

**District 5M-2 Cabinet Meeting Minutes  
February 12, 2015  
Mankato City Center Hotel, Mankato, MN**

**Call to Order:** DG Marvin Grimm called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

**Welcome:** DG Marvin Grimm welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by 1<sup>ST</sup> VDG Steve Wasserman

**Invocation:** Led by 2<sup>nd</sup> VDG Nancy Mathwig

**Roll Call:** Taken by Lion Cindy Walters showing 43 in attendance plus 5 guests and 9 absent.

**Introduction of Guests:** DG Marvin introduced ID Howard Hudson and Lion Lynn from Bakersfield, CA. Welcome to all guests.

**Adoption of the Agenda:** Motion to approve agenda Lion Brian Rykus; PDG Rick Wagener; **MC.**

**Secretary's Report:** Everyone was e-mailed a copy of the minutes. Motion to approve by PDG Mike Vos; seconded by Lion Cathleen Williams; **MC.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Lion Dale Oldenburg presented his report. YTD income is \$48,879.65 and expenses of \$31,587.19 leaving balance of 17,292.46. Special Funds account is at \$85,540.34 and Core 4 Grant sent back to International \$1,101.00 and remainder moved \$446.08 to Quest. Motion to approve was made by PID Maynard Rucks and seconded by PDG Joan Blank. **MC.**

**Communications:** Your DG has visited 36 clubs which leaves 30 remaining. All are scheduled with the exception of five clubs.

**Old Business:**

- **Arlington Lions Grant Request** – PDG Eunice Rucks reported that they have met with architects to renovate a building in Arlington this will make the building handicapped accessible as well as really improve an old building and once approved by city, etc. they will apply for the Lions grant.
- **Constitutions and Bylaws** – Official report follows later in the minutes. VDG Steve made a motion that the Cabinet endorse the proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws; PID Maynard Rucks seconded. **MC.**
- **PDG Convention Notebooks** – Rick Wagener reported that there is a box of notebooks from PDG which have been being shuffled from committee to committee. Anyone who wants them can take their binders otherwise they will be discarded.

**New Business:**

- **MN Lions Vision Foundation/Camp Confidence** – Each District has been asked to bring two items for the Multiple Convention silent auction. PDG Mary Spille asked that the cabinet approve this expenditure as well as have a volunteer who would take care of getting these items. PDG Mary Spille made a motion to spend up to \$125 on two items for the silent auction to come from the District; PDG Joan Blank seconded the motion. PDG Mike Vos asked where the money would come from; decided to take it from the budget excess. Lion Anna Wickenhauser volunteered to procure the items. **MC.**
- **Kids Sight** – VDG Steve Wasserman gave an updated report on the steering committee that is working on this project. They have purchased one spot vision screener and have partnered with the Minnesota Child Care Association and are looking for more partners. They have started a pilot project with New Horizon as well. VDG Steve made a motion that the Cabinet endorse this project and encourage the leadership team to appoint a chair to the cabinet to work the project as well, Lion Kevin Blank seconded. Not asking for dollars at this time. **MC.**
- **Centennial Event** – Lion Jack Webster asked permission of the Cabinet to propose a fundraiser at the Business meeting tomorrow afternoon. It is a three part scheme – 1) 100 years celebration of Lions

International – Lions clubs do one special project in recognition; 2) Promote Project New Hope at a higher degree; 3) Bike-a-thon for 100 miles at \$100/mile would equal \$10,000 for Project New Hope. Waterville has donated \$1000 to get the wheels moving. He has pins to sell as well along with a nearly full set of Governor's pins he would like to raffle. He is asking permission to hold this fundraiser. VDG Steve Wasserman made a motion to support Lion Jack on this event, Lion Janet Knakmuhs seconded. MC.

