

MINUTES
MISSOURI LIONS COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS
Saturday, January 29, 2022
Rolla Lions Den, Rolla, MO
(and via Zoom video conference)

The third meeting of the 2021-2022 Missouri Lions Council of Governors was called to order by Council Chairperson Bob Noellsch, at 10:04 a.m.

Governor Melissa Anderson gave the Invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Governor Jerry Reaves.

Governor Devin Struttman led in singing “America (My Country, Tis of Thee)”.

PDG Debbie Cantrell established Protocol for the meeting.

TAIL TWISTER – DG Melissa Anderson moved to appoint PCC Kimberly Taylor as Tail Twister. Motion was seconded by DG Jene Crook and carried.

DESIGNATION OF TAIL TWISTER FUNDS – DG Devin Struttman moved to evenly split the Tail Twister funds between the Memorial Fund and LCIF. Motion was seconded by DG Jene Crook and carried.

ATTENDANCE - Those in attendance were:

<u>District</u>	<u>Governor</u>	<u>1st Vice District Governors</u>	<u>2nd Vice District Governors</u>
26-M1	Jerry Reaves	Jennie Mosher	Marilynn Reaves
26-M2	Devin Struttman	Leon Hove	Paul Carr
26-M3	Michael Sliger	Sandy McCann	Sherl Horton
26-M4	James Pedersen	John Ross (via Zoom)	
26-M5	Jene Crook	Pat Scott	
26-M6	Phyllis Krebs (and FLDs Wink & Becca)		Phil Krebs
26-M7	Melissa Anderson	Bill Foglesong	

Council Chairperson IPDG Bob Noellsch, M3

Past International Directors Donal Knipp, M7; W.R. O’Riley, M4 (via Zoom)

Parliamentarian PCC Terry Boettcher, M2

State Office Administrative Assistant Lion Jackie Twehus, M7

M1: Lion Harold Burleson (via Zoom), PDG Bud Dean, PDG John Preston, IPDG Scott Sattler, Lion Allen Taylor, Lion Laurie Taylor, PDG Bob Wilson, PDG Lana Wilson

M2: PCC Al Blumenberg, PDG Debbie Blumenberg, PCC Gina Boettcher, Lion Cyndi Carr, Lion Vickey Engel, PCC Joe Foster, Lion Michelle Foster, Lion Toni Mahoney, Lion Ed Marshall, IPDG Sandee Marshall, Lion Jeff Rackovan, Lion Marcie Struttman, PDG Eugene Taylor, PCC Kimberly Taylor, IPCC George Winkeler Jr., Lion Jennifer Winkeler

M3: PDG Lisa Alexander, Lion Carol Deters, Lion Mary Jane Noellsch, Lion Joanie Sliger

M4: PDG Ann Anderson (via Zoom), PCC John Anderson (via Zoom), PCC Larry Boettcher, Lion Devon Campbell (via Zoom), Lion Peggy Campbell (via Zoom), PCC Ron Campbell (via Zoom), Lion Susan Cunningham, PDG Wayne Cunningham, Lion Christine Pedersen, Lion Bethney Pedersen, IPDG Harold Spire (via Zoom), PDG John Reese (via Zoom), Lion Kathy Reese (via Zoom)

M5:

M6: PDG Bill Botzow, PDG Debbie Cantrell, IPDG Theresa Kee, PDG James W. Rosbrugh

M7: Lion Patrick Anderson, Lion Amy Bell, Lion Lisa Foglesong, PCC Jesse Hathcock, PDG Lou Ann Hathcock, IPDG Don Soph

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 30, 2021 COUNCIL MEETING – DG Krebs moved to accept the minutes of the October 30, 2021 Council Meeting as distributed. It was seconded by DG Pedersen and carried.

FINANCIAL REPORTS – DG Crook reported that as of December 31, 2021, there were total assets of \$384,308.30, and a like amount of Total Equities and Liabilities. The income statement was reported as “fairly quiet” for Lions through the month of December. All of the clubs had paid their dues as of the last Council Meeting. New dues statements are just going out, so there are no new dues collections to report. We have an investment account that was at \$126,292.01, as of December 31st. DG Crook expressed doubt that the account is that high right now because of the stock market, but that was to be expected. They will “stay the course” so to speak, and she is sure that will come back soon. Included in the packet was a breakdown by funds. There were no questions.

DG Crook added they had received a copy of the financial review from the accountant. Those were as of June 30, 2021. There were no questions regarding the financial review.

CC Noellsch explained that the Council Parliamentarian is still PCC Kimberly Taylor, but she had planned to be gone, and a replacement had been planned. PCC Terry Boettcher graciously volunteered to do it.

CC Noellsch also explained that the Protocol Chair resigned due to conflicts with dates, so PDG Debbie Cantrell is filling in today.

INTERNATIONAL UPDATE – PID Donal Knipp reported for PID Don Noland. He shared that Covid has impacted everyone all around the world and Omicron has kept it going. If anyone has tried to call LCI Headquarters, you’ve probably had trouble getting through. It is currently closed, with everyone working from home. Membership worldwide, as of the end of December 2021, is 1,375,193. CA1 had 277,758, and India had 366,910. Overall, this is a .63% gain for LCI. So we need to keep in touch with our members through Zoom or whatever needs to be done. PID Donal stated that in his area most clubs are meeting again. Whatever we have to do, we need to do it. We need to keep the conversation open with Lions. The next International Board Meeting is going to be held in Hawaii in April. Just a reminder that at the virtual convention last year, the ballot issue passed that if a vacancy exists, a PDG can be appointed as a VDG by a special meeting of the cabinet, but they cannot be elected at the conventions. They can be appointed by the cabinet. PID Donal then presumes LCI will have to approve that, though he is not sure about that. LCI has served over 15 million people in the first six months of the year. That’s with only 37% of clubs in MD26 reporting. All of us need to report our service programs, if you can get in. He stated that he is the “service guy” for his club, and he struggles getting in to report service. They have extended early registration for the LCI Convention in Montreal until the end of March. It is still “a go”, but they are making plans to go virtual if needed. They are also still talking about a dues increase being on the ballot in Montreal.

GLOBAL MEMBERSHIP – PID Donal Knipp shared information from PID Don Noland’s report. Membership in CA1 was down 810 in December. That’s 86% better than the same period last year. January is down only 182, and they expect to be in the plus before the month’s end. It’s been 35 years since CA1 has had a positive number. They have set a goal for us to add four new members per club and re-motivate members with new service activities and other things. Hopefully that will work. As of today, all districts in MD26 are below the 1,250 mark. Please keep that in mind and try to do something about that.

LCIF – A lot of the areas of the country have been raising money for LCIF virtually. We want to keep LCIF in mind during these times. They are helping a lot of people with all of the disasters going on. Campaign 100 has been extended to 2022. As of January, we have passed \$239 million of the \$300 million goal. The virtual convention on June 26th of last year raised over \$76,000. Right now there are plans for a nationwide telethon in June. The goal is for the balance of \$82 million. MD26, as of June, has 38% of our Campaign 100 goal. Last month, we received \$5151. This represents only 4.05% per membership contributions for MD26. We have 9 Model clubs as of this date. If any club chooses to do this and is close to their \$500 per

member, they have three years to fulfill their share. We can still get this done. LCIF giving for this year is up 5% for the same period last year. Let's keep this going and finish up strong. Several in attendance have been involved with clubs with the disaster recently in Kentucky. DG Jerry Reaves and PDG John Preston were specifically thanked for their dedication and service. They did a lot to help. They sent water, electrical cords and other things to Mayfield, Kentucky.

WORLD SERVICES FOR THE BLIND – PID Donal Knipp reported for PID Don Noland. WSB is one of the very few places like this that stayed open during the pandemic. They increased their online clients. In 2021, WSB served clients from over 16 states across the United States, on campus and online. They continue to be a resource for Sustainable Independent living. They have completed restoration from frozen and burst pipes, flooding, and a fire, and all clients have returned to campus. The current census is 49 people, with 1,816 online and two at the facilitated learning center in Oklahoma. This represents sixteen states and two countries. They had received a lot of PPP loans during Covid. They submitted those for forgiveness, and they have all been forgiven. Lions only provide 6% of the WSB operating budget, so they raise a lot of money. It takes a lot of money to do what they are doing.

GREAT PLAINS LIONS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE – PID Donal Knipp reported that Great Plains in 2022 will be held in Maryville, Missouri, July 28-30th. This is an intensive, professional and valuable leadership skills program. It is for all Lions that have not attended Great Plains within the last five years. You will learn skills for your club, job, community and church, as well as personal development. In 2021, 57 Lions attended in person, and they hope this number increases in 2022. PID Donal asked the Governors to please make attending Great Plains by the Lions in your districts one of their objectives and get more Lions to attend this year's institute. Registration forms are ready, and all governors should have them. The cost to attend will be \$220 for early registration, so it's gone up just a little bit. It will increase to \$240 after May 1st, so get the forms in as soon as you can. Registration covers single occupancy rooms, seven meals, and all course materials. The Great Plains Institute is sponsored by Multiple Districts 3 (Oklahoma), 9 (Iowa), 17 (Kansas), 26 (Missouri) and 38 (Nebraska). PID Donal thought, if he isn't mistaken, that all rooms this year will be private. There won't be anyone having to room with someone else, unless it's husband and wife. He thanked PID W.R. O'Riley for being the facilities coordinator for the institute. No one present probably realizes what PID W.R. has done for the Great Plains Institute and for keeping it in Maryville. The way it stands right now, it may stay in Maryville for a few years. That's all due to PID W.R. - so thank him when you see him. At the board meeting, they voted to attempt to host a Midwest Advanced Lions Leadership Institute again at the same time as the Great Plains. If this can be worked out, information for attending will be sent out if you want to go. Last year, it had to be canceled due to a low number of Lions that signed up to attend. PID Donal has not heard any more about that, so he's not sure where they are at with that at this time. He hopes they can "pull this off". PID Donal announced that his time on the Great Plains board has come to an end. He is maxed out, you can only serve six years, then you have to come off the board. PDG Debbie Cantrell has been elected to be the new Missouri board member. PID Donal congratulated PDG Debbie. PDG Debbie echoed what PID Knipp had previously said - that it is a great place to go. She also asked the Governors to please encourage their Lions to attend. The tools they gain there are invaluable in personal lives as well as Lion lives, in any aspect of your life. If anyone hasn't gone, plan on going. It is definitely worth it. PDG Debbie stated she was proud to represent Missouri.

PID Donal did state the **USA/Canada Forum** will be in Calgary this year, but had no other information to share.

STATE OFFICE COMMITTEE – PDG Eugene Taylor reported for PDG Ann Anderson. He stated there was nothing new to report beyond what was in the packet. For the benefit of the audience he shared that report, which was submitted by PDG Ann Anderson. At this time, they do not have anything exciting to report except that everything is running smoothly. In March, PDG Ann will be traveling to Jefferson City to do the state office employee evaluation. The committee is always there to help our employees when something arises of concern. They are also here for all the Lions of Missouri if they have any questions, so please contact PDG Ann if you have any questions or concerns so the committee can address them.

LONG RANGE PLANNING - No report.

STATE/INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE – PCC Gina Boettcher reported there was discussion about investing some money from their surplus funds. They would like to hold off on that until July. A majority of the members decided they would rather do it in July, so they will talk about that at the July meeting. They are looking for a Parade Marshall for Montreal. Anyone interested in being the Parade Marshall should come talk to PCC Gina. They will be selling shirts, hats, and will have patches for the jackets. PDG John Preston asked PCC Gina to explain what the Parade Marshall does. PCC Gina replied, “Carries all the stuff;).” It was added that they make sure everyone is in uniform and carries everything.

