District 5M-2 Cabinet Meeting Minutes

**November 7, 2021**

**Community Center, St. Peter, MN**

**Call to Order**: DG Glenn Kaufmann called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by 1st VDG Kathleen Bleckeberg

**Invocation:** 2nd VDG Christy Trutnau gave the invocation.

**Establish Protocol:** DG Kaufmann established Protocol.

**Welcome:** DG Glenn Kaufmann

**Roll Call:** Taken by Lion Cindy Walters, showing 29 in attendance, 18 absent, 6 guests.

**Introduction of Guests:** DG Glenn Kaufman mentioned that the 6 guests were introduced during protocol.

**Adoption of the Agenda:** Motion to approve agenda with changes Lion Margie Jacobson; seconded by PDG Diana Kroells; **MC**.

**Secretary’s Report**: Motion to approve the Cabinet Meeting minutes of August 8, 2021 meeting made by PDG Marvin Grimm, seconded by Lion Chuck Toltzman, **MC.**

**Treasurer’s Report:** Lion Sue Vos sent her report. Motion by to accept the Treasurer’s Report by VDG Kathleen Bleckeberg, seconded by PDG Anna WIckenhauser, **MC**. Copy is attached at the end of this report.

**Council of Governor’s Report:** DG Glenn Kaufmann COG met in person. The next four multiple conventions are in place for hosts. 5M2 2022; 5M4 2023; 5M13 Winnipeg 2024; 5M7 is putting in a bid for 2025. Snowman pins are being developed for Montreal. The past two years have been incorrect due to COVID. LCI Kindness matters service award – Bemidji Lions made Cuddle Blanket and Blue Earth Lions planted trees. The one going on to CA1 is the Bemidji Lions project.

**Comments:** DG Glenn Kaufmann

* RLLI - Seven members from 5M2 attended the RLLI in Detroit Lakes. RLLI is a great place to go to get excited again.
* USA/Canada Forum – Calgary in 2022.
* New Club Opportunities – Looking at two clubs to get onboard; Medford and Glenville.

**Old Business:**

**Update to Diabetes Grant for Camp Sweet Life:** Lion Rene Maus – Planning 2022 Diabetes Camp, July 31-August 4, 2022. Working with medical team and medical directors to see if the camp can occur in 2022. They did a one day camp this past year. Masked up, stayed outside and social distanced. 35 new campers that had never attended Camp Sweet Life before. LCIF Grant has been extended to 2022. Strike Out Type 1 Diabetes at Victory Bowl in Mankato. Goal is to make camp as inexpensive as possible. Online auction as well; campsweetlife.org. Round Up for Camp Sweet Life on the website as well.

**5M2 donation to Sheehan Campaign ($5,000 from district / $100 per club):** PDG Joan Blank/2VDG Christy Trutnau – PDG Joan and Lion Kevin have been attending zone meetings and promoting this donation. According to VDG Christy Trutnau, so far in District 5M2 – 22 clubs donated $100. Please spread the word and talk to your clubs regarding donating.

**2VDG Candidate:** Lion Gerald Ziskovsky threw his name in the ring at the last meeting.

**MD5M Multiple Convention Update:** PDG Anna Wickenhauser

When: April 29-May 1st, 2022

Where: Mankato Clinic Health System Event Center

Hotels: Adjacent to the Event Center-Hilton Garden Inn (Headquarters); Holiday Inn Express; AmericInn by Wyndham; Courtyard by Marriott

Theme: “**Service in the Heart of Everyday Lions**”

The committee has been meeting monthly and are making some Fantastic decisions regarding the Multiple Convention. We are firming up the meal and event center pricing and hope to have the registration ready and to you in November. We are trying to keep the costs at a reasonable rate.

Some ideas that we are actively pursuing are Corporate Sponsorships to help defray the cost, a new approach to the “First Timers”, and there is a rumor that there will be a couple of people from Wisconsin at our Multiple….Bee Seen Promotions (Lions Chuck & Kim Steinmetz) will have all of your Lions Swag and The Burmeister’s Bar is making an appearance. Lions Dale and Jodi Burmeister will be doing a seminar about the Global Lions Forum and Lionism in the 21st Century.

We have a good start on designing a convention pin and we have decided that there will NOT be a Gift Bag when you pick up your convention materials at the registration table.

The MD5M Leo Chairs-Stefanie Nelson and Pete Yelle have joined the team and are committed to bringing us an outstanding service project for the convention and working with the Leos of MD5M.

All in all, it’s shaping up very nicely. We appreciate your patience as we navigate and try to put on a convention that makes you proud to say your MD5M. Watch your emails, check your junk mail and follow Facebook to get up to date information and did I say READ your Newsletters? Because this information will be shared with your Newsletter Editor and your District Governor☺

**New Business:**

**Program Chair tables at the Mid-Winter –** Being charged for the program tables at the Mid-Winter Convention. 8’ tables and the cost/table is $40. Limited to 10 tables. Lion Margie Jacobson is talking the requests for table and payment.

