

**International Association of Lions Clubs
District 14-B
Cabinet Meeting
Saturday, November 10, 2007
9:00 a.m.
Western Pennsylvania School for Blind Children**

Call to Order and Opening

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by District Governor Jay Wells with the Pledge of Allegiance, one verse of “America,” and invocation by District Governor Jay Wells. Cabinet Chaplain Lion Tom Hurrell was absent due to his participation in his club’s service project. District Governor Jay Wells established protocol and welcomed everyone to the cabinet meeting.

PDG Jack Schimmel established the rules for the meeting.

DG Jay Wells introduced Lion Andy Zivinsky, who will serve as the zone chairperson for Region 3, Zone A and presented him his Zone Chairperson’s pin.

Secretary’s Report

Due to the illness of the Cabinet Secretary PDG Pauline Waide, there was no secretary’s report. The minutes of the August meeting will be tabled and will be presented at the February meeting. In the absence of the secretary, Vice District Governor John Frombach will serve as acting secretary.

District Governor’s Report

DG Jay Wells reported on the following activities at the State Council meeting that was held in Lancaster on November 2-4, 2007:

- Past International President J. Frank Moore III attended and was the keynote speaker.
- The current editor of *The Pride* has stepped down. He will complete the next edition of the *The Pride*. The State Council will conduct a search for a new editor. The final decision will be made at the May meeting of the State Council.

Treasurer’s Report

The Treasurer’s Report was presented by Cabinet Treasurer PDG Harold Fletcher. The official printed Treasurer’s Report is attached. The following is a summary of the funds.

Administrative Fund

Beginning Balance – July 1, 2007	\$ 2,778.75
Total Receipts	\$ 4,111.83
Total Cash Available	\$ 6,890.58
Total Disbursements	\$ 3,437.23
Ending Balance – November 10, 2007	\$3,453.35

Vice District Governor's Fund

Beginning Balance – July 1, 2007	\$ 1,466.35
Total Receipts	\$ 374.00
Total Cash Available	\$ 1,840.35
Total Disbursements	\$ 204.50
Ending Balance – November 10, 2007	\$ 1,635.85

The Treasurer pointed out that the per capita has been paid by the clubs for 935 of the 1,089 members. He requested that Zone Chairs review the list and contact any clubs that have not paid.

Blind Activity Fund

Beginning Balance – July 1, 2007	\$ 9,166.27
Total Receipts	\$10,241.65
Total Cash Available	\$19,407.92
Total Disbursements	\$ 4,338.00
Ending Balance – November 10, 2007	\$15,069.92

The Treasurer explained that we had received a \$10,000 grant from LCIF for flood victims in the Millvale area.

Zone Chair Geoffrey Temple asked about the unexpended balance in the LCIF grant. VDG John Frombach responded that he would explain the status of the program.

PDG Governor Richard Keeler inquired about the Leader Dog Transportation Fund. There is currently \$563.52 in the fund. He explained that Leader Dog no longer asks the district for transportation. He suggested that these funds be donated to Leader Dog. This issue will be discussed under new business.

The Treasurer explained that same issue pertains to the \$267.73 in Lions Youth Seminar.

PDG Jack Schimmel explained that we had been holding \$1,563 in this fund including funds that had been designated in a will. At one time, the district was responsible for transportation for an individual for Leader Dog training. Approximately two years, the Cabinet sent \$1,000 to Leader Dog to be used for transportation from any one from this area. At that time, we held back the remaining \$563. Perhaps this is time to release these funds.

PDG Bill Gazica asked about the Blind Contingency Fund and how many eyeglasses have been purchased through this fund. The Treasurer explained that there have been no activity this year and that last year there was one disbursement of \$50.

It was moved by Zone Chair Maryann Dayton and seconded by Zone Chair Geoff Temple that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. The vote was unanimously approved.

PDG Harold Fletcher stated that the Audit Committee has not met as of this date; however, the audit will be completed and presented at the February Cabinet meeting.