2022 STATE CONVENTION COMMITTEE – 1VDG Jennie Mosher greeted everyone and hoped that everyone was enjoying the pre-Convention site. If there are any issues, please let her know. She thanked PCC Gina Boettcher. She stated that for all the years of working with people, but not being in charge of the event, she didn’t realize all the work that is involved, but thanks to PCC Gina, 1VDG Jennie believes they have the schedule pretty much finalized and ready for CC Bob. She appreciates all the help. She also stated that she has learned a valuable lesson that many previous Lions in this position panicked when they didn’t have people signing up and everything. So being now on the receiving end, she appreciates what they went through. They are working on the bus transportation situation to transport people. The local Chamber of Commerce is helping to facilitate that. They have a tourism grant that she is applying for, which will hopefully offset the cost of the buses.

1VDG Jennie called the LCIF Silent Auction co-chairs to come forward - Lions Allen and Laurie Taylor from the Cape Evening Club. Lion Allen Taylor asked if anyone knew where the first LCIF Silent Auction in the state of Missouri was held? Lion Laurie shared that it was 25 years ago that the first silent auction for LCIF was held at the 1998 Cape Girardeau Missouri State Lions Convention. Lion Allen was in charge of setting it up. They didn’t know what they would collect or what would be brought in. They kept running out of tables and collecting more money. They ended up collecting over \$10,000 that year for LCIF. Lion Laurie added that this year has been a hard year, with tornadoes in their southeast area, as well as flooding and hurricanes. LCIF really needs the help. They need items donated for that Friday night hospitality room. They suggest getting donations from businesses, new or slightly used items. Are you a baker? Are you a wine maker? Do you can pickles? Do you make a basket? All of these things will sell. They want everyone to go out to their clubs and ask their help in getting donations. Lion Allen asked the District Governors to contact all of their clubs for donations, ask them to come to the State Convention and help support it. This will only succeed if you get out and do it. Lion Laurie added that they need help and they are going to have a lot of fun that night, so be there! And spend money!

PDG Bud Dean shared that the Rolla Lions Club won the Tourism Award just last week from the Rolla Area Chamber of Commerce for what they bring in from the carnival, craft festival and all that they do.

CC Bob noted that the facilities at the Rolla Lions Club are great, and hospitality the previous night was great. He thanked them for all of their hard work.

2023 STATE CONVENTION - DG Phyllis Krebs shared that PCC Howard Hawkins sends his regrets that he could not make it to the meeting. DG Phyllis reported that one important thing they have learned about Branson is that you don’t try to do anything down there in January because everyone is gone. The 2023 State Convention is being planned to be at the Radisson Hotel in Branson. They have adequate rooms for us and they do have adequate meeting space, so it will all be within one building. The hotel rate will be \$129.95. That does include a full breakfast. Other details have yet to be worked out, but they are working on it and will have more by the State Convention. The 2023 State Convention will be held April 20-23rd.

2024 STATE CONVENTION - DG Melissa Anderson reported they have set up a committee, and they are working on a location.

ALERT COMMITTEE – No report.

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS – PDG James W. Rosbrugh reported the committee met by email Dec. 23-24th to review the proposed amendments to the Multiple District 26 Constitution and By-Laws and the wording of Propositions to be voted on at the Multiple District Convention. All those responding were in favor of it. The review and Propositions were in an attachment to his report that each Governor should have received. It is three pages long. It is in two sections. Part I has to do with the Constitution and By-Laws. Part II will be the Propositions for the convention. There are actually two separate portions of the Constitution and By-Laws. The first four propositions, then the second set. Propositions 5 and 6 are tied together in a sense. Proposition 5 has to do with Constitution items and Proposition 6 has to do with By-Laws issues. The failure of one to pass, negates the passage of the other one.

PCC Kimberly Taylor shared that she had the credential sheets and cards for the District Governors. She instructed them to take them back to their Cabinet Secretaries. If they are in need of electronic copies, they should send PCC Kimberly an email, and she will send them electronic copies. They are important documents. They need to be filled out as soon as they have the numbers. State Convention is in April. They will not get numbers from LCI until March, so they will not know exactly how many delegates each club gets until sometime in March. She passed them out.

PDG Bill Botzow asked questions of PDG James W. Rosbrugh in regards to Propositions 5 & 6. PDG Botzow first asked, “Has the Youth Leadership Activities Committee developed a policy and procedures manual as to how it will function?” PDG James replied that he has received neither a positive or negative word on that, “so it’s probably a negative”.

PDG Botzow then asked, “Who will determine how the funds will be dispersed?” PDG Rosbrugh replied, “That would be in the policy manual.”

PDG Botzow continued by stating that the word “Leadership” in that title for the committee represents that they will be “leading people” rather than training people how to do something. He feels the word “leadership” is misrepresentative of the goal or desire. That’s meaning you’re going to develop youth with that group, if you’re with that leadership committee. PDG Botzow stated that the All State Band has been sufficient, with the exception of one year, and they paid off their debt the following year. He added that it is possible for the Athletic Committee to have a dues also. All it takes is to have a vote and a Constitution change to allow them to have dues and be voted on by the Lions of Missouri. Per request, PDG Bill then came to the podium’s microphone to be better heard. He reiterated that he takes some issue with Propositions 5 & 6. He restated his previous questions/comments: 1) Has the Youth Leadership Activities Committee developed a policy and procedures manual as to how it will function? At this point, he understands there is none. PDG Rosbrugh confirmed that. 2) Who will determine how the funds will be distributed without bias? 3) The word “leadership” indicates this committee or group of Lions will develop the leadership in the youth. 4) Was the Band and Athletic Committees involved in developing the above Propositions? PDG Rosbrugh answered that the Athletic Committee was involved, and he was of the impression/assumption that the two committees were working together. He has since learned that that may not be a true statement.

PDG Botzow followed by stating that the first the Band Committee heard about all of this was when PDG James sent the last update to the Constitution and By-Laws. PDG Bill shared strictly his opinion: 1) The Missouri All State Band has been sufficient since its beginning, with the exception of one year. That was with MSU, and an assistant director that went beyond his bounds. That was remedied in a procedural manual in future years. 2) It is possible that the Athletic Committee could have a \$0.70 dues implemented, and it could become somewhat self-sufficient. The difference between Band is “we bring the kids together, travel, learn, and they get to do things.” They pay 99% of it themselves. The only cost from the dues was to cover the administrative expenses. That same set up could be used in Athletic, but we are all running into hard times- hard times under Covid restrictions. If they can’t play football, maybe they can’t do band - can’t go out and have a band marching. We all have to adjust to those situations. PDG Botzow then asked, “Why do we feel we need to have another committee?” Both the Band and Athletic report directly to the Council. Why

do we have to have a stationary committee over here and then we report to them, and they report to the Council? To him that's like building a chair and forgetting one leg. This means the Band and Football have to deal with another committee, the Council of Governors and the policies they follow. That was his statement regarding the two Propositions. There were no other statements/questions.

CC Bob Noellsch commented that the Constitution and By-Laws Committee did some hard work, some late work. "We got some information to them late." He expressed appreciation for all they had done.

ATHLETIC COMMITTEE – 1VDG Pat Scott reported the committee is still a work in progress and still working with the Constitution and By-Laws committee to change the wording of the Athletic Committee job description. Basically, the committee would like for it to say "Missouri All State Sports Activities" and the intention of that is so we can do adult, as well as youth, sports activities. They are continuing to work with Lincoln University on a proposal for a football game to be held on their campus in Jefferson City. However, 1VDG Scott's contact has had Covid, so therefore, they are behind on that, through no fault of their own or his. They continue to meet and are going forward, hopefully with a proposal at the State conference giving information about some athletic event to be held somewhere in the summer of 2022. There is discussion about a golf tournament in northwest Missouri. That is just discussion at this time. PDG John Preston asked to speak. He commented he thought several Council of Governors' meetings before, there was a discussion about changing the name. We have to change the By-Laws. He thought there had been a discussion with the Council of Governors to change the By-Laws to reflect the name change. 1VDG Pat Scott replied that she did not remember that discussion, but it was possible he was right.

Parliamentarian PCC Terry Boettcher interjected that what everyone is discussing right now is actually in the packet under Constitution and By-Laws. It is Proposition 3 - changing the name of the Athletic Committee.

PDG Rosbrugh added regarding Proposition 3 - the Constitution and By-Laws committee received no information to make a change to the name of the state Athletic Committee. In Proposition 3 they are adding the words "the State Athletic Committee shall be responsible for all athletic events of this Multiple District", and removing "the annual All State All Star Football Game". The proposition continues by adding, "the committee shall prepare a budget for each event", deleting "the game", for Council approval. That is what Proposition 3 deals with.

Lion Carol Deters added that she hoped everyone understands the reason behind the name change. It's because the last three years, including this year, they did not have a football game. It would have cost a lot more. Before, kids would come, stay for about a week, there would be two to a room, but because of Covid, they cannot do that. The meal thing was another issue. The committee had no choice. They couldn't have another game of any sort because it is stated that we have to have a football game. So they thought if they changed the name, they could possibly have another sport activity, not to say they would never have another football game. They could have another football game. It would depend on the committee, she guessed, whatever game they wanted to have.

1VDG Pat Scott shared that right now the budget is "the pits", so it's not cost effective to even think about a football game.

Lion Amy Bell added that the name doesn't have to change, that committee is the Athletic Committee. The By-Laws are being changed to remove all the specific details about the football game, making it generic to where, we as Missouri Lions, could host any athletic event. 1VDG Pat agreed that Lion Amy was correct.

PCC Al Blumenberg stood to share. He stated that he had heard a comment about an adult golf tournament. He asked, "Where did that come from?" 1VDG Pat responded that is just being "kicked around". PCC Al said he understood that, but he wanted to know why it was being "kicked around"? 1VDG Pat said it was mentioned that M4 might host an adult golf tournament. PCC Blumenberg added that the dues pay for this.

1VDG Pat interjected that the Athletic committee does not get any dues - as of yet. PCC AI said he understood that, but he wanted to make the point that those current dues are intended for youth. If that fund gets split in some way, and the Athletic Committee decides to do something in their way with adults, there needs to be some discussion about what the full intent of that is. 1VDG Pat responded, "If that happens with the dues money, and its youth dues money, there will be a "youth sport", not an adult sport, for the various reasons just stated. PCC AI didn't understand why it was being talked about then.

DG Phyllis Krebs shared that her understanding on the golf tournament possibility was as a fundraiser for the Athletic Committee, because they are currently in arrears to the state. They have no source of income unless they host a football game or some other event, and they need start-up money. 1VDG Pat stated that was correct also.

PCC Jesse Hathcock also stood to share. He commented that some in attendance haven't been around that long, but he has. He said that this very issue was on the ballot at the Sedalia convention. It was a Constitutional issue, not By-laws, describing the committee. It was a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote. At that time, it failed by a handful of votes. He wanted everyone to be aware of some of the history. As far as dues, he understands there has been a great history and antagonistic feelings about one service project in the entire state receiving dues. That, he thinks, is the major issue that has to be addressed, not the splitting of the dues.

1VDG Pat responded that she thought he was right, and she also thinks PCC Blumenberg is right, in that it should be a youth activity, not an adult activity, but there has been so much confusion among the committee - "we just have a major problem within the committee that caused a lot of problems". She didn't know if CC Bob wanted to get into that now, or if that should be a private issue discussed with him as a committee, those that are present, and go from there. That's about all she could say or wished to say. 1VDG Pat asked Lion Carol Deters if they were going to go forward with the name change or "leave it alone?"

Lion Carol responded that she felt like they should have the name changed because it opens up so many other doors. If it's always going to be a football game ...

Lion Amy Bell wanted clarification of what name they were changing?

Lion Carol Deters replied, "The All State Football Game".

