

**District 5M2 Cabinet Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2010
City Center Hotel, Mankato, MN**

District Governor Darwin Mathwig called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance led by 2nd VDG Sue Bowman

Invocation: Given by 2nd VDG Sue Bowman

Roll Call: Taken by Lion Cindy Walters, showing 43 present, 10 absent.

Introduction of Guests: International Director Neil Spencer and Adult Companion: Past District Governor Donna Spencer; as always, what happens in Mankato stays in Mankato.

Adoption of Agenda: Additions to the agenda: Quest Program and Technology. Motion to approve by Lion Mike Vos, 2nd by Lion Roger Storms, MC.

Secretary's Report: Everyone was e-mailed or mailed a copy of the minutes. Motion to approve by Lion Mary Spille; 2nd by Lion Lori Klein, MC.

Treasurer's Report: Lion Dale Oldenburg had a copy of his report for everyone. The report showed income of \$57,559.68, expenses of \$29,384.90, Fund balance of \$28,174.78. Reverse side showing Cash Flow 7/1/09 through 2/11/10 total of \$42,927. Second half dues remaining unpaid need to be collected from Mankato Sunrise and Owatonna. Motion by Lion Maynard Rucks to accept the report, 2nd by Lion Shirley Hesperheide. MC.

Communications: Two cards are being sent around for signatures: one for Linda Curtis, who broke her hip vacationing and one for Norma Syverson, who is in recovering from an infection. There is also a large card in the lobby for PDG Lowell Peterson who had a stroke. He is at Silver Bay in the Veteran's Home.

PID Maynard talked about the fact that 16 years ago the district was given a low vision reader, a month ago Gordy sent an email saying the reader was available for a new recipient. Maynard received a thank you card from the person who was given the low vision reader. He read it to the Cabinet. The Green Isle Lions club has one also which is currently available if someone needs it.

Lion Gordy is going to pass out a sheet for the Cabinet to fill out for PID Maynard Rucks with 8 questions. Everyone should write one answer to each question and return to the survey to PID Maynard at the break.

Old Business:

1. **MD5M 2011 Convention:** PID Maynard Rucks, DG Darwin Mathwig – 3 day special is going to be offered to this Convention - \$77 registration fee. Grants have been received from the business bureau and food prices have been set, 30 clubs have given donations, 32 clubs have not and will be given a second letter tomorrow. Typically the multiple convention has been hosted by a club or two, not typically by a whole district. We will need many volunteers and are hoping for 750-1000 participants. DG Darwin requested that everyone please say yes if asked to be involved in the planning.
2. **LCIF Grant/Glencoe Lions:** PDG Bill Curtis is in Arizona. The next opportunity to be heard is in April. All the material has been submitted.
3. **DGE International Convention Expense:** PDG Wayne Neubarth. Proposed dues increase amendment has been sent to LCI. The mandatory 30 day notice was sent out to all of the clubs. It will be on the agenda tomorrow. The dues increase, if it goes through, will pay the balance of a fare for an adult traveling companion of the DG to attend the International Convention. LCI will pay the first \$500 toward the cost of travel. This does not apply to this year's DG. PDG Mike Vos made a

motion to take the funds in the budget to pay for one adult traveling companion expenses this year, Lion Paul Stahler seconded. Money was put in the fund for just this purpose. MC (Point of order: during the break past minutes were reviewed and this item was previously approved at the Jungle Days Cabinet meeting in August.)

4. Mid-Winter Convention Report: PDG Mike Vos reported that Zone 5 Lions are ready to put on a great convention in Mankato this weekend. So far we have 297 Lions, 3 Lioness, 8 Leos and 76 guests. There are 34 first timers. Plan for a fun filled, informational weekend on Gilligan's Island.

New Business:

