



46th Annual MD 27-B1 District Convention Minutes

Blue Harbor Resort Sheboygan, WI November 12-13-14 2021

Friday November 12 – HOSPITALITY

The convention kicked off with exhibits and registration opening at 4:00 pm. A social and dinner followed from 5:00-7:00 pm. Featured speaker on Friday was PCC Lion Malcom Kerwin is a member of the St Thomas, Virgin Island Lions speaking on Promoting Healthy Clubs and Providing Impactful Service PCC Malcom spoke about **“WHAT we do, NOT WHY we do what we do.”** We do because of the GOOD in us. Lions are committed to service. We are clubs not just Lions. Lions create a legacy we build for the future.

The remainder of the hospitality evening featured The Roaring 20s Band from Chicago- Frank & The Rat Pack Jazz and Casino Night sponsored by the Kiel and Winnebago East Shore Lions Clubs along with silent and bucket raffles.

Saturday November 13 – OPENING BUSINESS

The convention was called to order at 8:00 am by District Governor BJ Blahnik, which was then turned over to the Master of Ceremony PDG Brad Behrens from C1. Opening Ceremony started with Sheboygan North High School Drum Line presentation followed by the Coast Guard presenting Colors. The flag presentation included Lions International, Wisconsin Lions Foundation, Eye Bank of Wisconsin, and the Leos. Pledge of Allegiance was led by IPDG Tom Wendt. PDG Fred Gebhart also recognized the branches of service and those in attendance who served in the service– Air Force, Army, Marines, Navy, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines. Opening prayers was given by Lion Myra Schneider, District 27B1 chaplain.

DG BJ Blahnik introduced immediate past mayor of Sheboygan, Mike Vandersteen. He welcomed attendees to Sheboygan Home of the Brat and Best Fresh Water Surfing. He also talked about the North High Drumline and how they got inspired by the Badger Marching Band. Their community goes out and does more.

To get things started DG BJ asked all LIONS to give out a loud **ROAR!** **“Our journey is just as important as the destination”** Our Lions destination is to help people. Wisconsin is celebrating 100 years of Lionism, 3 of the 6 original clubs are in our district-Appleton Noon, Manitowoc and Sheboygan Evening. He asked if any Lions have new ideas don't be afraid to bring them forward. It is better to fail than not try at all. He talked about the **LION SPIRIT AWARD** to be presented to a deserving Lion, not a present or past president at the state district meeting. He is honored to our District Governor. DG BJ received a standing ovation for his presentation.

State of the State address was given by Council Chair Stacy Nesseth. MD 27 is in good financial status. State membership is +209. All the district governors are working to make everything better. Each one of them is involved in various programs.

State of LCIF was given by Doctor Lion Sri. He talked about the current status and history of Lions Club International Foundation. Campaign 100 is very close to meeting their goal. Remember what we give comes back to us. \$155,000 was given and \$157,000 was received in grants to the district. The largest grant helped to purchase 2 flow cyclometers for Wisconsin. This is the final year for Campaign 100.

Wisconsin's Centennial Celebration was discussed by PID Connie LeCleur-Meyer. The Centennial Committee has a lot of information and memories of the past. They have received a LCI grant for the production of 2 videos and 3 more are in the works. She also reviewed some of the centennial projects that were done. They are currently updating the Facebook page and their website. Two of the current videos were shown. The first being **WHY BE A LION?** and the second **LIONS CAMP** at a later seminar.

Nomination chair Lion Mike Helmke of the Sheboygan Noon Lions proceeded to review the rules and deadlines for nominations. He certified that he and his committee have certified and verified the information received for the candidates therefore there will be no nominations taken from the floor. Write-ins will be accepted. There will be two resolutions, peace poster and district pin design along with the candidates for voting.