Lion Amy Bell stated, "But we don't have that. We are removing it from the By-Laws. The committee is the Athletic Committee. There is no sport tied to the committee. In Proposition 3, they are removing the fact that they are tied to a specific event, and saying that the Athletic Committee will be responsible for any state Lions athletic event that goes on. You don't have to change the name because you are the Athletic Committee. You don't have to change the name of what you are hosting because we are totally removing that from the Constitution and By-Laws - whatever Proposition 3 is. There is no name change required."

Lion Carol clarified, "So nowhere is it going to state that it is an All State Football game?" Many stated that was correct.

Lion Amy reiterated that was not in the committee name, and they are removing any reference specific to football and saying "any sporting event." 1VDG Pat noted that was a great synopsis and thanked Lion Amy for that.

PDG James W. Rosbrugh added that he thought we were confusing changing the By-Laws. Changing the wording of the Constitution and By-Laws has to be approved by the Council at this meeting before it can be on the ballot. We are confusing By-Laws with Policy Manual. If we are going to change the name from Athletic Committee, that has to be approved and the name given today. He does not believe it is necessary. He does believe that the Athletic Committee needs to get with the Constitution and By-Laws committee if they are going to make changes in the Policy Manual to agree with what we are establishing. He is requesting that because at the first Council Meeting, they must adopt a Policy Manual. So we need to take

what we are looking at, get it together, so they can change the Policy Manual to do what you are asking them to do.

1VDG Pat Scott asked if that needed to be done today or do they have time between now and the State Convention? PDG James responded that that needed to be done between now and the next Council of Governors meeting (which is State Convention).

Lion Amy Bell asked if that's only required if this passes at State Convention? Doesn't it have to be voted on, and then they have to make sure the policy manual is updated and ready to be approved in July?

PDG Rosbrugh stated the next Council meeting will not be the new Council. That will be the 4th Council meeting of this year. The first Council meeting will be in July. That's one of the reasons we are voting upon this, then we will change the Policy Manual accordingly, then it will be agreed and voted upon at the first Council meeting of the new year.

DG Phyllis Krebs wanted clarification regarding (k) under "State Athletic Committee" (under Proposition 3). She stated that "all athletic events of this Multiple District" is underlined, then the football game is given as an example. She asked if that wordage about the football game was being taken out? It was clarified if it was in red, it is being deleted. DG Phyllis said on her copy, it was not in red. (She apparently did not have a current copy, and it was confirmed those words regarding the football game are being taken out.)

No Athletic budget was presented.

BAND COMMITTEE – PDG Bill Botzow expressed his pleasure in being in attendance to report the activities of the Band and plans for the future. He disseminated a packet which included his report and minutes from the last two Band committee meetings. He noted they had submitted, at the last Council meeting, a change in their standard operating procedures, which was approved. A budget was also submitted and approved at that time. They had to modify the approved budget to add the Battle of the Bands award max. A new budget is in the packet. The committee has set the Battle of the Bands submissions to be viewed and voted on by the Lions present at the State Convention in Rolla, April 28 - May 1, 2022. A flyer is included in the packet. He asked that the flyer be taken home and given to some band directors to see what they can do. They have currently two submissions, and he would like to see "5 computers lined up", with each one playing what that band presented, then voted on. He commented that they have deviated from what the band originally wanted, what it was set up to do. It was to take Missouri youth, from all over the state of Missouri, bring them together and solidify a band to represent youth, and the Lions of Missouri, at the International Convention. In that situation, we have staggered International Conventions stateside. It is not feasible to send the band over to China, Japan, Germany, India, etc. It's cost prohibitive. The kids can't afford it. So they devised an "off trip", for example, a trip to Disneyland. They marched at Disney, in the parade during the opening ceremony. Memories those kids will never forget.

PDG Bill told the story of how he and his wife, Zana, and others were out soliciting for the Christian County Lions Club, trying to build a new club. They had been out all morning, they were tired, and they went into a restaurant. They started to order and the girl said, "Are you Lions?" They said, "Yes we are. How can we help you?" She said she was a band member some years before. PDG Bill shared that she's a teacher. She worked in the restaurant in her off time. He thinks she got some very strong moral values out of that band trip and character confidence.

PDG Bill stated that he probably stepped out of line when he contacted some past students asking them to send a message telling about what their experience was. He then read a letter that was included in a packet given to the Council from a former participant in the Missouri Lions Club All State Band program. In part, the letter (submitted by Ryan Waters, the current Athletic Director & Assistant Principal at Fulton High School) stated, "Those memories made will forever remain close to my heart and will be some of the fondest memories that I will ever have." It also stated, "I know times are tough, and I know sacrifices sometimes have to be made, but I encourage each of you to do what it takes to keep the All-State Lions Band intact."

IPDG Theresa Kee then came forward to read her letter that was included in the packet. Also, in short, her letter stated, "I gained confidence in my musical skills. I spent 4 years in the Missouri Lions All State Band, the experiences and opportunity changed me as a youth and what I believed I could do." She continued, "I believe the Missouri Lions are torn between wanting to move forward but still have a band. As a Lion, a former Missouri youth, a Lions All State Band member myself I couldn't begin to explain how devastated I was to learn that the program was being misrepresented/mishandled and Missouri Lions funds being used to hire bands NOT from Missouri and that contained people that were not youth. This is not something I have voiced my opinion on over the last several years. Council Chair, Council of Governors, 1st and 2nd Vice District Governors, I encourage you to understand it's not Band versus Athletics or versus any other program (yes I called out that divide because there is no reason why we can't work together.) It's about a committee right now that is in place and has said yes, we will take on this challenge... we will try to keep the band program going. Does that mean it will look the way it looked in the past? Probably not. Does that mean it still needs funding? Yes. Give them the chance before you cut away funding. What alternatives have been considered (dues increase? a tiered reduction over several years?). Currently, right now, I believe the band receives \$0.70 a year per member. I for one would be happy to pay \$1.40 more per year - \$0.70 to Athletic Committee and \$0.70 to the new Youth Committee. Why has the Missouri Lions All State Band always come in second to Mississippi? Maybe we should be talking to Mississippi. They still continue to run a successful band program every year. Maybe we should imagine what could happen if all the energy we have been focusing on fighting, debating and politicking over money, was redirected straight into the programs. What could we actually achieve?"

PDG Bill Botzow followed by stating that he hopes we don't lose sight permanently as to the dedication of the band. He knows they have to change with the times, but who's going to suffer? It will be the Missouri youth. He remembered being Parade Marshall and Lion Al came up to him and said, "What are you dragging that box for, boy?" That was all the supplies for Parade Marshall that they had to have – for the Band and in the parade. That was a heck of a parade. He thanked everyone for their time and hoped they had given everyone a fair image of what the Missouri Lions Band is about. It's not about "us", it's about the kids, the children, and performing for you, the Lions of Missouri.

HEARING COMMITTEE – PDG John Preston reported for PCC Ron Campbell. He shared that the State Hearing Committee has had several different meetings in the last couple of months, mostly discussing the hearing trailers that they are trying to outfit to replace the two hearing vans that have been sold. One of the hearing vans that they had was vandalized and the insurance company totaled it out. They recouped that money, put it back into their savings account, and they are using that to retrofit two tag-along trailers that they are building as hearing trailers. The other van was sold, and they recouped the money from that. He did not have the actual values for that. Contact PDG John if anyone needs that actual number. Hearing sweepstakes tickets have been sent out all throughout the state. District conventions are coming up in the next month. Make sure your sweepstakes tickets are in for your districts so that they can get to the State Convention – there's a lot of money involved. That is their only fundraiser, so get tickets in so they can get money back out. They still have affordable hearing aids. Reach out to your representative, and they will help with that.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – Lion Amy Bell started by apologizing to all of the Lions of Missouri. She has had some personal issues happening over the last month or so, and so the website has not been getting updated as expected. To the State Office, to the Council, to all the Lions – she apologizes. She will be getting that taken care of this next week. If you have sent her stuff, she will be getting that posted. Otherwise, there was nothing else to report. There were no questions.

MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS – Lion Amy Bell reported for Lion Peggy Campbell. Lion Bethney Pedersen has prepared the newsletter, which is probably in an email, so they will get it distributed very soon. The Marketing Committee continues to request that the District Governors push the articles up to Lion Bethney so she can get that put together and share that with the State.

CC Bob asked what the deadline was for the next newsletter. Lion Bethney replied that she has to get it out 60 days prior to the State Convention so they had to move it up a little bit. Hopefully it will come out February 28th. She asked if she could get information by February 20th, that would be great.

MISSOURI LION NEWSLETTER – Lion Bethney Pedersen apologized in advance because “it’s the first thing I’ve ever done like this.” She thanked everyone for putting their faith in her. She knows she hasn’t been able to come to a lot of stuff lately with her job, so thank you. As she previously stated, they had to move the deadline up a little bit. It has to be 60 days before the State Convention, so she’s hoping to get it out by February 28th, which means she’d like to have everything in by February 20th, if at all possible. There is not a lot more going on than that. She feels she is continuing to get better as she learns what is supposed to be on it and how it’s supposed to come out.

GLOBAL ACTION TEAM: PDG Debbie Cantrell began by thanking everyone that has already registered for the Mid-Winter Forum. If anyone has not registered, forms are available today. They congratulated Lion Jennifer Winkeler on winning the \$25.00 Fire & Ice Restaurant gift certificate at the last meeting. She asked everyone to remember the Patriotic theme, and they have added a by-line of “Let Freedom Ring!” They are loving this and having some fun with the red, white, and blue. All three of them took an entire day off from their normal work schedule and dedicated the day to planning for this very important event for the Missouri Lions. They met with PDG Lou Ann Hathcock and saw some inspirational photos of the decorations she is planning. It was exciting looking at that coming to life. They also worked with Lion Brenda and Lion Jackie at the State Office, as that’s where they met. They thanked each of them for all they’ve done to help the Global Action Team with the MWF. They extended a special thanks to the 2VDGs who are hosting the Friday evening Hospitality night for the MWF. They can’t wait to see and taste what they have in store for everyone. They do have a special surprise they have added that night to Hospitality, so make sure you don’t miss out on that. There will be a photo booth from 7-10 p.m. They’ve got some really nice frames around that, they will be able to “freeze” some memories with those photos so we can pull them out and enjoy them later on. They will have unlimited – so they will be able to take lots of pictures with their Lion family. They hope that everyone has enjoyed dressing their Build a Bear Lions for the MWF. They know they will be blown away with what everyone has come up with. Remember voting for your favorite Lion will be with \$1.00 bills or any bills - \$5s, \$10s, \$20s, or whatever bills you want to vote with! The winning district will get \$200. Second place will get \$100. They will also have the traditional 50/50 going on. PDG Kevin Cantrell will be in charge of that. A very, very special drawing will be held at the banquet. As they have taken on the “Let Freedom Ring” and the Patriotic theme, they thought it was appropriate that all of the veterans that are at the event be entered automatically into a drawing. Lion Carol and her sister made a beautiful, soft, silky quilt (the quilt was shown). If you are a veteran and you’re attending the event, at the banquet your name will be put in the drawing, and someone will take home that quilt. It is so soft. PDG Debbie thanked them for that beautiful donation. They have printed the Event Schedule of the workshops and order of the day. The schedule was passed out to the Council. The schedule will also soon be sent to the State Office, and it will be sent out via email. Lion Orientation is on that schedule. There is a beginner and a next level. They also have Guiding Lions. One thing about the Guiding Lions...some people say they maybe aren’t sure if they really would want to do that. Even if you go through the program and get your Guiding Lion, you never know once down the road how you’ll be able to use it. You’ll still learn something. There are lots of activities.

PCC Joe Foster added that a lot of people have asked for the Guiding Lion training. You will be certified when you leave the MWF. So even if you have it and need to be re-certified, please let the people in your district know. This was something that was asked of the committee, so we got it there and we are going to make it happen. He gave a special thank you. We’ve been working really hard and the State Office has been a blessing, helping us, working with us, providing a place for them to meet. They have helped them with their mailings, so he wanted to give a special thanks to the State Office for all they’ve done to help them and to make this happen.