1. Lions Quest: Lion Cathleen Williams reported that the co-chairs have been spreading the word about Quest. There are many teachers wanting the training but there is not enough money to provide it. There is only \$3809.01 in the Quest account. The cost last year was \$11,000. Chairs of the program were wondering if the money that was taken out of their account for youth activities (\$6,900) could be put back. Lion Nancy Mathwig gave some background regarding the reason the money was transferred out of Quest. It was because Youth Outreach is the main category heading not Quest. So it wasn't really Quest dollars. The Chairs of the activities helped set their budgets according what their needed amount would be. Youth Outreach includes Peace Poster, Write Off Candidates, Liberty Day and Leos. \$3,000 of the money has already been spent on the designated activities. They have submitted a grant request to International that they didn't hear back on. The cost is \$12,000 for 40 teachers; minimally \$4,000 for 12 teachers but it doesn't include food, facilities, materials to take back to the classroom. A question was brought up questioning whether the local Lions clubs were/or should be more responsible for the costs. PDG Rick Wagener commended Mike and Cathleen on the job that they have been doing to get the information out regarding Quest. Teachers have been trained in Cologne, Norwood, Waconia, Chaska. Winsted is interested in K-12. PID Maynard suggested more strongly that the local clubs be informed prior to the training and possibly involved in the planning. One of the main directives of Core 4 Grant Requests is to support Lions Quest. Lion Paul Stahler offered to help write the grant. Lion Nancy Mathwig made a motion to transfer \$2,000 from YE to Lions Quest for this year to use toward training, PID Maynard Rucks seconded; Lion Dale Oldenburg commented that YE is a dedicated fund and perhaps clubs will look twice when writing their check since it was written to YE specifically. Lion Mathwig rescinded her motion and then made a motion that the transfer of \$2,000 come out of Youth Activities instead of YE, PID Maynard seconded. MC. This transfer of funds is in addition to pursuing the Core 4 grant. The District expressed strong support for the Quest program now and in future years. With the strong advocacy of the current program chairs, the demand for the program will only get larger and the District's intention is to support Lions Quest to the extent possible.
2. Computer: Computers are showing their wear. One computer today could not hook up to the projector. Lion Lori made a motion use \$1,000 to purchase a new computer, Lion Nancy Mathwig seconded. Lion Dale Oldenburg commented that there is \$900 in the budget. PID Maynard stated that should be more than sufficient since he recently purchased a computer for less than \$900. MC

Region/Zone Reports:

Region 1 Lion Janet Hall reported that the total membership in Region 1 is 1107, up 13 since Fall Cabinet Meeting. All clubs are doing a wide variety of successful project and doing a good job of getting their M & A's in. Zones are getting ready for Spring Zone meetings coming up.

- Zone 1 Lion Duane Jindra – Starting members 281 one drop and two died as of February 1st – 278 members. Donations and activities: \$1000 to Haiti, Mints and fruits to Long term residents, Eye Bank \$1068, \$246 Hearing Foundation, \$500 to Kids Against Hunger, \$200 to 3rd grade dictionary, Helped with Pinewood Cub Scout Derby, \$75 toys for tots, Food shelf 218 # and money, \$100 Mcleod County Alliance, \$50 Confidence Learning Center, \$600 Connect Care, \$270 Lions Football Sponsorship, \$1000 Diabetes, Money to Camp New hope, Clubs giving to parade of green, Breakfast and dinners for needy, Holly Days and Chili feed, Spring brunch, Breakfast for Birchwood House, Meals for shut ins, Blood drive, Some clubs Incorporated, Peace and Write off essays winners chosen. (e-submit)
- Zone 2 Lion Marvin Grimm – 7 clubs in Zone 2. Membership is at 462. Plus 2 from last Cabinet

meeting. Chaska Leo Club had 41 members on their Charter event. Spring Zone 2 meeting will be hosted by Chaska Lions on March 29, 2010. Club visits, Chaska Leos Charter Night, Chaska Lions Board Meeting, Carver Lions and Mayer Watertown Dandy Lions, where 2 new Lions were inducted. All M & As have been on time. (e-submit)

- Zone 3 Lion Harry Klenke – There are 8 Lions Clubs in Zone 3. Belle Plaine has 30 members, Jordan has 57, The Jordaness has 36 members, New Market-Elko-Webster has 60 members, Prior Lake has 37 members, Shakopee has 96 members, Shakopee Valley has 18 members, and Veseli has 29 members. We are up from 358 to 363. All clubs in the Zone have been visited. Last visit was with Jordaness on Wednesday evening, where they were welcoming a new prospective member. When the night was over she filled out her application for membership and signed up to help with their fish fry next month. She also mentioned somebody else who she and another member said they would like to have join their club. Our Zone meeting will be held April 12 at the Shakopee VFW. It will be hosted by the Shakopee Valley Lions.

