaves \$1,629.79 in net revenues over expenditures.

A motion to accept the financial report as presented was made by Cabinet Secretary McCain and seconded by PCC Bernie Gradel. *All voted "aye," and the motion was unanimously approved.*

## **OLD BUSINESS**

District Governor Belk gave a brief "State of the District" report.

- **TRAINING OF OFFICERS BY REGION AND ZONE:** Goal is 80%. 20% has been achieved.

- **NEW MEMBERS:** Goal is to have an increase of 20 new members this year. Currently, 83 new members have been added to the District membership.
- **MEMBERSHIP RETENTION:** Goal is to have a minimum of 30 dropped members. Currently, 108 have been dropped. This results in a net membership total of -25 for the 2019-2020 year.
- **NEW CLUBS:** Emphasis on new clubs during the second and fourth quarters of the fiscal year. Currently, no new clubs have been chartered.
- **CLUBS REPORTING (MMRs & SERVICE):** Goal is to have 75 percent of the clubs actively reporting membership and activities. Currently, 10 clubs or 23 percent are doing this. There are 12 clubs that are more than 12 months behind in their reporting.
- **LCIF CAMPAIGN 100:** Goal is to have 75% of clubs participating. Only seven clubs to date.
- **LCIF CONTRIBUTIONS:** Goal is \$8,000. \$23,000 to date.

District Governor Belk concluded by stating that the challenge for the remainder of the 2019-2020 year is to charter new clubs and recruit new members.

Districts should have a minimum of 35 Lions Clubs and 1,250 members, according to the LCI Constitution and By-Laws. At present, District 2-T2 has 1,217 members. Of these, 20 are college students. If the membership total drops below 1,250, then LCI could consider consolidating District 2-T2 with one or more sub-districts in MD-2.

### **TAILTWISTERS IN ACTION**

District Governor Belk asked the Tail Twisters to raffle door prizes at this time. A rocking horse was auctioned off with funds to benefit Texas Lions Camp. The lucky winner was PDG Gary Linker, who is currently serving as TLC President.

### **RECESS**

District Governor Belk recessed the meeting at 10:28 a.m. He encouraged Lions to use this time to vote for their favorite photos in the District 2-T2 Lions Photo Contest.

### **RECONVENE**

District Governor Belk reconvened the meeting at 10:44 a.m.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **PRESENTATIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

District Governor Belk presented PDG Fredda Buckner of the Roby Lions Club with the 2018-2019 Club Excellence Award.

New Voices Certificates of Appreciation were presented to the following:

**LEADERSHIP:** PDG Fredda Buckner, Roby Lions Club.  
**MARKETING:** PDG Carmon McCain, Lubbock Hub Lions Club.  
**MEMBERSHIP:** PDG Terry Hawkins, Lubbock Lions Club.  
**SERVICE:** Lion Forrest Griffin, Ralls Lions Club.

Past First Lady Joyce Hargrove of the Roby Lions Club received her 10-year membership chevron.

Texas Lions Camp Director Beverly Ham and the Lubbock Llano Lions Club received a membership satisfaction banner patch.

Texas Lions Camp Director Joe Freeman told the group that he and Lion Beverly Ham are available to give camp programs to clubs.

### **REPORTS FROM REGION AND ZONE CHAIRS**

#### **REGION 1:**

**Zone 1A Chair Vohnya Tongate** reported on the Lubbock Hub, Idalou, Lubbock Redbud, Ropesville, Shallowater, and Slaton Lions Clubs. All clubs were busy with fundraisers and service projects.

- **Hub** – Monthly bingo at assisted living & provided diapers to TX Boys Ranch.
- **Idalou** – Held a pancake breakfast.
- **Redbud** – South Plains Fair fundraiser & donation to “U Can Share” food drive.
- **Ropesville** –Football program fundraiser & provided Christmas for seniors.
- **Shallowater** – Annual Harvest Festival raised \$40,000 which will be used for donations.
- **Slaton** – School “Snax Shack” & served hamburgers on July 4th.

**Zone 1B Chair Gary Smith** was absent. No report was given.

**Zone 1C Chair Audra Gregory** reported on the Jayton, Post, Roby, Rotan, and Snyder Lions Clubs. She took this opportunity to spotlight the Jayton club.

- **Jayton** – Currently has the District 2-T2 “Traveling Trophy” for membership gain. The club addressed Christmas cards for soldiers, honored the “Student of the Month,” and had “Soup & Santa.”

**Zone 1D Chairman Lion Robert Millican** reported on the Brownfield Noon, Denver City, Lamesa Centennial, and Seminole Lions Clubs.