Lion Carol Deters shared that she had a few registration forms if anybody needed one. She can email it to you, so you can get it out to the clubs. Just let her know.

PDG Debbie added they had talked to the Governors and they really wanted this Lion orientation, so this is a special time. If there are clubs that are growing, invite those new members, get them there to this event. They are going to learn about all kinds of things to set the foundation to continue the excitement of Lionism. So get the new members there, by maybe even sponsoring them to go. Anything you can think of to get them to the Forum. It will be valuable to them. They have planned a special service project for this year. Lion Carol has worked with that. They wanted to have a positive impact on the city where they are meeting. A flyer has been emailed out from the State Office to encourage participation.

Lion Carol shared that they are going to be donating items to the Harmony House in Springfield. Lion Carol is going to set up a meeting that Friday. Hopefully we will be able to do a tour of it. It's just simple items that really don't cost a lot. If any of the clubs want to bring items, just bring them. Lion Carol will take them Friday night, and Saturday morning from 8:30 – 9:30 they will be collecting them. Lisa, who works there, will come and pick up the items, which is a big help. If you have any questions, just let Lion Carol know. Lion Carol was asked to share what some of the items being collected are: women's leggings, pillows, twin size sheets, blankets, comforters, shampoo, conditioner, bath towels, paper towels, canned vegetables and fruits, and condiments. It was asked if all of these items have to be brand new in packaging? Lion Carol said she would find out. PDG Debbie added that she knew at COPE, which is a domestic violence shelter in Lebanon on which she is a board member, they are right now just taking new only because of the pandemic. Usually they do take gently used, so she expects they will be under the same guidelines at this time. She added that their shelter, but not sure if they do too, likes white sheets. They may not care, but that's what is used at the shelter in Lebanon. PDG Debbie clarified that both travel-sized and full-sized shampoos and conditioners are great. The travel-sized are great in case you get someone that comes in in the middle of the night or for kids, so the hotel ones are loved because they are good for a quick shower right when they do an intake. If they are at an extended stay, say they will be there a month or so maybe with children, the full-size are great.

PDG Debbie continued by sharing that the hotel will be providing a grab and go breakfast for the Forum attendees. It won't be a hot breakfast. They have four chefs on staff that are planning a delicious meal the team has selected for Lions. During the dinner again, they will be having a drawing for the First-timers and Early Birds, those that got in before the Early Bird deadline. You'll be in a drawing for a really nice gift there. After dinner there will be more fun. They are not really saying exactly what they are going to do after that, but they think it will be a lot of fun and engage a lot of Lions. They think you want to be there.

DG Anderson gave kudos to the team. She loved the Facebook group they started. As an administrator for some of the different Facebook pages for Lions, she feels they put out so much great content that can be shared to your personal pages or to club pages, so she thanked them for creating that group.

GMT – PDG Debbie commented that there were people wondering about the traveling membership trophy. There are two districts that were in competition – that did have the positive numbers. M5 had 0.07% growth. M6 had a 1.07% growth, so M6 will continue to hold the trophy this quarter. PDG Debbie spoke with PIP Al Brandel. He wanted her to encourage the Lions of Missouri to register for Lions Day at the United Nations. It is coming up March 11-12th. If you are not registered, it's \$110. It is a very exciting event to go to. She has gone for many years and wished more Lions would go. We are the only organization that has a day at the United Nations. We actually helped develop the United Nations, so take a peek at it online and see what it looks like. If you have any questions, contact PDG Debbie. If you have time and are interested, it's a great time to visit New York.

SAVING SIGHT – PCC Larry Boettcher reported that through the first quarter of the year, Saving Sight has already provided tissues for transplant to 948 patients. Vital Tears has processed 3,565 orders. That's just in the first three months of the year. At the December board meeting, the board adopted a committee charge and responsibilities for its Charitable Grants Committee. This is something they created brand new. This committee will serve to assist the Board of Directors in carrying out its philanthropic goals by reviewing and selecting non-profits' requests for monetary grants and bringing those recommendations to the Board of Directors. The requests must be from non-profits with a similar mission of saving, restoring or preserving

sight. The applications will be by invitation only. So they will not be taking applications from 5,000 different little entities across the state, or whatever, coming to us trying to get some money. We want it to be specifically to saving sight, preserving sight and restoring sight. That committee is in the process right now of discussing who they will be inviting this year. At the March board meeting, they will be discussing the recommendation from that committee. This year they know, with the setup of the Quasi-Endowment Fund, they will set aside \$60,000 to be donated this year. They will have that at their board meeting to determine who is going to get the money and how much. He asked if there were questions. The grant committee this year is chaired by Lion Pat Martchink, with 1VDG Pat Scott PDG, DG Michael Sliger, VCC Devin Struttmann, and PCC Ron Campbell. The other thing they did at the board meeting in December is that they reduced the amount of money that KidSight was paying them for the back office support. It has been \$2,200 a month. They have scaled that back to \$500. That's a \$1,700 a month savings to KidSight. They decided for this year to go ahead and "knock that down" to help them out. Something new that is about to happen, it should come out any day now, they are going to send out a survey to all Lions across the state, to get input on their engagement with the Lions, what can they do better, and what other kinds of things can they do together. Everyone should be seeing that, so he encouraged everyone to fill it out and send it in. When that survey comes back and they get it all looked at, PCC Larry will report back the findings. The next board meeting will be Tuesday night, March 8th, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Since there is a convention every weekend in March, they moved the board meeting to Tuesday night so that everyone could attend. They didn't want to leave anyone out. So some they will be able to have on the weekend, but a lot of times they will be "Zooming" it. Their next full meeting will be in Kansas City on Saturday, June 11th, at the headquarters office. They plan on trying to do Zoom going forward at all of their meetings. The one they had in September at the hotel didn't work so well, but they've worked on processes to make that better. You can ask to be part of the one they will be having in March and the same thing with the one they'll be having in Kansas City. They'll be Zooming that as well so you can take part. If you want to attend or get information about the Zoom they will be doing, reach out to pr@saving-sight.org or 800-753-2265. They want to stay engaged. They want to give you information. They do have the Lions InSight newsletter that they are sending out. It goes out shortly after the board meetings. One of the things they recently did was added archives of the past several issues on the website. So when you go there, you click on the link to get it, you can also see the ones that came before if you didn't see them. There were no questions.

SIGHT CONSERVATION – No report.

12:00 – Break for lunch

1:15- Return

CC Bob Noellsch thanked the Rolla Lions for their great facilities and great lunch.

KIDSIGHT – PDG Wayne Cunningham reported for Lion Katherine Patterson-Paronto and shared that she wished she was present, and that she looks forward to seeing everyone at the State Convention. KidSight screened over 28,000 children between July 1st and December 31, 2021. They are very proud of all of their volunteers and staff that helped accomplish that. From January 1 to December 31, 2021, KidSight screened 44,540 children. That's over 18,000 more than they did in the calendar year of 2020. In the packet, everyone can see they are still looking for more volunteers in M6 to cover the district. They have one team and two screeners, but they need more, especially in the middle and upper parts of the district. They are so proud to have won 6th place in the nationwide contest sponsored by Lions KidSight USA. The multiple district will be receiving a banner patch, engraved trophy and a check for \$500. KidSight's board of directors had a retreat on January 22nd. They thanked the Auxvasse Lions Club for providing the community center building for them to use. It was perfect for them. One of the things the board identified was three priorities. One of the things was to recruit more board members. They are looking for people that are interested in helping them build their network of support. They have a lot of work to do and want to have at least nine members by July. They do not have any board members from M5 or M7, but PDG Cunningham noted they are not "tied to districts", nor do they have to be Lions. So if anyone knows someone that is deeply interested in kids and the program, contact one of the board members. The Lion board members are: Dr. Kory Thoma (M1), PCC

Al Blumenberg (M2), PDG Susan Paden (M3), PDG Wayne Cunningham (M4), and PCC Steve Wise (M6). They sure would like to have some other good candidates.

EYEGLOSS RECYCLING PROGRAM –PCC Jesse Hathcock reported for PCC Jeff Hilke. He thanked all the Lions out there that are collecting eyeglasses and getting them to the program. If anyone has any today, he will take them back to Jefferson City. They are receiving quite a few. They've continued to do sorting and processing of the eyeglasses. This month, they had a couple of cancellations due to weather and illnesses, so they work around all of that. They do have a couple other clubs that are interested in coming to Jeff City and doing the process. They continue to give eyeglasses to Concord Baptist Church. They've had about 4-5 smaller shipments, running between 300 – 900 pairs each. They were shipped out to those that requested them. They are slowly getting back into the process. The Covid stuff is sticking around and the major trips are not going out, but they keep doing their end of it. They have plenty of eyeglasses, but they'll make room for more. There were no questions.

EYE MISSION FOUNDATION – DG Struttman shared that this report will be very similar to all the reports since 2019. They still have not been on a mission trip since 2019. They obviously had some high hopes that they'd be going in 2022, but that is uncertain at this point and time. As soon as they can get back out there, they know the need will be great. We know there may be an opportunity to do even more mission trips than they had before, so that will be good. They are still actively recruiting any doctors, technicians or volunteers to go. They are taking forms. If anyone has interest, please let them know. They will put you on the list that they "reach out to". They expect when they start again, there will be some guidelines they will have to follow due to the pandemic. They know to work with Lions InSight out of California and Nevada, they will require that everyone be vaccinated to protect the participants there. For 2022, they are hoping to just be out there. They will bring their tabletop exhibit, hopefully to every district convention, if vendors are allowed. They'll be at the MWF and State Convention. They will give presentations at any point, at a club or in the district, just let them know. They will continue to look for opportunities to maybe do local mission trips, inside the state of Missouri. They are aware that Concord Baptist is already doing that. They have the program already in place, so they need to piggy-back and learn from them.

LIONS BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE MISSOURI BLIND – DG Melissa Anderson shared that last time she had reported she had talked about the new micro-markets that they were working on. They had two at the last Council of Governors meeting. Within the next two months, they will have an additional four. To give some information about what the micro-markets do for them, she noted that they had a convenience store in her office building that was about the size of a large walk-in closet. They had an individual that would sit at a cash register all day long, check people out as they came in, etc. It had fountain soda, fresh coffee, snacks and much more. So they decided to turn that into a micro-market. It was a tester. A lot of blood, sweat, and tears went into that, but they finished it, and it is beautiful. They've given numerous tours of that facility. If anyone is ever in Jefferson City, please give her a call because she would love to show it off. That convenience store was maybe doing about \$500 in sales a week, and somebody was having to sit there for maybe 9-10 hours a day. So if you think about the payroll, on top of the \$500 per week, it was constantly losing money. Last week, that micro-market in her building of about 250 employees, did about \$1,200 in sales, and no one has to sit there all day. They have their cafeteria at the Truman Building making fresh salads, sandwiches, and cheesecake ("We eat cheesecake for breakfast in our building. It's amazing.") That blind manager is helping another one, and they are building a huge network in their program, which is fantastic. They will have two more in the Jefferson City area. There will be one going in in St. Louis in the federal courthouse. Another will be going in in Kansas City in the federal courthouse. On December 20th, DG Melissa took over as the new BEP Director for the state of Missouri. One of her goals is growth. They still have a lot of facilities that are closed right now due to Covid. However, there are employees slowly coming back to the buildings. So what used to be a very large cafeteria, for example, in the federal courthouse in St. Louis, there are currently not enough employees to support that. For a cafeteria, you have to have a minimum of four people there working. They are replacing that cafeteria with a micro-market right now. They are partnering with Dynamic Vending out of St. Louis, who does some sub-contracting vending for them. The company is paying \$32,000 to put the micro-market in for them. LBOMB doesn't have to put a dime in, and they will get 12% commission off of everything that sells. They will stop