- MD5M Multiple Convention Committee** – VDG Nancy Mathwig reported that the convention committee has been meeting regularly and working diligently to make this Multiple convention the best ever. Complementary gift and pins have been ordered; corsages for the Saturday evening banquet are being worked on by the Jordness Lions Club and centerpieces for the tables are in the final stages. Speakers are confirmed and bios with pictures have been received by Lion Lori Klein who is putting together the convention book. Members of the committee met with the Verizon Center staff this a.m. to discuss details such as room assignments and meal service. As of the last committee meeting on 2/8/16 we had 222 registrations. The MN Lions Vision Foundation and Camp Confidence are busy collecting items for the raffle/silent auction area and have been doing well selling tickets for the big ticket items. As noted in the October report, our block of rooms at the Hilton Garden Inn was already filled and the additional rooms we received were spoken for immediately! PID Maynard is working on expanding the number of rooms they have allotted us. The City Center Hotel is also almost booked. Over flow rooms are available at the Best Western and the Holiday Inn Express. Committee members have been traveling to all Mid-Winter conventions to promote the convention both with a short presentation during the business meeting as well as a display and have been well received. A display as well as sign-up sheets to work during the convention are available in the hall. **Come Canoe with 5M2 and Join Us at the Bend in the River II.**
- PDG Rick Wagener gave a Janet Hall update – not sure if she will be here due to medical complications. Also talked about the possibility of a Lions project working on the Superbowl here in 2018.

### Region/Zone Reports:

**Region 1** Sandy Schneider - Things are starting to gear up for the new year! I am sure you are all as excited as I am for the beginning of the many Spring Zone meeting to commence. We already have multiple meetings scheduled. As a reminder to everyone PLEASE be mindful of the persons hosting the meeting and promptly RSVP if you plan on attending. She looks forward to hearing of all the wonderful activities that each club is working on now and in the future.

- Zone 1** Lion Connie Rau – Zone 1 has 10 clubs, including the Hutchinson Lioness Club. Membership currently is 268 for a -3 for the year. The number of Lion hours is 2905 and the number of people served is 35,507. Spring Zone 1 meeting is being planned for April 6, 2016 in Lester Prairie. Brownton, Hutchinson, Lester Prairie and New Auburn have hosted the District Governor. Brownton held an awards night with 3 members receiving various plaques and 3 members receiving membership recognition. Many clubs held Santa breakfasts and handed out treat bags to children. Plato had a successful new project – New Year's Pork Chop dinner and the Annual Spring Brunch will be held March 6, 2016.
- Zone 2** Lion Brenda Fritzke reported that membership Reports have been sent in. No activities in the month of January. Zone 2 has 8 clubs, 24 added members, 18 dropped members, with a balance of 498 members. Waconia has Wild Game Feed in Feb., Watertown has a Pancake breakfast Super Bowl

Sunday, Cologne has the cards for Soldiers on Feb. 27th, Victoria has the Zone 2 Spring meeting, Mayer-Watertown has Hobby Day March 5th and an Easter event March 19th, Carver Lions have a Bingo event set for April 16th. Many clubs host Easter Egg Hunts. The clubs are working hard with whatever event they put on. For information regarding Hobby Day, email Brenda Fritzke at [brendafritzke@hotmail.com](mailto:brendafritzke@hotmail.com)

- **Zone 3** Lion Jennifer Malecha – Zone 3 currently has 8 clubs with 372 members and we are currently at a net loss of 3 year to date. Lions in Zone 3 have been very clubs held many holiday activities and supported the needy. The Jordan Lions hosted what I've heard was a very successful wine/beer tasting event, the Jordaness Lions held their annual Bowling Tournament which included a special visit by PDG Harry in "full the Lions costume" – how many have you have seen a Lion bowl? The Belle Plaine Lions will be hosting Bowling Tournament in March. For those of you who haven't heard members of the Veseli Area Lions Club, Lion Kathleen from Alden, PDG Harry & PDG Joan & fellow Nicollet Lions participated in the Polar Plunge last Saturday in St. Peter and had an awesome time! Club visit notices have been sent out & are in the process of being completed. Our Zone 3 Spring Meeting will be hosted by the Shakopee Lions on Monday, April 18th @ the KC Hall in Shakopee – invitations will be e-mailed out shortly. Clubs in Zone 3 have been busy updating their websites & Facebook pages please make sure to check them out as there are many upcoming fundraisers, Bingos, breakfasts and Meat Raffles for you to attend and support fellow Lions Clubs. I'm looking very forward to seeing fellow Zone 3 Lions this weekend at the MidWinter Convention!

**Region 2** Lion Lori Klein, Region 2 Chairperson, There are 19 active clubs Region 2. A Write-Off Region winner was sent on to the district level. Current membership as of 2/11/16 was 674 members, currently a loss of 20 members for the year. Correspondence will be sent to all clubs asking them to remember to "ASK 1". Looking forward to the Spring Zone Meetings.