Region 2 Lion Kevin Blank. Region 2 consists of Zones 4, 5 and 6 which includes 19 Clubs and 4 Leo Clubs. Region 2 has 786 members, which is down 4 from my October report. He has received all M&A's electronically and for the most part on time, which has been great! He attended Zones 4, 5 and 6 fall meetings, which were well attended and with the new format, well received. I look forward to attending the spring meetings as well. (e-submit)

- Zone 4 Lion Dennis Hewitt reported Zone 4 has 6 clubs. Zone 4 spring meeting is scheduled for April 5th at Gibbon. All Zone 4 clubs have been very busy with holiday sponsored events, many fund raising breakfasts and events, bingo and other fundraising activities. All clubs have also been very generous with their donations and givings. Everyone is looking forward to spring and all the activities to come with it. (e-submit)
- Zone 5 Lion Donna Wolter – There are very active clubs in Zone 5. They started the year with 246 members in 7 clubs and as of 01/31/10 there is membership of 243, a loss of 3. Hosting midwinter and monthly meetings have been held with all 7 clubs participating, cooperation has been wonderful during this experience. Some activities include: Santa Day, Bell ringing for the salvation army, Christmas parade, pancake brunch, senior dance, benefit for local child, wrapping gifts for Santa's helpers, serving refreshments at wedding dances, etc. Donations have been made to Noah's Ark, Friendship Ventures, local school districts, Campaign Sight First, Phase II, LCIF, Post prom parties, local food shelves, Leader Dog, Courage Center, Haiti Relief and many more. The Zone 5 Spring meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 31 hosted by the Arlington Lions. It will be held at the Vets Building on the Sibley County Fair Grounds in Arlington. (e-submit)
- Zone 6 Lion Bruce Lieske – Zone 6 has six Lions clubs including Faribault, LeCenter, Lonsdale, Montgomery, Northfield, and Northfield Cannon Valley. LeCenter has 50 members currently. Upcoming project the Omelet breakfast on Sunday 2/28/10. Faribault has 64 members currently. Completed Peace poster contest and Super Bowl Sunday Pancake and Sausage feast. Lonsdale has 40 members currently. Upcoming project Pancake breakfast on 3/21/10. Northfield has 40 members currently. Completed Salvation Army Bell Ringing. Northfield Cannon Valley has 33 members currently. Completed the clubs 25th anniversary celebration and awarded 2 Melvin Jones Fellows. Montgomery has 36 members currently. Completed the Scrap booking fundraiser and donated to Haiti relief fund. The zone 6 clubs have had a very busy fall schedule! Zone meeting will be held April 19 in Faribault.

Region 3 Lion Lyle Hinz reported that there are 20 clubs in the regions with membership of 626 currently (up from 616). He then called on the zone chairs from Region 3.

- Zone 7 Lion Janet Knakmuhs – All the clubs have been sending their reports via e-mail. One club is behind in sending their monthly reports. Fall meeting in Winnebago, November 4. It was well attended with all clubs having representatives. The Merlo project was introduced by our Governor and it was well received. Spring in Lake Crystal March 22. RSVPs due March 12 and the cost will be \$12 at Lakes Bar and Grill on Lake Street. The venue is not handicap accessible. All the Clubs are trying to get new members, but with towns being small and many residents already belong to other groups and there is an aging population, it has been somewhat hard to recruit new members. All the

clubs have been working hard and having good fundraisers for the various Lions Club projects.

- Zone 8 Lion Allie Larson – 6 clubs in Zone 8, membership is 219, up from 214 in October of 2009. A sampling of club activities include: donations to Food Shelf, Toys for Tots, Dictionary project, pancake breakfast, comedy night fundraiser for diabetes, constitution books, hosted Lions programs, donated to youth baseball, medical/family hardships, City of Waterville Fire Truck Equipment, equipment for Autistic child, Peace Poster, Pork Chop Dinner, Pie Sales, Bowling event, Scholarships, After Prom Parties, Thanksgiving baskets, and many more. Spring Zone meeting will be hosted by the Owatonna Lions Club on April 27, 2010 in Owatonna at the Eagles Club.
- Zone 9 Lion Bill Bowman – Zone is up to 244 members. The following activities occurred: The Albert Lea Lions gave \$50.00 to the Spring Barrow Show, \$100.00 to the Honor Guard for new military uniforms. They also donated \$1300.00 to LCIF for the Haiti relief fund. The Cloverleaf lions were informed about hearing dogs from Darlene & Vern Bremer. The Cloverleaf club rang the Salvation Army bell during the first part of December; also the cloverleaf club went to the local nursing homes, and gave rides to Sr. citizens and took them to the Lutheran Church for coffee and rolls. The Albert Lea Lakeview Club Volunteered for service at the food pantry, presented two Helen Keller sight awards and purchased glasses for two students. The Alden Club is preparing for the upcoming zone 9 meeting in April. The club has completed their Christmas dinner theater where they raised \$3000.00 and then donated the proceeds to the Alden Conger PTA to resurface the school's tennis courts. The club also continues their meals on wheels project. The Blue Earth Club held their annual pancake supper at St. Lukes Lutheran care and assisted residents to their rooms. On January 10th the club raised \$1200.00 for lions sight and other local projects. The Kiester Lions held their annual Christmas tree sale during December as a fundraiser.. The Minnesota Lake Lions completed their Mankato toy show fundraiser, and filled candybags for Santa. They also sponsored the sharing tree at Valley Bank and gave out 80 toys to needy families. They also presented one Melvin Jones award. The Wells Lions completed the Blandin Community leadership program. The club is continuing with their meals on wheels program and have been assisting the elderly with recycling. Zone 9 Spring meeting will be April 6 in Alden at the Town Hall.

