



## **Official Minutes Midwinter Conference**

District 2-T2 Lions Clubs International  
January 19, 2019  
Community Center, Shallowater, TX

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District 2-T2 Lions Clubs International held its annual Midwinter Conference on Saturday, January 19, 2019 at the Shallowater Community Center, 900 Avenue H, Shallowater, Texas. The meeting was hosted by the Brownfield Noon, Idalou, and Shallowater Lions Clubs. Approximately 72 Lions and guests registered for the conference.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:38 a.m. by Lion President Ricky Parrish of the Shallowater 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 Terry Hawkins; First Vice District Governor James Belk; Second VDG Ted Boyd; Cabinet Secretary PDG Carmon McCain; Cabinet Treasurer Lion Greg Freeman; Immediate PDG Vance Gipson; Zone 1A Chairman PDG Duane Howell; Zone 1B Chairman Lion Mike Massingale; Zone 1C Chairman PDG Fredda Buckner; Region 2 Chairman PDG Joe Hargrove; Zone 2B Chairman PDG James Osborne; and Zone 2D Chairman 1VDG James Belk.

The following Cabinet Members were absent: Region 1 Chairman Lion Lonnie Kirk; Zone 1D Chairman Lion Robert Millican; Zone 2A Chairman Lion Corky Marshall; and Zone 2C Chairman Lion Mitch Grant.

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

### **OPENING CEREMONIES**

Lion Vohnya Tongate of the Shallowater Lions Club led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag and the Texas Flag.

Lion PDG James Norton of the Shallowater Lions Club led the invocation. Special prayers were asked for PDGs Wendell Dunlap and Max Von Roeder.

District Governor Terry Hawkins led the group songs.

Second Vice District Governor Ted Boyd recognized the following Lions as first-time attendees at a District Cabinet Meeting: Lion Patty Barbee of the Brownfield Noon Lions Club; Lion Carolyn Freeman of the Lubbock South Plains Lions Club; Lion Tommy Taylor of the Seminole Lions Club; and Lion Nolan Von Roeder of the Snyder Lions Club.

First Vice District Governor Belk introduced the 19 Past District Governors in attendance. They are: IPDG Vance Gipson; Jim Petty; Dick Van Hoose; James Osborne; James Norton; Peg White; Danny Leake; Fredda Buckner; Gary Linker; Dan Pope; Joe Hargrove; PCC Bernie Gradel; Charles Shannon; Paul Ellis; 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 Belk then introduced District Governor Terry Hawkins of the Lubbock Lions Club.

District Governor Hawkins thanked the Lions for their attendance and enthusiasm at today's meeting. She also thanked the Brownfield Noon, Idalou, and Shallowater Lions Clubs for hosting the 2019 Midwinter Conference.

### **ROLL CALL OF CLUBS**

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

### **MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 13, 2018 CABINET MEETING**

Cabinet Secretary McCain presented the minutes of the October 13, 2018 Cabinet Meeting at Slaton, TX. There being no additions or corrections, a motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by 1<sup>st</sup> VDG James Belk and seconded by Cabinet Treasurer Greg Freeman. *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 January 17, 2019.

As of this date, District 2-T2 has \$18,766.04 in total assets. Of this, \$4,443.97 is 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, \$3,126.91 is held in reserve for travel funds for Texas Lions Camp attendees. Net income during this time period was \$11,195.16. This results in the \$18,766.04 balance for total payable and fund reserves.

Actual revenue for this time period is \$44,018.53 with \$17,670.56 in total restricted funds, which leaves a balance of \$17,670.56 for District use.

Total operating expenses totaled \$6,475.40, which leaves \$11,195.16 in net revenues over expenditures.

Cabinet Treasurer Freeman also gave a brief recap of FY 2018-2019 club contributions to the District Governor's Humanitarian Projects.

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

PDG Danny Leake thanked the Lions for their support of the 13 students participating in today's Opportunities for Youth Contest. The contests provide scholarship monies for higher education. It also provides a very positive influence upon those who participate. One never knows if that student will eventually become a Lion later on in life.

### **TAILTWISTERS IN ACTION**

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

### **OLD BUSINESS**

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

**Membership** – Membership should be on every Lion's mind. District 2-T2 is in last place in new members among the 16 districts in MD-2. Governor Hawkins encouraged everyone to ask a prospective new member to attend a club meeting and/or participate in a club project.