- **Zone 4** Lion Brenda Jones – Zone 4 is at 253 members. We are up 7 new members, but unfortunately have lost 13 this year, which still leaves us with a minus 6 net members. The Zone 4 meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 30, at the Nicollet American Legion, hosted by the Nicollet Lions Club. All the clubs in Zone 4 have been busy raising funds...mostly with food fundraisers!! There are some wonderful service projects going on in Zone 4 including, but not limited to, Courtland making donations to the victims of the 2 fires in town, Lafayette making a donation to a medical benefit, and St. Peter donated towards a new ambulance!
- **Zone 5** Lion Jim Spille – The Zone's seven Clubs and 2 Leo Clubs have reported 222 members. They have been very active with numerous activities. All club visits have been completed except Le Sueur which meets in a place that is not handicap accessible. Spring meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 29 in Arlington. Club visitation schedules have been distributed and should have been acted on.
- **Zone 6** Lion Brian Rykhus – As of Jan. 31, 2016 Zone 6 has 196 members. The Zone began the year with 206 members. Zone 6 is minus 10 members for the year. This month Zone 6 is showing one added member and one dropped member for plus 0. The Northfield Lions Club is hosting the Spring Zone 6 meeting on Monday, Mar. 14 at Jesse James Lanes. He continues working on Clubs visits in the Zone. Zone 6 has reported 1,173 Lion hours of service this fiscal year serving 5,023 people.

**Region 3** Lion Paul Gorman reported that Zone 8 and Zone 9 had entries in the WriteOff activity. Goals for the rest of the year include working with clubs behind on reports and with declining membership. He hopes to emphasize DG Marvin's goals in the remaining months of the year as well.

From Zone 7, Lion Charlie Knakmuhs– Lake Crystal Lions Club

From Zone 8, Lion Diane Beckman – Waseca Lions Club

From Zone 9, Lion Kathleen Blackeberg – Alden Lions Club

- **Zone 7** Lion Charlie Knakmuhs – There are currently 165 members in zone 7. Lion Charlie has all

his club visits completed but one and will do that one in March. All clubs are working hard on fundraising, membership and centennial challenge.

- **Zone 8** Lion Diane Beckmann – No report.
- **Zone 9** Lion Kathleen Blackeberg – Reported that since our last Cabinet Meeting on October 25<sup>th</sup> 2015 she had the pleasure of visiting the following clubs: Kiester Lions club on November 9<sup>th</sup>; Minnesota Lake Lions Club on November 11<sup>th</sup>; Albert Lea Cloverleaf club on November 17<sup>th</sup>; Wells Lions on November 18<sup>th</sup>; Albert Lea Lakeview Lions on November 23<sup>rd</sup>; Nicollet Lions on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016. She attended Zone 6 meeting in Lonsdale on October 27<sup>th</sup> and helped the Secretaries of the Wells and Kiester clubs with questions they were having about MyLCI. The Spring Zone 9 Meeting will be held on Wednesday March 9<sup>th</sup> at the American Lion in Wells, Wells Lions are hosting. Will have an invitation out by the Middle of February. She still has two clubs to visit yet, Blue Earth is Scheduled for Wednesday April 27<sup>th</sup> and she has yet to get Albert Lea Lions scheduled.  
Membership for 2015-2016 - Albert Lea has an increase of 9; Albert Lea Cloverleaf has an increase of 1; Albert Lea Lakeview has a decrease of 1; Alden has an increase of 1; Blue Earth has an increase of 1; Kiester has not changed; Minnesota Lake has a decrease of 1; Wells has a decrease of 2 - For a Zone 9 increase of 8 and a total as of January 31<sup>st</sup> of 223 Members

**Committee Reports:** VDG Steve Wasserman facilitated.

**Can Do Canines:** Lion Kathleen Blackeberg reported that since our last Cabinet Meeting on October 25<sup>th</sup> 2015 she had the pleasure to visit the following clubs to give a presentation on Can-Do-Canines. Kiester Lions club on November 9<sup>th</sup>; Minnesota Lake Lions Club on November 11<sup>th</sup>; Albert Lea Cloverleaf club on November 17<sup>th</sup>; Wells Lions on November 18<sup>th</sup>; Albert Lea Lakeview Lions on November 23<sup>rd</sup>; Nicollet Lions on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016. She attended Zone 6 meeting in Lonsdale on October 27<sup>th</sup>

**Can-Do Canines held their annual Fetching Ball on December 5th**

This event raised \$131,000, over 300 guests attended. All proceeds went to help train more assistance dogs.

