

District 5M2 Cabinet Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2012
Mankato City Center Hotel, Jackson Room, Mankato, MN

The meeting was called to order by DG Susan Bowman at 2:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by DG Susan Bowman.

Invocation: Given by 2nd VDG Joan Blank.

Roll Call: Taken by Lion Cindy Walters showing 49 in attendance and 5 absent.

Introduction of Guests: Visiting International Director Dr. Gary Anderson from Michigan.

Adoption of the Agenda: Under Old Business: Membership, New Business: 25¢ Dues increase, Mankato Club Project. PID Maynard Rucks moved to adopt the agenda with additions, seconded by Lion Janet Knakmuhs. MC.

Secretary's Report: Everyone was e-mailed a copy of the minutes. Motion to approve by PDG Mike Vos ; 2nd by Lion Marv Grimm. MC.

Treasurer's Report: Income proposed \$54,700 and actual income to date is \$67,288.27 expenses proposed \$54,700, expenses to date: \$32449.54. PDG Mike Vos asked a questions about the fact that the amount in the budget for DG travel companion will not be enough for the cost to go to International and could the money that was left over from the past International needs could be used. The answer from the Treasurer was: "That is why the monies are there." Motion to approve budget report by Lion Shirley Hesperheide, 2nd by PDG Bill Curtis. MC.

Communications: None at this time.

Old Business:

- **Membership Update:** We have been doing well with getting new members. DG Susan challenged everyone to bring in a new member. Right now we are negative 41 members. We need to continue to have a push on membership. One challenge DG Susan had was for PID Maynard Rucks to poll members who have left to see why they are no longer members, why they have left the organization.

New Business:

- **Dues increase:** Lion Harry Klenke made a motion that the Cabinet recommend the 25¢ dues increase be brought to the members at next year's convention, Lion Cathleen Williams seconded. MC.
- **Mankato Club Project** – Dr. Nelson made a emphatic plea for the Districts 5M2 to support a Lions club in the Sudan. International Director Anderson will meet with Dr. Nelson to assist in which steps to take to work toward this goal.

Region/Zone Reports:

Region 1 Lion Marvin Grimm reported that the good news is Region 1 has 1096 Lion members but that is down 18 members since July. Zone 1 shows a minus 5 members. Zone 2 has a minus 1 member. Zone 3 has a minus 12 members. The Fall Zone meetings were held with 2 meetings having good attendance and 1 meeting needing to work on getting better attendance. Spring Zone meetings are scheduled.

- **Zone 1** Lion Lynn Monger – There are currently 279 members in Zone 1. This is up two from the October board meeting. The fall zone 1 meeting was held on November 30 with 9 out of 10 clubs present. There were 63 people in attendance. 7 of 10 clubs in Zone 1 participated in the Write Off Contest. The winner from Zone 1 was Allie Christensen, sponsored by the Winsted Lions club. Lion Lynn had the honor to attend that meeting and present Allie with her award. Allie was also notified

that she was the Region 1 winner of the Write Off contest and will be present at the Mid-Winter Convention on Feb. 11 to read her essay. Spring Zone 1 meeting will be on Tuesday, April 10 at Dubbs Bar and Grill in Glencoe.

- Zone 2 Lion Mark Willems – Fall zone meeting was held in Victoria. The meeting was not well attended as the Waconia and Chaska clubs were not there. Spring zone meeting info will be out soon.
- Zone 3 Lion Wanda Breimhorst was not in attendance at this point in the meeting – Region chair reported that the spring zone meeting will be held in Shakopee on March 21.

Region 2 Lion Dennis Hewitt, with Nicollet Lions Club, reported that he is the Region 2 Chairperson for 2011-2012. Region 2 consists of Zones 4, 5 and 6, the region has 21 Lions and 3 Leo clubs. At this time he introduced the Zone Chairs to give the dates for their spring Zone meetings and give a brief report for their zone.