**Extension** – District 2-T2 has started two new Lions Clubs in 2018-2019. They are the Lubbock Llano Lions Club and the Lubbock First Responders Lions Club. She is also working on a Texas Tech University Alumni Club that can help mentor recent TTU graduates.

**District Governor Official Visits** – All visits have been made. District Governor Hawkins, First VDG Belk, and 2<sup>nd</sup> VDG Boyd will make additional visits as needed.

**CAMP BARK & BREW 2-T2** – District Governor Hawkins reminded the Lions about the March 23, 2019 Camp Bark & Brew 2-T2 project set for Saturday, March 23 in downtown Lubbock. Lions are encouraged to pick up the “Save the Date” cards and distribute them in banks, schools, groceries, and other public places in their respective communities. Publicity efforts are underway – there are posters, Bark and Brew Facebook posts – including the “Adventures of Jack,” and information on the District 2-T2 website.

PCC Bernie Gradel discussed several aspects of Bark & Brew, including club wiener dog races, club participation, a motorcycle poker run, and hotel accommodations.

Lion Doug Klepper shared information about dog adoptions, food trucks, small dog races; special needs dog races; the classic car show; and special presenters in the Cactus Theater throughout the day.

Wienerschnitzel is a corporate sponsor for the event. They are providing the gates for the race as well as silks for the dogs participating in the races.

District Governor Hawkins thanked everyone involved in the project. “This is a great opportunity to work together, talk to each other, learn and share, and support Texas Lions Camp at Kerrville and Leader Dogs for the Blind at Rochester Hills, Michigan,” she said.

### **RECESS**

District Governor Hawkins recessed the meeting at 10:41 a.m. She encouraged Lions to vote for their favorite photos in the District 2-T2 Lions Photo Contest.

### **RECONVENE**

District Governor Hawkins reconvened the meeting at 10:53 a.m.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **FORMER SHALLOWATER LIONS QUEEN SAVANNAH PORTER**

District Governor Hawkins introduced Past First Lady Barbara Norton of the Shallowater Lions Club. She told the group that the Club Queen is required to conduct a service project during her year of service. Savannah Porter had an outstanding year as Club Queen in 2017-2018.

Savannah asked herself, "If you made headlines – what would be the importance of doing so?" For her, it is making a difference in the lives of young women in the Shallowater community. "It is important to teach them worth, value, and empower them for the future."

She created a day camp for girls to empower them. Savannah quoted Timothy 4:12 KJV as her inspiration -- "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

She served as a mentor to the young women. In return, she learned that 1) encouragement is the key; 2) simple things are the most exciting and it's okay to be excited about them and 3) life is stressful & it's okay to step back and take a break. (Mental health is more important than the task at hand.)

District Governor Hawkins thanked Savannah for being such an inspiration.

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

Region 1 Chairman Lonnie Kirk is absent. No report was given.

Zone 1A Chairman PDG Duane Howell reported on the Lubbock Hub, Lubbock Redbud, Ropesville, Shallowater, and Slaton Lions Clubs. All clubs were busy with fundraisers and service projects.

- **Hub** – Monthly bingo at assisted living & "Rent-A-Santa" fundraiser.
- **Redbud** – South Plains Fair fundraiser & various donations.
- **Ropesville** – Food pantry, service to students, and football program fundraiser.
- **Shallowater** – Movie night at the park & various donations.
- **Slaton** – Club is busy despite lack of reporting.

Zone 1B Chairman Lion Mike Massingale provided a written report on the Lubbock, Lubbock Lip Lipscomb, Lubbock South Plains, Lubbock Tech, and Wolfforth Lions Clubs. Each club had various service projects during the holidays.

- **Lubbock** – Adopt-A-Highway, Salvation Army bell ringing, South Plains Food Bank, and preparation for annual Pancake Festival.
- **Lip Lipscomb** – South Plains Food Bank.

- **South Plains** – Salvation Army bell ringing and South Plains Food Bank.
- **Tech** – Ronald McDonald House, Salvation Army, and “Tech or Treat.”
- **Wolfforth** – Sponsored a camper to Texas Lions Camp and held “Cow Patty Bingo.”