**Educational grants for district attendees (ELLI, RLLI, etc…) –** DG Glenn Kaufmann brought up the idea that the District should cover the cost for people attending ELLI, RLLI, etc. There is a kick back of $90 coming back from the Multiple. It cost almost $600 to attend. We need to invest in the leadership skills in our district. PDG Anna Wickenhauser made a motion that the District pay $50 to each attendee this year for attending ELLI, RLLI, FDI. Seconded by VDG Kathleen Bleckeberg. Discussion followed. **MC.**

**Mail newsletter out – PDG Mary Spille and Lion Dar Mondor –** It may be a struggle to maintain the numbers that have attended mid-winter convention. They thought it might be nice to mail an invitation out to all members. 2200 members $1500 in postage costs. Postcards are 31¢. Word of mouth is usually the best. Lion Lisa mentioned that on facebook they have a list of things to increase participation. Zone chairs need to really promote the event at the Zone meetings. Perhaps mail to all clubs and new members. Registration, program, parade of green information needs to be promoted. Promote via social media.

**2020-21 LCIF Awards –** PID Debra Wasserman and PDG Anna Wickenhauser each received a 20-21 President’s Certificate for having every club in 5M2 donate to LCIF. PDG Anna Wickenhauser also received an International Presidential Medal – second highest award in Lions.

**Zone Reports:** 1st VDG Kathleen Bleckeberg

**Zone 1: Lion Emmy Koch –** No report submitted.

**Zone 2: Lion Dave Lura –** No report submitted.

**Zone 3: Lion Rose Thies** – Since my last report, the Lions of Zone 3 continue to hold our membership of 247 lions in eight clubs. We have not lost any members out the backdoor as DG Glenn would say, and we are trying our hardest to increase membership with some clubs (Green Isle and Henderson having members to add shortly.

We were able to co-host a President and Secretary Meeting in September with Zone 1 and their chair Lion Emmy Koch. A good showing was had as all but one club was represented.

On November 4th, we were able to host 37 Lions representing every club in the zone as well as 8 cabinet chairs and all three of the DG Team in Gaylord. A huge thank you goes out to my club of Green Isle for hosting.

In keeping with DG Glenn’s military theme we gathered at the American Legion Club in Gaylord where it was festively decorated in red, white and blue. We celebrated with an all American meal of BBQ ribs. We were divided into Red, White and Blue table groupings when we entered.

After the pledge and invocation calling on us to remember to thank our veterans for their service and to be mindful of those Lions that were unable to join us due to illness.

After dinner, we participated in Club Sharing at our tables answering the following questions:

Things our club do well

Things our clubs have the opportunity to improve on (Delta’s)

Questions that I would like to have answered.

A good discussion was had and many ideas were discussed and shared.

Two of the questions that were asked were: What a person needs to do to become a Zone Chair as VDG Kathleen is looking for my replacement as my term ends and what we can do to get KidSight into our schools and partnership with them.

Unfortunately, we did not solve the last question, however we all agreed that each club could host a KidSight screening at an event so that we can show schools what we could offer. It was also suggested that we contact the schools through the school nurse’s office as well as utilizing any members that we would have who have a working relationship with the schools including inviting the principal and superintendent to a meeting when the Kid Sight Cabinet Members are speaking.

The Cabinet Members spoke passionately about their foundations and committees. PDG Joan and Lion Kevin gave us an update on IVP Brian’s campaign and encouraged us to attend the International Convention in Montreal.

Lion Chuck Tolzman informed us of the Matching Grant from MN Lions Childhood Cancer Foundation that will match up to $500 for a child’s family that is raised by a Lions’ Club. New Auburn and Eagle Lake just received these grants.

Each member of the DG Team spoke. DG Glenn covering membership retention, 2VDG Christy offering assistance with My Lion and encouraging clubs to report their activities and 1VDG Kathleen informing us on the upcoming Mid Winter Convention.

At the conclusion of the business portion of our meeting, we played a very competitive and rousing game of Are You Smarter than the DG Dream Team III. It was very close and came down to a tie breaker question, but the DG Dream Team III came away with the championship. The tie breaker question was how many cows are in Zone 3 Lion Ruth Klossner’s collection that holds the Guiness World Record and that is 19,650. Winning plaques and PayDay candy bars were presented to the winning team while the other two teams received consolation prizes of all american apple pies and red, white and blue Milky Way candy bars and snickers because they came in last.

A collection was taken up for DG Glenn’s donation to Project New Hope.

Raffle Prizes were won by Lions Brooke, Kevin, Dawn and Greg.

**Zone 4: Lion Todd Schansberg** – Zone 4 has 8 clubs with 372 members as of 10/31/2021; up 7 members from the start of the year and five since the last meeting.

* Belle Plaine: 19 members, no change
* Carver: 54 members, no change
* Chaska: 37 members, +2
* Hamburg: 33 members, +4
* Jordan: 41 members, +1
* Jordaness: 46 members, no change
* Shakopee: 118 members, -1
* Shakopee Valley: 24 members, +1

Held the Zones 2 and 4 Presidents and Secretaries Meeting on September 14 with good participation from the clubs in both Zones.

Held the Zone 4 Fall Meeting on October 28 with 6 of the 8 clubs attending. Host club Hamburg did a great job with the venue and meal. Clubs are staying active with many fund raisers and service projects completed and planned.

In the next couple of months, I plan to schedule club visits and focus on those clubs in my Zone that are not actively reporting data in MyLCI/MyLion.

**Zone 5: Lion Denise Wondra** – Zone 5 currently has a net gain of 1 member. We had our Zone meeting on October 26th with the Montgomery Lions hosting. 6 of 8 clubs showed up. Was fun time see each other again and catching up. We had one club celebrate 100 years. Congratulations to Northfield. Clubs are busy with fundraising such as meat raffles, bingo and breakfasts. They are also busy collecting eyeglasses, cell phones and hearing aids. They also collected food for food drives and food shelfs. Many clubs participated in the dictionary project. I will be getting out to do some club visits soon.