From Zone 4, Charlette Abbas, from the Courtland Lions Club

From Zone 5, Diana Kroells, from the Hamburg Lions Club

From Zone 6, Brian Lieske, from the Lonsdale Lions Club

- Zone 4 Lion Charlotte Abbas – Zone 4 has a about 270 Lion members serving the Courtland, Gibbon, Lafayette, Nicollet, Winthrop, and St. Peter Lions Clubs. Our zone has a total of 8 new members; however, from last fall we are down 10. All of the Clubs have been actively raising money to better serve their communities through waffle and pancake breakfasts, pork chop meals, etc., or gambling activities. Monies raised goes mostly toward local initiatives such as: scholarships, food shelves, park renovations, emergency needs in the community, etc. In addition these Clubs help with the Lions International causes. All participate in the Parade of Green. All of the Clubs have planted or will be planting trees. Many members of Zone 4 were awarded prestigious awards: Melvin Jones, Helen Keller, and Hearing Foundation Awards along with local honors for membership. The Zone 4 Spring Meeting is April 3 at St. Peter. More information to follow. As with all Lions Clubs, Zone 4 loves nothing more than to “Serve Others”!
- Zone 5 Lion Diana Kroells – **The Spring Zone 5 meeting, hosted by the Hamburg Lions, will be held on Wednesday April 25th. I hope that many of you are able to attend.** It is truly amazing to read the activity reports and see how much money is donated to worthy causes through the communities in Zone 5 as well as in support of Lion sponsored activities.
 - **Arlington Lions** Held a Wine & Beer tasting event, as well as assisted the Boy Scouts with a Waffle Breakfast., diabetes screening at the breakfast as well as an Arlington Ambulance Fundraising They donated money to Camp Needlepoint, did a calendar sale, and sold walking tacos to fund a scholarships. Now are preparing for their Fish Fry in February. Added 3 new members.
 - **Green Isle Lions** -Donated turkeys to Golden Hearts Assisted Living, Sibley County Day Activity Center and the Good Samaritan Home for Thanksgiving dinners. Made donations to the Sibley Co. Food Shelf and to Santa Helpers as well as assisted with the wrapping of gifts. On Santa Day they provided cookies to the children. Green Isle Lions help plant 25 new trees in the City of Green Isle.
 - **Hamburg Lions**- A Bingo and Meat Raffle proceeds were donated to Santa Day for the children and donated money for new Christmas lights for the city. Pancake Brunch proceeds were donated to a new “Service Memorial” at the Bi-Centennial park in Hamburg. The club was busy working as bartenders at the Pheasants Forever and Green Isle Conservation Banquets as well the Sportman’s Club’s fish fry. They participated in the Peace Poster ,Write off contest, the dictionary project and Quest project in local school. Dropped 1 member.
 - **Henderson Lions**- Did a fall Highway cleanup, Sibley Co. Santa’s Helpers, fixed the batting cages at Bender park & held a booth at Chamber Days. They donated to Can Do Canines ad Hilltop School for the I Love to Read Program.
 - **LeSueur Lions**- Were busy selling Christmas trees and donated trees to the Le Sueur Hospice, Nursing Home and Assisted Living. A Holiday Raffle was held in which the funds were donated to the Mn. Valley Hospital for upgrading rooms. Donations were made to the food shelf, and to various youth programs. Added 3 new members.

- **Norwood Young America Lions-** were very generous with donations to St Bernard's church carnival, Wrestling Club Polar Plunge, Speech Team, MN Mile for leadership programs, Vision Honduras, and caps & mittens to needy children. They also purchased a Spinoza Bear for a sick child. Fundraisers included a Pancake Brunch, Steak Fry and Christmas Tree sales. They participated in the Write Off Contest.
- **NYA West Carver Lions-** Planning for their second Dinner/Show night in February. They completed a Wine Tasting event and also sponsored Breakfast with Santa. They are selling Kwik Trip cards which is proving to be very profitable to them. Donations were made to Vision Honduras, vision therapy for a local girl, Mary's Wish, and purchased winter outdoor clothing for a local needy child. They donated \$500 for the planting of trees in the community. They participated in the Dictionary project and also the Write-off contest.
- **Zone 5 gained 6 new Lions since the last cabinet meeting and dropped one. Total membership is now at 193.**
- Zone 6 Lion Bruce Lieske reported that Zone 6 has six Lions clubs including Faribault, LeCenter, Lonsdale, Montgomery, Northfield, and Northfield Cannon Valley. **LeCenter** has 42 members currently. Donations and workers helped with food shelf, completed Pork chop dinner February 4th. **Faribault** has 46 members currently. Recently Completed Peace poster contest, Meals on Wheels, and Salvation Army Bell ringing, Super Bowl pancake breakfast. **Lonsdale** has 42 members currently. Recently had donated to Boy Scouts for trailer, food shelf donation for the holiday season. **Northfield** has 32 members currently. Club has recently helped with Meals on wheels, and the food shelf. **Northfield Cannon Valley** has 32 members currently. Shipping Books for library in Africa, as well as donating to food shelf. **Montgomery** has 35 members currently. Upcoming events pancake breakfast, helping with Food shelf, and Santa Anonymous. The zone 6 clubs have had a very busy time this winter.