Zone 1C Chairman PDG Fredda Buckner reported on the Jayton, Post, Roby, Rotan, and Snyder Lions Clubs.

- **Jayton** – Bingo, horseshoe tournament, eyeglasses purchase, and student of the month.
- **Post** – There is concern about future viability of this club.
- **Roby** – Silent auctions, collection of plastic bags to be woven into mats for homeless.
- **Rotan** – Provided books in December to all Pre-K to 5<sup>th</sup> grade students.
- **Snyder** – Constructed wheelchair ramps and sold peanuts.

Zone 1D Chairman Lion Robert Millican was absent. No report was given.

### **TAILTWISTERS IN ACTION**

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

### **REPORTS FROM REGION AND ZONE CHAIRS (CONTINUED)**

Region 2 Chairman PDG Joe Hargrove had no report.

Zone 2A Chairman Lion Corky Marshall was absent. No report was given.

Zone 2B Chairman PDG James Osborne reported on the Levelland, Levelland Evening, Morton, Muleshoe, and Whitharral Lions Clubs.

- **Levelland** – Provided scholarships and held Valentine’s Day fundraiser.
- **Levelland Evening** – No report.
- **Morton** – Celebrated 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Held pancake supper fundraiser.

- **Muleshoe** – Put up highway signs, Peace Poster contest, Opportunities for Youth, and purchased eyeglasses.
- **Whitharral** – Help with Hockley County Stock Show.

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

Zone 2D Chairman 1VDG James Belk reported on the Cotton Center, Hale Center, Olton, Plainview Breakfast, and Plainview Lions Clubs.

- **Cotton Center** – Conducted pheasant hunt - \$500 to community.
- **Hale Center** – Community calendar sale, lights at Senior Center, and upcoming March 29 circus.
- **Olton** – Conducted Christmas Angels project.
- **Plainview Breakfast** – Holiday rest stop.
- **Plainview** – Will hold Feb. 1 pancake supper, Dress-A-Live Doll, books to first graders, and Salvation Army bell ringing.

## **DISTRICT COMMITTEE REPORTS**

District Governor Hawkins called for the following committee reports:

**Activities** – No report.

**Constitution & By-Laws** – No report.

**District Governor's Contest** – It is ongoing. Winners announced at District Convention.

**Diabetes Awareness** – No report.

**Global Action Team** – No report.

**Global Leadership Team** – PID Marshall Cooper commended the District for its leadership throughout the years. The Region and Zone Chairs are doing an excellent job this year. He encouraged these Lions to seek out leadership positions in the District.

**Global Membership Team** – PDG Dan Pope reported that club membership is “looking better—but needs improvement.” Half of the clubs in District 2-T2 have had

zero membership gain in 7-8 years. He reminded those in attendance of the current membership contest. The winning club gets a “traveling trophy” and bragging rights for one year. Current leaders are: Jayton with a 15.3 percent increase in membership; Floydada with a 9.52 percent increase in membership; Brownfield Noon with a 7.41 percent increase in membership; and Morton with a 5.56 percent increase in membership. It is important to have an increase in membership this year. Increased membership means increased service to others. The winning club will be recognized at the April 27 District Convention in Lubbock.

**Global Service Team** – No report.

**Humanitarian Projects** – Clubs are reminded to support these projects!

**Information Technology** – Lions Andra Gregory and Rose Ragland of the Snyder Lions were of great help in gathering information from the club PU-101 forms for the current District Directory. They can assist with filing monthly MMR reports to Lions International and District 2-T2.

**LCIF Ambassador** – Second VDG Ted Boyd and PDG Wendell Dunlap 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. They discussed opportunities for annual donations by individual Lions and by “model clubs.” Both will visit clubs and encourage their participation in this project. “We did a great job supporting Campaign SightFirst and Campaign SightFirst II – and we can do it again with Campaign 100,” said PDG Dunlap.

**Leader Dog & World Services for the Blind** – PDG Dick Van Hoose gave a recent program to the Levelland Evening Lions Club.

**Leo Clubs** – Lion Jean Anne Stratton reported that there are three potential Leo Clubs in the works. They include: Frenship ISD, Plainview, and Shallowater. The Frenship club is already conducting community service projects before receiving their charter.