**Zone 6: Lion Bill VanderSluis** – Report from the Zone meeting held10/6/21

Eagle Lake reported on an upcoming (Oct 16th) fundraiser for a local youth that is battling cancer. They are not planning porch pot Christmas decorations this year;

  Le Center reported on upcoming Steak Supper and traditional Santa Claus and Easter projects;

  Le Sueur reported on numerous traditional past and ongoing activities, its upcoming Christmas tree sales, raffle and recent collaboration with other local groups for ongoing plastic bag recycling;

  Mankato reported on recent Zumbathon;

  Mankato Key City reported on another season of Hot Dog Stand events;

  Mankato Sunrise reported on resumption of ID Check/wristbanding at city events, and the upcoming 2021 Diabetes Rally (Oct 9);

  St. Peter reported on upcoming Poinsettia sales and other projects;

  Lake Crystal reported (via email) regarding a Born Trail project, their upcoming fall pasta feed, and other recent service and fundraising projects.

The meeting included the following program reports:

Lion Lisa Kaufmann upcoming 5M2 District Convention

         PDG Anna Wickenhauser GLT

PDG Joan and Lion Kevin Blank GMA & Brian Sheehan Campaign

2VDG Christy Trutnau Lions Vision Foundation

Lions Gerald Ziskovsky, Chuck Toltzman MN Childhood Cancer Foundation

Lion Denny Hewitt               Liberty Day

Lion Brian Rykhus             MN Lions Diabetes Foundation

Proposed Club visitations for 2021:

                Le Sueur to host Eagle Lake

                Le Center to host Mankato Key City

                St Peter to host Mankato

                Lake Crystal to host Mankato Sunrise

2VDG Christy Trutnau spoke about the benefits and need for reporting using MyLion and MyLCI tools.

1VDG Kathleen Bleckeberg commented about the comprehensive and informative newsletter that District 5M2 publishes.

DG Glenn Kaufmann spoke about listening to members and keeping them involved to retain them for the benefit the clubs.

**Zone 7: Lion Don Novack** – No report submitted.

**Zone 8: Lion Shermayne Cross** – The President/Secretaries zone mee8ng was held with Zone 7 on

Sept. 29. Six of the 8 clubs in Zone 8 attended.

Albert Lea Lakeview have been helping with a winter coat drive with Rachel’s Closest. Lion Jerry

Ziskovsky talked about Childhood Cancer at the Owatonna Lions Club. Blooming Prairie is selling calendars for a fundraiser. Faribault celebrated its 100th Anniversary on Oct. 23 along with Northfield. They also collected money for the White Cane Drive and coordinated with CERT for the White Cane walk with students and staff from MSAB. The Fall Zone Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 11 in Blooming Prairie.

Currently we have 229 members with a gain of 4 since September.

**Cabinet Reports**: 2nd Christy Trutnau facilitated.

**Can Do Canines:** Lion Rick Wagener and Lion Ruth Ann Marsh, the co-chairs for Can Do Canines, reported that they have gone to three zone meetings so far and plan on attending the remaining ones. They have had no requests for club meetings. They are in the process of drafting a letter of introduction and requesting a program with all the clubs. The Woof-a-Roo campaign raised more than $121,000.00. 5M2's portion was around $1500.00.

**Constitution & By-Laws:** IPCC Brian Thies – There will be a Policy update in the future as I continue to research items that will be coming from the Council of Governors, but have not yet been completed. Stay tuned. More information to come.

**District Activities:** PDG Eunice Rucks A letter has been sent out to all Presidents and Secretaries regarding reporting fellow Lions that have passed away.  She continues to encourage clubs to send in their deceased members names for the Celebration of Life at the 5M2 Convention in February. Also, a short note of what they particularly enjoyed about Lions.

**Environmental:** Lion Pam Koenen – No report submitted.

**GLT:** IPDG Anna Wickenhauser reported:

The Regional Lions Leadership Institute was held 10/21-10/23 in Detroit Lakes MN. 5M2 was proud to have 7 Lions attend this institute, and all of them have come back saying how much they have learned, how wonderful it was to spend time with and collaborate with other Lions from all across our Multiple, and how it has inspired them to be more dedicated, engaged and enthusiastic Lions! Attending were: Hilary Wickenhauser-Cologne; Lisa Kaufmann, Greg Fletcher-Chanhassen; Ebenezer Howe-Alden; Rose Thies-Green Isle; Emmy Koch-Hutchinson; and Bill Vandersluis-Mankato.

The Northern Pride Lions Forum is back! The forum will be held March 25th-26th, 2022 in Saint Cloud. This forum is wonderful for any and all Lions to attend, and is a great alternative or addition to the USA/Canada Lions Forum!

Save the Date! I am also thrilled to announce that our MD5M Multiple District Convention is a-go for an in-person convention for 2022! The theme of the Convention is Service in the Heart of Everyday Lions and will be held at the Mayo Convention Center in Mankato April 29, 30, & May 1st, 2022. Registration will be coming soon, as will more information on the convention itself.

All of this information is posted on the District 5M2 Facebook page, in our Newsletter and on our Website. Be sure to check them out. Reach out to me with any GLT or Technology questions at [lionannaw@gmail.com](mailto:lionannaw@gmail.com)

**GMT:** IPCC Brian Thies, 2nd VDG Kathleen Bleckeberg – District 5M2 currently has 2,221 members which is up 28 since the beginning of the fiscal year. Thank you to all who have brought new members in and more so thank you for retaining our current members.