Region 3 Lion Bill Bowman reported that Region 3 consists of zone 7 (6 clubs), zone 8 (6 clubs) and zone 9 (8 clubs), resulting in 20 clubs and 626 members (down 1 member from 9/30/2011 and 9 members in the past year). The Region 3 meeting was hosted by the Lakeview Lions and held on September 7, 2011. 35 cabinet members and 51 club members signed in at the meeting for a total of 86 attending. He presented in-depth data regarding membership in this Region.

- Zone 7 Lion Paul Gorman (not in attendance) – Zone 7 membership is 153 which is down 3 members in the last three months. The Spring Zone Meeting will be March 29 in Winnebago.
- Zone 8 Lion Allie Larson – There are 6 Lions Clubs in Zone 8 with a membership of 223. The clubs have been reporting their activities in a timely manner except for one. I have been in contact with them about this. Three of the six club visits have been completed with the next 3 in the near future. The clubs are active and working on implementing DG Sue's goals for this year. The Spring Zone 8 meeting will be held in Waseca on Tues., April 17, 2012 hosted by the Waseca Lions Club. You will be receiving information for the Zone Meeting soon
- Zone 9 Lion Lyle Hinz – Zone 9 is made up of 8 Lions clubs with 247 members presently. The Zone has reported 4081 hours of service and raised a total of \$25,342 this year. All the clubs are very busy on their projects serving the population. The Spring Zone meeting will be hosted by the Albert Lea Lions. The date is April 9, 2012, location Crescendo Exquisite Food & Wine, 118 S Broadway Avenue, Albert Lea.

Award Presentation

Past International President sent an award to PDG Eunice and 1st VDG Ron Dahlke for their work on behalf of LCIF. They were recognized for the fact that every club in 5M2 donated to LCIF. Good job.

Committee Reports:

VDG Ron Dahlke introduced committee chairs for them to give their reports.

Can Do Canines: Lions Darlene and Vern Breamer and Deb Koehnen reported that Can-Do-Canines had a very successful year. They began a training partnership with the Waseca Federal Prison placing 10 puppies with inmates for training. The 10 new kennels are completed along with a new parking lot with more

handicapped accessible spaces and better lighting. There are currently 90 dogs in training. 39 assistance dog teams graduated in 2011 - that's an increase of 10% from 2010. They lowered the cost to train a team from \$27,366 to \$22,800. Due to reduced staff they expect to graduate fewer teams in 2012 while trying to close a funding gap.

There has been a personnel change at Can-Do-Canines. Kathy Broten has replaced Jessica Nedeau. Kathy will be the person we will contact when we want information as to the number of Top Dog awards that each club is eligible for. Right now Can-Do-Canines have been able to give us the amounts clubs have donated, how many awards they are eligible for, but they have not been able to find a good record of how many awards clubs have already presented. We need to check with our clubs to see if they have given out awards and get that information back to Kathy. Donations totaling \$500 gives a club a chance to present a Top Dog Award.

The new kennels are enclosed, they still need to do some work and put in the dividers and then they will be ready to go. The incoming District Governors will tour the facility on March 14 prior to their training that they will have.

They have not printed a schedule for the 2012 tours, but will do so shortly. Tours scheduled at this time are: Saturday Feb. 25th 10 A.M. and Thursday, March 22 at 7 P.M.

At this time Can-Do-Canines are looking for volunteers to help plan some of the fundraisers that are being planned. They are looking for a few good lead volunteers to help plan the Fetching Ball on November 10, 2012. If someone is interested please let us know.

Within the district the co-chairs have visited the following clubs and places since September 2011: Courtland Lions, Alden Lions (2), Kiester Lions, Hutchinson Lions, Cologne Lions, and Prior Lake Lions, United Hospital District Diabetes Support Group, Blue Earth MN, Glencoe Lions, Albert Lea Lake View Lions. They have attended several Zone meetings and have worked with several Can-Do-Canines graduates and their dogs: twice with Jean Lundquist and Juno, once with Nancy Baumann and Nigel and also Shelly Hiemer and her dog Grace.

Computer & Technology Support: Lion Laura Maki reported that she and Lion Steve Wasserman have been busy assisting DG Sue with sending out announcement and memos to club presidents and secretaries. We are also offering an IT Session during the Mid Winter Convention Saturday morning focusing on creating e-Clubhouse websites, club Facebook page, and questions regarding WMMR reports. Several clubs have already expressed interest in attending the session.