DG Darwin thanked the Region and Zone Chairs for their work the past 7 months as well as commented on membership. The are down slightly and he feels confident that we can make up that loss. Format for upcoming Zone meetings will include input from zone meeting presidents regarding what take aways they had from the fall zone meetings. Program chairs are welcome to present at the spring meetings but are asked to keep programs short to ensure a timely meeting.

1st VDG Comments: 1st VDG Eunice Rucks addressed the cabinet with appropriate protocol. Please limit your report to two minutes per committee. Thanks to all of you for your work and please vote for VDG Eunice tomorrow.

Committee Reports:

Computer & Technology Support: Lion Steve and Lion Lori have been busy doing a variety of technological tasks. As questions arise about the M&A, they are handled as quickly as possible. Clubs have been inquiring about website options and development on a local level and assistance has been given via the phone or e-mail. District website maintenance and updates have been occurring as new information is available or requested event flyers are received from clubs. Many e-mail blasts have been sent to individual Lions or Club Presidents/Secretaries as requested from DG Darwin and the Mid-Winter Convention Committee. Braille programs were embossed for the Mid-Winter Convention. We are looking forward to working with VDG Eunice in developing the M&A for the upcoming Lions year and Secretary Training for the Spring 2010.

Constitution & By-Laws: PDG Wayne Neubarth reported that an amendment has been drafted to increase the 5M-2 annual dues by \$0.50 per member. The amendment and the rationale were submitted to the legal department of Lions Clubs International for approval. After approval by LCI the same was sent to all clubs in 5M-2 on January 6, 2010 giving the formal 30 day notice prior to our business meeting on February 13, 2010. The amendment will presented for adoption at the Annual Business Meeting.

Conventions: PDG Rick Wagener he has two more presentations to give at Silver Lake Lions and Victoria Lions, for a total of 4 so far. He has received updated material from Spring Point and will be incorporating that into his presentations. He will have some pamphlets available at the Mid-winter convention for clubs interested in information. He just received info on the U.S./Canada Leadership Forum and will have some pamphlets available at the convention "Road to Milwaukee".

Diabetes Foundation: Lion Arne Leen reported The Minnesota Lions Diabetes Foundation, Inc. partners with the U. of M. Schulze Diabetes Institute and Spring Point Project seeking a cure for diabetes. The Minnesota Lions Diabetes Foundation, Inc. is continuing to form and make long range plans the long range plan will be submitted to the Council of governors for approval at the April Multiple Convention.

- The Park Nicollet International Diabetes Center will no longer be caretaker of Lions Diabetes Funds. All funds held by Lions Districts will be transferred the Minnesota Lions Diabetes Foundation, Inc. District 5M2 has \$1,195.00 that will be transferred.
- The Minnesota Lions Diabetes Foundation, Inc granted 6 grants at its January 23 meeting totaling \$9,968.33. Two other grants were denied at this time, because of fund shortage and waiting approval of Council of Governor approval of long range plan. Grant application forms will be available on the District 5M2 website.
- We have three Dream Catcher Awards to present and have two additional awards requested.
- Banner patches. Each Club or member that donates \$1,000.00 per year will receive a banner patch the first year and a progressive patch there after.
- Lion Arne Leen and Lion Roger Storms continue to make club visits and welcome your calls to schedule future visits.
- Lions clubs International is publishing a new DIABETES AWARENESS newsletter to keep us informed and promote November: Lions Diabetes Awareness Month and World Diabetes Day! Please visit the Lions Web site www.lionsclubs.org for more information.
- Diabetes screening Saturday, February 13th 7:30-10 outside Palmer-Jackson Room.
- The District 5M2 Diabetes Fund will now support Camp Needle Point Camperships at 50% of Camp Fee cost. Camperships will be paid to local Lions clubs as in the past.
- Visited the Mankato Club and Owatonna Club.