The GMT Team continues to look for new locations for Lions Clubs as well as to help existing clubs retain members. If you are aware of a club that needs assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**GST:** Lion Dar Mondor and PDG Mary Spille – Challenges are what many of our clubs have been experiencing for sometime and being creative on new ideas and how to complete some projects might take a lot of creative thinking since COVID is still very present. Many clubs are managing to meet or keeping in touch via zoom meetings, emails, etc. however some haven't been able to meet at all. All of your efforts of being creative with how you can meet and how projects are completed is greatly appreciated by all of your communities.

More clubs are now moving some of their service projects that were on hold out to the public in a very safe way. People want to see our clubs in action and there are ways that these ideas can happen even in this time of COVID.

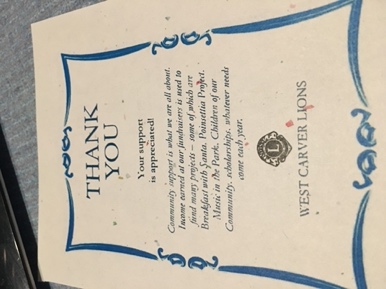
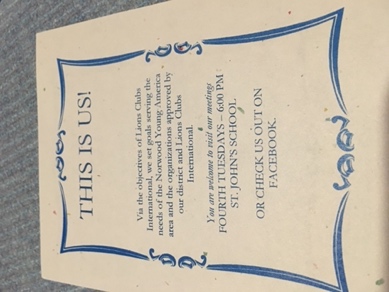
Some clubs are savings pop can tabs and collecting enough to be able to make a monetary donation to the Ronald McDonald House.

So many clubs have come up with drive-through or walk up food for meals fundraisers, which have been very successful. People in the community have been very supportive of these fundraisers and they are so happy to see the Lions clubs in motion.

Things are definitely in motion to get diabetes kits in school busses and classrooms this fall with the donation of many items and help from the Diabetes Foundation. Also, Liberty Day information will be shared with Social Studies teachers in our local schools.

Whenever possible many clubs are having information displays and hand outs (see attached being used by some clubs) at local celebrations to encourage membership and to let all know what our clubs do. Many new fall and winter projects are starting to plan for and happen, such as breakfast with Santa, Christmas tree sales, pancake breakfasts, poinsettia deliveries to seniors, write off essay contest, cookie sales, Peace Poster, dictionaries delivered to the schools, Kidsight, attendance at upcoming Zone meetings and helping at community events as they start to happen wherever help is needed.

It's not always easy to know where and when a need is necessary but Lions are good at having connections to be aware and be there when help is needed. Please let Mary Spille or Dar Mondor at [maryspille@gmail.com](mailto:maryspille@gmail.com) or [mondordarlene8@gmail.com](mailto:mondordarlene8@gmail.com) know about your ideas. Sharing is always so important and helpful for all our clubs.

**Global Membership Approach Champion (NAMI):** PDG Joan Blank – The GMA Team has been meeting each month by Zoom. A report from GLT, GMT and GST is given each time. Here is a summary.

**GLT**: Seven Lions from 5M2 attending the Regional Lions Leadership Institute.

Northern Pride Leadership Forum will take place in March-IPDG Anna is speaking at the Forum

District-wide Orientation opportunities (two locations-IPDG Anna POC)-looking at two locations for district wide orientations this year. On hold – Tick Tok segments for training

**GMT**: No new clubs yet (looking at Glenville and Medford)- 1VDG Kathleen has not talked to Glenville yet. Medford – DG Glenn will try again to reach out, as he has not reached anyone yet. Medford is the 2nd largest city in 5M2 without a club. Lion Anna talked to St Peter Club about a branch club and they are not interested right now. Membership +17 (chasing 26 from this time last year)

**GST**: Looking to reenergize the 5M2 Polar Plunge effort (Feb 2022)- DG Glenn has reached out to Lion John S. from Shakopee but has not heard anything back yet. Once he hears back, he will have him get in contact with PDG Joan with more information to move forward with this.

Plato is the DG Service Project Challenge winner-meal in the Spring- each club needed to do one service project to be eligible for the challenge. Plato was randomly selected as the winner.

Blue Earth is the 5M2 Kindness Matters Service Project Award winner (Bemidji won at the MD5M level)- at the COG meeting the DG’s voted on the winners for the Kindness Matters Service Projects and Bemidji won - they did a tie blanket project.

63% of clubs reporting something in MyLion (top in MD5M)

58% of clubs reported a Service Project in MyLion.

Zone chairs look at your clubs and help them/nudge them to enter their service activities. We want to show collectively what we are doing. Both at the multiple and at the international level. We also want to help the clubs to understand why its important why they should report. Just ask them, can we help you, is it a training issue?

NUMBER OF SERVICE PROJECTS REPORT TO DATE:  118 for 5M2. Question was asked if maybe a cheat sheet could be made up for secretaries to clarify what is a service project. There is a YouTube video on our website for secretary help. DG Glenn will review to see if its outdated.

**Zone Chairs** – Ready for zone meetings? Questions or concerns

* Questions- Do we run the meeting? Yes, the Zone chairs run the meetings and they can delegate to whoever they want throughout the meeting.
* Should always have a microphone at the meetings
* Protocol at meeting- reviewed at the meeting tonight.