Vice District Governor' Report

Vice District Governor John Frombach presented a report on the following topics:

- LCIF Grant. Vouchers worth more than \$5,000 have been distributed to more than 100 families with approximately \$4,300 being paid to Wal-Mart for redeemed vouchers. Recognition was given to members of the Elfinwild Lions Club, along with PDG Jim Hartman, who assisted in the distribution of the vouchers at the Millvale Community Center. They will be recognized at the Zone meeting on November 15. We will be working with Maria Christina at the North Hills Community Outreach to distribute vouchers to families in the area during the holiday season. It is anticipated that we be able to close out the project by the end of the December. Lion Nancy Wells asked about publicity.
- Special Olympics. A meeting will be held with the Allegheny County Special Olympics representatives in the near future to discuss how Lions from District 14-B can participate in the program. The spring games will be held at Baldwin High School on Saturday, May 10, 2008. This is an opportunity for Lions to participate in a service project and have a real impact. It will have no financial impact on clubs.

PDG Jack Schimmel stated that since this will become an annual service project for District 14-B, a chairperson's position should be established as part of the Cabinet.

It was moved by PDG Jack Schimmel and seconded by Zone Chair Mary Jane Keller that the position of Special Olympics Chair be established and that Long Range Committee develop a policy and job description. The motion was adopted unanimously.

- Filing with the IRS. At the Vice District Governor's School at the November State Council meeting, the new IRS regulations relating to non-profit organizations were explained. In the past, only organizations that had income in excess of \$25,000 had to file a 990 form. Now all organizations, regardless of fund-raising activities, must file with the IRS. Failure to do so could result in the club losing its tax-exempt status. More information will be distributed to clubs after January.

Zone Chair Reports

Region 1, Zone A

DG Jay Wells announced that Lion John T. Lynch has accepted the position of Zone Chair for Region 1, Zone A. There will a joint zone meeting at the Elfinwild Lions Club on Thursday, November 15, 2007, at which time Zone Chair John Lynch will be introduced.

Region 1, Zone B

No Report

Region 2, Zone A – Geoffrey Temple, Chair

All clubs in the zone have been visited. A joint zone meeting was held on November 6 at the Baltimore House with 44 Lions in attendance. PDG Dennis McCarthy gave an update on the SightFirst II campaign. VDG John Frombach, PDG Jim Hartman and Lion Alice Jones presented a program on membership. DG Jay Wells made presentations to several Lions. Most clubs conducted a White Cane campaign. McKeesport and Jefferson Hills clubs have had pancake breakfasts. McKeesport club continues to work on fulfilling its SightFirst II Model Club commitment. At the annual Rigatoni Night sponsored by the Glassport Lions Club, Past International Counsellor Turner Frost received the International President's award. Four Glassport Lions were presented with Melvin Jones awards. The Pleasant Hills club completed its first season with a Farmer's Market with great success and sponsored a Halloween parade for children. All clubs are working hard to increase their membership. At the joint zone meeting, the 50/50 was donated to SightFirst II.

Region 2, Zone B – Mary Jane Keller, Chair (written report)

Visits have been made to Central Elizabeth, Elizabeth, Duquesne Leos, and White Oak. The visit to Boston/Greenock/Mt. Vernon had to be rescheduled due to a change in the meeting place. The Versailles club had a joint meeting with White Oak in October. All clubs are doing fine. Membership and fundraisers are a top priority.

Region 3, Zone A – Andy Zivisky

He is just starting visitations. His first visit will be the Deaf/Blind club on Tuesday, 13.

Region 3, Zone B – Patrick Lorinc

No Report

Region 4, Zone A – Maryann Dayton

A joint meeting of Zones A and B of Region 4 was held on October 17 at the Royal Place. Although the attendance was small, the participation was huge. The District Governor spoke at the meeting about membership. His comment was that we are "preaching to the choir." Attendance at zone meeting has been a big problem. In Brentwood, they are attempting to organize a Leo club in Brentwood School District. There had been a Leo club. She will be scheduling visitations to the clubs in the Zone.

Region 4, Zone B – James Engel

Many ideas were discussed at the joint zone meeting on October 17. Since more than 50% of the attendees at the zone meeting were women, Alice Jones had a smile on her face that evening. Whitehall Community will be inducting five new members in November and three are women. He is contacting the clubs for visitations.

Committee Reports

MERLOW Team

PDG Michael Vudgradovich reported that he and PDG Kenneth Lloyd would assist the Deaf/Blind club in membership development. Since they now meet at UPMC Southside Hospital, there is a potential of gaining new members from the hospital staff. They will be making visits to the hospital during the day.