- **Brownfield Noon** – Donated clothes & toys to local Goodfellows organization.
- **Denver City** – Held a fundraiser and had Christmas service projects.
- **Seminole** – Had several service projects.
- **Lamesa Centennial** – Built wheelchair ramp for a couple.

## **REGION 2:**

**Region 2 Chair PDG James Osborne** said each Lions Club is an active, important part of their respective communities. As an example, the Roaring Springs Lions Club recently raised \$1,100 for their community and the Whitharral Lions Club helped with the Hockley County Stock Show.

**Zone 2A Chair Lion Zach Cummings** was absent. No report was given.

The Zone 2B Chair position is vacant. No report was given.

**Zone 2C Chair Lion Mitch Grant** was absent. No report was given.

**Zone 2D Chairman Lion Doug McDonough** reported on the Cotton Center, Hale Center, Olton, Plainview, and Plainview Breakfast Lions Clubs.

- **Cotton Center** – Provided scholarships and held Valentine’s Day fundraiser.
- **Hale Center** – No report.
- **Lockney** – No report.
- **Plainview** – Making preparations for its 54th annual Pancake Supper. The club also provided 450 books to local first grade students.
- **Plainview Breakfast** – Help with Hockley County Stock Show.

## **DISTRICT COMMITTEE REPORTS**

District Governor Belk called for the following committee reports:

**Bark and Brew** – PCC Gradel and Cabinet Secretary McCain updated the group on planning efforts for the March 28, 2020 Bark and Brew event in Lubbock. Pamphlets and posters are available for clubs to pick up at today’s meeting. Vendor booth space is still available.

**Diabetes Awareness** – PDG Jere Smith had no report at this time.

**District Convention** – PDG Wendell Dunlap said information packets will be forwarded to clubs shortly.

**District Governor’s Contest** – No report.

**District Photo Contest** -- PDG Fredda Buckner announced the results of the 2019 District 2-T2 Photo Contest. There were a handful of entries as compared to 60 last year.

The 2020 winners are:

**ANIMAL LIFE**—DG James Belk, Plainview  
**LANDSCAPE** – Lion Charles Ragland, Snyder.  
**PLANT LIFE** – Lion Tina Thompson, Lubbock.  
**WEATHER** – DG James Belk, Plainview.  
**BEST OF SHOW** – DG James Belk, Plainview.

She asked the group if the contest should be continued in 2021. The majority agreed that it should.

PDG Buckner encouraged all to participate in the “Bark and Brew” photo contest in Lubbock on March 28, 2020. Entry forms and other information will be on the District 2-T2 website.

**LCIF Ambassador** – PDG Jim Petty discussed the current LCIF Campaign 100 fundraising efforts. It is a three year campaign with a goal of raising \$300 million by June 20, 2021. He discussed opportunities for annual donations by individual Lions and by “model clubs.” Information packets about Campaign 100 were given to Region Chairs today. They will distribute them to the clubs in their region. In addition, First VDG Boyd, PDG Wendell Dunlap, and PDG Petty are available to visit clubs and answer questions about this project. Currently, 15 of 42 clubs have made a donation toward Campaign 100.

**Leader Dog & World Services for the Blind** – No report.

**Leo Clubs** – Lion Jean Anne Stratton welcomed the 13 members from the Plainview Leo Club, which was recently chartered. They helped address Christmas cards and visited with residents of an assisted living center. They are planning projects for January and February 2020. The Frenship Leo Club has XX members. Some of their projects include Angel Tree donations, donations to Meals on Wheels and St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, chocolate to welcome teachers to the school year, trunk or treat, and work at Bark and Brew.

**Opportunities For Youth** – PDG Danny Leake said the annual contest will be held at 10 a.m., Feb. 29, at St. Luke United Methodist Church. He encouraged clubs to visit the District website for contest information and entry forms. The deadline for the speech contest is Feb. 7 and Feb. 21 for the essay and Opportunities for Youth contests.

**Peace Poster & Texas Lions Foundation** – PDG Peg White reported that the Shallowater Lions Club poster won the District 2-T2 competition and will go on to the MD-2 Texas Lions competition. She also encouraged clubs to contribute to the Texas Lions Foundation. Clubs may wish to purchase a Texas Lions Fellowship to honor service of their outgoing officers. She concluded by asking clubs to submit completed PU-101 officer reporting forms to the District as soon as elections are completed.

**Texas Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center** – PID Cooper told the group that Sam’s Club recently donated 1.6 million eyeglass frames to the organization. These frames will be sent to Mexico and other countries. He added that a golf tournament benefitting TLERC will be held at the State Convention in Longview. Clubs can sponsor a golf hole for \$100. Clubs that conduct SPOT screening need to be sure to report them.