losing money. One of her goals is to not have LBOMB not necessarily running any more facilities because that is not why LBOMB is there. DG Melissa wants their blind managers in these facilities. She also just launched a program to go into private businesses. Right now she is working in mid-Missouri with an individual that owns nine nursing homes. All of those nursing homes have vending machines in them for guests, and for residents and staff. One of them has a small C-store and the nursing home right now is having to pay someone to sit in that C-store. LBOMB can do that, and they will not charge anything. The nursing home won't have to worry about it because LBOMB will have a blind manager that is going to be there every day. Friday was her seven-year anniversary of being associated with this program, and the blind manager that was in the convenience store that was once in DG Melissa's building, in the last seven years, has called in to work sick two times – that's it. He's been there every single day. Their blind managers are the most dedicated people she has ever known. It's really fun to work with them. They do have the courthouse in Clayton back up and running. They were really wanting them back open. They have helped tremendously with getting floors polished, etc. If you think about leaving your kitchen untouched for two years, it's going to be pretty gross. The blind managers were told one day they had to get out, they were closing down. There was still oil in the fryers. They had just run the dishwasher, so there was still soap and detergent in the lines for the dishwasher that has now crystalized. They've had coolers and ovens that have been untouched for the last two years. So right now, they are asking for the state of Missouri's help. LBOMB needs donations because yes, they typically get their matches from the state, but they just paid \$8,000 for a company to come in and clean this facility top to bottom – all the equipment, everything. That was in St. Louis. LBOMB has to bear the full cost of that. That is not something that is covered in the Randolph-Sheppard Act. Thank goodness LBOMB is there to help with those things. That is one of eight facilities that is opening. She is hoping they continue to piggyback off of this and open these facilities. They are going to need some help in doing that. DG Melissa just had a trainee finish in mid-Missouri. The trainee has an interview next week to go into a vending facility that they've grouped together for her. DG Anderson also had a trainee in Kansas City, but unfortunately she had to move back to Colorado. So, they are still looking for individuals to come into the program. They'll have interviews for the assistant supervisor in a couple of weeks. They are looking forward to change and growth in the Business Enterprise Program in LBOMB.

LEADER DOG – DG Phyllis Krebs wanted to remind everyone that Lions are “message carriers”. What happens when an international advocate for women needs a miracle? A divine message was placed by Lions. She shared a story about a lady named Wendy who was working to help women learn to read by the water wells in South Sudan. Her eyesight started to diminish. She was going blind from retinitis pigmentosa. Receiving such a tough diagnosis, she decided to go camping on her own for a week. Wendy said, “I didn't want to fall apart in front of my kids.” From her home in Wisconsin, she went to Bridgman, Michigan, camping on the sand dunes. She made a list of everything she'd miss, including the chance to someday see her grandkids' faces. The concession stand on the beach, happened to have a Lions Club brochure featuring a really cute guide dog from Leader Dogs for the Blind. “I'd never have guessed, seven years later, that organization would make a profound difference in my life,” Wendy said. She didn't fall apart. She said, “I thanked God for saving me from a nervous breakdown. I just decided to not give up. The inspiration I got from by refugee friends gave me the strength to go on. I'm a storyteller and a fundraiser who's committed to positive change. I could still be that person. My life's work now has become decreasing the stigma of blindness and other disabilities caused by ablest attitudes. Only 10% of legally blind people use a white cane or guide dog to go places on their own. When you use these aids, you gain independence, but you also make your blindness known to others. For me, coming out of my blindness gave me my life back.” At first Wendy was embarrassed to be going blind. “Not anymore,” she says. “My goal now is to help others with low or no vision remain independent.” She's dedicated to combating ableism and to improving the safety and accessibilities of environments. As baby boomers mature, Wendy says age related blindness is a growing concern. “I'm sounding the alarm. We are reaching a crisis point. We need more resources to help people with sight loss stay independent.” That is the mission of Leader Dogs for the Blind – it's to help people stay independent. DG Phyllis intended to show a short video that was produced by Leader Dogs for the Blind. It is a thank you from the staff at Leader Dogs for the Blind, but it also contains two people that she wanted the audience to pay really close attention to. It's wasn't going to be anyone in the room, but there was a chance someone might know them. There were technical difficulties with the video. DG Phyllis drew everyone's attention to a recent framed article from the magazine from Leader Dogs of the Blind

(featuring DG Phyllis Krebs, 2VDG Phil Krebs, and LD Gudrun). DG Phyllis shared that on May 20th, a bus will leave from Washington, MO first, then on to the St. Louis area, traveling to Rochester, Michigan to the Leader Dogs for the Blind campus. It is \$100 per person for the bus ticket. Hotel rooms are \$100 per night, and you will need two nights, occupancy is 2-4. You'll spend all day Saturday on campus at Leader Dogs for the Blind. You will get to do a blindfolded walk with a trained guide dog. It's really a great trip. Attendees were able to see some, but hear very little of the video. DG Phyllis pointed out that the first gentleman was from northern Missouri, and there was a lady from the St. Louis area. DG Phyllis asked Lion Amy Bell if the video could be posted on the website so it could be viewed. The first part was a thank you from the CEO, the lead veterinarian, some of the heads of the department for Orientation and Mobility and leaders of the guide dog program. There are still tickets available for the bus trip if anyone is interested. Two more people signed up on the day, and she would love for anyone else to go. It's a great trip.

MID-SOUTH LIONS SIGHT AND HEARING – PDG Lisa Alexander reported that Mid-South will be celebrating their 80th year of miracles. It will be March 11-12, 2022, at the Hilton in Memphis, Tennessee. They will also be conducting their quarterly meeting on Saturday. The celebration will take place on Saturday evening at 6:00 p.m. The featured speaker for that evening will be PIP Jimmy Ross. They will also have an induction into the Hall of Honor. The people being inducted will be PID Howard Jenkins from Mississippi, and Lions Brad and Mona Baker. They would love for everyone to come and join them for that event. Everything will be held at the hotel. The rate for the hotel is \$139 +tax per night. Please make your reservations right away if interested in attending. There will be a Friday night reception for PIP Jimmy Ross. Saturday morning there will be a brunch. Full registration includes the Friday reception, Saturday brunch, and the banquet on Saturday night. The total cost for that event will be \$100 per person. The 80th Anniversary dinner, if only attending the dinner, will be \$75 per person. The luncheon will be \$35 per person. Visiting Lions Day will be Saturday, April 2, 2022. Please come to Mid-South to see what they do, learn more, and meet the doctors. They would love to see everyone. There is a full program scheduled that day. Registration is online at www.midsouthlions.org. The 2022 Mid-South Lions Golf Tournament is scheduled for Friday, June 3rd. The next day they will have a quarterly meeting in Memphis at the Hamilton Eye Institute. The golf tournament will be in Mississippi. If interested, all of the information is available on their website or contact any member of their team. They would be more than happy to give you additional information. They would love to see everyone. No one loves you and your money better than Mid-South.

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE- 1VDG Leon Hove did not have much to add to DG Jene Crook's financial report. They started out with an investment of \$100,000 back on June 18, 2019. Like she said, at the end of the year, we had a little over \$126,000. That's almost a \$9,000 increase during the year 2021. 2022 is a little different. We've lost 5% through January 27th – down to \$119,350 at the close of business last Thursday. He does not know what happened yesterday (Friday). He knows the market went up, but he can't report the figures. We lost 5%, and the Dow was down almost 10%, so that shows how conservative our investments are. Most people say the market is going to go up this year, by some percentage, but nobody knows. If anyone does know, he'd like to know because he'd like to know where to put the money – his own and the Lions'. It's going to be a rollercoaster ride, but still history bears out that the best place to have your money invested is in the market over time. There were no questions.

MULTIPLE DISTRICT LEO PROGRAM – No report.

LIONS OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTH COMMITTEE – Lion Toni Mahoney reported the committee has not met since the October Council of Governors meeting, and there were no donations to their programs during this past quarter. Lion Toni shared she is a little confused in reference to the Multiple District Leo and the Youth Committee. No one has shared with the Youth Committee in reference to this Multiple District detail. She has talked with DG Pedersen about a gentleman that was going to step up for this position and she thought it was a "Multiple State" but it is listed as a "Multiple District" report. She wanted to know who is over this Multiple District Leo? Someone commented that that is currently a vacancy. So it's just a "slot" at this point. She commented that communications with the Youth program, since they think they are taking care of the Leos, would be greatly appreciated. Lion Toni stated she was contacted by 1VDG Sandy McCann, and she shared that they have contacted the St. Louis school system. There is someone in place that is

interested in working with the Lions Leo program. 1VDG Sandy will keep us posted on that. This is a great leadership program for our youth and future Lions. The committee encourages all Missouri Lions Clubs to sponsor a Leo (Alpha or Omega). Lion Toni shared that M7 has the winning Peace Poster. They look forward to having the poster winner at the State Convention, along with their parents, at the luncheon. She encouraged displaying the winning Peace Posters from all seven districts at Convention. It would be a great opportunity to let all Lions from across the state see those. The committee has approved a Youth Camp Exchange for July 2022. They are hoping they will get participants. She has one young man she has accepted, but she accepted him back from 2019 and his age is still in the age range. She has received two female applicants. They are youth from the ages of 17-19 for our camp. The range is actually ages 15-21, but we accept youth from 17-19. They will arrive on Friday, July 1st, and depart Monday, August 1st. Camp will be at Camp Brimshire in St. James, Missouri, starting July 24th – July 31st. Host families will be needed from Friday, July 1st – Wednesday, July 13th. They try to split them up through different host families so they can get them all across the state of Missouri. In the past, they haven't really been able to accomplish that, but she keeps hoping for the future that the program will take off and all Lions across the state will understand how important this is. This is an international program to have our youth understand the differences in cultures and such. The second session for host families is from July 13th – July 24th. They want Missouri youth, ages 15-21 also to participate in this program. It is an exchange program. We send a child; they send one back the following year. It's a very rewarding experience for all involved. Lion Toni knows many people in the room have either hosted or sponsored luncheons – Jefferson City really stepped up to the plate in reference to this, so kudos to them. They do have two requests from youth in this area, they are from the St. Louis area. They haven't followed through with the paperwork, but they have asked for the paperwork, so that's a start. The Youth Committee has a representative from each district that their clubs can contact for more details.

PCC Larry Boettcher stood and explained the Multiple District Leo position is an international level position that was instituted back in 2016-2017 because at that time the Leos of Missouri were coming forward, asking to become a Multiple District themselves, which is what is needed for International. So that position that is on the agenda, is for the person that would be leading that up for the state, overseeing the Multiple District Leo itself, which has a whole different Constitution & By-Laws. Unfortunately, nothing ever happened to it after that point, once we got it started. That's why it's there. PDG Greg Gilliam was initially in there for the first two terms we had, but since then, nothing has happened to it. That's where that came from.

Lion Toni asked if there were any questions and if there was anyone interested in hosting. There were no questions or volunteers.

MISSOURI PIN TRADERS – No report.

RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS – DG Anderson moved that the committee reports be received. The motion was seconded by DG Phyllis Krebs, and the motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

QUALITY LION AWARDS – Two were presented from M2.

WAIVE ATHLETIC COMMITTEE DEBT – DG Devin Struttmann came forward to state that at the last Council Meeting there was a lot of discussion about this deficit for the Athletic Committee. He shared that the Council talked for a long time about how best to handle that. As everyone is aware, they did waive the \$1,500 fee to the State Office for this Council year. They had also paid that \$1,500 in the Council year before that. We know there was no football game that year, but the State Office did a certain amount of effort before that was canceled. DG Devin said that to preface this motion.... DG Struttmann moved to forgive the current amount, \$482, and add an additional \$500 from that \$1,500 that they paid in the 2020-2021 Lions year. DG Sliger seconded that motion. CC Noellsch stated that it would come from reserves, he assumed? Parliamentarian PCC Terry Boettcher commented that that was going to be his next question, because that was not part of the motion, how are you going to pay for that?