**Give to the Max day was a huge success raising enough money to train 2 dogs**

**In the fall of 2015** - 18 New assistance dog teams for about 34 teams for 2015; 13 dogs began their final training; 14 puppies started their training. **For the start of 2016** - There will be 3 graduations held in 2016 - 1<sup>st</sup> on February 13<sup>th</sup> 2016; 2<sup>nd</sup> in June ; 3<sup>rd</sup> in October.

As always there is a monthly Tails to Tell tour given - Saturday February 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am, Saturday March 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am, Thursday April 14<sup>th</sup> 11am. To attend email at [tour@can-do-canines.org](mailto:tour@can-do-canines.org) or Call 763-331-3000.

Lion Deb Koehnen reported that Can-Do-Canines has added a 3<sup>rd</sup> graduation ceremony due to the increased number of graduating teams. The ceremony is the same weekend as our MidWinter convention.

CDC is in need of foster puppy raisers to supplement the prison program in the Waseca and Faribault prisons. The need is greatest in the Waseca area. Volunteers would take puppies out in public.

She has a club visit scheduled at NYA West Carver Lions in March.

**Centennial Service Challenge:** VDG Steve Wasserman reported that he is pleased to report that the following clubs have earned their **Four Diamond Banner Patch** for reporting service projects in all four areas of our **Centennial Service Challenge**: Chaska, Ellendale, Mayer Watertown, Prior Lake, Veseli, Wells, and Winthrop.

In addition to the 8 clubs qualifying the Four Diamond Patches so far, 15 clubs have reported on activities in three areas of the challenge, 12 clubs have reported in two areas and 14 have reported on projects in one area of the challenge. Last year, 35 clubs received a four diamond patch. His goal for this year remains that we become a 100% four diamond patch district.

Lion Steve has written newsletter articles for each 5M2 District Newsletter detailing progress on the Centennial Service Challenge and Centennial Membership Awards, and encouraging clubs to start planning Centennial Events and Legacy Projects.

**Constitution & By-Laws:** VDG Steve Wasserman reported that proposed Constitution and By-Law changes were distributed to all Club Presidents and Secretaries by email on December 26, 2015 in accordance with existing notification requirements in the Current Constitution and By-Laws. He was notified of two typographical errors in the documents by Lion Cathy Plath on January 26, 2016. Those errors and two other similar errors were corrected and highlighted in the documents and will be presented at the Business Meeting as items covered under “Clerical Corrections” section of the “Amendments” articles of each document. It is his desire that the Cabinet vote in support of the proposed changes, so that might become part of his report at the Business Meeting.

**Conventions/USA/Canada Forum:** IPDG Harry Klenke reported that upcoming events to be noted are the 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Multiple District Convention will be held in Mankato Friday April 22<sup>th</sup> thru Sunday April 24<sup>th</sup>

The 99<sup>th</sup> Annual International Convention will be held Friday June 24<sup>th</sup> thru Tuesday June 28<sup>th</sup> 2016 in Fukuoka, Japan.

The USA-Canada forum will be held September 15<sup>th</sup> thru September 17<sup>th</sup> of 2016 in Omaha, Nebraska.

**District Activities:** PDG Eunice Rucks reported that she has been working very hard on the Memorial Service. She will have pins available for sale at the Convention and will be running the First Timers Contest and have those forms available.

**GLT:** PID Debra Wasserman reported on **DG Marvin's GLT goals for 2015-2016** – Goals 1-4 were set by DG Marvin. Goals 5 & 6 were developed by GLT-D Coordinator.

**1. Conduct Region and Zone chair Training.**

Completed. See August 2015 GLT report.

**2. Conduct club officer training.**

Completed. See August 2015 GLT report.

**3. Convention speaker on Leadership Training.**

DG Marvin has arranged for PCC Bruce Beck to present a Motivational Leadership session.

**4. Conduct CEP workshops in clubs.**

The Courtland Lions completed a CEP workshop on Saturday September 18. The Norwood West-Carver Lions Club will conduct CEP this Spring. The “Club Quality Initiative” is now the official name as determined by LCI. CEP will continue to appear on materials until the next printing.

**5. To provide Orientation to clubs in 5M2.**

**A. Recruit a Lion to Shepherd Orientation area.**

PDG Joan has agreed to provide leadership in this critical area.

**B. Review existing PowerPoint.**

Completed

**C. Develop promotion process directed toward clubs.**

The first Orientation presentation was given to the Faribault Lions Club on November 23. Work on a specific promotion plan is ongoing.