**Long Range Planning** – PDG Jim Petty told the group that long range planning is important. “If you start at the top with the right people in the right positions—then everything will grow and flourish.”

**Membership Satisfaction** – PDG Duane Howell encouraged club secretaries to contact Lions who are absent at meetings. It is important to follow up with them and make them feel wanted as a member.

**Newsletter and Website** – Cabinet Secretary McCain encouraged clubs to report their service activities—so that they can be showcased in the newsletter and website. He



welcomes any suggestions to improve communication between the clubs and the District.

**Peace Poster & Texas Lions Foundation** – PDG Peg White reported that the Shallowater Lions Club poster won the District 2-T2 competition and the District 2-X1 poster won the MD-2 Texas Lions competition. The MD-2 winner will represent Texas at the International level. She also reported that the Texas Lions Foundation is providing grant funds to flooding victims.

**Relieving the Hunger** – IPDG Vance Gipson told the group that representatives from Lubbock, Lubbock Hub, Lubbock Redbud, and Lubbock South Plains assisted with holiday food box preparation for the South Plains Food Bank. The Food Bank is assisting those impacted by the recent Federal Government shutdown.

**Texas Boys Ranch** – No report.

**Texas Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center** – PID Cooper discussed his recent visit to the Eyeglass Recycling Center at Chihuahua City, Mexico. This center places 11,000 pairs of used eyeglasses on indigent adults each month. He would like to arrange a future trip to Midland so that interested District 2-T2 Lions can learn more about the Texas Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center there.

**USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum** – No report.

**Youth Exchange** – The Julien C. Hyer Youth Exchange students will visit the Lubbock area during the third week of July 2019. Host families are needed. One new aspect is that the students will participate in a community service project while here.

**District 2-T2 Lions Hearing Bank** – Lion Glen Harville reported that the Hearing Bank has recently partnered with the Texas Tech University Department of Audiology. They have approved hearing aids for 4-5 applicants so far this year.

**Great Plains Lions Eye Bank** – The GPLEB Board of Directors have not met recently. Therefore, no report was given.

**Texas Lions Camp** – TLC Director Lion Joe Freeman reported that all is well at Texas Lions Camp at Kerrville. He is available to give presentations to clubs, parents, and other interested persons. Online applications for the 2019 summer session are now available on the revised TLC website.

## **ENDORSEMENT OF PCC T.J. TIJERINA FOR INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR**

District Governor Hawkins asked the District Cabinet to discuss and take possible action on a resolution endorsing the candidacy of Past Council Chairman Ernesto "T.J." Tijerina of San Antonio for International Director.

The resolution outlining PCC Tijerina's qualifications for office was read to the group.

A motion to adopt the resolution endorsing PCC Tijerina's candidacy was made by PID Marshall Cooper and seconded by PDG Bob Edwards. *All voted "aye," and the motion was unanimously approved.* The signed resolution authorizes District Governor Hawkins to certify the District's endorsement of PCC Tijerina's candidacy before the MD-2 Council of Governors at their February 2019 meeting.

## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP POLICY - 2019**

District Governor Hawkins asked for discussion and possible action relating to the District's policy relating to Youth Scholarship contests. The current policy requires winners of any youth contest to compete at the MD-2 Texas Lions State Convention in order to receive the entire scholarship amount awarded by District 2-T2. If they cannot compete, they receive only half of the published scholarship amount.

She added that "Over the years, the issue is that the MD-2 State Convention occurs on the same weekend as many High School graduations. Our youth scholarship winners are faced with the choice of attending their High School graduation and foregoing half of their scholarship OR competing at the state level in order to receive the entire scholarship that they won at the District competition."

A motion was made by PDG Danny Leake and seconded by PDG Paul Ellis to adopt the second paragraph as presented by District Governor Hawkins.

A brief discussion period followed.

Governor Hawkins called for the question. *All voted "aye," and the motion was unanimously approved.*

The approved policy is as follows: "Lions District 2-T2 will pay the full scholarship amount to each first-place winner in the Opportunity for Youth Contests at the District level even though the student may not be able to compete at the State Level due to his/her graduation date conflicting with the State Competition. The student shall provide verification that the graduation and the state competition dates conflict. If the student cannot compete at the state level for any other reason, in order to receive the full scholarship amount, the student must present that reason to the acting Cabinet Secretary, who will then present that reason to the Past District Governors. The Past

District Governors will consider the reason and will vote by majority of those in attendance on whether to award the entire scholarship or a portion thereof.

