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DISTRICT 20-N
CABINET MEETING MINUTES
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th, 2009

CALL TO ORDER; The Cabinet Meeting of District 20- N was held at the Smith Theater, inside The Shea's Buffalo Theater, 646 Main St., Buffalo, NY ,14202 on Saturday, Sept, 19, 2009. Registration took place from 9:00 – 10:00 AM, with coffee, tea, and pastries being served. The meeting was called to order by DG David Gehring @ 10:05 a.m. VDG Gary Carini led us in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by R1 Chair Clancy Burkwit leading us in the singing of "God Bless America". The Invocation was given by Lion Rick Jachimiak.

MINUTES; The minutes of Aug. 8th,2009 Cabinet Orientation were approved as received on a motion by R2 Chair Lion Joe Biondo, seconded by R2Z2 Chair Lion Sheila Jones, the motion was passed.

DISTRICT GOVERNORS' REPORT; DG Gehring began by introducing the head table, VDG Gary Carini, Cab Treasurer Roger Lis, and filling in for Cab. Secretary Robert "Smitty" Smyczynski who is attending his grandsons' wedding, is Past Cabinet Secretary and R4Z2 Chair Daniel Dunn who will also act as a Sergeant at Arms for the meeting with his portable air horn. Reaction was mixed.

DG Gehring noted that the Treasurers report was left off the agenda and asked Cab. Treasurer Lis to present it next.

FINANCIAL REPORT: CT Lis presented the financial report covering the period Aug. 5, 2009-Sept. 15, 2009. A motion was made by R2Z1 Chair Tom Witkowski, seconded by R4Z2 Chair David Conley that the report be accepted as presented. The motion was passed.

DG Gehring Announced for clarity that this would be the second cabinet meeting as he considered the orientation meeting in August to be his first cabinet meeting.

DG Gehring announced that the third cabinet meeting, The Fall Conference would be November 7th, 2009, @ the Olmsted Center of the Visually Impaired Registration will begin @ 9:00am and the meeting will begin @ 10:00 am. Guest speaker will be International Director Ron Johnson from the state of Maine, who has the distinction of being the first International Director to have advanced through Lionism starting as a Leo.Lions are asked to RSVP to Cab. Secretary Robert "Smitty" Smyczynski, at 716-649-9072, or at bobmar23@hotmail .com. The cost will be under \$15.00. Addition info will be in the October issue of the DGNFL.

New Suspension policy- In July of 2006, the Board of Directors approved a new policy effective July 1st, 2007, that effects Lions Clubs that have not paid their Club balances on time. The new policy is as follows:

A Club which has an unpaid balance in excess of \$20.00 per member or \$1000.00 per Club, whichever is less outstanding for 150 days, will automatically be suspended including the charter, rights, privileges, and obligations of the Lions Clubs for a period not to exceed 90 days. In the event the Club does not reach good standing within the suspension period their Charter, rights, privileges, and obligations of a Lion Club would be automatically canceled. Suspension is a temporary deferment of Charter, rights, privileges, and obligations of a Lions Club due to an unpaid balance.

Clubs on suspension shall not:

- A Conduct service activities
- B Conduct fund raising activities
- C Participate in District or Multiple District functions or seminars
- D Participate in any voting procedures outside the Club
- E Endorse or nominate a candidate for District, Multiple District International office
- F Submit monthly membership reports or report forms
- G Sponsor a Lions Club or organize a Leo or Lioness Club

Clubs on suspension shall:

- A Hold meetings to discuss the future of the Club and identify steps needed to regain an active status.
- B Make payments to clear the existing balance
- C Request a payment plan

This new policy has serious consequences for Clubs that are in arrears paying their Club balances. This policy could effect Clubs that have as little as two per capita billings or less unpaid @ 150 days. Clubs placed on suspension may regain active status by sending payments sufficient to pay the balance.

A reactivation report will not be required to regain a good status, however the officers should immediately review and update the membership roster after a Club is removed from suspension. This change in policy was necessary because many Clubs were accumulating large unhealthy balances over 90 days in excess of \$1000.00 US. Many of these Clubs were unable to pay such large amounts and were eventually inactivated and canceled. Large balances in these amounts are difficult to revive and cause many members to give up and leave their Club. Dues are primary sources of income used to support the programs and services provided by our membership. Regular & prompt payment is expected to insure continued support of this great organization.

DG Gehring stated that District 20-N only has one Club that is on the borderline of this policy and that this is a Lions Club International policy. DG Dave urged all Clubs to stay up to date on their District, Multiple District & International dues.