Lion Alice Jones reported that she is attending zone meetings. She is encouraged with the number of women who are participating in Lionism.

IPDG Jim Hartman has been appointed the chair of Orientation. He is working on an electronic orientation guide that can be custom designed for each club. District 14-B achieved number one for most new women members last year. He also reported that District 14-B was one of three districts in Pennsylvania that gained in membership in 2006-07; however, the State Council never recognized the districts for this achievement. There is to be some recognition at the February State Council meeting. The district was recognized by Lions International.

Long Range Planning – IPDG James Hartman

The Long Range Planning Committee did not have a meeting.

Information Technology and Newsletter – IPDG James Hartman

We are averaging approximately 120 people per day on the website. The Newsletter is being mailed to 40 Lions per month.

Activities Committee – Lion Alison Weber

Although she was not present at the Fall Rally, DG Jay Wells recognized the outstanding job that she did on planning the event. She was acknowledged by members of the Cabinet.

She received an e-mail from McGee Women Care International Host Family Program that stated that they reaffirmed Lions support. It stated that McGee Women' Hospital is hosting a delegation of 12 children and 2 adults from Bolivia. The e-mail was requesting a meeting to discuss their host family program. Alison asked if anyone had heard anything about this. No

one had heard of this program. It was suggested by PDG Jack Schimmel that she respond by stating that we already have an exchange program through Lions Clubs International and they should contact them.

Alison reported on problems with reservations for the Fall Rally. Individuals do not respond on a timely basis or do not respond and then show up. On September 22, the due date, she had 75 reservations. In the next three days, she received 50 more telephone calls when the notice specifically stated “No Phone Reservations.” Additionally, three people showed up without reservations. This is an ongoing problem. She received a report that the facility had run out of food. Zone Chair Geoff Temple stated that they did run out of food on the buffet line; however, the staff was very accommodating in providing dinner for each person. There was considerable discussion about how to solve these problems but no real solutions. The zone chairs need to emphasize to the clubs the importance of promptly providing and paying for reservations.

She reported on the Pittsburgh Pride Program that collects items and sends them to military overseas. The Deaf/Blind Club participates in this project. She suggested that the district participate in this program at the Spring Rally. Lion Jane McKnight moved and seconded by Zone Chair James Engel that District 14-B participate in the Pittsburgh Pride Program at the Spring Rally. The motion was approved unanimously. Alison Weber will coordinate the program and disseminate the information prior to the Spring Rally.

Beacon Lodge

DG Jay Wells asked PDG Michael Vudragovich for a report; however, he stated that he was no longer on the Beacon Lodge Board.

Blind Bowlers – PDG Richard Keller, Chair

The annual Blind Bowlers Tournament will be held on February 15, 16, and 17, 2008, at Noble Manor Lanes in Greentree. The banquet will be held at the Greentree Holiday Inn. Letters have been sent to all clubs asking for a donation of \$25.00 to help finance the tournament as well as assistance to staff the tournament. As of November 10, he had received donations from 10 clubs for \$300.

The schedule for staffing the tournament is as follows:

Friday, February 15 – Noon to 3:30 p.m.	Region III
Saturday, February 16 – 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Region II
Saturday, February 16 – Noon to 3:30 p.m.	Region I
Sunday, February 17 – 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	Region IV
Sunday, February 17 – Noon to 3:30 p.m.	Cabinet Members

PDG Rich Keller also discussed the Pennsylvania Counsellors Award. Nominees must have been a Lion for ten years and served as President, Secretary, or other officer. Nominations must be submitted to IPDG Jim Hartman. Wards will be distributed at the Spring Rally. Nomination forms, qualifications, and other information is available on the District website.

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Center for Deaf and Hearing Services – Lion Alison Weber

The center's network and e-mail service has been down for several days due to changes in the systems will permit on-line signing for clients.

She wanted to remind Lions that the Center does collect all makes, models, and types of hearing aids. It is important that the information about donation be included so that acknowledgement can be made.

Diabetes Awareness/Research – PDG Joseph Donkin

The Annual Christmas Around the World sponsored by District 14-B and 14-E will be held at the Palisades in McKeesport on Friday, December 7, 2007. The Vogues will be the entertainment. Tickets are available from DG Jay Wells and IPDG Jim Hartman. The Cabinet is requested to provide a \$100 basket for the event. It was moved by Zone chair Andy Zivinsky and seconded by Zone Chair Maryann Dayton that the Cabinet donate \$100 for a basket for the Christmas Around the World project. The motion was unanimously approved.