**6. To introduce a specific mentoring program to clubs in the District.**

**A. Select/develop a specific mentoring program.**

**B. Recruit several clubs to pilot the program.**

1<sup>st</sup> VDG Steve is working on this project and hopes to introduce it at the spring club officer training.

Dates for Region/Zone Chair and club Officer training have been set.  
 Region/Zone Chairs: Saturday, May 21 at the Treaty Center (St. Peter)  
 Club Officers: Sunday, May 22 at Bethany College (Mankato)

There is a candidate for 2<sup>nd</sup> VDG: Lion Diana Kroells.

**GMT:** PID Maynard Rucks reported that he has not had any clubs show interest in CEP. If we are to continue the program we need to keep reminding the clubs maybe through the newsletter or more personal contact. Do we have to bring it up at the spring zone meetings? If there are areas that anyone thinks that could support a new Lions clubs please talk to him later during this convention. He is going to get working on starting a club in Savage.

“Health wise it appears that the chemo treatments have done what they are designed to do, Just need to get my body up to speed yet.”

**Historian:** Lion Nancy Mathwig reported that she will have a display of the 5M2 Hall of Fame recipients on display this weekend. She has also been including various historical facts regarding District 5M2 in her 2<sup>nd</sup> VDG articles in the monthly newsletter.

**Journey for Service:** PDG Gordy Affield reported that the Journey for Service dates will be April 13-15 with a minor change in the route which will cut it down by about 70 miles. He will be getting all of the club contacts during this convention to finalize the schedule.

**LCIF:** PDG Rick Wagener reported that since the last meeting he has given 1 presentation and has one more scheduled. He sent out his LCIF letter for donations appeal to all clubs to participate in the Parade of Green. He is anticipating to be very busy with Mid-Winter club donations. His goal is to have 100% club participation.

**Leader Dog:** Lion Shirley Hespenheide reported that Leader Dogs for the Blind started a project of kennel renovation in the fall of 2014. The first phase of the new development center is complete. The center includes new puppy bays, an expanded veterinary clinic, a custom breeding suite and a protected puppy litter drop off area. The lobby is finished and the puppy viewing area is open. The new \$14.5 million facility replaces aging kennels built in the 1960s, adding 35 percent more space to the old 100,000 square foot kennels.

Phases two and three of the renovation are still in progress. At this time, there is only \$600,000 to raise before the June 30 deadline. 5M2 is 3<sup>rd</sup> in giving from MD5M for this renovation. To see updates go online the Leader Dogs for the Blind.org. Click on Lions Clubs; click on Progress, down on this page is Construction update and view the photos of the renovation.

**LEO Clubs:** Lion Anna Wickenhauser reported that she read about Northfield Leos in the newsletter. Sibley East and West are busy with activities. Cologne has done Ronald McDonald house, a couple of Bingos, and are currently selling candy bars to raise funds for the Lions United Nations Day in NYC. Doing the meal for cards for soldiers at the end of February.

**Liberty Day:** Lion Denny Hewitt reported they have distributed the 1000 Liberty Day Booklets that were ordered for this year and a few left over from last year, so they maintained our projections. Lion Denny also visited a few clubs and talked about the Liberty Day Program. He would like to see more involvement in this project and will continue with that effort. He will have some flyers around at this convention for clubs to pickup and contact information.

**Lions Essay Contest:** PID Debra Wasserman reported that there was a winner in this contest. She will be reading her essay at the Sunday Brunch. She is also the winner at the Multiple District level as well.

**Lions Quest:** Lions Mike and Cathleen Williams reported that since the last Cabinet meeting they visited three clubs. They had to cancel two scheduled meetings as they had three deaths in the family which required trips to Chicago. Hopefully these can be rescheduled for spring.

They again ask that individual Lions help them get teachers who want to take advantage of the Quest training. If they can get 12 teachers to sign up they can offer a training in August.

Lion Janet Knakmuhs reported that she has 2 clubs that are interested in meeting about Quest, and she is contacting other clubs to present programs.

**Long Range Planning:** PDG Tom Ferleman reported the MD5M Long Range Planning Committee is in the process of updating the Multiple Long Range Plan. The plan will be available for the Council of Governors to review at their March Council of Governors Meeting. PDG Tom continues to work with individual Lions and with Lions Clubs to develop plans for now and for the future.