DG Gehring announced the Lions Environmental Photo Contest. Lion from Clubs in Good standing can enter an original, unaltered, black & white or color photo (without people) of the environment of their Lions Club in the following 2009-2010 Lions Environmental Photo Contest categories:

Animal Life- Landscape (Urban or Natural) – Plant Life – Weather Phenomenon

The special annual theme category is:

Lions Move to Grow Green- photos of Lions in action implementing a Lions Environment Project.

The impartial judging of photos should focus on originality, artistic merit, and portrayal of the environmental theme.

Clubs submitting photos must be in good standing and submissions must be a 8” x 10” (20.3 x25.4 cm) printed photos.

Lions Clubs should select & submit one winning photo to the Multiple District by January 15, 2010. Lions Multiple Districts select and submit one winning photo to the International Contest by March 1, 2010 signed by the council chairperson to Lions Headquarters.

Lions Club International will display multiple district level entries at the annual Lions International Convention. Registered convention attendees will vote for their favorite photos. An award will be presented to the winning photographers. The six (5 category winners & the Best of Show) winning Photos will appear on the Lion web site.

DG Dave said our District has had the winning Photographer and photo at the Multiple District level the past two years including last years entry by Lion Richard Teetsel. DGDave said “this is a very prestigious award.” and urged all Clubs to submit an entry.

DG Gehring made the following Convention Committee appointments:

CREDENTIALS—(2) CS Robert Smittyt Smyczynski & IPCS Diane Muscoreil

SERGEANT AT ARMS – (3) R4Z1 Chair Daniel P. Dunn + 2 to be named later

NOMINATIONS – (will appoint 1 Lion later.

FLAG CEREMONY – (1) CT Roger Lis

DGDave will nominate Lion Phil Silliman as the State Flag Ceremony Chairman

VOTING & ELECTIONS- (2) Lion Lorna Burkwit & R1 Chair Clancy Burkwit.

DG Gehring announced that the Lions from the Inner City Lions Club & Buffalo Host Lions Club arraigned to collect and deliver support in the category of small appliances and other household & personal goods to the people and Lions in need in Gowanda, and the surrounding communities after the devastating floods of August. Lion Leslie Saunders has offered to lead a second trip to the area & DG Dave asked that Lion Leslie provide details during the committee reports section of the meeting.

DG GEHRING announced that he has been making his visits to the Clubs of District 20-N & that all is going well & that he is having a great time. DG Dave said he was happy to see so many people at today’s meeting.

DG GEHRING read what has transpired at the most recent MD-20 Council of Governors Meeting.

The Council reviewed the goals they would like to accomplish this year:

- **Would like an increase in membership including 2 new Clubs in each District**
- **Would like to have a Lions float in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade**
- **Increase public relations @ the Multiple level**
- **Increase aid to Camp Badger**
- **Create a State wide Golf outing**
- **Have a program for returning US Veterans @ Camp Badger**
- **Reviewed the International Convention Report from Minnesota**
- **Reviewed the accounts receivable reports for the multiple and found that most of the Clubs are in arrears to the State. DG Dave said he has E-mailed or talked to most Clubs & most have made good on their obligations. The Governor thanked all the Clubs that had caught up with these bills.**
- **IPIP Brandel was @ the Council Meeting to present the International report and to thank the Council for their support during his year as President & especially because MD-20 was number one in growth over the past year.**
- **A review of the July Board meeting was reported and it was noted that due to IRS rules the reimbursement for partners of Governor Elect's attending International conventions be limited to \$500.00.**
- **Districts are encouraged to continue training and workshops to start new Clubs.**
- **IPIP Brandel stated that he is here to help any Club that needs it and will put his contacts to good use for any Club or project that requests it.**
- **PID Dr. Ed Cordes made a presentation regarding the redistricting Committee. DG Dave said he didn't think it would affect our district. District requirements are 1250 members or 35 Clubs and we are above both these levels.**
- **The MD-20 Leadership Institute Report was presented – Next Institute will be held Oct. 1st- 4th, 2009 @ the Hilton Garden Hotel Syracuse. Cost is \$350.00, including room and meals for 3 days.**

DG Gehring said submissions for the state magazine should go to Lion Ken Blanchard cc DG Dave & submissions to the DGNFL should go directly to West Seneca Printing cc DG Dave and CS Smitty. Preference for submissions is a picture and a caption, rather than a long wordy article.