District Activities: Lion Nancy Mathwig reported. Pins – District pins and Snowman pins are all available by contacting me this weekend and at future Zone meetings and District Governor club visits. Pin sales are slower this year than in the past. Mid-Winter convention Necrology/Memorial service: This evening we will be honoring 32 Lions who have died since January 1, 2009. First Timers contest – A 1st Timers contest is again being held this year. Please assist these first time conventions goers by signing their books. Some of you may be able to sign in more than one area i.e. cabinet chair and club secretary. Prizes for the 1st and 2nd place winners (most signatures) will be awarded during the Sunday morning brunch. Please assist these new convention goers when asked.

Hearing & Service Dogs of Minnesota: Lions Darlene, Vern Breamer and Deb Koehnen. Hearing and Service Dogs of Minnesota has changed their name to Can Do Canines. They have embarked on a capital campaign to create a \$4.4 million building and endowment fund. They continue to request the help of Lions clubs and individual donors. In 2009 they trained 30 teams - the largest ever in one year. They moved to their new facility in January. A program presentation was given to the Watertown and Victoria clubs. (e-submit) (2nd report submitted with more detail....in folder)

Historian: Lion Ken Farrell reported, This report will be directed to the identity and clarification of the 1986 - 1987 Bird Pin, (Altamera Oriole). Several people stated we had the wrong identification for that bird, it should be a Yellow Head Black Bird. After much research on the Internet and the purchase of a bird book, he finally found information regarding this bird. The bird is not native to this region of the country. It only migrates as far north as the Rio Grand Valley so if you have it identified in your pin collection as a Yellow Head Black Bird, that's incorrect. It really is an Altamera Oriole.

Journey for Service: Lion Jack Webster reported that this year's Journey for Service will be April 7-9,

looking for 100% club participation. This is his 20th year of doing this Journey for Service and he is looking to raise \$16,000. That would bring the 20 year total to \$300,000. The cabinet applauded Lion Jack's efforts.

LCIF: Lion Ron Dahlke reported that this year, his primary emphasis continues to be informing the Lion, Lioness and Leo members of 5M-2 of the mission and success of LCIF and its importance to Lions Clubs International. A letter of introduction was given to all Club Presidents in 5M-2, asking them to consider scheduling a LCIF Presentation. This has resulted in four completed LCIF presentations: Amboy Lions, 10/22/09, Carver Lions, 12/2/09, Hamburg Lions, 1/18/10, Norwood-Young America West Carver Lions, 1/26/10. Four additional presentations are scheduled, those being: Plato Lions, Mayer-Watertown DandyLions, Glencoe Lions and Cologne Lions.

Club presentations have been personalized using up-to-date report information provided by LCIF Support Staff, which includes: Current and historical Club LCIF donation data, Campaign Sight First Phase II donation data, Melvin Jones Fellowship Listing, Grant history for District 5M-2, and more. Also, every issue of the Lion Magazine has a section titled "Foundation Impact" and the Lions Clubs International Web Site has updated information daily regarding the assistance being offered by LCIF to the victims of the Haiti Earthquake as well as updates of grant approvals for SightFirst, Lions Quest, Standard and Core 4 Grants.

Leader Dog: Co-Chairs Lions Shirley Hesperheide and Joan Blank; Since our last Cabinet Meeting, Shirley has spoken at the Veseli, Blue Earth and Owatonna Lions Clubs and attended various Zone Meetings. They have scheduled Speaking Engagements at Jordan, Shakopee Valley, Shakopee, Prior Lake and NYA West Carver. I have received \$1,000.00 for Leader Dogs for the Blind from the LeSueur Lions Club from proceeds of their Wheelchair Basket Jamboree. They will attend as many of the Spring Zone Meetings as possible. Leader Dog for the Blind has updated their website, with more information for Lions Clubs and Leader Dog Chairs. One of their reports for giving for 2008-2009 showed MD-5M (MN, MB and ON) donated \$151,635.53. This makes our multiple district the 5th largest contributor for Lions Clubs.