**Mid-Winter Convention Committee:** PDG Rick and Lion Sandy reported that as of noon today there were 341 registrants; 80 for the ID Dinner; 295 for the Saturday Lunch; 239 for the Governor's Banquet; and 205 for the Sunday Brunch. The hotel has been sold out. Thanks to everyone who has helped. Make sure and fill out the survey on Sunday at the brunch. Special thanks to Lion Denise Parish from Cologne on her extra work on the programs, etc.

**MD5M Hearing Foundation:** Lion Arlene Richter reported that the Board of Trustees met in St. Cloud on Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, at the River's Edge Convention Center. The first order of business was the election of officers for 2016 – 2017. The new officers are:

Chair: PDG Linda Albrecht-Norby  
Vice Chair: PDG Gloria Anderson  
Secretary: PCC David Dominick  
Treasurers: PDG Mike and Lion Sue Vos  
Legal: Lion Tom Triplett  
Ex. Sec.: Lion Marlene Martinek

Old Business:

Reports on the Canadian Districts, the Mid-winter Conventions, and the Centennial MOA Event were given.

New Business:

- Deferred Giving Letter: Voted to send out a 2<sup>nd</sup> letter to all Lions in the multiple for their consideration.
- Spring Tours: New date is April 30<sup>th</sup>. Doctors from Hearing will give presentations in Moose Tower since the move to their new facility will be completed the end of this month. How the switch with vision will take place is still being worked out.
- After the move to the new clinic is made, the name of the hearing section is unclear at this time. And, we were also told that the Lions' plaques will not be transferred to the new local.
- The Cochlear Implant Picnic is scheduled for Sept. 11, 2016.
- The D-Feet Walk is on June 4<sup>th</sup> with entertainment, food, and fun for all. Clubs will receive reminders in the coming months. The web site is up and ready for registrations, donations, and also selling past D-Feet T-shirts.
- The walk is scheduled for the morning, so participants can also attend the afternoon Centennial events at the MOA.

Committees:

- Public Relations: Look for a newsletter update about the new Bob Harms Award.
- Finance and Legal; We are refining some language in the By-Laws, and examining how planned giving funds will be handled.
- Long Term Planning: Preliminary ideas were looked at for 1yr., 5yr., and 10yr. goals.

The next meeting is set for April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.

**MN Lions Diabetes Foundation:** Lions Kevin Blank and Lion Wanda Breimhorst – Co-chairs attended the last Minnesota Lions Diabetes Foundation meeting on January 2, 2016 held at the Double Tree by Hilton in Minneapolis. Discussed audit results, calendar fundraiser which is in the process of being finalized and the availability of Piggy Banks for bringing back Feed The Pig and which can be used by clubs. A report was

given on the World Diabetes Day event that the Foundation and its partners held on November 14, 2015. This event was a huge success as over 1,800 individuals and families participated at 8 different sites throughout the state. It is anticipated that we will do something similar next year. Lion Kevin coordinated the Mankato site assisted by Lion Wanda and a group of volunteers.

The 7th annual research update at The University of Minnesota will be held on April 2, 2016. This year there will be a new event form and location. The event will be held at the McNamara Alumni Center where there will be discovery stations set up so attendees can learn how University of Minnesota scientists are making a direct impact here in Minnesota and around the world. Everyone is invited to attend with a special invite to the District Governor Elects so they can be made aware of the research that the Foundation is supporting.

Letters of intent for 2016-2017 officers were announced.

A new fundraiser was established, the trustees will be selling calendars. Also more piggy banks were ordered and will be distributed to those clubs wishing to continue with that fundraiser.

Lion Kevin will have a display set up at this mid-winter promoting diabetes awareness and the Minnesota Lions Diabetes Foundation.

The next Diabetes Foundation meeting will be April 2, 2016 at the Research update at the University of Minnesota.

**MN Lion Vision Foundation:** PDG Mary Spille and Lion Diana Kroells – The MN Lions Vision Foundation held their board meeting on February 6 in St. Cloud. PDG Mary and Lion Diana were both in attendance.

Everyone will get a “sneak peak” at the new website for the Mn. Lions Vision Foundation in mid-February. Updating the site was one of the goals for the Long Range Planning committee.

The Board approved 4 new grants totaling \$66,000. Two of these grants are in support of the MN KidsSight First project. After a request by a Head Start manager in the Arrowhead area we purchased one of the scanners- a Welch Allyn and loaned it to her. The MLVF is purchasing another scanner, this time a Plusoptix S12 Scanner to be used in some preschool screenings in the Twin Cities Area. Once it is decided which will be the better of the two scanners, more will be purchased to be used in the state. Some districts have already purchased their own readers and perhaps that is something we will want to consider in the future.