The first nomination for District Governor Dave Brinkman was given by PDG Mike De Baere. PDG Mike has known him for 50 years, back to his grade school days. He is a Lion who cannot say NO! Lion Dave always says I can do it when asked. The second nomination for Lion Dave Brinkman was given by IPDG Tom Wendt. He has known Lion Dave Brinkman since he joined Lions. He has helped IPDG Tom a lot and I has never known someone so dedicated to Lions. He is proud to nominate Lion Dave Brinkman as our next District Governor. Lion Dave Brinkman accepted the nomination. His motto will be: **"Tell Your Story"** so that people know who we are. Use MyLCl, Facebook and everything that is out there. Looking forward to continuing to use MyLion & MyLCl. Motion to close nominations for District Governor by Lion Vickie Blahnik from the Town of Sheboygan Lions, second by Lion Myra Schneider of the Sheboygan Noon Lions. **MOTION CARRIED**

The first nomination for First Vice District Governor Greg Kubichka was given by Lion Greg Garton of the Chilton Lions Club. He has known Greg's family and Greg since he was born. It is an honor for him to nominate Greg. Greg is also involved in many community service projects and organizations. He has served as president and zone chairman. He has gotten all the other service organizations to work together on the county Christmas Light Show. The second was given by Lion Chuck Kiehn of the Brillion Lions. He has known Greg for the past six years. He is proud to nominate Greg. Greg is involved in vision screening and diabetes. Lion Greg Kubichka accepted the nomination. We all do our part. He is a younger Lion and has a lot to learn. He will continue efforts with new ideas and with the traditions. Please teach him the history of our Lions. Motion to close nominations for First Vice District Governor by PDG Ken Rohde of the Howards Grove Lions second by Lion Dale Counihan of the Neenah Lions. **MOTION CARRIED**

The first nomination for second Vice District Governor Dave Holschbach was given by PDG Meg Post. It is her honor to nominate Lion Dave Holschbach. She has known him for almost 20 years, in those years he has been a very active Lion. He has been a Lion for 28 years and currently is their president, he has served at least 20 years as either secretary or treasurer, been on the district cabinet for 20 years and serving as cabinet secretary for 12 years. He has been active at the club, district and state level. The second nomination was given by PDG Mike De Baere. Dave is always on the GO for the district. He remembers when Lion Dave said he would not be a District Governor until he retires, well he retired last June. Lion Dave sent an email and asked him for a nomination, he accepted. Lion Dave Holschbach accepted the nomination. Lion Dave mentioned that sometimes you just don't realize what you do until other people tell you that. He was constantly asked when you going to step up, as Mike had said when I retire. He is a man of his word and the time has come. Through the years he has learned from the various district governors he has served. He will take the best from each and become a better Lion Leader. Motion to close nominations for Second Vice District Governor by PDG Ken Rohde of the Howards Grove Lions second by Lion Dale Counihan of the Neenah Lions. **MOTION CARRIED**

There are two nominations for the three-year term for Wisconsin Lions Foundation Director, they are Lion Dick Karl from the Sheboygan Noon Lions and IPDG Tom Wendt from the Van Dyne Lions. They will be nominated alphabetically. The first nomination for Lion Dick Karl was from Lion Ellen Cheney of the Sheboygan Noon Lions. Lion Dick always stepped up to help and is always there to help. He has been club president and twice Lion of the Year. Lion Dick has also attended various Lions trainings. She is very happy to nominate Lion Dick Karl. The second nomination was from Lion John Stephen of the Howards Grove Lions. Lion Dick has been an eye transporter and an active zone chairman. The first nomination for IPDG Tom Wendt for WLF Director was by PDG Jerry Post. Lion Tom is a very dedicated Lion and supporter of the Van Dyne Lions and Lioness clubs. Lion's camp is very dear to him, he will be a great asset as the foundation director. The second nomination was from FVDG Dave Brinkman. Lion Tom has gone thru various Lions training and held numerous positions. He has received many awards for his dedication to Lions. Lion Dick Karl accepted the nomination. He started his service years before joining Lions and was involved juvenile diabetes support and fund raising for Children's Hospital. It is always a joy to change someone's life. Serving as a Lion has been a very rewarding experience and wants to continue as a WLF director. Lion Tom also accepted his nomination. Lion Tom has had a passion for Lion's camp long before he became District Governor. He has made many trips to the camp in support. It would be an honor to continue his support as a WLF director. There was a call to the floor for any other nominations three times. A motion to close the nominations was made by PDG Ken Rohde and the second by Lion Myra Schneider. **MOTION CARRIED**