“All scholarships will be paid directly to the school in which the student has enrolled.

### **LUNCH RECESS**

The meeting was adjourned for lunch at 12:31 p.m.

### **RECONVENE**

The meeting was reconvened at 12:52 p.m.

### **DISTRICT 2-T2 PHOTO CONTEST**

PDG Fredda Buckner announced the results of the 2019 District 2-T2 Photo Contest. There were 62 entries as compared to a maximum of 42 in the past.

Winners are:

**ANIMAL LIFE**—Lion Andra Gregory, Snyder

**LANDSCAPE** – PCC Bernie Gradel, Lubbock & Damon Crabtree, Shallowater (tie)

**PLANT LIFE** – PDG Dick Van Hoose, Lubbock.

**WEATHER** – Lion Dan Seale, Lubbock Hub.

**SPECIAL BARK & BREW CATEGORY** – Lion Cindy Antoniello, Lubbock.

**BEST OF SHOW** – Lion Andra Gregory, Snyder & Nolan Von Roeder, Snyder. (tie)

PDG Buckner encouraged all to participate in the “Bark and Brew” photo contest in Lubbock on March 23, 2019. Entry forms and other information will be on the District 2-T2 website.

### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH**

Lion Jamie Reynolds of the Lubbock South Plains Lions Club announced the winners of this year’s Opportunities for Youth Contests.

- Diabetes Awareness Essay – Dominique Molina, Olton.
- Drug Awareness Essay – Monica Limas, Olton.
- Outstanding Youth – Dominique Molina, Olton.

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

## **KEYNOTE SPEAKER – SHARON GIOVINAZZO, World Services for the Blind**

District Governor Hawkins introduced Sharon Giovinazzo, President and Chief Executive Officer at World Services for the Blind in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Lions Clubs International is now 101 years old. She asked those present how they plan to lead the Association into the next century.

Leadership is a way to motivate persons to take action. Leadership empowers and inspires people.

She quoted Mother Teresa, who said “I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across waters to create many ripples.”

“District Governor Hawkins has done this. She has empowered the 2018-2019 Cabinet, inspired clubs through her official visits, and has had the vision for the Bark and Brew event, which everyone is embracing with excitement,” she said.

She then shared her story with the Lions. At age 31, she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. “I got sicker and sicker as the days went on and my vision started to deteriorate,” she said. “I went from 20/20 vision to 0/0 vision in 7 months.”

After losing her sight, she thought she would sit around and let life pass her by. However, that was not the case for this former military medic. She told the Lions that you can either play the hand you’ve been dealt or you can fold. There was no way she would fold.

“After I went blind I still planned on going back to nursing school but I figured patients might get scared if I have a needle in one hand and a cane in the other,” she said.

Instead, she learned new skills and got a job in manufacturing—packing gloves for the Transportation Safety Administration (TSA). She even went on to become a lobbyist and got a master’s degree.

“I found out that I was able to have a normal life,” she said.

Two decades later, Giovinazzo isn’t slowing down. She’s enjoying life with her guide dog, Watson. They are inseparable as she travels in her work as President and CEO of World Services for the Blind.

“I have two benefits of being a person who is blind,” said Giovinazzo. “I get to bring my dog with me and I always have a designated driver.”

She concluded by saying that if Lions can change one person's life—then they can change the world. “How many lives have you changed? Turn Impossible to I'm Possible.”

She presented a piece of artwork framed by broken crayons to Governor Hawkins. “Remember broken crayons can still make a beautiful picture.”

## **ADJOURN**

District Governor Hawkins reminded the Lions to “Save the Date” for the 2019 District 2-T2 Convention set for April 26-27, 2019 in Lubbock. PID Jerome Thompson of Moulton, Alabama, is our special guest.

PFL Melissa Petty gave the benediction.

There being no other business, District Governor Hawkins adjourned the 2019 Midwinter Conference at 1:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*/s/ Carmon E. McCain*

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Lion PDG Carmon E. McCain  
2018-2019 Cabinet Secretary