LEO Clubs: Lion Allen Heidorn reports a little Leo Club activity since the last cabinet meeting. The Chaska Lions chartered a Leo Club in the Chaska High School on December 8th with 41 members! Also, we are still organizing infrastructure for a club in Watertown. As reported in the last meeting, we had an advisor lined up last year, but he changed school districts this summer. We found a potential replacement due with the transfer of a principal from Lester Prairie who is now a Watertown Lion. We are organizing a membership drive starting with some 8th graders, utilizing techniques employed at Chaska. Due to advisor workload and schedule, we may need to wait until next quarter to charter, but are proceeding anyway in driving membership and interest. (e-submit)

Liberty Day: PDG Mary Spille reported that since last meeting, she has scheduled one presentation for March 23 with the Mayer-Watertown Dandy Lions. Liberty Day books were delivered to both the Shakopee and the Jordan Lions for their fall Liberty Day programs. A small display is available during Midwinter in hopes of generating more interest. She still hopes to present an article to the district newsletter and website. PDG Larry Stangler also reported that he held two Liberty Day Programs, to date with very good participation. I have prospects for more. However with the weather so uncertain, we have had to postpone some, as well as working around School closings, will try to schedule something definite soon.

Long Range Planning: PDG Tom Ferleman reported that he continues to work with individual Lions to make a 5-year plan. This plan should include both their personal life and where they will be as a Lion in 5 years. He is also working with clubs and encouraging them to write a 5 year plan. Lions also need to be encouraged to work on short-term goals for themselves and their clubs. There is a display at this convention similar displays will be used for the Region Meetings in the fall.

MD5M Hearing Foundation: VDG Sue Bowman reported that as Hearing Foundation Trustees, we are very pleased to have Dr. Bevan Yueh, Professor and Chair of the Department of Otolaryngology at the University of Minnesota at our luncheon speaker tomorrow. Dr. Yueh is an outstanding clinical researcher who has done extensive- studies of outcome treatments. He is also a skilled head and neck surgeon, an outstanding

academic leader and author of more than 50 journal articles. We have a display table with information about the programs supported by the Lions Hearing Foundation. A collection box is available for used hearing aids. The hearing aids are refurbished and available for loan free of charge for cancer patients at the University of Minnesota. Hearing loss can be an unfortunate side effect of chemotherapy and radiation.

PDG Mike and I continue to give programs about the Hearing Foundation and informing members the miracles their donations provide in the area of research, clinical care, and staff training. Letters were mailed to each club asking for their support of the Hearing Foundation during the Parade of Green. The executive board met in January for a strategic planning session. The full board will meet in St. Cloud on March 27. The next tour of the 5M Hearing Center and Children's Hearing Center will be Saturday, April 10. The tour is an opportunity to view the broad scope of the Hearing Foundation.

Minnesota Lions Eye Bank/Children's Eye Clinic/ MAC: Co-Chair Lion Jean Dahlke & PDG Marlys Meskan reported The Minnesota Lions Eye Bank Inc. will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year. Our goal is to have 50 transplant recipients or donor families share their stories to help celebrate the 50 years of the MLEB. We are planning to share the stories on our web site, public service announcements, newsletters, special mailings, and new media releases and more. Your help in identifying potential stories from your community would be appreciated. The 10,000 Signatures for Sight will continue through December 2010.

All Lions Clubs in the 5M-2 District were contacted and notified of their current donations to the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank. They were encouraged to present Helen Keller Awards made possible through their donations to deserving Lions.

The Minnesota Lions Eye Bank has established the "Betty Jane Walen Volunteer Award". It has been established in honor of Betty Jane Walen who has now volunteered over 19,000 hours. Betty herself was a cornea transplant recipient and shortly after her transplants, she wanted to show her gratitude so she started to volunteer at the Minnesota Lions Eye Bank and the Ophthalmology Department at the University of Minnesota. Co-chairs are planning to attend all Zone meetings this spring, and also are available for club presentations at any time.