DG Struttman then amended his motion to say that they will forgive the current debt of the State Athletic Committee, \$482, and add an additional \$500 and that that money come from reserves. DG Sliger seconded his amended motion. The motion carried.

POLICY MANUAL COMMITTEE: SET FUTURE JULY MEETING WEEKENDS – CC Bob stated that this was discussed last time. We now need a motion to “firm that up”. Do we want it on the fourth weekend of July or some other date? DG Phyllis Krebs commented that being that GPLLI is on the fourth weekend, they are concerned for a conflict with attendance at Council of Governors impacting GPLLI. There are a lot of people that would need to be at both places, so she moved that the COG of July 2022 be held on the third weekend.

DG Struttman then stood and noted there is some confusion on the dates because there are five weekends in July this year. Great Plains is actually July 28th – 30th. The fourth weekend is actually July 23rd/24th.

DG Krebs then amended her motion to state the Council of Governors meeting be held on the fourth weekend of July, July 22-23. DG Anderson seconded the motion.

PCC Al Blumenberg asked, “The way it’s reading here, I’m not sure it’s talking about the future as in all times, or this particular year?”

CC Noellsch then asked DG Phyllis if her motion was just for this year or from here on? She replied it was just for this year. CC Noellsch clarified that this motion was for this year. The motion then carried.

CC Noellsch reminded the 1VDGs to select and pay for the State Convention Hospitality Rooms. 1VDG Jennie will take the checks.

MULTIPLE DISTRICT LEO COORDINATOR – CC Noellsch noted, as previously mentioned, we are still in need of a Multiple District Leo Coordinator. So if anyone is interested, let him know, or if you know of someone that might be, talk to them. We really should get that filled.

NEW BUSINESS:

CC Noellsch noted, as stated at the beginning of the meeting, PCC Walt Hamer resigned from his Protocol Chairperson position. PDG Debbie Cantrell has agreed to do it. He asked for a motion to make her the Protocol Chairperson for the rest of this Lions’ year. DG Pedersen moved to make PDG Debbie Cantrell the Protocol person for the remainder of this fiscal year. DG Jerry Reaves seconded the motion and it carried.

APPROVE SUBMITTED COMMITTEE BUDGETS – DG Noellsch clarified that the Athletic Committee did not submit a budget, but the Band Committee did. He asked for a motion to approve the submitted Band Committee budget. DG Crook moved to accept the proposed budget for the Band Committee for the year 2021-2022. DG Sliger seconded the motion. There was a clarifying question if the budget was indeed for 21-22? DG Soph replied that this is a revised budget. It was originally adopted in October. CC Noellsch clarified it is for the remainder of this fiscal year. DG Crook added that their fiscal year is October to September, rather than July to June. The motion carried.

MOTION TO UPDATE THE POLICY MANUAL RE: INVESTMENT COMMITTEE – DG Crook moved to revise the statement in the Policy Manual to allow for the Investment Committee to accept investments from state committees that choose to invest excess funds. The wording probably needs to be “Council annual budget or such committees that may choose to invest.” DG Sliger seconded the motion.

PCC Al Blumenberg asked, "Do you need any clarification on who is investing the money, or more specifically are you going to allow those committees to say 'I want to put it in this fund or that fund'? Or is that the decision of the Investment Committee?"

CC Noellsch replied it was his understanding that with this wording, they would be required to continue with the requirements of the administrative funds. He asked if that was correct? DG Crook confirmed yes.

PCC Joe Foster added that to clarify, "Committees are going to give their money to the Council to invest it as they want? The Council has a policy for investment, committees do not. So, it took us like five years to get a policy to invest with the Council. So now we are saying that the committees are going to give their money to the Council to invest as the Council so feels, without any other kind of policies or limits or limitations, or any of the above?"

CC Noellsch followed by saying, "It would be up to the committee to determine the amount and yes, I think they would just let the Council follow the same allocations." DG Crook added, "Follow the same allocations that the Council is using."

PDG John Preston commented that it is his understanding "that it is not up to the Council of Governors to do anything with the money that any committee decides to give to the Investment Committee. The Council of Governors has already granted authority to the Investment Committee to invest the money according to the parameters we set up to the Investment Committee. If the Hearing Committee decides to give them \$25,000, the Hearing Committee can't say, 'I want \$15,000 in Ford Motor Co. or \$10,000 in Cigna Hearing.' We give the money to the Investment Committee, and they invest it as the brokers and the Committee decides what is best for the market that day." There were multiple confirmations that what PDG Preston was saying was accurate. PDG Preston felt that answered everyone's question. He continued, "The Council of Governors don't say 'Here's how you're going to invest the money.' The Investment Committee does it." Again, there were multiple affirmations to what PDG Preston was saying.

1VDG Leon Hove added, "The Wells Fargo broker has agreed that if any additional funds come to them, they will keep them as a separate entity within that same broad, current investment policy. So, to use his example, if the Hearing Committee wanted to invest \$25,000, it would go into the same funds that we are currently investing in, but they would get a separate statement, it would be a separate sub-account under the Missouri Lions Fund. Does that answer what would really happen?"

Lion Amy Bell then asked if we had resolved "how the payment to adjust the auditing will be handled? Because according to last meeting, Brenda had said it's a couple hundred dollars every time another fund is added to their spreadsheet."

1VDG Leon Hove responded, "Some of us are asking the question about why there has to be that charge. Some people have to talk to the accountants before anything gets finalized."

Lion Amy Bell responded, "Shouldn't we have that answer before we approve giving money to the Investment Committee and incurring these charges?"

1VDG Leon stated, "You're not incurring them until somebody gives the money to invest."

CC Noellsch added, "All we are doing now is revising the Policy Manual, but yes, before a committee would want to do that, you would want the answer to that question, because there may be a \$250 per year charge."

Lion Amy Bell asked, "Are you right now approving that committees can start giving their money to the Investment Committee?" CC Noellsch replied, "Yes." Lion Amy followed with, "Then who's going to cover that charge for that line item?" CC Noellsch replied, "The committee." Lion Amy stated, "That's not in your proposal."

DG Sliger stated, "If the committee decides to invest \$25,000 as a number, and there is a charge for them to invest it, as it is right now, that's part of their investment when they invest it. We're not going to put it in the Policy Manual..."

Lion Amy Bell interjected, "The charge is not to invest it, the charge is to update the books and for auditing purposes at the State Office. That's what has to be paid to the accountants that manage the books."

CC Noellsch responded, "I don't know if it needs to be in the Policy Manual. I think that's understood by anybody investing money, that if there is an expense, they pay it."

Lion Amy Bell stated, "Well, I think you are going to have committees thinking that the State Office is going to absorb that versus the committee being charged that extra fund. I just think you need to be clear on that – that any fees associated with this investment, including updating and auditing – will be passed through to the committee. If you all don't feel that way, that's fine, but that's something I think should be clear in the policy."

DG Struttmann shared, "We don't want to overlook the fact that the State Office, at the last Council meeting, did express grave concern about the time it was going to take, and I don't know if Lion Jackie or someone from the (State Office Committee), Eugene, if you have anything to add to that? Lion Brenda obviously is not here, and I think that's what Amy is referring to."

DG Crook added, "She's also referring to the \$250, per spreadsheet..."

DG Struttmann stated, "But that's been waived, right?" DG Crook replied, "No, that has not been waived."

DG Struttmann added, "Then there is two different things we are talking about."

CC Noellsch asked if there was any more discussion?

PID Donal Knipp commented, "I think if the Hearing Committee, for example, has \$25,000 to invest, they ought to use it for hearing. They ought to help people with their hearing. I don't know anybody in the state that gives us money, to Hearing or anything, to invest. They are giving it to help people. I don't have nothing against investments, but I just think it should be used to help people."

PCC Al Blumenberg added, "Then why are we allowing those committees to even have 30, 40, \$50,000?"

PID Donal agreed saying it ought to be used.

IPDG Theresa Kee said, "I just wanted clarification that if a committee does decide to invest, the returns do come back to that committee?" There were multiple "yesses" to that.

There was a vote on the motion and it carried.

DISCUSS BAND DUES - CC Noellsch started by saying there was some discussion earlier. He asked if there was more discussion. They will follow Policy Manual on this – start with Governors, then Vice Governors, and then anyone else.

He asked the Governors if there was any discussion: DG Struttmann came forward and shared a response, "The Multiple District 26 Council is proud of the long history of the Missouri Lions supporting the youth of our state. Many Lions, some in this room, paved the way and made it possible to form a Missouri Lions All State Band that was successful over the course of many years. This created leadership opportunities for many of the youth in our communities. The Lions of Missouri, as well as the individual clubs, were proud to support them. The other primary youth activity, or opportunity, in our state has been the Missouri All State Football game. Of course, this game has not been held since 2019, due to the pandemic. In addition, it has

increasingly been difficult to find players willing and able to participate. We certainly look forward to this event when it can be held once again. We also commend the work of our MD26 Youth Committee. It has been instrumental in promoting the Peace Poster contest and the Youth Exchange program. To recite our Constitution & By-Laws – ‘It should be the duty of this committee, both in cooperation with and outside the scope of the Athletic and All State Band Committees, to promote youth programs in the Multiple District and to promote interest in Lionism to all the youth of Missouri.’ All the current youth activities are wonderful, but we believe there are many other opportunities to engage the youth of our state, beyond just band and football. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we would offer something for everyone? This could include multiple sports and activities. It would not favor one gender over another. We could, and should, be offering something for all abilities, including those with special needs. Currently, only one youth activity is supported with dues money from our Lions members, and that is the State Band Committee. We understand the history behind this, and we commend the Band Committee, past and present, for the work they have done. However, if our goal is to reach more of the youth of Missouri, and we feel it definitely should be, maybe there is a different way to move forward. What if future dues invoked for the band, be potentially used for other youth program? We are not talking about a dues increase or taking existing revenue from any existing committee. We are simply hoping to provide an opportunity for the Lions members of Missouri to have a say and consider the \$0.70 per member, per year, go into a new youth fund, that would be available for any Council approved youth activity. This would still be open to the band or football activities. It would actually create a common purpose for the Youth Committee, the Band Committee and the Athletic Committee, to work together to promote youth activities and interest in Lionism to all the youth of Missouri. We understand that this is met with concern. It has already been expressed here today. Change is obviously difficult and it may be seen as a disruption to a rich tradition. Some see that this change could be a gain though. A gain that would allow us to reach more of the youth of Missouri, introduce them to Lions, and develop their leadership skills. In closing, I want to first say thank you to the Band Committee for those testimonial letters earlier. We need to hear more of those, but hopefully from all youth activities. It would be great if we had more testimonies from multiple youth activities. Two things: The Band Committee will stay intact. There is nobody in this room that would want to see that not be the case. And, the proposal that would be going on the ballot is not a split of dues between the three committees. It's more of a bucket of money that would be open to any youth, including the existing committees.” There was no more discussion from the Governors.

CC Noellsch then asked if any of the Vice Governors wanted to discuss. There were none.

CC Noellsch then opened the discussion to anyone. PDG John Preston was first. He stated, “Council Chair Bob, when you and I were District Governors in 2017-2018, we sat at this very table, and we had this same discussion. We were fighting with each other just to try to get a band together, and that's when we came up with a compromise of having a Battle of the Band. And here we are again, fighting over the band. I'm disheartened. I'm just disheartened by all of this. And I think you are too. Here we are, four years later. We're in the same spot. Can we please move on? Let's do something and do it right. Vote yes or no. Get it done.”