Constitution & By-Laws: Lion Harry Klenke reported the International Board of Directors had many issues for their Constitution and Bylaws Committee to deal with most not affecting our District. Our Multiple Constitution and By-Laws committee has yet to meet.

Conventions/USA/Canada Forum: IPDG Eunice Rucks reported that the 5M Multiple Convention will be on April 27-29, 2012 at the Grand Casino in Hinckley, Minnesota. The International Convention will be in Busan, Korea on June 22-26, 2012. The USA Canada Forum will be held in Tampa, Florida on September 13-15, 2012.

District Activities: Lion Nancy Mathwig reported that District pins and Snowman pins are all available by contacting her this weekend and at future Zone meetings.

Mid-Winter convention Necrology/Memorial service: This evening we will be honoring 34 Lions who have died since January 1, 2011.

First Timers contest – A 1st Timers contest is again being held this year. Please assist these first time conventions goers by signing their books. Some of you may be able to sign in more than one area i.e. cabinet chair and club secretary. Prizes for the 1st and 2nd place winners (most signatures) will be awarded during the Sunday morning brunch. Please assist these new convention goers when asked.

GLT: District Governor Sue and the GLT Coordinator, in consultation with 1VDG Ron and 2VDG Joan, set goals for the 2011-2012 year. Each goal has 4 to 5 objectives or activities to facilitate accomplishment of that goal. Now they are working hard to pinpoint efforts related to those goals.

1. **Increase use of formal orientation programs by clubs.**

2nd VDG Joan and PID Debra are working along with a couple of free consultants (their husbands).

They are working hard on revising the orientation CD. They are looking for a catchy new name as they feel it will provide more than simply orienting members.

2. **Provide training for Club Officers, Zone Chairs and Program Chairs.**

The District GLT Coordinator and 1VDG have met to begin working in this goal area. The entire format of club officer training is being looked at. A change in location and content is possible. Marketing the training to clubs is also a high priority! Zone Chair and Cabinet Program Chair training has not been discussed yet.

3. **Develop and Implement mentoring program for emerging Lion leaders.**

The District GLT Coordinator is working with PDG Mary Spille to develop a specific process/strategy. (Likely using the "leader profile" form provided by LCI.) Working hard on mentoring members who are interested in pursuing the position of District Governor.

GMT: PID Maynard Rucks reported that late last fall DG Sue asked the GMT if they could attempt to identify some of the reasons why we have members that are dropping out of clubs. The team developed a cover letter to send to the dropped members. Included was a copy of the exit survey and a return self-addressed envelope. The committee hoped to receive 10% of the surveys back, we actually had about 15% returned. Even though this is ongoing we have already gotten some interesting comments back, most of which were either time of meetings, cost, not asking for the involvement of their ideas or input in club activities and other nit picking things. We did receive a few that were unhappy with the leadership, mainly because they let the cliques' control the clubs activities. One of the last responses challenged us to help that member start a new club in the area. PID Maynard is in the process of trying to get together with that person. It just happens to be a place that he had thought about in the past to start a club (wish us luck).

Those members that moved out of the area received a letter thanking them for their past service. We included a transfer form and invited them to become a member in a club in the area in which they moved to. We did not have a way to track that effort.

Many of our clubs are in the process of doing membership drives. Some of the clubs that have done membership drives in the past have had varied successes (anywhere from 1 to 15 new members). Membership is every one's responsibility as no team nor individual can do it all alone. Have you asked anyone to be a Lion recently?

Historian: Lion Ken Farrell reported that he has completed the updates on the 5M-2 history files, but in doing some last minute review he noticed some variation in the data between the MD5M Directory and the 5M-2 Web site. The names of award recipients listed in the Multiple District Directory (the C.D.) in the appendix/awards section (H1) are different than the award charts shown on our 5M-2 website. He has sent off several e-mails to the appropriate people so they can be corrected (e-submit).

Journey for Service: Lion Jack Webster reported that this year's Journey for Service is going to be conducted on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, April 11-13, 2012. He has acted as chairman of the Journey the last several years, and would like to again thank the clubs for their great support of this worthy cause. Last year \$16,200 was collected which brought the 21-year total to \$315,522—or just over \$15,000 per year!

He is asking for support again this year. The funds collected will be used for District approved projects. More information will be available at this convention. He would also appreciate that clubs hold their donation until the Journey, rather than donate it at the "Parade of Green" held during the convention.

Together we can make this another successful Journey for Service so that those less fortunate than ourselves can benefit by your generosity. Thank you in advance for your help, your cooperation, and your donations.