DG Gehring announced that he had been voted MD-20 Vice-Council Chair

DG Gehring turned over the meeting to Vice-District governor Gary Carini

UPCOMING EVENTS DISTRICT 20-N. VDG Gary gave a report on upcoming events around the District:

- 9/19 South Buffalo-Lackawanna Lions Club spaghetti dinner**
- 9/24-26 US-Canada Leadership Forum in Memphis TN.**
- 9/30 MERL team training session – Comfort Inn , Amherst NY**

10/1-3 Lions Leadership Institute
10/4 Lancaster Lions Club Pancake Breakfast
10/10 Vision Beyond Sight Foundation Board Meeting, @ the Olmsted Cent.
10/20 Blind Dance
10/23-24 Second MD-20 Council of Governors Meeting
11/7 Third District 20-N Cabinet Meeting-Fall Conference @ Olmsted Cent.

***PDG Jim Luckman asked that all Lions keep Nov. 14th open. That will be the date of the Lewiston Lions Club Charter Night. Tickets will be coming out very soon.**

***DG Gehring also reminded those assembled that the Evans Township Lions Club is having their annual Comedy Night tonight @ the Evans Center Fire Hall.**

SUNSHINE REPORT – R2-Z2 Chair Sheila Jones began by thanking the Lions District 20-N for keeping her so well informed of all the deaths and illnesses throughout the district. Lion Sheila read to those in attendance and submitted her written report to the acting Cabinet Sec. In closing, Lion Sheila mentioned that a lot of these Lions were up in years and she feels it would be a good idea for the Clubs to check in on the spouses or families of the deceased Lions noting that we can supply help to them if they are in need.

REGION /ZONE REPORTS:

Region 1 Chair Clancy Burkwit reported that all the Clubs of region 1 are healthy and are off to good start with a lot of projects going. Youngstown Lions Club has inducted two new members and will induct two more during the October Visitation of the Governor.

REGION 1 ZONE1 had no report

REGION 2 Chairman Joseph Biondo reported that that the Region 2 AC meeting will be held on Tues. Oct. 6, 2009 and that the date was changed from Oct. 20th, 2009

REGION 2 ZONE 1 CHAIR TOM WITKOWSKI thanked PDG Bob Shively and the Town of Wheatfield Club for aiding in establishing a slate of officers for their Club as opposed to what was originally done. There were some difficulties with leadership there and the situation has been rectified. Lion Tom will work to address what had been in the past a series of hit & miss reporting standards and his goal is to have all Clubs in the Zone reporting on time. Lion Tom spoke about a Grand Island Lions Club activity called Sight Night and provided information for the other Clubs to mirror this program in their communities. He will be asking Lion Diane Muscoreil to assist putting his plan on the 20-N web site for other Clubs to follow.

REGION 2 ZONE 2 CHAIR SHEILA JONES filed her report with the acting Cab. Sec. And reported on the Amherst, Kenmore, Sheridan Dr. and Williamsville Clubs.

REGION 3 CHAIR HARIOLD DEUTSHLANDER filed his report with the acting Cab. Sec. And reported that a joint AC meeting is planned for Monday, Sept. 28th, at Magruders' Restaurant in Depew, NY

REGION 3 ZONE 1 CHAIR BEN DOCKERY had no report.

REGION3 ZONE 2 CHAIR GENE MORAN reported on a new concept being tried out by the Lancaster Lions Club called “OWLS” The Over Working Lions. The Club will hold a special meeting at a different location on a different day for Lions who cannot attend the regularly scheduled meetings to keep these Lions informed and made to feel a part of the organization.

REGION 4 CHAIR JAMES MARTIN had no report.

REGION 4 ZONE 1 CHAIR DAN DUNN reported that Clubs of R2Z1 would be focusing on increasing membership throughout the year and also reported that Blasdell Woodlawn Lions Club will have a White Cane drive on Oct. 10th and the West Seneca Lions Club will have a Spaghetti Dinner on Oct. 18th and will be providing a week of volunteers to work at the Ira Ross Eye Center Sept.21-25.

REGION 4 ZONE 2 CHAIR DAVE CONELY filed his report with the acting Cab. Sec. And reported on all of the activities of the Boston, East Aurora, Evans Township, Town of Hamburg, and Orchard Park Lions.

REGION 5 CHAIR had no report.

REGION 5 ZONE 1 CHAIR ANN AKIN reported on all her Clubs and submitted her report to the acting Cab. Sec,

REGION 5 ZONE 2 CHAIR – VACANT DG Gehring announced that he had a lead on a Lion who may be interested in stepping up to this leadership position but in the mean time promised to keep in touch with the Clubs in the Zone himself on an individual basis.