The auction is set at the Country Club on May 2, 2007.

All clubs are asked to make a donation to the Diabetes Center. The annual costs are approximately \$30,000. Clubs are invited to have a meeting at the Center. The members can then be tested for diabetes. The Center also distributes strips and meters at no cost.

Eye Prosthesis – Lion John Aiken

He has no new cases. They had one case last summer for a man from Swissvale.

Historian – PDG Harold Fletcher

No Report.

Leader Dog – Lions James Engel

As of September 30, eight clubs have donated \$4,650 to Leader Dog. He is available as a speaker for clubs. The Leader Dog representative has not been in the district for a couple of years. The problem is that the representative wants four consecutive nights to present programs.

PDG Jack Schimmel presented information about the appointment for the Leader Dog program. Beginning next year, the representative appointment from the district will be three years.

Lions of Pennsylvania Foundation – PDG Dennis McCarthy

No Report.

Lions Quest – Lion John Aiken

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He has received resource materials from Lions International including a video tape and “How to Guide Book.” There is also a web www.Lions-quest.org. To provide the training program for the teachers, the costs are split between LCIF and the sponsoring club. Lion Nancy Wells stated that the Bethel Park School District is investigating the possibility of participating in the program. Lion Dottie Hill is the western coordinator for Lions Quest.

PA Lions Hearing Research Foundation - Maxine Lang

No Report

Peace Poster – Lion Mary Jane Keller

Three posters were submitted. The winning poster for District 14-B was submitted by Sarah Ireland, 7th Grader at Immaculate Conception School. Her quote for the poster is “Like puzzle pieces, we have to adjust ourselves to conform with others to make a peaceful world. We have to work for harmony and demonstrate love.” The Bloomfield Club is the sponsor.

PA Lions Sight Conservation – PDG Jack Schimmel (written report)

The annual research meeting was held on September 29, 2007, at the PA College of Optometry. Six doctors and researchers made presentations on the following topics: Diabetic Retinopathy, Live Cell Microscopy, and Low Vision Rehabilitation. The Eye and Ear Institute was represented by Kira Lathrop, NAMS. The seminars were very informative as the researcher spoke in terms that every individual could understand.

Two clubs in District 14-B received Certificates: Bethel Park Lions (Blue Certificate) and Pleasant Hills Lions (Gold Certificate).

At the present time, the Foundation is considering only one grant application. Normally, the Foundation receives more requests as the year progresses.

Radio Information Services – Lion Samuel DePiero

No Report.

Western PA Lions Hearing Foundation – PID Carl Battistone (written report)

He explained how the Foundation operates. There are two representatives from each of the districts in western Pennsylvania. The Foundation Board met on October 28, 2007, at the Eye and Ear Institute. After deliberation, the Board set a base level of income to qualify for assistance in getting a hearing aid. The figure was set at 120% of the poverty level guidelines for 1007 which is \$12,252 annually or \$1,021 monthly. Special circumstances will continue to be taken into account and the base level will be subject to change.

The Foundation thanks all the clubs for donating generously and for their continued support.

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White Cane – Lion Jane McKnight (written report)

Eleven clubs participated in White Cane Day: McKeesport, Bethel Park, Whitehall, Pleasant Hills, Monroeville, West Mifflin, White Oak, Jefferson Hills, Glassport, Elfinwild, and Forest Hills. The total collected was \$11,960.25 with 148 Lions participating 340 hours. The information is reported to the State Office by December 15.

Western PA School for Blind Children – Lion Robert Cass

No Report.

Youth Outreach – Lion Mary Jane Keller

No Report. The program has been discontinued by Lions Clubs International.

DG Jay Wells asked about Youth Exchange. PDG Jack Schimmel explained that Youth Exchange and Youth Outreach are two different programs and that Youth Exchange will continue.

Old Business

District Governor Challenge Contest. DG Jay Wells requested that the Long Range Planning Committee review the District Governor Challenge Contest; e.g., classifications, point structure, rules, awards, etc. It was moved by Zone Chair Maryann Dayton and seconded by PDG Richard Keller that the District Governor Challenge Contest be reviewed by the Long Range Planning Committee. The motion was unanimously approved.