LCIF: Lion Ron Dahlke reported that at the Region Meetings, all Clubs were made aware of their amount of credit available toward Melvin Jones Fellowships/Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowships. As of January 31, 2012, individuals and Clubs in 5M-2 have a cumulative balance of \$207,361.45. LCIF would like to see Clubs and individuals convert this balance to MJF and PMJF awards.

To help combat an old disease, the Measles Initiative has been announced by LCIF. Over 450

children die each day from measles and many more suffer permanent blindness, which is a devastating complication. LCIF will be raising \$10 million in order to receive a \$5 million matching grant (the largest ever received by LCIF) from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to fund this endeavor.

He has a supply of Measles Initiative Pins at the LCIF display that are on sale for \$5 each. This will be donated to LCIF from our District. If Clubs wish to purchase a larger quantity of pins for their entire membership, please contact me as this can be arranged, and the Club will receive credit toward Melvin Jones Fellowships.

At the October LCIF Board Meeting in Hong Kong, the MJF program has been revised, in response to requests from Lions from around the world. Designated donations will be eligible for MJF credit through FOUR mission focused funds and a fifth fund for the area of greatest need:

- Disaster (donations to a specific disaster will still be accepted, but without MJF credit)
- Youth
- Sight
- Humanitarian Programs (includes donations to the Measles Initiative)
- Area of Greatest Need

He is available to make club presentations that are personalized using up-to-date report information provided by LCIF, which includes:

- Current and historical Club LCIF donation data,
- Campaign Sight First Phase II donation data,
- Melvin Jones Fellowship Listing,
- Grant history for District 5M-2, and more.

Also, updated disaster assistance information, both globally and locally, are provided from the LCIF Web Site. You belong to Lions International... but the Lions Club International Foundation belongs to you... This is your Foundation.

Leader Dog: Lion Shirley and Lion Joan reported that since launching the new personal navigation device, the Kaptan PLUS, a GPS, hundreds of units have gone from the Leader Dog campus in Rochester Hills to the hands of our clients all over the United States. The buzz generated by the Kaptan PLUS has created some great opportunities for Leader Dog to bring the location technology program to the attention of a larger audience. Several of these opportunities include:

- Mention on an episode of the hit ABC show "The Doctors" that highlighted available services and devices to help a woman who recently lost her sight due to injury.
- Recognized on Mashable, a leading internet news and social media site, as one of "7 Tech Breakthroughs That Empower People with Disabilities"
- A webcast on AssessibleWorld.org, a site devoted to getting information out to people who are visually impaired.

Lion Bunny Tabatt, MD5M Chairperson, spoke at the Hutchinson Lions Club in January. She demonstrated the Kaptan Plus and also gave a small presentation with BentLey, the dog which she just recently gotten from Leader Dog. Lion Shirley attended this meeting. Lion Bunny Tabatt was given a check that night to purchase a Kaptan Plus from the Hutchinson Club. Monies collected at this time for the Kaptan Plus Challenge are:

Region 1	\$149.18
Region 2	\$206.65
Region 3	\$143.71
Total	\$499.54

From the financial report from Leader Dogs it appears that 4 clubs from 5M2 have given monies to purchase 4 Kaptan Plus. These clubs are Blooming Prairie, Le Sueur, Northfield and Prior Lake. They also received \$121 from Minnesota Lake Lions Clubs to be used towards the purchase of a Kaptan Plus.

Since the last Cabinet Meeting in October, Lion Shirley has spoken to Mayer/Watertown DandyLions, missed speaking to the Kiester Lions Club due to illness and spoke to the Mankato Lions Club. Lion Shirley has presentations upcoming for the Sliver Lake, Montgomery, Hamburg Lions Clubs and Northfield Leo's.

LEO Clubs: Chair Lion Allen Heidorn reports that December 5th was the International Leo Day – let's

continue to remember to include our Leos in projects and activities.

In November, Lions International launched the e-LeoClubhouse. It is a free and easy way to create a Web site for your Leo club. Learn more about e-LeoClubhouse at <http://e-leoclubhouse.org> and submit an application for your Leo club today.

April is Leo Club Awareness Month. Let's celebrate by organizing a joint activity between sponsoring Lions clubs and their Leo club. Also, there is a Facebook page setup for Leos - <http://www.facebook.com/leoclubs>. Please 'Like' this page to keep up to date with Leo club information and activities.