The current Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin director Lion Charles Kiefenheim of St. Peter Lions is running for another three-year term. The first nomination was given by FVDG Dave Brinkman. A second was given by PDG Mike De Baere. Lion Charles Kiefenheim did accept the nomination. There was a call to the floor for any other nominations three times. A motion to close the nominations was made by Lion Vickie Blahnik and the second by Lion Dale Counihan. **MOTION CARRIED**

There will be two resolutions that need to be voted on. Nomination chair Lion Mike Helmke read both. Copy enclosed of ballot with the resolution. The first allows the constitution to be in line with LCI and remove the mention of Lioness and the second is to allow automatic updates with LCI changes. The cabinet has endorsed both and would appreciate a YES vote. There is one bid for the 2023 convention site from Par 5 Resort formally Fox Hills Resort in Mishicot. It is a full-service resort and can handle the needs of our district convention. There was a call to the floor for any other convention sites three times. A motion to close the nominations was made by Lion Vickie Blahnik and the second by PGD Ken Rohde. **MOTION CARRIED** Peace Poster and District Pin designs are on display for your selection to be voted on. A nomination was received for the district bean bag tournament for spring of 2022 hosted by the Sheboygan Noon Lions to be held in Sheboygan. There was a call to the floor for any other nominations three times. A motion to close the nominations was made by Lion Ellen Cheney and the second by Lion John Stephen. **MOTION CARRIED** This closed the nominations.

Service of Remembrance was conducted by Lion Myra Schneider, District 27-B1 chaplain. She gave the opening prayer and the readings were done by WLF Director Lion Wendy Hartmann from St. Nazianz Lions. There were 33 Lions who past away last year. A representative of their club extinguished a candle and received a yellow rose in remembrance.

Lunch Program

In celebration of the Wisconsin Lions Centennial, convention attendees sang HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Special guest, International Director Lion Ken Ibarra, endorsed Candidate for International Director Lee Vrieze and Council Chair Lion Stacy Nesseth were invited to lead the group. Recognition was given for convention committee members, International guest, guest host, International endorsed director candidate, council chair, Immediate council chair, current council of governors, current B1 governor, 1st vice district governor, 2nd vice district governor, immediate past district governor and current B1 cabinet members. The Lions Travelling Bank was auctioned off for a final bid of \$5,550 to the Cleveland Lions Club.

Past International Director Lion Art Marson introduced ID Ken Ibarra. PID Art always enjoys coming back to B1 where he started from and see so many friends. He is always interested in seeing what is new. ID Ken from San Bruno, California is proud to represent the Lions. Apologized for not being here sooner. Met new friends for life.

Lion DG BJ had some special recognitions, each year the outgoing District Governor is awarded a special recognition from the district. IPDG Tom elected to receive a Ray Hempel Fellowship. He commented that it was a very interesting year. Award given by WLF President Darrell Blanks. DG BJ proceeded to award three International Presidents Certificate of Appreciation to Lions Wendy Hartmann, Vince Treague and Laurie Sasada. These awards are the 4th highest award, only 3 out of 1800 Lions in the district are selected. ID Ken made a special presentation of a Melvin Jones Fellowship to District Governor BJ Blahnik. This brought him to tears.

The special luncheon speaker was CEO Stacey Troha from Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin. Lions Eye Bank now has a new building because of the Lions, it exists because of the Lions. She walked everyone through a time schedule of a cornea transport and transplant and the Lions network to make sure the cornea arrives on time. They exist because Lions exist.