**Historian:** PDG Sue Bowman – Waconia Dandy Lions is the newest club. Faribault Lions and Northfield Lions oldest clubs at 100 years. Waconia Lions is 75+1. PDG Mary Ferleman is the most recent Ambassador of Good Will.

**Journey for Service:** PDG Mike Vos – There is no report for the Journey for Service at this time.

**LCIF:** PID Debra Wasserman – In the July newsletter, DG Glenn asked every club and Lion to set goals for this Lions year. One of the areas he encouraged Lions to consider was LCIF. And of course, I thought that was GREAT! LCIF donations help Lions close to home and around the world to magnify their service through grants that allow a greater impact. Donations also make it possible for a club member or even a non-Lion to be recognized with a Melvin Jones Fellowship.

To help clubs set a goal, I mailed every club a letter in October. The letter included the amount credited to the club at LCIF. This was meant to give clubs an idea of where they are regarding eligible donations toward Melvin Jones Fellowship access. I also encouraged every club to consider setting a goal to recognize someone with a MJF during this Lions year. Remember this is not an award that can be earned, but a recognition that is given!

As of October 31, $10,493.87 was donated to LCIF from 5M2 with approximately 25% of our clubs participating so far this Lion’s year.

LCIF articles will continue to appear in the District newsletter. Among other LCIF information, individual Lions are being encouraged to donate $2 per week to LCIF.

I am in communication with DG Glenn planning a LCIF fundraising opportunity during the 2022 District Convention.

**Leader Dogs for the Blind:** Co-Chairs Lions Loretta Klenke and Emmy Koch – The article below is from the Leader Dog for the Blind newsletter. It relates to today’s stories of changes within our healthcare personnel with stories of Covid burnout. Leader Dog for the Blind has impacted her life with adjustments she had to make in her life due to her progression of her Diabetes. Submitted by Lion Loretta Klenke one of Leader Dog Co-chairs in 5M2.

Getting Back to the Top of Her Game

Working as a critical care nurse in a Level 1 trauma center is mentally, physically, and emotionally taxing. It takes a strong person to do this work. Now, add on a few additional responsibilities— volunteering as a medic with the fire department and working as a flight nurse—and you get a life that not many people could handle. But Kim Busboom did, and she loved it. Diabetic since age 11, the disease caught up to Kim in the form of diabetic retinopathy that slowly reduced her vision. After moving from hands-on nursing to a desk job, Kim realized that the glare of a computer monitor was putting too much stress on her already diminished sight. So, after 30 years of a career she loved, Kim retired. Kim’s years of helping others gave way to the need to help herself. She relied heavily on skills she learned when becoming a certified life coach over a decade earlier. As a life coach, Kim helped people get to the top of their game. She now coached herself through the three steps she coached her clients in 1. Tear down. 2. Clean up. 3. Rebuild. She began taking the small steps that would lead to a big change in her life.

“My life has changed so much.

“A friend of a friend brought Leader Dogs for the Blind into Kim’s life. “As soon as I heard about Leader Dog and researched the programs, I couldn’t apply quick enough,” said Kim. “Being from the healthcare field I didn’t know what to expect; the training was above and beyond what I could imagine. “Kim came to Leader Dog’s campus in August 2020 for Orientation and Mobility Training. “I’m getting tears in my eyes thinking about that week and how much it meant to me and changed my life,” Kim reflected. “My instructor, Tommy, never made me feel like a novice. I think he understood that I had been on the top of my game during my whole career and didn’t need to feel like I was at the bottom of the barrel. He gave me a lot of credit for being where I was at with a cane.” What sticks in my mind is being at a busy intersection in downtown Rochester. I started to take off and second guessed myself. ‘Right there,’ Tommy said, ‘That driver didn’t know how to read you. When you go out in that intersection, you make a big entrance. Make them know you’re here.’ And that is what I do. “Four months later, Kim spent two weeks in the hospital fighting COVID-19. “I remember thinking that have a dog waiting for me and I have to get over this. It helped me so much.”

**LEO Clubs:** Lion Hilary Wickenhauser – The Watertown Leos had a garage sale fundraiser in August for Cat Tails Rescue where they were able to raise $701.69 for the local nonprofit! Now they are getting back into the swing of school and planning what they will be doing next.

The Cologne Leos held their annual fundraiser parking cars at the Carver County Fair, where they had their best year ever, more than doubling what they have earned any year before! Next, the Leos were busy helping the Cologne Lions out with their annual Oktoberfest fundraiser, popping popcorn, washing dishes, bussing tables, serving food, leading the chicken-dance off and busting out some great dance moves! Two Cologne Leos came out to the Coney Island of the West clean-up organized by the Waconia Lions and Carver County Parks, and really enjoyed climbing around and gutting out two dilapidated old cabins on the island. The Cologne Leos also worked with the Cologne Lions to fund and box up 45 care packages to be sent to local area active military service men and women in partnership with the Waconia American Legion Auxiliary “Waconia Cares” Project. For Halloween, the Leos hosted a community “Tricks and Treats on the Trail '' event where they invited all local businesses and organizations to sponsor a game booth with prizes, or donate candy and prizes for them to hand out at the games. This was a wonderfully community event and over 150 little goblins, ghouls, and ghosties came up to the park for some trick-or-treating fun! All extra snacks and not-candy prizes left-over were then donated to the Cologne Academy School nurse's office and counselor to use as extra snacks for students that may need them. This last Friday night, the Cologne Leos worked with the Cologne Hollanders baseball team selling popcorn and baked treats, bringing in $377 to use for their winter service projects. Upcoming the Cologne Leos will be sponsoring Christmas gifts for 4 local families in December. The Leos will also have a booth with hot chocolate and baked goodies at the upcoming Christmas in Cologne community gathering, and will be donating a Christmas tree for a local family in need at that event.