The 1st Global Leo Conference will be held at the Lions International Convention in Korea in June 22-25, 2012. This will provide an opportunity for members from 139 countries to get together to gain leadership skills, explore other cultures and network with other Leos. Again, a reminder that resources for Leo Clubs are available, such as The Leo Leadership Grant Program. (e-submit)

Liberty Day: Lion Mary Spille reported that no new presentations in communities since October. Article has appeared in The Grapevine offering information about the Liberty Day program at club meetings. Have also prepared a new display for this convention's project tables. At fall cabinet meeting, she presented some food for thought to the cabinet regarding the future of Liberty Day in 5M2 weighing the pros of this excellent program against the minimum growth in the project over the last several years. Some clubs have suggested that they want to organize a presentation in their communities. A good supply of student books are on hand and can be obtained from Lion Charlie or Lion Mary at any time.

Long Range Planning: PDG Tom Ferleman reported that the MD5M Long Range Planning Committee is in the process of updating the Multiple Long Range Plan. The first draft of the plan will be available for the Council of Governors to review at their March Council of Governors Meeting. He continues to work with individual Lions and with Lions Clubs to develop plans for now and for the future. He has a display at this convention and will be available to encourage Lions to develop their personal plan.

MD5M Hearing Foundation: PDG Mike Vos and Lion Arline Richter reported that The Hearing foundation board of trustees met on January, 14th at Michael's restaurant in St. Cloud. Dr. Bevan Yueh reported that he was very excited about the changes taken place at the Dept. of Otolaryngology, and the relationship between the U and Fairview Hospitals. The new Children's Clinic is doing great, with doctor's full schedule seeing patients. They are still working on outdoor signage for the Children's Eye and Ear Institute. Someone has been appointed to start the search for the professorship position. Although the position cannot be filled until the funding is in place. This may take several years to find the right person.

Election of officers was held for the upcoming year and the results as follows:

Board Chair: PCC Frank Loken; Vice Chair: PDG Linda Albrecht-Norby; Secretary: Multiple Secretary Bob Harms; Treasurer: PDG Mike Vos

The Hearing Foundation is applying for a LCIF matching grant to support our commitment to the Children's Clinic and will soon have a new web site. www.lionsmd5mhearingfoundation.org. The Hearing Foundation is planning three major fundraisers this year.

- First on June 9th we will be having a De Feet hearing loss walk to be held at the University Arboretum. PDG Mike Vos is in charge of finding volunteers to help staff this event. Seeing that this will be taking place in our district He is hoping to involve local clubs and LEO's to help with food, parking, and guides.
- Second we will be hosting a golf tournament on Sept. 9th at the Oak Glen golf course near Stillwater.
- Third, Lion Bob Harms has offered to ride a lawnmower from Canada to Iowa through Minnesota collecting monies along the way for the support of the Children's Clinic.

This will be done in Aug. with more details to follow.

As always Lion Arline and Lion Mike are and have been busy promoting the important work that the U of M has been doing to help people with hearing loss and thank the ions of 5M2 for their support.

Mid-Winter Convention: Co-Chairs Dennis and Karen Sandersfeld welcomed everyone to this convention. They are very excited that it has finally arrived, and hope that everyone shares with them in having a great time this weekend. They visited with a Mankato Free Press reporter next week. Dennis invited him to come Saturday morning and see what "We Serve" means to Lions. They have also invited him to join us for lunch. If you have an opportunity please visit with him and share with him what Lionism means to you. Entertainment tonight is Family TV Show costumes. Figures as of this afternoon are: registered for the convention 356, registered for Saturday lunch 262, registered for Governor's Banquet 180 and registered for the Sunday brunch 168. They will be around to assist if there are issues. All committee members have a large button designating them as part of the planning committee.

MN Lions Diabetes Foundation: Lions Kevin Blank and Anna Wickenhauser reported Lion Kevin attended all but one of the Zone meetings and presented all of the club presidents with a letter explaining the Foundations 3 year pledge to the Schultz Diabetes Institute and the request we are making of all the clubs.

On January 14, 2012, Lion Kevin and Anna attended the Minnesota Lion's Diabetes Foundation meeting that was held in St. Cloud. The Foundation continues to work on the upgrade of our web site. At this meeting all of the trustees in attendance were trained on how to give a presentation with the help of a brand new CD that was produced to help in our presentations. Discussion continued on various ways to fund raise. The Foundations next meeting will be held at the Schultz Diabetes Institute at the University of Minnesota for a tour.

On October 24, 2011 at the last 5M2 Diabetes board meeting we voted to send \$3,000.00 to the Schultz Diabetes Institute.

At the 2012 5M2 Lions Mid Winter convention Lion Anna and Lion Kevin will be having a display where they will be handing out piggy banks and information to each club for them to use in fundraising at the club level. Diabetes screening will take place Saturday morning from 7:30 to 9:00.