Dr. Hou, Eye Bank Medical Director gave an amazing presentation on research being done at the Eye Bank concerning stem cells transplantation and corneal transplants. He even talked about “growing” corneas in the lab from stem cells from donors or your own stem cells. Taking stem cells from one eye and transferring to an injured eye could be a possibility one day. Chemicals needed for the growth of these corneas in the labs has not been approved by the FDA for transplants.

The new surgery center will open on Feb 29<sup>th</sup>. The will begin with cataract and retina surgeries. MLVF has paid their first installment of \$250,000.00.

PDG Mary & Lion Diana have had a few meetings with Jerry Wohler, Camp Confidence and PDG Dave Moen, MLVF Chair in preparation for the raffle, silent auction and live auction at the Multiple Convention in April. So far a few gifts have arrived and we have had commitments of others. We are hoping every District has at least 2 bucket raffle or silent auction item to donate. Many clubs have already donated or expressed their intention to do so. All proceeds will go to the new Eye Surgery Center for equipment.

Clubs in District 5M2 have \$117,000 available for Helen Keller Awards. It is difficult to convince clubs to give out the awards to a deserving member or someone in the community who has made a difference in the lives of others. We will continue to work on this as we do club visits-we have had two recent club visits and more scheduled.

We hope that you are enjoying the “Viewing Forward” articles in the newsletter. Thank you PDG Mary for sharing all the important information on behalf of the MLVF. Keep in mind that March is National Eye Donation Month,

**Newsletter Editor:** Lion Cindy Walters reported that she thinks that things are going good. She has been getting a lot of information but can always use more. All newsletters have come out on time and were full of information. Please continue to send information to her from your clubs, zones, regions, committees, etc.



**Special Olympics:** PDG Joan Blank reported that in her last cabinet report, she stated that she would like to organize a team of 10 Lions to jump at the Polar Plunge in St. Peter in February. The object would be to fundraise for Special Olympics. She did get a team of 10 to commit to jumping all Lions except 1.

On Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at Hallet's Pond in St. Peter, Lions Tom Hoffmann and Don Selvig from the Winnebago, Lion Kathleen Bleckeberg from the Alden Lions, Lions Jen Malecha, Barb Skluzacek and Roxie LePierre from the Veseli Lions, Lion Jerry Goodburn from the Nicollet Lions, PDG Harry Klenke from the Prior Lake Lions and Lion Joan, along with her son, Jared Blank, jumped into the icy cold water for the cause of raising funds for Special Olympics. Their team raised approximately \$2500 for the event and were "Champion" fundraisers in the category of "other". They had a great time and all would do it again next year.

She has three speaking engagements coming up this spring. Her goal is to continue to learn about the different events in the area and to volunteer at the summer Special Olympics.

**Project New Hope:** Chair Lion Darlene Wondra reported that they held the last successful retreat for the season in December. Gas cards and quilts are always a big hit at the end of the retreat. Project New Hope also sponsored a hayride for veterans and their families in Duluth this December. With the "Project New Hope" signs on her car, she does get noticed and am handing out many pamphlets.

**Protocol:** Lions Lowell and Charlette Abbas reported that the Protocol Manual was completed this past summer. All cabinet members as well as each club received a copy. If you have not received a copy, please contact the chairs and they will get one to you. You can see the Protocol Manual on the 5M2 website. They have not heard of any changes that need to be made at this time and they welcome any comments and/or suggestions.

**Technology Support:** Lion Laura Maki reported that she has completed and sent out the Parade of Green Reference/Description booklet with the 501(c)3 letters to all the clubs in the district for easy reference as to what projects each support and whether or not they qualify for gambling donations. The Mid-Winter Planning Committee has kept her busy sending out and posting information about the Mid-Winter Convention on the website and Facebook. IT equipment will be set up for various presentations during the convention weekend. She continues to send out the monthly 5M2 District Newsletter and put it on the website. Prior to sending she does reduce its size as some email servers will reject large attachments. She has shared items on our Facebook page. Notices for Spring Zone meeting are starting to arrive and are emailed to Club Presidents, Secretaries and Cabinet members as well as posted on the website calendar page. Spring seems to be the time for CEP Training and she needs to coordinate the use of the projectors and screens. Please let her know of your need as far in advance as possible to assist with scheduling.