No updates or information available on the Sibley East or Northfield Leos. If you have a viable contact with either of these Leo clubs, please reach out to me with that information so Lion Hilary can make contact with them.

**Liberty Day:** Lion Denny Hewitt and Lion Dave Sebesta reported the Liberty Day Program for Lions District 5M2 is back and going well, They have distributed a fair amount of Books to participating Lions Clubs and their schools. We have a good supply of books for this year and are hoping for more Lions Clubs to get on board. They have attended Zone Meetings and talked about the Liberty Day Program.

**Lions Quest:** Lions Janet Knakmuhs and Janet Hall – Lion Knakmuhs has been in contact with some parochial schools and charter schools, they were going to talk about Quest in the upcoming meetings. Will follow up with them and the Lions Janets are going to do a newsletter article in the near future.

**Long Range Planning:** PDG Harry Klenke – Long range planning is important especially since we are coming out of the pandemic. Maybe during these trying times we have come up with some great new ideas. But don’t forget the many good things we have done in the past.

**Mid-Winter Convention:** Lion Don Novack and Lion Troy Wetzel – No report submitted. Lion Lisa reported that the registration is in the Newsletter. Raffle baskets will be had, no hospitality rooms. Pictures of loved ones—in the military, first responders, etc. Wallet size photos to be used as decorations. PID Bruce Beck will be a speaker; someone from Leader Dog; and other great sessions. Costs are going up but we needed to find a different place to go. There are charges for everything involved.

**MN Lions Childhood Cancer Foundation, Inc.:** Lion Gerald Ziskovsky and Lion Chuck Toltzman – At our last foundation meeting that was virtual on Oct. 13th we discussed doing some exciting fundraiser ideas in the next year. we decided to split the zones between us. Lion Chuck has attended the zone 6 and 3 meetings, with zones 1 and 7 to come. Lion Gerald has attended zone 2, 4, 5 meetings with zone 8 left. Lion Chuck has given presentations at the Plato and NYA West Carver Lions Clubs, Lion Gerald has done presentations at Owatonna and Mayer Lions Clubs. Our foundation has decided to help youth in multiple fighting childhood cancer with $500 matching checks, if your club knows a youth in your community that has cancer and your club donates $500 or more by either a fundraiser or donation out of gambling funds contact us to see if we still have money available to donate and details about this matching grant. The money is available from the "Shave for the Brave" fundraiser we did this spring. So far the multiple has presented 3 checks I believe, with Lion Chuck being able to present a check to Carter Miller at the New Auburn Lions Club during his presentation at their meeting and Lion Gerald attending the Eagle Lake Lions fundraiser event in mid-October and presenting a check to Gavin Schuch. What a great event. October was busy but it's great to be out spreading our news.

**MN Lions Diabetes Foundation:** Lion Brian Rykhus and Lion Bobby Paulson – The Foundation held its Board meeting on Oct. 2 at the Kelly Inn in St. Cloud. Lions Rykhus and Paulson were both in attendance. Two people gave presentations on diabetic retinopathy (DR) screening technology and an idea for a mobile screening clinic. The Board will continue exploring DR screening. The Foundation also hopped on the Sheehan train. 5M8 Trustee Lion Kimberly Stommes will provide MLDF training at the upcoming 1VDG training session.

Discussed a Multiple District Strides walk for a fundraiser.

MLDF is hoping to continue participation in events such as Camp Sweet Life, Cub Foods Diabetes Awareness, and Special Olympics. MLDF is participating in the State Fair booth with the Vision and Hearing foundations.

The Mankato Lions Clubs are having a Diabetes Rally on Saturday, Oct. 9 at WOW Zone. Lions Brian and Bobby will have a table set up on behalf of MLDF.

The Board paid a $50k grant to U of M for consulting fees related to building an application to FDA for approval of performing human islet cell transplants. This approval will allow the procedure to be covered by health insurance, saving recipients a lot of money.

Next Trustee meeting is scheduled for Nov. 27 in Hutchinson. The November meeting will include attendance at a Down with Diabetes Alliance Christmas Gala event at which the Trustees will be guests. Trustee Bobby Paulson provided a special invitation to the Trustees to attend this event. Thank you Trustee Bobby!

**MN Lions Hearing Foundation:** Lion Vern Breamer and PDG Marvin Grimm – The MN Lions Foundation Board of Trustees will meet in February to decide on what U of M Dept. of Otolaryngology requests will be supported. 5M2 trustees have been attending Zone Meetings, going to Club meetings when requested, and promoting giving to Parade of Green. The goal is for 100% of the clubs in 5M2 to donate to the Parade of Green in 2022.

PDG Marvin received a report from Starkey on funds added to our account. 1252 hearing aids were collected from 5M2. We have a nice total if any low-income person needs assistance with affordable Hearing Aids. See a Trustee for more information. Keep collecting hearing aids.

We are planning on a D feet Walk at the MN Landscape Arboretum on June 4, 2022. More details later.