Addendum to report: Lion Anna has done a couple of club visits and presented some Dreamcatcher awards. The co-chairs are going to work with VDG Joan to really promote Camp Needlepoint and provide scholarship information to schools. They will be retaining some money from the parade of green for these scholarships as they are really hoping that they will need money for the scholarships after the push. The committee has bags with club names on them and would ask clubs to use the piggy banks fundraising for the Islet Imaging Machine. Digital coin machines will be around for people to throw their loose change or \$100 bills into.

Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation/Children's Eye Clinic/ MAC: Co-Chairs Lion Jean Dahlke & PDG Marlys Meskan reported that they attended the Lions Vision Foundation Board meeting Saturday, January 14th, in St. Cloud.

One of the major orders of business for the board is approving or denying grant requests. Five grants were approved at the meeting. One special grant requested by Lion Dr. Erik van Kuijk, was for a Retinal Imaging Center for the Department of Ophthalmology. This will be the only one in Minnesota.

Dr. Gail Summers represented the Dept. of Ophthalmology in place of Dr. van Kuijk who was out of the state. She updated the board about research studies, her work with Albinism and the Lions Children's Eye Clinic at the Park Plaza Building. Every time we see Dr. Summers, she tells us how thrilled the doctors and staff are with the new Children's Eye Clinic and are so grateful to the Lions. That facility is Lions money well spent.

The Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation is now on Facebook. Everyone is encouraged to share their loved one's donation story and recipients of transplants to share their stories by contacting the Eye Bank. The Facebook site is: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Minnesota-Lions-Eye-Bank/192950103371>

The Minnesota Lion Vision Foundation has joined the Minnesota Department of Public Safety and Life Source, which is an organ and tissue organization, in supporting a new program developed to educate the public about organ, tissue, and eye donation so individuals are well-informed in making a decision to be a donor. The number of registered donors has increased in Minnesota. The "You and \$2" program is made possible by a law passed during the 2011 legislative session that permits Minnesotans completing driver's license or ID applications to donate \$2 to support organ, tissue, and eye donation education.

Lions Clubs who have gaming and make a donation to the Minnesota Lions Vision Foundation, rather than the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank, will probably need a copy of the "updated" 501(c) 3 form,

reflecting the name change, for their gaming manager's files. Copies of the "updated" form will be available at our display table in the hall.

A reminder that a donation of \$1000 to the Lions Vision Foundation either by a club or individual qualifies for a Helen Keller Award.

Another reminder is the Lions Eye Bank Tour on Saturday, March 24th.

If you have a health fair in your community please let PDG Marlys know so they could have a display and get information out.

Newsletter Editor: PDG Bill Curtis reported that DG Sue has gotten the word out to the clubs that we need "From the Field" articles. We are getting a lot of articles from the clubs along with photos. The date of publication was moved up so everybody gets the newsletter around the beginning of the month. 1st VDG and 2nd VDG are getting their articles in on time. Please give information about photos when you send them to PDG Bill, who is in the photo, what it's about, etc.

He then thanked the Region Chairs, Zone Chairs and committee people that have helped with passing the word to get the articles to him by the 20th of the month. Copies of the February issue are on the table in the hall.

Project New Hope: Lion Donna Wolter reported that she has had some club visits and is available for more. Project New Hope continues on. PDG Dale Johanson sent medals to her to be presented to clubs in 5M2 that sponsored Project New Hope on the red, blue and gold level. She has a sign up sheet on her display asking clubs to indicate if they would like them to visit.

Protocol/Public Relations: Lion Paul Stahler was pleased to report that Zone and Region Chairs did an excellent job following proper protocol at the fall zone and region meetings. Especially that the facilities were handicap accessible.

Spring is nearly here and that means it is tree planting time. Last fall tree planting was highlighted in the District Newsletter several times by DG Sue, VDG Ron, and with the article about the Ellendale Lions Club memory tree planting project. Also we talked about IP Tam's goal of planting 1,000,000 trees this year at the fall region meetings. So far 6,644,475 trees have been planted world-wide and 270,747 trees were planted in the USA.

He will send an Email to Lions Clubs presidents and secretaries in the near future to remind Lions that now is the time to start planning their spring tree planting projects. There is no doubt that our District will easily reach DG Sue's goal of 650 trees.

Lions Quest: Lions Mike and Cathleen Williams reported that since their last report they have visited 3 clubs to make their presentation. That leaves only 7 clubs to go. It had been their goal to make every club in the district within three years. If they can make the remaining seven clubs by July 1, 2012, they will have made their goal in four years.