### **KEYNOTE SPEAKER – STEPHEN MABRY, CEO, TEXAS LIONS CAMP**

PCC Gradel recognized PDG Gary Linker, who is serving as current President of Texas Lions Camp (TLC). At the conclusion of their term, the TLC President (and his/her home District) hosts a picnic which is attended by the new Lions Clubs International President and as many as 400 Lions from across Texas. District 2-T2 has had two other TLC Presidents: PID Marshall Cooper and PDG C. A. (Mac) McCown.

The planning committee is looking to rent the Schreiner College Activities Center for the picnic in Kerrville. It is normally held at the outdoor pavilion, which is often uncomfortable due to summer heat. In addition, the committee is working with the university’s catering service to provide the meal. Members of District 2-T2 Lions Clubs may be needed to help set-up and serve meals.

PDG Linker extended his personal invitation to the Lions of District 2-T2 to attend. He said this is a great opportunity for those Lions who have never visited Texas Lions Camp to do so.

PDG Linker introduced Lion Stephen Mabry, CEO of Texas Lions Camp. Mabry thanked District 2-T2 for their great support throughout the camp’s 71-year history. It celebrates



its 75th anniversary in April 2024.

District 2-T2 has donated \$1.5 million to Texas Lions Camp during the past 20 years. There are 1,050 Life Members and 186 Century Club members in the District.

In the 1940s, there was a question about what to do about children impacted by polio. The Lions of Texas answered with the creation of Texas Lions Camp in 1949. In fall 1950, the current camp site was secured. However, a provision in the deed stated that \$100,000 earmarked for construction of facilities had to be raised within six months. Despite successful fundraising, the Camp was \$20,000 short of its goal.

At the last minute, District Governor Sealie McCreless came to the rescue and “loaned” the League the required \$20,000. The check from McCreless was never cashed and is still on display in the Texas Lions Camp Administration Building. The deed to the 504 acre tract was delivered and the formal ground-breaking ceremony took place on September 28, 1950. On the same day, the construction of the first two bunkhouses began. After five years of hard work, Texas Lions Camp opened Sunday, June 8, 1953 with 40 campers attending.

Mabry said Texas Lions Camp provides an opportunity for campers to explore, exercise curiosity, and discover new interests and abilities. Campers will attempt things that would normally be out of their reach, such as riding a horse, or rock climbing on the ropes course, or just being part of a team. They focus on what they can do—rather than what they can’t do!

More than 79,000 children have attended Texas Lions Camp during the past 70 years. Country music singer/songwriter Eric Paslay wrote one of his first songs at Texas Lions Camp. Reality television personality Terra Jolé also attended Texas Lions Camp.

As the Camp’s 75th anniversary nears, Mabry said the Board of Directors approved Phase One of the “Vision 2020 & Beyond” capital campaign on Feb. 8, 2020. The campaign is expected to last 24-36 months.

The current facilities were constructed in the 1950s and have been renovated throughout the years. However, time and elements have taken their toll on the housing—some of which is 60+ years old. Mabry said there is only so much that can be done before foundations, gas lines, roofs, and sewer lines must be replaced.

He provided an overview of the “Vision 2020 and Beyond” capital improvement campaign which includes the following:

1. Replacing existing camper bunkhouses with new accessible quadraplexes.
2. Demolishing its only two staff dormitories as well as the “Smith Building” duplex and replacing them with the Lions Leadership Lodge (“The Triple L”). This will provide housing for the nursing/medical staff, leadership staff, and support staff.

It will also provide accommodations for the 600 people who attend each of the three workdays prior to the annual camping sessions. This building can also be used to provide lodging for those involved in disaster relief. Mabry said TLC has provided safe-haven shelter to more than 2,000 individuals during the last 30 years. This includes those persons impacted by ice, wildfires, flooding, and hurricanes.

"These projects are necessary for the health and safety of our kiddos and to take proactive measures to ensure TLC remains a relevant and vibrant service available for future generations of children," he said.

Mabry encouraged the Lions to watch the TLC website ([www.lionscamp.com](http://www.lionscamp.com)) for future announcements and ways to get involved in their camp.

### **CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The Josh Abbott Foundation donated \$10,000 to the Lubbock Lions Club in memory of his father, Lion David Abbott, and in honor of his mother, long-time Past Club Secretary Lynette Abbott.

### **ADJOURN**

District Governor Belk reminded the Lions to "Save the Date" for the District 2-T2 Convention set for April 24-25, 2020 in Plainview. Additional information is forthcoming from the Plainview Lions Club.

District Governor Belk again thanked the Ropesville Lions Club and member Dan Taylor for their work in hosting today's meeting.

There being no other business, District Governor Belk adjourned the 2020 Midwinter Conference at 12:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*/s/ Carmon E. McCain*

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Lion PDG Carmon E. McCain  
2019-2020 Cabinet Secretary