**MD5M Lions KidSight Foundation:** PDG Harry Klenke and Lion Margie Jacobson - KidSight is just gearing back up. A few clubs have been doing some screenings. The coordinators for individual clubs need to start contacting the schools and daycares that they serviced before. I know some schools and larger corporate day-care centers won’t let us in right now, but we need to keep trying.

Thanks to all the Lions that signed up to help at the State Fair. Some Lions changed their mind at the last minute because of Covid and couldn’t make it, but we worked through it. A big thank you to Lion Margie for staying with us for the entire day. I know that was a long day for her. We only did 50 some kids all day so we had a chance to do a lot of visiting. For the entire 12-day fair we did 1014 kids and had a referral rate of 12.9%. Nothing like the 2019 fair when we did over 3,000 kids. KidSight continued to hand out sunglasses at the State Fair that many children enjoy, since they choose their own color.

Something additional we are looking to do Middle School kids. The reasoning behind this is that is the time of life when kids are maturing and so are eyes, it has been found that their eyes also change. So, if you do a community event, please offer screenings to older kids.

**MN Lions Vision Foundation:** Lion Wendy Goldsmith and 2nd VDG Christy Trutnau – October 9th

Fall MLVF quarterly board meeting was held St. Cloud MN

Information Highlights:

**MLVF Financial Report by Lion Mary McNillis**: Bank Reports show activity for last 6 months. Our new accounting firm is Boyant Accounting and will provide QB and financial statements. Annual Audit as soon as the new accounting firm gets on boarding. TD Ameritrade account has been established for Sandstone Lion donation. Vouchers (New Form) need to be sent to Mary and fill out the new voucher and attached to the email and you only have 90 days to get reimbursed.

**LGS Executive Director- Sean**: August 2nd to send all non-essential back home and will back in January. Accounts Payable issues: In Sept. put in place new AP and we are caught up. New system is appreciated by vendors and UofM. Paying bills we use U of M system. AR report is better at over 90% and over 1 million in AR. We will be a six million dollar business this year. Best Paper award to sponsor Academy of Ophthalmology. New Lab person Patrick operation over lab and recovering teams eliminated one position. Lost two lab employees very experienced and now can revamp in the lab. Cross training R&D people. Punch with Moria is now done with U of M. Both agreements will be ready to be signed shortly. We will be launching punch at Academy.

**LGS Jennifer Marshall Communications Manager**: Highlights: Financial updates request for consideration Corneal recipients want to pay it forward and donated $10000. Second donation $500 surgeons. Discussed Lab processing improvements. Helen Keller report: 1st quarter of HK will be available very soon. Look to see if the clubs still exist, merged and then need to distribute the funds to another lion’s club or another district. We will need a letter from the club that no longer exists. Lioness have all closed. Rental partnership with Hearing. Hearing needs a place to store their things and will do a shared storage spot. Staff meetings once a month even with virtual and we are always welcome to sit on them. LGS tours for spring more to come

**Community Relations and Legislative** Liaison Lion Lyle Goff Working on Legislative efforts for corneal donors

**MVLF Fundraising** Consultant Dave Moen: April 1st for the next Grant request that will be used for the next piece of equip $213000 for Surgery simulator for all new surgeons. The current system is 10 years old. There are 2 grants from 5M6 and by Feb meeting will know on Accessibility Grant. Presented Helen Keller Award to staff at LCIF for helping get last Grant for MLVF for new equipment.

**MVLF Legal** Consultant Jeff Fenske Small lot in Parker Prairie has been sold and transaction is complete. DMEC Punch License agreement done with UofM. Reviewed new Accountant contract with Mary treasurer.

**Helen Keller** Awards Nancy Mathwig and Jack Krage Organizing work for HK awards Tracking number 5200 applications. Nancy 25 awards had to tell one person that could not present because they already had 4 awards. Plaque inventory 629. Sept. 10th was last the application so encouraged directors to go out and promote. Make sure that application is the new form and can be emailed

**Committee meetings of four divisions-**

Legal: Working ongoing job descriptions for projects (14) and will update policy manual. Working on large donations and Helen Keller specifications

Finance: Recommend car sign for Sheehan approved by board for LCIF at Minneapolis Club

Public Relations: Tweaking of one message presentation and Eye chart. Fundraising for TGFV is looking into sponsorship to help defer cost. Virtual tours of gift of sight: Jennifer going to take lead on in person tours and won’t be until next spring barring the pandemic ending. Letters to clubs for asking for donations and talk to them about parade green. Estate Planning Plan of action going to create a draft to committee members and who should send out thank you’s to large donations ASAP. Endowment would be a good for perpetuity of the gift from Sandstone Lions. Copy Can Do Canines letter to do get people to use estate planning for LGS.

Long-Range Planning: Deb Bialke Recommend LEI donations get transferred to funds HK credit for their district or their club. Cancelled Eyeball and TGFV secondary to Doctors and staff from U of M and LGS will not be able to attend due to COVID restrictions. We will keep wine and baskets for next year and if you sold any tickets and go back to them and find if they want to donate or return the check or shred it. Writing up letter for district secretary to let them know of cancellations. Eye Roll update is going to have to get a date set for spring and possible be dividing it up per district

**Other Business:**

Used Eyeglasses: Steve Linder LERC 11,000,000 Eyeglass turn in. Please separate glasses from cases and will take broken glasses but no broken glasses that are plastic, Promote Eye glass collection at midwinter convention, let him know if we need baskets,

State Fair: Wendy Goldsmith and Christy Trutnau Went well considering low attendance, weather and COVID. We had empty spots to cover the booth but State Fair was lenient considering above factors

Brian Sheehan Board Meeting Update: Rob Hed It will be in Minneapolis and we are sponsoring a dinner and have a sponsor to pay for it. Every board member will be invited along with spouses. October some time of 2022.