Grant Carryover. Treasurer Harold Fletcher reported that in the Financial Report, there is a carry over of \$750 from the prior administration for flood relief that was given by clubs in the District. It was moved by Zone Chair Geoff Temple and seconded by Zone Chair Mary Jane Keller that the \$750 be used if the \$10,000 LCIF grant is exceeded; otherwise, the money will be retained for any future disasters. The motion was unanimously approved.

From the discussion on the flood relief fund, the question was raised why the District does not conduct fund-raising projects. It was stated that District 14-M has numerous fund-raising projects and raises a significant amount of money. PDG Jack Schimmel explained that District 14-M has established the “We Serve Foundation,” which is a 501c(3) entity. If District 14-B wanted to get involved with this type of fund-raising, we would need to establish a non-profit entity and file with the IRS for 501c(3) status and establish a board of directors. Since Lions clubs (including the District Cabinet) are 501c(4) not-for-profit organizations (service and fraternal organizations), donations to the clubs are not tax deductible. There are significant issues in establishing such an entity which would require that all the clubs to have representation on the foundation board. If a club would receive a large donation, it could be donated to the Pennsylvania Lions Foundation and then distributed by the Foundation.

New Business

Request from the Pittsburgh Lutheran Center for the Blind. The Pittsburgh Lutheran Center for the Blind contacted Lion John Aiken concerning contact information for the Lions Clubs in the Pittsburgh area. Formed in 1999, the Center is a small organization with an annual budget of approximately \$12,000. They sponsor a reading room and other services for visually impaired persons in a faith-based format. They want to solicit various clubs for donations. The consensus was that the Cabinet needed more information before any approval could be granted to them to solicit clubs in the District. It was suggested that a spokesperson from the Center attend the February cabinet meeting to describe the type of programs that they are requesting support from the Lions clubs. DG Jay Wells stated that he will include the a ten-minute presentation from the Center on the agenda for the February meeting.

Request from Central Elizabeth Lions Club. PDG Harold Fletcher indicated that a member from the Central Elizabeth Lions Club had come up with the idea to sponsor a trip to take World War II veterans from District clubs to the Memorial in Washington, D.C., in the summer or fall of 2008. The Central Elizabeth Club is requesting permission to solicit information from the clubs. DG Jay Wells suggested that PDG Harold Fletcher develop a questionnaire that would be posted on the website to which clubs could respond. It was moved by PDG Richard Keller and seconded by PDG Michael Vudragovich that permission be granted to the Central Elizabeth Club to contact the clubs in the District to gather information from the District clubs to determine the feasibility for a trip to the World War II Memorial. The motion was approved unanimously.

Leader Dog Transportation Fund. It was moved by Zone Chair Geoffrey Temple and seconded by James Engel that the Leader Dog Transportation Fund in the amount of \$563.52 be donated to Leader Dog with the condition that it be used for transportation expenses for individuals in the Allegheny County region.

Lions Youth Seminar Fund. The question was raised about the funds in the Lions Youth Seminar. For several years, District 14-E sponsored a weekend youth seminar in March that was open to young people in District 14-E and District 14-B. DG Jay Wells will contact the representative in District 14-E to obtain information about the youth seminar. Generally students are sponsored by clubs; however if a club is unable to sponsor a youth, the costs could be paid from the District Youth Seminar Fund.

State Convention. VDG John Frombach reminded that members that the State Convention will be held at the Meadowlands on May 16, 17, and 18, 2008. We need to promote the convention among the clubs. It is a great opportunity for members and officers to participate in numerous seminars and other activities. It was moved by VDG John Frombach and seconded by Lions Alice Jones that District 14-B purchase a full-page ad in the convention program book.

Peace Poster Contest. It was moved by Lion Alison Weber and seconded by Zone Chair James Engel that a \$100 savings bond be purchased for the winner of the Peace Poster contest and the winner and her parents be invited to attend the February Cabinet meeting.

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Change of Date of February Meeting. DG Jay Wells announced that the February meeting date will be changed from February 9, 2008, to February 23, 2008. IPDG Jim Hartman will include this information on the website.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m. Following the adjournment, the attendees sang one verse of “God Bless America.”

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John W. Frombach".

John W. Frombach, VDG
Substitute Secretary