MT Membership: Lion Steve Wasserman reported that I have participated in the following activities as District 5M2 Membership Chair:

- MD5M MERLO Training September 12 in St. Cloud
- Meetings with DG Darwin and other members of the 5M2 MERLO Team
- Attended two Region Meetings, participated in meetings with Club Membership Chairs, and offered three LCI Membership handouts for each club
- Attended several Zone meetings, participating in DG Darwin's discussion format
- Written four articles on membership for the 5M2 Newsletter
- Attempted to garner and relate membership ideas in our travels to other District Conventions (e-submit)

MT Extension: PID Maynard Rucks reported Winsted is still a Club Branch, it is half way there and has some exciting plans coming up. They have six members to induct at their next meeting. They are going to do a fundraiser very soon to raise funds for a local project. They also have secured a spot to sell food at the Winstock weekend in June (15,000+ people expected). Had a meeting at Gaylord again which did have a few new prospects attend and we will continue to keep up having our prospects informed. What is your feeling about the possibility of Eagle Lake? They have had a lot of growth being so near Mankato. If anyone has other places that you think we should try please let me know.

MT Retention: No report at this meeting.

MT Leadership Development: Lion Brian Thies reported that the MERLO Team was present at each of the Fall Zone Meetings with break out sessions held on what the MERLO Team could do for their clubs and how clubs could attract and retain members. Positive feedback was received and the results of the questions will be gone over at the upcoming meetings. It should be noted that our District 5M2 has a

positive membership of plus 1 and he would like to think that this was partially because of the information that our members heard and put into practice at their local clubs. He wants to thank all the team members that attended these meetings and facilitated the questions. A big thank you also goes out to the cabinet members that were present and participated in table discussions. New officer training has been scheduled for Monday, April 26, 2010 at the hotel formerly known as the Holiday Inn Downtown Mankato. There will be a special session for incoming Vice Presidents dealing with the making of an agenda, parliamentary procedures, and everything it takes to run a meeting but were afraid to ask. Another addition this year will be Membership Committee Training. (e-submit)

MT Orientation: Lion Nancy Mathwig reported that a main goal of the MERLO team this year is to work on retention of members through orientation. A basic orientation program on the 4 levels of our organization was presented at each of the 9 fall Zone meetings with very positive comments. She has also been taking advantage of attending 35 of 39 clubs with District Governor Darwin and has presented a mini-orientation called "Test Your Lions Knowledge", a short multiple choice quiz on basic Lions' information. The mini-orientation will continue through the remainder of the Governor's club visits that she is able to attend. An orientation display is on the table in the hallway for this weekend.

Newsletter Editor: PDG Bill Curtis reported "am in Arizona and will not be at Mid-Winter. Here is my report. The Newsletter is doing fine. We strive to put in news from the clubs and other pertinent information that Governor Mathwig and I receive. Keep the information coming and we will put out the news. Thank you DG Mathwig for giving me opportunity to serve you and the District as Newsletter Editor." (e-submit)

Protocol/Public Relations: Lion Paul Stahler is pleased to report that proper protocol was followed at the fall region and zone meetings. Lion greeters were at the entrance. Sign in sheets were at the table near the door. The American flag and Lions banners were displayed. Agendas were present at each table seat and were followed. Appropriate introductions were made. The meals were reasonably priced and there were door prizes. Tail twisting raised money for Lions projects. The Region and Zone Chairmen can be very proud of the excellent work done by their hosting Lions clubs. Please consider using handicapped accessible venues for meetings. We are only one patch of ice away from needing such a location. Also, for PDG Rick Wagener – a man who drives like hell is bound to get there. Last year the District made a successful matching grant application from Lions International for \$1750.00 for the "Lions Lights on for Life" campaign. Lions District 5M-2 matched the grant money for a total of \$3500. We purchased 7500 car window stickers and 1000 bumper magnets with the Lions logo and "Lions Lights on for Life" slogan printed on them. The program was presented and materials were distributed to District Lions members at zone and region meetings. We are in the process of completing our report to Lions International about how the funds were matched and how the money was spent. Thank you to all who helped with the project and to PDG Rick Wagener for the concept for the project that will benefit the District 5M-2 Lions for some time.

Spring Point Project: IPDG Rick Wagener report at this point, he has turned in \$ 1150.00 in donations. He did one program with the Green Isle Lions club and am doing one with Hamburg Lions next month. Lafayette Lions are scheduling a program. As of this time, there is no new information on the progress of type 1 Diabetes through the Spring Point Project. He presented the program pigformation to the clubs at the 3 Region meetings.