REGION 6 CHAIR JOSEPH GIBLIN submitted his report to the acting Cab. Sec. On his Clubs.

REGION 6 ZONE 1 CHAIR JAMES WILLIAMS no report.

REGION 6 ZONE 2 CHAIR BOB CAMPBELL submitted his report to the acting Cab. Sec. On his Clubs and reported that his Zone is doing well.

DG Gehring thanked all the Region and Zone Chairs for their reports and promised to try to attend a Region ACM meeting for each Region.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT- DG Gehring reported that as of July, District 20-N's membership was 1666 & that we have lost 25 members. August membership increased to 1670, for a total of minus 21. The Governor feels we are moving ahead and he has set a goal with LCI of an increase of 60 new members. Governor Dave encouraged all clubs to utilize the Retention Chair PDG Ron Bolander so we don't get caught in a cycle of people joining a Club and leaving after one year. Governor

Dave encouraged all clubs to be more receptive to members who are only interested in one or two functions of the Club. It has become more & more difficult to find people who can dedicate the time needed to participate in all of the Club's events. There is nothing wrong in having a member who pays his dues, comes to only a few meetings and only wants to work on a few projects, just make sure you keep him informed of all the Club activities and make sure he understands how much he is appreciated for what he does.

DISTRICT 20- N MERLE REPORT – VDG Gary Carini reported that there will be a training session on Sept. 30th, @ 5:00 PM in the Comfort Inn in Amherst for the MERL Team where Past Council Chair Rick Kingman will give his presentation to the MERL Team. After the training session hopefully we will have some new ideas Membership, Extension, Retention, Leadership, Orientation, and the Women's Initiative we can share with the rest of the District. The session is expected to last about three hours.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION – IPDG James Muscoreil started his presentation by saying that it is a true pleasure and honor to be able to make the presentations he will make this morning. You all know how difficult it is to hold the position of Secretary in a Club. This year 20 Secretaries earned the 100% Secretary's Award. IPDG Jim asked Governor Dave to read the names off while he made the presentations and said that if the Secretary is not here today the Governor will make the presentation during his Club Visitation. The Secretaries from the following Clubs were given or will be given the 100% Secretary Award: Alden, Blasdell-Woodlawn, Buffalo Riverside, Clarence, East Aurora, Evans Township, Gasport, Kenmore, Mayville-Chautauqua, Newfane, Orchard Park, Pendelton, Pine Valley, Portville, South Buffalo-Lackawanna, Tonawandas, Town of Hamburg, Williamsville, and Wilson.

CABINET REPORTS – DG Dave reminded all Cabinet members that they were being given three minutes to give their reports, and that Sergeant at Arms Lion Dan Dunn would be the Timer. The following reports were given:

CHRISTMAS FOR SPECIAL CHILDREN – The Christmass party for Special Children will be Saturday Dec 12th, @ Fr. Baker Cafeteria beginning @ 6:00 PM. Clubs are being asked to donate \$100. each to help make Christmas special for the 40-50 children who will attend. Contact Lion Barbara Buchheit @ 202-4147 or Lion John Shaffer @ 822-7195 with questions regarding the event. (See exhibit #1)

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS- no report

CONVENTIONS – PDG – Roger Haase announced that there will be a 7:00 PM meeting on 9/23.

CULLEN FUND – PDG Tom Reinangle reminded the Lions that there was up to \$1000. per eye available and to contact him with questions @ 694-4710.

DR. ANN STADELMAIER HEARING AID FUND – Money is available to those in need of a hearing assistance. For more info, contact PDG Tom Reinangle @ 694-4710.

LONG RANGE PLANNING; PDG Mike Curran volunteered to work on this committee

MERL TEAM- as stated before, there will be a meeting on 9/30 and hopefully we will learn a lot.

MD-20 LIONS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE - we are sending two candidates, VD9G Gary Carini and Holly Jimerson . Lion Holly's employer is paying her tuition.

NY & BERMUDA LIONS FOUNDATION – a memo of understanding was received from IPIP Al Brandel as the Al Brandel Maureen Foundation, asking to partner with the NY & B Foundation and there are some points that have to be clarified before acceptance. DG Dave will send a copy to the MOU to any Lion interested..