PCC Jesse Hathcock stood and said, “I have supported both organizations in the past. I believe this particular action right now is extremely short-sided. I understand the vultures circling, waiting to hit on the carcass of the Band Committee and the whole Band program. I understand that. I understand the long-term jealousy that the Band Committee has received state dues. That's part of the issue. If you don't want a service organization, a service program, to receive state dues, do away with that. I remember when we had a massive dues increase a few years ago, to make sure we could print the Lions newsletter for that. Where is that printed newsletter today? What happened to a thousand dollars or more that was voted on, a dues increase, now that we have electronic editions and a lot more Lions and no printing costs. What happened to that money? Where did it go? I recommend that your long-term, Long Range Planning Committee actually take a good hard look at the finances of our dues. Where is that money going? What percentage goes to our administrative functions? Where are we going in the future with the Band program? Yes, years ago, I remember the fight over the Band Committee and the swords came out and punctured that program. We ended up spending thousands of dollars to hire a bunch of old men to parade in front of the International Convention. Why? That was wasted money. You do not need a band at the International Convention.

Hundreds of elements of the convention parade do not have bands. We were always between Michigan and Mississippi. Either they were before us or after us. They would drown out our band. I know that because I went to over a dozen International Conventions. I've been there with parades, and been there without parades. It's a nice opportunity for the kids to get out there, learn about Lions, perform, and showcase their talents. And they were helpful during the International Convention doing things like the Flag of Nations ceremony. They got a kick out of that. They got to go to the International Talent Shows. That was a great opportunity for them to see things they wouldn't see otherwise. But until you decide what's going to happen with the band program, how it's going to be funded, what this Athletic Committee is going to do in the future, you are very premature in this action. Thank you. "

PDG Bill Botzow stated, "No matter what you do, you are not going to have a band for four years. We are looking at 2023 Battle of Bands right now. To put the band back into order, you have to have three people from each district going out and soliciting band members, on a pre-prescribed format of a program to be presented. Now, the only fee they pay to go, covers the cost, it does not cover our administrative costs. Our administrative costs between now and then is less because no one is turning in expenses for travel or meals or lodging or anything. They are eating it on their own. It's going to take 3-4 years to get that band intact to where it belongs. I can remember in Jefferson City, seven rows of students, longer than this room, that were in the band. We can't have the price too high, or they won't come. It's the same thing with football. If you have the football price too high, they won't come. Football has a problem also. If a player signs a contract with a school, college or university, they are not going to let them play because they don't want to lose that person, possibly to injuries that may happen. That's not the case with the band, not one bit. One other thing I'd like to add; I think I said it earlier. Mississippi has a scholarship. If we find the right politician, the right people in Jefferson City, and see what the state of Missouri can offer in scholarships to band students. Mr. Hoover used it as a tool for his band. He recruited from Missouri Lions All State Band for his band. That's why his bands had been so good when he was there."

Lion Amy Bell shared that they had had some of these conversations at their last cabinet meeting about a week ago. A lot of the discussion they had as a district was that kids are not available the way they used to be. "Times have changed. Kids are in sports twelve months a year and that's if they are committed to one sport. If they are committed to multiple sports, they are gone on weekends. They are not available for a band program the way we have it structured now. As for the sports - that's why we are looking at this alteration to the committee for the athletic events. Yes, football's expensive, pads, helmets, etc. They don't own those; we don't own those. That's a cost. So if you do something more like golf, where they have their own equipment, you do something like cross country - they have their own equipment, there is minimal cost. It's all inclusive, for all genders. It opens it up to more youth. As for the band, there are people in marching band, symphony band, they do their competitions all summer long. They are traveling and doing band competitions in the summer, so they are not necessarily available. And there again, all this travel and everything is a very huge cost. So we really need to look at how the times are changing, how the commitments of the children are changing, and really evaluate what can we do, as a State, to include the most youth possible, in the best activities possible. I'm not for one way or against, whether we keep a band, hire a band, or don't do a band at all, and I've done music, so it's not that I don't have an appreciation for that. It's just we really need to look at what is the best use of our funds, our time and our energy, to make sure we are reaching out to the youth in the right way. And engaging them in programs that we can offer them."

PDG Bill Botzow reiterated what he said. "The students pay their way. For the trip." Someone started to interject, "No they don't," and PDG Bill responded, "Yes they do. It costs money to go and they pay their way. Either a club sponsors them or they go out and raise funds."

Lion Amy Bell stressed, "The clubs pay their way."

"Not all clubs. Some clubs do," said PDG Bill.

Lion Amy Bell said, "And that's one kid, when that \$300, \$500, \$900 could help how many kids?"

PDG Bill responded by saying, "You're right, in a way. And I'm right, in a way. We both have a direction going for what's best for the kids. But if parents want to pay that kind of money for them to go..."

Lion Amy said, "But a club shouldn't be paying \$900 for one kid."

PCC Al Blumenberg jumped in saying, "Are we really talking about what the kids are paying? The issue is the \$0.70 that the Lions of the State of Missouri are paying. Should it all go to Band or should it go to something else?"

Lion Amy followed by saying, "Or should we eliminate that and have every committee fundraise themselves?"

DG Phyllis Krebs commented that it was stated earlier that every district in the State of Missouri is below the required 1,250. "I would like to see us focus on all youth, providing them the opportunity to learn about Lionism in other ways. I think it's an opportunity to move forward in a different way, and it requires us taking it to the Missouri Lions in a voting situation, then perhaps that's the way we go. You said you have to have three people from every district out pushing clubs to support this. Is every club going to support it or do they have people that don't want to support it? If it fails, then we have our answer. If it passes, we have our answer. That's all we are asking for, is to put it on the ballot. "

IPDG Theresa Kee added, "I think that there have been some great points made from every viewpoint. And really what's coming from my heart, asking this Council, and the First and Second Vice District Governors, is it does feel very rushed. It does feel very short-sided, but can you do some more research before you go put it to a vote? I want the Band program to succeed. I want Athletic to succeed. I want Opportunities for Youth to succeed. I want Leos to succeed. Does that mean you automatically take \$0.70 away from Band, put it into a bucket and divide that four ways? Let's just say it does. That's \$0.175 per Lion in the State. I understand those programs gain, but it's not a gain overall. So my question is, did you do your research? Did you talk to each of these individual committees? Did you talk to them as a collective before proposing this? I agree, Band has to have some changes. 100%, but where does that put us? How do we move forward? And it seems like you are asking to go vote on something that is going to completely change the scope of our youth activities. Amen. That's great. But it will completely change the scope of one committee and how they operate. So have you done that? Have you approached these committees? Everyone knows that prior to this meeting, Band hadn't heard anything about it - that it was going to come up. So that does make harsh feelings on Band. I think you all know that I want youth programs across the state to succeed. I have no problem with there being one bucket for all of them, but I think that it is rushed and has not had its due diligence. "

1VDG Pat Scott wanted to make a statement in support of the Band. "As a former Band director, I took 45 kids and 5 adults to the Mardi Gras in New Orleans, Louisiana. We marched in two parades. I have never had so darned much fun in all my life. I think I had as much fun as the kids did. And believe me, they saw a lot of things their mothers would have killed me for, but later that year we went to the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia. The same kids, and that was a phenomenal trip. We went by bus both times, which nearly killed us. Eighteen hours one way to Virginia, but we had a blast. There is nothing more camaraderie-building and talent-showcasing than taking a band trip. And with the Athletic Committee, we don't want your money, we just want to figure out a way to get some more money so we can get things back to rolling and get it started again. I support the Band program, but I do understand the other side of wanting to put this money into one pool. For what my opinion is worth."

IPDG Don Soph, the "long, long, long time" Band chair, also shared, "I look around the room and see so many people that have helped out over the years. People that have developed it. PCC Joe Foster developed it for many, many years. A lot of ups and downs. And a lot of changes. Can't leave out the pandemic. There hasn't even been an International Convention, or haven't been traveling to them due to the pandemic. So we wouldn't even be able to find a band that would be willing to go. That's a huge difficulty right now. The

border between the U.S. and Canada just reopened recently. I know how the Council works, I'm a two-time District Governor (trying very hard not to do it a third time, with all the pressure I'm getting from my district), so I know the hard work and dedication and the long hours and the constant visiting and meeting, and reaching out to people. The constant, 'Gosh, I'm going to have to ask this person to do one more thing for me.' It really, really gets to you, I know. It really, really does. However, you know there are four youth programs in Missouri: Band, Athletic, Leos and Youth Opportunities. This should have been something that all committees should have been brought into, to discuss and be a part of. It's very unfortunate that the Band Committee had to find out about this a week before this meeting. That's not right, and that's not fair. Sorry, it's just not. It's unfair to cut the legs out from underneath a program when they are in the middle of trying to set things up and get things going. It's just not fair. I realize people are going to disagree with me, I understand. And I understand the reasoning for wanting to divide up the pool and everything like that, I understand. But to me it's about fairness and getting people involved and including others' input. The Band Committee has supplied everything the Council has asked. We had our language in October – that would have been the time to bring this up, in October. I realize it's not required or anything, but it's general practice that Constitutional language is submitted in October, and everyone looks at it over the next two months, before January. To have it plopped on our desks today, I'm sorry, is just not fair. I realize not a lot of people are going to agree with me. I understand it is their right and option to do that, but I do have to respectfully request that (without the cool jacket that's all I can do anymore is to respectfully request, I can't make any motions), I respectfully request that the Council withdraw the motions and not put them on the ballot. I think that is the most fair thing to do. Get the four youth committees together to work something out. I'm not a voting member, I'm a consultant – from the SOP rewrites that's what we're called now. I think I and Lion Jeff Rackovan are the only two at this time, so please become a consultant, we'd love to have you. We have plenty of openings. I'm sorry I'm getting a little long here, I apologize. I don't think I'm out of line to say the Band Committee would be willing to work on something. (PDG Bill Botzow concurred.) Once again, I respectfully request they be withdrawn and have the four youth committees work on these programs."

1VDG Bill Foglesong stated, "Perhaps the Long Term Planning Committee ought to be given this task to get those groups together to talk about it and have it be part of our task next year maybe to do that in our gray coats' time." There was some applause and agreement to that statement.

2VDG Phil Krebs wanted to make a statement about the Long Term Planning Committee. He shared he had four years in high school marching band in Tennessee. "Stage band – been here, done it. Been on a bunch of band trips. Don't have pictures from them, would never want to have pictures from them. My point here is, the Long Range Planning Committee sounds like a very laudable idea. My question is, if we are all concerned about Constitution and By-Laws, what committees can do what and where and how, I don't think that the Band Committee is within the Long Range Planning Committees' charge? And therefore, if you dump it on them, do they have the right to address that? I don't know. Every committee I've ever seen is defined somewhere. Is, under the Long Range Planning Committee's idea, is the direction of youth programs (i.e. the band), under that charge? If it's not, you've got a problem. You're creating another problem to solve a problem."

PCC Al Blumenberg responded by saying, "I believe the Long Range Planning Committee takes on any assignment that is provided to it by the Council of Governors, regardless of what committee or what issue." Parliamentarian Terry Boettcher began checking.

PCC Jesse Hathcock addressed the Council Chair. "A few years ago, I was standing behind that podium in your position. I received, what I regarded as the epitome of arrogance and lack of coordination. I received a letter from a committee, wanting to increase their assessment against a number of committees, and they hadn't talked to a single one of those committees. Lion Eugene, you were the Leadership Chair at that time. I think it was MERL team at that time? It would affect the Band Committee, the Athletic Committee, a bunch of committees. But that committee had not bothered to talk to anyone. They came up and said, 'We want money. We need money.' Turned out they didn't need the money. They got by throughout the year because the Council did not act on their request. Instead I contacted, in your position, each one of those affected committees. Years ago, I was in the Army. I'm just an old soldier, but I have worked from battalion to the

White House to the NATO Senior Military Headquarters. If I had tried any one of those things, introducing action without coordinating with every committee affected, my head would have been on the chopping block. I told one of my old bosses recently, 'I can never understand how you civilians work.' Even in my career with the state government, I saw actions that affected me and my position, but nobody ever talked to me. That is arrogance. I expect more out of our leadership and if you assign the Long Range Committee a task, they can certainly pull up representatives from every other committee and get their input. That's your coordinating effort. If you are not going to do it as a Council, do it through a committee. Thank you."