Write Off: Lion Jerry Langsweirdt reported the Region winners in the write-off contest are Region 1-Brook Henderson-Glencoe; Region 2 Anna Mae VanDien-Norwood; Region 3 Courtney Christiansen-Wells. Region 1 and Region 2 winners will be at the convention to speak at the noon luncheon. Region 3 will be on a family Vacation. Total expenses are \$900 to the winners, \$100 more for two other zone winners (\$50 each) plus 6 luncheons. This is well under the allotted budgeted amount. There were 5 zone winners total, but two of them will receive the Region award, and the third will receive the top prize, Chair attended 2 region meetings and four zone meetings. (e-submit)

Youth Exchange/Youth Camp: Lion Nancy Mathwig reported that we will need host families for Youth coming in next summer. Please get names to Lion Nancy.

Youth Outreach/Peace Poster: Co-Chairs Lions Sheila Stahler & Janet Knakmuhs. The theme for 2009 was "The Power of Peace". This year the 5M2 winners were 1st place Natalie Elfstrand from Glencoe, 2nd place winner was Leah Preslicka from Prior Lake and the 3rd place winner was Chris Pieper from LeCenter. This year we awarded the winners with a \$100 check and plaque for first place, \$50 for second and \$30 for third place. We received 34 posters from 25 clubs. We would like to thank all the clubs that participated and hope to see more participation in 2010.

Spring is the time to get started! If any Club needs help getting the contest started co-chairs will be happy to help. The best way for Lions Clubs to become involved in the Peace Poster Contest is by appointing a Peace Poster chairman and asking school art teachers in the spring if they would like to participate in the Lions Peace Poster contest. Art teachers are planning their fall classes and can include the Peace Poster theme in their curriculum. Inform the teachers of the Peace Poster theme, rules, conditions, and deadlines. Occasional reminders are a good idea to check on the students' progress toward completing their posters on time. If there is more than one school participating, each club may submit 1 poster from each school. The deadline for the contest is November 15, 2010. All posters must be received by November 15 in order to be eligible to be judged. Please have the Peace Poster Chairpersons send all posters to Lion Sheila Stahler.

Peace Poster Chairpersons-remember to check the posters for the accurate dimensions. All posters must be no smaller than 13" by 20" and no larger than 20" by 24". This year all the posters Lion Janet and I received were the right size-none were eliminated! The Rules and Conditions can be found in your Peace Poster Kit. This years Peace poster theme is "Vision of Peace". Kits are available on line at the Lions International Website.

Again, we would like to thank all the clubs that participated in last years contest. We would also like to thank Carver Scott Educational Cooperative for taking pictures of the posters so they can be displayed at the convention. The contest is a perfect opportunity to reach out to the students in the community and give them a chance to show what peace means to them.

Lions Quest: Lion Cathleen Williams reported that they have been very busy. They have visited 11 clubs since July 1st and have 5 more clubs scheduled. At this point, we have four schools that are full Quest schools and two that have a portion of the staff trained. We have had contacts from a K-12 school in Winsted, which is showing an interest in the Quest programs. The problem is not in getting to the various clubs to inform them about the Quest Programs, it is in guaranteeing schools and teachers that we will be able to have another class this summer. We've got the teachers, all we need now is the funds to provide the class.

2nd VDG Comments: 2nd VDG Sue Bowman has had an interesting convention so far. She thought she might need a u-haul to get everything here. Please come into the hospitality room and participate. The cabinet sang "Happy Birthday". September 23-25 is the Road to Milwaukee, please get the dates on your calendar and she is looking forward to working with everyone this year.

International Director Comments: ID Neil Spencer congratulated 5M2 on the work with the Haiti project.

- A couple of things he gets asked about a lot is "Will there be a dues increase?" "No".
- Also, if you are attending convention in Sydney please submit delegate forms ahead of time that are in the Lions Magazine. They are not being mailed out to conventioners.
- He made a comment about Lion Paul's joke regarding driving like hell and you will get there. He stated you might get there and find they have moved to Florida.
- WalMart is a partner in collecting eyeglasses.
- The Historian couldn't find the Oriole because they are usually in last place.
- M&As online has been changed to make it more apparent how to fill out the form. It is important for the association to know what is going on at the Club Level.
- ID Neil entertained questions.

Announcements – DG Governor Darwin mentioned that someone lost a 100% attendance pin at a recent meeting. Nobody claimed it yet. One final joke. See everyone at the hospitality rooms.

Motion to adjourn made by PID Maynard Rucks, 2nd by PDG Mke Vos at 4:00 p.m. MC.

Respectfully Submitted

Lion Cindy Walters