RADIO READING - no report

PEACE POSTERS – Lion Dennis Fulton-Sears said he would like to identify barriers that Clubs may have for entering the contest. The District Show may happen at the Burchfield Penny Nature and Arts Center in West Seneca. Further information will be coming soon. He is available for whatever help any Club may need.

PUBLICITY – Chairman had no report. DG Dave said there is \$1000. budgeted this year and \$1000. matching money is available and he would like to identify a billboard where our message could be posted to increase awareness of local Lions Clubs and raise membership, and he is also looking into radio advertisements.

QUEST - no report

RAY WHEELER HUMANITARIAN FUND – is strong and currently has no requests for assistance. Application and instructions can be found on the District 20N web site or by calling: Lion MJ Silliman @ 833-7550 or mjsilli@verizon.net.
(See exhibit #4)

SENSES TRAIL @ ELLICOTT PARK – no report – DG Dave guesses that it was good for the park that we had a rainy summer.

SEARGENT AT ARMS – PCS Dan Dunn said he stands ready when needed.

SIGHT CONSERVATION – PCC Jeff Stribing said we have very active programs here in WNY. He pointed out the work done by PCS Nancy Luckman with diabetes and the Vision Beyond Sight Foundation, Chaired by Rich Jachimiak, as two examples. He went on to say if any Lion needs assistance in the area of sight

conservation they should contact him @ 683-3548 and he will put them in touch with the help they need. (See exhibit #2)

VISION BEYOND SIGHT FOUNDATION – Lion Rich Jachimiak first took a moment to thank all Lions for their well wishes during his recent surgery and stated that he is currently 26 days cancer free. Lion Rich went on to say that other Districts must really be envious of what 1500 or so Lions are doing here in WNY. We have a great facility and there have been changes that are very encouraging. Clubs are volunteering to work at the center and some are having Their Club meetings there just for the tour. The big push now is for donations to meet the \$75,000 matching LCI Grant. If an Individual Lion donates over \$25.00 he will earn a VBFS Pin. Lion Rich read off a list of Lions who have earned a pin and awarded pins to Lions in attendance who had earned one.

STATE MAGAZINE – no report

STATE YOUTH BAND – no report

USA/CANADA LIONS LEADERSHIP FORUM – Governor Dave informed the group that the Forum begins this Thursday and when asked if any others would be attending with him he was happy to see many hands raised.

THERAPEUTIC SERVICES – Lion Paul Grimble said he has a lot of information on one center and hopes to have more information on 2 of the 3 centers located in the District soon.

WEB MASTER AND TECHNOLOGY – IPCS Diane Muscoreil said if anyone wants anything on the web site they can contact her at 304-1962 (H) or 751-9213 (C) or diane.Muscoreil@gmail.com DG Dave thanked Lion Diane for taking on that job and said Lion Smitty wanted to thank her for all her help so far this year.

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES, LIONS SERVICES FOR CHILDREN – no report

OLD BUSINESS – Lion Jim Sedor wanted everyone to know that the Region 4 Social would take place right here starting with dinner in the Smith Theater and then moving next door to Shea's Theater for a performance of "Fiddler on the Roof" on Friday Nov. 20, 2009. NOT Nov. 19th as stated in the Directory.

OPEN DISCUSSION FOR THE GOOD OF LIONISM – Lion Clancy Burkwit asked about the other two sites for the CHRISTMAS FOR SPECIAL CHILDREN because only the Fr. Baker event was mentioned. Lion Clancy stated that we normally do three parties on the same day. The other two events will be at Wyndham Lawn and Randolph at the same time as the Fr. Baker event mentioned earlier.

Region 2 Chair Gene Moran advised that the 10th Mountain Division is looking for groups to adopt a Platoon Program. A Platoon is anywhere from 10-40 troops. Lion Gene will gladly be any Clubs', group or organization's point of contact, and you can reach him @ 684-6336. Lion Gene pointed out that we would not be here today if not for the service members who look out for us. He asked all Lions to make a special effort to publicly thank a service member, police officer, EMT or other first responders for all the good they do. Lion Gene said "It will make you and them feel good".

In closing DG Dave thanked PDG Mike Curran, CT Roger Lis , CS fill in Dan Dunn, his wife Yvonne, and Lion Jim Sedor for their help in putting today's meeting together.

Lion Mike Curran finished selling the split club tickets and there were two winners of \$60. and \$35. respectively.

A motion to adjourn was made by Clancy Burkwit and seconded by IPDG Jim Muscoreil at 12: 19 PM, The motion was passed.

Lunch was served following the Meeting