Afternoon Sessions

The following sessions were held throughout the afternoon:

Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin Gift of Sight from Wisconsin to Vietnam

Habitat for Humanity by Lion Katie Karls

Above & Beyond Children Museum- A Purple Octopus Comes to Town - Jackie Erdman

Recruiting Members for the Next Century of Service- IPID Lion Connie LeClerc-Meyer

Wisconsin DHS Blind & Visually Impaired Services - Jennifer Shimon

International Director Lion Ken Ibarra

Evening Banquet

The evening started off with the introduction of the dignitaries present followed by dinner. Nominations chair Lion Mike Helmke gave out the results from the elections. There were 78 delegates that voted. Thank you to the committee that did their due diligence. Resolution #1 to remove Lioness from all documents passed, resolution # 2 to keep in line with LCI constitution and bylaws passed, convention site for 2023 will be Par 5 Resort in Mishicot, bean bag tournament for 2022 will be hosted by Sheboygan Noon Lions, peace poster # 1 submitted by Rosendale Lions by Adriana LeCaptain, pin design was a tie with a coin toss and # 5 the Lion saying "Tell Your Story" was declared the winner, Eye Bank director will be Lion Charles Kiefenheim of St. Peter Lions, WLF Director was also very, very close and had to be recounted and Lion Dick Karl of Sheboygan Noon Lions was the winner, 2nd vice district governor was Lion Dave Holschbach of the Mishicot Lions, 1st vice district governor will be Lion Greg Kubichka of the Chilton Lions, and district governor will be Lion Dave Brinkman of the Brandon Lions. Lion Dave Brinkman thanked everyone and will work with **Your Goals not His Goals**. Motion to destroy the ballots by PDG Ken Rohde, 2nd by Lion Wendy Hartmann. **MOTION CARRIED** Cabinet Secretary/Treasurer Lion Dave has the tally sheet, recount sheet and pin poster tally sheet. CST Lion Dave reported the district raffle proceeds were approximately \$ 6,000 of which the district retains 50 %. The winners were 1st PDG Tom Berendes, 2nd Kiel Lions, 3rd Lion Dick Karl, 4th Howards Grove Lions, 5th Ripon Lions and 6th DG Bill Anderson.

ID Ken Ibarra presented a special award. The International Presidential Medal is the 2nd highest level of an award to a Lion who maintains the high standards of Lions. It was present to IPDG Tom Wendt. IPDG Tom received this for his involvement in getting the Van Dyne Lioness to join the Van Dyne Lions. IPDG Tom thanked all those who made his term successful along with his partner in service Lion Roxanne. We Serve and that's what he does.

DG BJ introduced a fellow blind sailing enthusiast Walter Raineri, who he met at the Blind Sailing event in Sheboygan. **Trust your skipper**. Walt is an amazing and inspirational speaker. His topic was **-Anti Pity Party-You Do Not Need Sight to Have Vision LIONS** (need to serve) We have to adapt to overcome disabilities, it is a team effort. We cannot do everything at all times. Life is a journey. You need perseverance. Set yourself up for success. The need to serve is real.

Convention wrap-up by ID Ken. He had so much fun, many new friends and learned a lot while here at 27-B1 convention and expressed his appreciation to DG BJ and Lion Vickie. Lion Amy (ID Ken's partner in service) mentioned their lives have changed after being at the convention, she cried at least 3 times. They presented appreciations to PID Art Marson & Lion Jo, International candidate PDG Lee & Lion Mary Vrieze. In appreciation of DG BJ and Lion Vickie they made a donation in their name to Leader Dog for the Blind. Special thanks to Event Planners Sandy Larson and Joan Post for always making sure everything was right. Lions thank you for your hospitality.

DG BJ and Lion Vickie made a donation to LCIF on behalf of ID Ken and Lion Amy along with some Seroogy Chocolates and a crystal compass to remember us on their journey. DG BJ commented this was an amazing journey. He hoped this convention would be a little different this year. Let your clubs know what they missed. All the great speakers and seminars better than expected. Sunday morning will be a special tribute to PDG Len Quinn. Thank you to his family for their support. Enjoy yourselves.

It's a great day to be a **LION**.

DG BJ Blahnik officially closed the 46th Annual MD27B1 District Convention at 8:27 pm.

"THE JOURNEY IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS THE DESTINATION"

Sunday November 14 – TRIBUTE TO LION LEN QUINN

The convention wrapped up with Leader Dog Presentation-Tribute to PDG Lion Len Quinn video. This was presented by Lion Mike Dengate of Leader Dog.

Respectfully submitted by Cabinet Secretary/Treasurer Lion Dave Holschbach