**Write Off:** Lion Christy Trutnau – Write-Off Competition for the 2015 and 2016 year will come to an end on Saturday, February 13th at the District 5M2 Lions Mid-Winter Convention in Mankato. Where the three finalists: Taylor H from Veseli Area Lions Club; Samantha Chaffee from the Wells Lions Club and Rachel Slathar from the NYA West Carver and Hamburg Lions Clubs will be presenting their essays. This year's theme was "Service in Action". Awards and prize money will be given out to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place essays. Of the 9 Zones in the District we had 6 Zones that participated in this year's Write Off Competition. Thank you to everyone for another great year as chair for this project!

**Environmental Photo Contest:** Lion Evelyn Grimm reported that the 2015-16 Photo Contest had 21 entries. The three Mankato Lions Clubs did the judging. The winner from 5M2 is Dave Sunderman from Le Sueur Lions. Dave's photo was sent to the multiple and was selected as the winner of MD5M to be sent to International. He will be in attendance at the Brunch on Sunday. Lion Evelyn thanked everyone who entered the contest and hope for more entries next year.

**Youth Exchange/Youth Camp:** Lion Cindy Walters reported that we have 17 countries who have asked to have spots saved for their youth, have received 13 applications at this time, and 2 youth have been placed with a host family. Lion Cindy would like to have confirmation of 5M2 Lions Clubs desire to assist with meals

and events during the camp week of July 16-24. There is a small display table which holds the applications as well as host family applications and Lion Cindy's business card.

**Youth Outreach/Peace Poster:** Co-Chairpersons are Lion Paula Stevens and PDG Sue Bowman. The theme for the 2015-16 Peace Poster contest was "Share Peace". Thirty-three posters were entered and judged by the Peace Poster Co-Chairs. Posters were judged on originality, artistic merit and expression of the theme "Shared Peace".

First place winner in the Peace Poster contest is Mariah Kranz, she is a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student at Gaylord Immanuel Lutheran School. Congratulations to the Green Isle Lions Club for sponsoring this year's winner. Mariah will receive her award recognition at the Sunday Brunch. Her mother and two brothers will also be guests at the presentation. Mariah's peace quote "If we want to reach real peace in this world, and if we are to carry on a war against war, we have to start educating the children".

Second place went to Claire Witte from Lincoln Jr. High and she was sponsored by the Glencoe Lions. MN Lake Lions sponsored the third place winner Isabella Nelson a student at Maple River School.

Thank you to all the clubs that supported the Peace Poster Contest, it is a great way to get involved with youth in the community and to obtain positive publicity.

There is a Peace Poster information table in the hall with photos of this year's submitted posters, take a few minutes and take a look at the photos; they are messages of optimism from our youth. The Peace Poster theme for 2016-2017 is "A Celebration of Peace." Contest rules and Peace Poster order forms are at the information table.

Zone chairmen please have your clubs pick up their poster at the information table. Please check Sunday for any remaining poster(s) from your zone and take them for the club.

### **Comments:**

ID Howard Hudson thanked us for the opportunity to be here in Minnesota and the warm welcome they have received, coming from California. He congratulated Lion Diana on jumping in the ring for DG. He is from MD4 and the District is a strong supporter of the Special Olympics as well as the Rose Bowl parade; the Centennial float is going to be bigger and better – the cost is \$5,000 to \$7,000 to ride on the float. He encouraged everyone to attend.

PID Debra Wasserman had nothing to add at this time.

2<sup>nd</sup> VDG Nancy Mathwig mentioned the outstanding work that this District does on a regular basis. Let's all have a great weekend and leave with a wealth of information, memories and new friendships.

1<sup>st</sup> VDG Steve Wasserman added please vote for him on Saturday, he needs your support.

DG Marvin Grimm –

- Thanked the cabinet for all the hard work this year.
- Red and Black day tomorrow – please participate and be in the photo after lunch on Saturday.

PID Maynard Rucks talked about the Madelia fire and hopes that Lions are/will be involved in assisting them in rebuilding.

### **CALENDAR:**

April 13, 14, 15 – Journey for Service

April 22, 23, 24 – MD5M Multiple Convention, Mankato, MN

May 1, 2016 – Cabinet Meeting – Ney Center, Henderson, MN

Spring Zone Meetings – March & April

Motion to adjourn made at 3:20 p.m. by Lion Brian Rykus; seconded by PID Maynard Rucks

Respectfully Submitted – Lion Cindy Walters