**Misc. Items:**

Feb 5, 2022 - MLVF Winter Meeting, Virtual

April 2, 2022 – MLVF Spring Meeting St Cloud

April 30, 2022, 10:00am – MLVF Annual Meeting, Mankato

July 15-16, 2022 - Training/Lions Gift of Sight/Roseville

**Newsletter Editor:** Lion Cindy Walters reported that the newsletter has been out on time each month and has been filled with information. Social Media has been active promoting events also. Keep the information coming. Looking for ideas to encourage folks to read the newsletter as it sent to all Lions members in the District. The contact is: 5m2newslettereditor@gmail.com.

**Project New Hope:** Chair Lion Darlene Wondra - We have a retreat the first weekend of Dec 3 – 5, 2021 Inspiration Point, Clitherall, MN. We are looking into a new place in Southern Minnesota for the September retreat. Advertising Project New Hope with radio messages and in service organizations magazines, example the Legionnaire magazine is being continued.

**Public Relations/Protocol:** PDG Sue Bowman and Lion Troy Feltmann – Faribault Lions used the south kit 10-23-21. We have a couple scheduled for 2022 (Hamburg & Faribault). We have a problem with one of the South Retractors. Lion Troy is going to switch his retractor out with PDG Sue and then going to look at it and see if it is repairable. PDG Sue Bowman mentioned that the protocol Manual is on the website.

**Social Media:** Lion Dave Williams – Reach 1,122 people in October. 718 likes. Highest demographic is 65+, next 55-64. Missing the younger generation. Top Cities: NYA, Cologne, Jordan, Shakopee, Chaska, Mpls, Waconia, Lonsdale, Chanhassen and Glencoe. Most clubs have social media. Take pictures and post. Invite your friends to like your posts.

**Special Olympics:** New program chair needed.

**Technology:** IPDG Anna Wickenhauser – Remember to make sure your email is updated on MyLCI so you can get the Newsletter and other important information. Please go to the Website and email her with any comments/concerns, <https://district5m2lions.com/> Reach out to her with any Technology questions at [lionannaw@gmail.com](mailto:lionannaw@gmail.com).

**Write Off:** Lion Deb Koehnen – This year’s theme is “Service from the Heart.” Zone chairs and club presidents received the information regarding the contest in August. Entries for each club are due to zone chairs by 11/10/2021 and a winner selected from each zone by 11/20. Winning zone entries are to be sent to district chair by Dec 5 and will be judged by Dec 20. The top 3 entries from the district will be invited to the Mid-winter convention. While some schools had difficulty bringing the students back to in person learning and the essay contest, I am encouraged by feedback and questions received from clubs participating for the first time.

**Youth Exchange/Youth Camp:** Lion Jim Walters – Plans are moving forward for next year’s program. Some countries have already cancelled again. Fingers are crossed that it can be held.

**Youth Outreach, LCI Essay Contest:** PID Debra Wasserman – **2021-2022 Theme “We Are All Connected”.** 2 emails to Teachers of the Blind and Visually Impaired were submitted for posting on their statewide Listserve. An email was sent to my contact at MN State Services for the Blind for distribution to stakeholders. No essays were submitted in 5M2.

**Youth Outreach/Peace Poster:** PDG Diana Kroells – The Peace Poster project is winding down for the clubs- their job now is to pick a winner or 2 (depending on how many kits they ordered.) and to have them mailed to me with a postmark by November 15th. I have secured 3 non-Lions to judge all of the posters once I receive them. I am really excited to see the creativeness of our youth in the district for this year’s contest. I will then to submit the winning District poster to Council Chair Matt Huggenvik by December 1 for judging for a Multiple District winner. Thanks to all of the clubs that participated in the Peace Poster Contest this year.

**Comments:**

* PID Debra Wasserman – Lions Ken Farrell and Sheila Stahler passed away this month. The International Board just had its meeting in San Diego, California. Interesting Board meeting because it was still Hybrid and in person. They were able to conduct business and get some things done. The new member initiation fee is still waived through the end of this year, June 30, 2022. Planning another LCIF telethon in June.
* 2nd VDG Christy Trutnau – Advanced Lions Leadership deadline is coming up-December 26th, being held in Calgary. ALLI is in March.
* 1st VDG Kathleen Bleckeberg – Really pushing for clubs to invite Cabinet Members to speak at club meetings. Also pushing for people to attend Leadership opportunities.
* DG Glenn Kaufmann – Dessert is still available to pick up for the ride home. Mentioned upcoming cabinet meetings, locations and dates. We are trying to get new Lions but we really need to keep the Lions we have. Two orientations this spring one North and one South. Reenergization or new members. Lion John Schuele from Shakopee has stepped down as Special Olympics chair.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn by PDG Anna Wickenhauser, seconded by VDG Kathleen Bleckeberg. **MC.** Meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted – Lion Cindy Walters

Upcoming Cabinet Meetings:

* Friday, February 11, 2022; 4:30-6:30 p.m.
* Sunday, May 15, 2022; Revival on Main, Montgomery. The bar will be open but it is NOT an open bar.