They are happy to report that they are planning to have a Lions Quest training for teachers on August 20, 2012 in Cologne. At present they have 10 teachers scheduled.

Since Lion Mike was asked by PDG Marlys to become Lions Quest Chair, District 5M2 has trained seventy-five teachers and through them 2,200 students have benefitted from Lions Quest.

Spring Point Project/Lions Lights on For Life: PDG Rick Wagener has received no new information on the Spring Point project. He has not presented any new programs to clubs. There are still signs available for Lions Lights on for Life (e-submit)

Write Off: Lion Jim Spille reported that they received entries from 5 of the 9 Zones. In spite of fairly complete instructions, he doesn't seem to have gotten his message across very clearly. The clubs that did enter often didn't understand what they were to do. The clubs that did enter were often quite passionate about their participation. He made no presentations to clubs this year. He made no visits to help with approaching schools with the project. Tomorrow, the three region winners will present their essays to the assembly, and the winner will be named. The students and their parents will be invited to our noon luncheon. It is his belief that this project should either be discontinued or a new project director should be

named. Participation is not increasing; in fact, it is steadily decreasing. I believe that the money could be better build elsewhere in the district.

Youth Exchange/Youth Camp: Lion Janet Hall reported that she and her husband, Lion Chris Hall, are the co-chairs for Youth Exchange. So far there are 20 incoming students with 4 placed so we will be trying to find homes to place the rest and more applications may be coming as well. At this point there are no outgoing students from 5M2. They have all the applications of the incoming students with at this convention if anyone is interested in hosting.

Youth Outreach/Peace Poster: Co-Chairs Lions Sheila Stahler & Janet Knakmuhs. This year's Peace Poster theme was "Children Know Peace". Lions Janet and Sheila received 33 posters from 22 clubs. Sadie Mortenson from the Ellendale Lions submitted the 1st place poster. Emma Klaustermeier from the NYA West Carver Club received 2nd place honors and Anya Menk from the LeCenter Lions Club was the 3rd place winner. Prizes awarded were checks for \$300, \$200 and \$100. We would like to thank all the clubs that participated and would like to see more involvement.

The Peace Poster theme for 2012 is "Imagine Peace". The kits are available. Check with your local art teachers in early spring, order your kits and send reminders in the fall as school starts.

So...get your club involved-it is a project that involves your Lions Club as well as your area youth.

The Multiple District has a winner from 5M1 in the finals at the present time.

VDG Ron Dahlke complemented everyone for being succinct in their reporting.

2nd VDG Comments: 2nd VDG Joan Blank thanked all the cabinet members for their hard work. She is very excited for this weekend. She had a meeting this morning with Lion Kevin and Lion Anna about the Diabetes work and is ready to jump on the bus and visit Camp Needlepoint. Please visit the hospitality room. Let's have some fun.

1st VDG Comments: 1st VDG Ron Dahlke also thanked everyone. Visit the hospitality room early and often. Happy days are here again.

DG Comments: DG Susan Bowman expressed comments regarding My Club, My Family. Meet and greet as many members as you can. Make everyone feel welcome. The Cabinet members should mix and mingle as much as they can. The snowman costume is here for the weekend if anyone wants to loosen the group up and wear the costume. It is critical to get everyone involved and feeling great about being a Lion.

ID Comments: ID Anderson made comments regarding how the cabinet meeting ran and how organized the meeting seems.

Trees – 6.7 million trees have been planted, he is betting 10 million will be reached. 208 countries and geographic areas at the present.

The club excellence program – In areas where it has been instituted and developed it is being very successful. It matches member talents with community needs. In the US 34% of the clubs did not bring in one new member.

He entertained questions from the Cabinet – discussed the dues increase and how the money is invested until it is used. Question regarding Life Membership...PID Debra talked about Privileged membership for elderly members. Good discussion followed. Another question arose about shipping costs...it was nearly more for the shipping than for the vest! He will look into that on Monday.

Tonight's activities include: Dinner, Opening Session, Necrology service, Entertainment.

Lion Anna asked PDG Rick to give an update on his wife, Roxie's, medical issues. So he only needed to tell the story one time instead of 50. She had some seizures and it was determined she needed surgery for tumors. The surgery went well...she was home and then had a blood clot in her leg. She is doing better, thanks everyone for their cards and sentiments and sends her regards.

The next scheduled cabinet meeting will be held in May.

Motion to adjourn made Lion Cathleen Williams and seconded by Lion Jack Webster. MC. Meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Lion Cindy Walters