Parliamentarian PCC Terry Boettcher read the description of the Long Range Planning Committee from the Constitution and By-Laws. "At the discretion of the Council, it shall be the duty of this committee to carefully examine any and all aspects of Lionism in the State and make recommendations to the Council to improve the operations, policy and impact of Lionism in the Multiple District. Past International Directions, if not District representatives, shall be ex-officio non-voting members of the committee. State and International Lions' employees can and should be consulted. The committee may, at its discretion, consult with as many additional Lions as it deems necessary."

1VDG Leon Hove shared, "While everyone's been talking, I've read and reread what was written down as a change to our Constitution and By-Laws. It doesn't say we are eliminating the Band – any place in there. No place does it say that. It says we want to change the dues and where it's going. That does not mean the Band is gone. It doesn't mean there is not going to be a Missouri State Band. The proposal talks about taking the \$0.70 and directing it to Youth Activities. It doesn't say, 'No Band'. So there is a lot of discussion about 'We're getting rid of the Band'. That's not what it says."

1VDG Bill Foglesong responded, "The last understanding, of what I understand, that's got people upset is the lack of communication between the committees. That's why I suggested that if we cast the Long Range Planning Committee with convening these committees to talk about it, and come to a consensus, then we could have their buy-in and then we could go forward with, perhaps the same idea, but they will at least have had their way to have talked about it. And there will be less ill feelings. That is why I was suggesting what I was suggesting."

IPDG Theresa Kee stated that she completely backed what PDG Don said and appreciate what 1VDG Bill just said. "We understand that the literature does not say anything about disbanding the Band. What we are saying is that it happened so quickly and we are asking for you to recognize that. Right now, the way your literature is proposed, there is no follow up. There is no procedure for what happens afterwards. There is a lot of politics that come into play here, like I referenced earlier, and it's disheartening. So it's up to whoever is seated at the Council, whichever way the wind blows, where they want those funds to go. We hope they'll be fair. And I'm not just speaking about the Band, I'm talking about what if Athletic's in a really bad place or Leos needs \$10,000 to start clubs across the State. It then falls on whoever is in those hot seats to make those calls. Your job, when you are in that seat, is to represent your district. Period. That's your job – that's what you are supposed to be doing. So we are asking, take a breath, we're not saying we are going to let you take the dues away or we don't want you to. Take a breath. Form that committee. Make a task force – go about it the right way. Let us all have input on it and come up with what happens after the vote takes place. What happens after the vote takes place? Have the policies ready. Get those groups all on board to form that before the vote go out."

IPDG Don Soph added, "Just clarification, the committee obviously knows that they're still going to exist if this were to happen. As discussed earlier, band trips are very expensive. This really, really, really hampers our ability to provide for that. That is the point. And we worry about what it's going to be four or five years from now. That's the point. Just trying to clear up the confusion of people thinking the committee is ceasing to exist."

PDG James W. Rosbrugh rose to a point of order and stated, "According to Robert's Rules of Order, an individual may speak to a question once, and once only, until all others have been able to speak."

CC Noellsch noted he thought that was about it.

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS PROPOSITIONS FOR STATE CONVENTION –

Proposition 1: DG Melissa Anderson moved to place Proposition 1, in regards to Marketing Communications Committee updates, on the ballot at State Convention. DG Phyllis Krebs seconded the motion and it passed.

Proposition 2: DG Jene Crook moved that Proposition 2, with regard to Missouri Lions State Band Committee, go on the ballot, “however, we do request that the word ‘All’ be stricken from the ‘All State Band’ and just call it ‘State Band’.” PDG John Preston asked what DG Crook “had just changed?” DG Crook responded, “I just asked that it be ‘Missouri Lions Band’ instead of ‘All State Band’.” She then corrected, “Rather ‘Missouri Lions State Band’ as opposed to ‘Missouri Lions All State Band’. That implies that you are drawing band members from all parts of the State. If we are going to use Battle of the Bands, we are going to be drawing from one school.” CC Noellsch indicated there needed to be a second before it’s discussed. DG Devin Struttmann seconded the motion.

PDG John Preston then asked, “Is it my understanding that what the motion is is to amend Proposition 2 from ‘Missouri Lions All State Band Committee’ to ‘Missouri Lions Band Committee’? Several replied, “State Band Committee.” He followed by saying, “So we are amending the proposition?” He was told they “are taking one word out.” He replied, “All the way through?” He was told, “No.” He then asked, “Well what about down here? (pointing to changes as shown in the submitted report). So, you’re changing the Constitution and By-Laws all the way through the Constitution and By-Laws? Not just to this Proposition 2, but all the way through, because in the Constitution and By-Laws, it states throughout the Constitution and By-Laws ‘Missouri Lions All State Band’. You can’t change this proposition from ‘Missouri Lions All State Band’ to ‘Missouri Lions State Band’ without changing all the Constitution and By-Laws.”

DG Crook then changed her motion. She moved that Proposition 2 be placed on the ballot to require the verbiage changes, as presented, with regards to Missouri Lions All State Band. DG Struttmann seconded the amended motion. It passed.

Proposition 3: DG Phyllis Krebs moved that Proposition 3, regarding the State Athletic Committee, be placed on the ballot. DG Anderson seconded the motion and it passed.

Proposition 4: DG Michael Sliger made a motion to accept Proposition 4 throughout to correct punctuation, semicolons, periods, etc., and spelling. DG James Pedersen seconded the motion and it passed.

Proposition 5: DG Jene Crook moved that they place Proposition 5 on the ballot. “What it does is specify that the Band must use its existing funds before requesting any additional funds from the Council or from a hypothetical Youth Leadership Activities Fund.” DG Devin Struttmann seconded the motion.

Per request for those that couldn’t hear, DG Crook restated the motion that Proposition 5 be placed on the ballot. “You will note on the note above Propositions 5 & 6 the failure of either one will cause both Propositions to fail. We are proposing that the Missouri Lions All State Band Committee must use its existing funds before requesting additional funds from the All State Band fund or the hypothetical Youth Leadership Activities fund.” DG Struttmann repeated his second of the motion.

PDG John Preston said, “You said ‘any other existing funds’ or the ‘hypothetical Youth Leadership’.” He was told no. He said he had heard “hypothetical”.

DG Crook explained that yes, she said hypothetical “because both of those have to pass or neither passes.”

CC Noellsch clarified that at this point, there is no such fund, that’s why she stated “hypothetical”. If everything passes, then that would be the case.

PDG John Preston stated she was changing the wording of the motion where it doesn't need to be changed. "Accept the proposition the way it is, or take it off the ballot, rewrite it and re-present it."

DG Crook acknowledged the word "hypothetical" is not typed. She amended her motion to say, "Proposition 5, with respect to use of funds of Band, should be placed on the ballot to be voted up or down, with Proposition 6." DG Struttman seconded this amended motion.

PDG James W. Rosbrugh commented that he understood "we spent 20 minutes discussing something, the Council chose, at least I understood, to address these two things toward the Long Range Planning Committee. Did I misunderstand something?" Several of the DGs replied to him that the Council did not take that action. He followed by saying, "Then ok, I will be seated, but I feel very strongly that it was the consensus that we do, in which case, both Propositions 5 & 6 are moot."

CC Noellsch explained there was no motion at that time. There was strictly discussion. There was no further discussion on this motion. There was one opposing vote, but the motion carried.

Proposition 6: DG Devin Struttman moved that Proposition 6 be placed on the ballot, as is. DG James Pedersen seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. There were two opposing votes, but the motion passed.

REIMBURSEMENT REQUESTS – CC Noellsch asked for a motion to revise the Policy Manual to require reimbursement requests within 60 days of the expense. DG Phyllis Krebs moved to revise the Policy Manual to reflect that reimbursement requests be submitted within 60 days of the expense. DG Jene Crook seconded the motion. CC Noellsch noted that this isn't really a change, just a clarification. They wanted to make it clearer. The motion passed.

PEACE POSTER CONTEST – CC Noellsch shared that, as was mentioned, M7 had the winning Peace Poster. He did not bring the rest of the posters with him, and M7's went on to LCI. He will bring the other posters with him to the district conventions. There were some great Peace Posters. It was a tough decision. The winning poster came from the Hermann Lions Club. DG Anderson will email the child's name to Lion Toni Mahoney.

LETTERS OF INTENT TO RUN FOR COUNCIL CHAIR – Three letters of intent were turned in prior to the meeting to Council Chair Noellsch. No others were submitted. Letters of intent were received from: DG Michael Sliger (M3), DG Devin Struttman (M2) and DG Phyllis Krebs (M7).

GAT TEAM: CC Noellsch also announced that by the next Council of Governors meeting, which is right before the Convention, they need letters of intent for anybody running for Multiple District GMT, GLT, or GST. Hopefully there are people interested.

PCC Al Blumenberg wanted to share two things. "I just want to say the passion, the discussion, the energy that went in to all of that about the Band, the Athletic, and the Youth Committee – if we would put that same damn passion into our membership, we wouldn't all be transitional. And the other point I was going to make, if we don't do something, all of this is moot because there is not going to be a Lions organization to deal with the Band, Athletic or whatever."

DG Melissa Anderson announced that their M7 District Convention will be held in Holts Summit, MO, March 11-12th. Hospitality night will be at Red Rock Acres event center on Friday night. On Saturday, the convention will be at Canterbury Hill Winery. They will have lots of great speakers. They are treating this as a learning opportunity for the district. They are going to address reporting service projects, how to get new membership. We want everybody to come in the district and throughout the State. She had registration forms, flyers, etc., so let her know.

DG Phyllis Krebs announced that their M6 District Convention will be held March 25-26th at the Venues Church in Springfield, MO. They would love to see as many people across Missouri as possible.

DG James Pedersen announced their M4 District Convention will be March 18–19th. Hospitality will be on the 18th in Chillicothe, Missouri, at the Comfort Inn. There is a block of rooms currently being held, so call and make your reservation. If you are interested in having a table, or needing a table, let him know. Lunch will be served by “Slice of Bread.” Sliced bread was actually founded in Chillicothe, so we’ll plan on having lunch there. Come out and enjoy yourself.

DG Struttman shared that the M2 District Convention will be March 4 – 6th, in St. Louis. You will drive up to the Doubletree Hotel, park your car on Friday, and you won’t have to drive anywhere else until Sunday when you get ready to leave. There will be a big Hospitality on Friday night. The International Director will be Allen Snider from Canada. If you have any interest, see DG Devin, not only will he give you a registration form, but a gift bag with goodies in it.

DG Crook announced that M5 has the first District Convention coming up February 11-12th. It will be at the Courtyard by Marriott in Blue Springs, which is just a little way down I-70 from where they held the State Convention last year. Everyone is welcome. They’d love to see everyone.

DG Reaves shared that if you wanted to have the best convention, show up on February 25th for the M1 District Convention in Farmington, MO. There will be a hospitality night. A lot of good things happening – they are just excited about seeing everyone there. The next day, on that Saturday at the American Legion, they will have the best convention you can imagine.

DG Sliger shared that the M3 District Convention will be April 8-9th in Canton, MO (though may not be the most popular place to have it). It is the home of Culver-Stockton College. Please come and join them. Convention and Hospitality will be held at the Caldwell Building. The hotel is like one mile away. Come and have fun!

TAIL TWISTER REPORT – Lion Kimberly Taylor collected \$276.00 to be split evenly between LCIF and the Memorial Fund.

DG Melissa Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting. DG Phyllis Krebs seconded the motion and it carried.

ADJOURNMENT – 3:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lion Jackie Twehus

Lion Jackie Twehus, Administrative Assistant