



District 27-B1 District Conference Minutes
Friday-Saturday November 14 & 15, 2014
Best Western Premier – 1 N Main St – Oshkosh, WI 54901

Friday night opening of the District 27 B1 conference started with “Fast and Fun Casino Night” in the ballrooms.

District 27 B1 Conference was officially called to order @ 8:30 A.M. by District Governor DG Gary Silah.

Presentation of flags were carried by Military Veterans. Lion Diane Henke explained the history and significance of the US flag, Wisconsin flag, New Hampshire flag, Lions Club International, Wisconsin Lions Foundation and Lions Eyebank of Wisconsin.

Pledge of Allegiance led by IPDG Dawn Christensen. Opening prayer by District Chaplain Diane Henke.

District Governor Gary Silah welcomed all Lions, Lioness, Leos and guests. He discussed this year's International President's theme of “Strengthen the Pride.” He also introduced the conference special guest, International Director Ed Farrington from New Hampshire.

Welcome to Oshkosh from Mayor Burk Tower. He thanked all Lions for their service to their communities. “YOU make a DIFFERENCE” He talked about the history of Oshkosh, the events and what they have to offer and invited everyone to come back and enjoy the city.

Lioness Affiliate President Cindy thanked everyone for attending. There are 13 Lioness clubs in our district. The Lioness PRIDE themselves in helping their communities and others in need.

Council Chair PDG Connie LeClair-Meyer gave the STATE of the STATE report. MD 27 membership started the year at 18,391 members and now is at 18,354, a decline of 26. Service projects in the district are 191 service projects, 27 vision projects, 31 hunger projects, 5 environment projects and 154 miscellaneous projects. District 27 B1 is lacking in LEADERSHIP. Currently there is no 1st Vice District Governor in line. She sent out a plea to get someone. Training is available. We are all there to help. “How do we get people?” Currently the budget for the Lions Foundation is balanced. The monthly WI Lions Newspaper is expensive. DG Gary Silah is on the Personnel Committee and Birch Sturm Committee.

Peace Poster chair Lion Sandy King said there will be 6 Peace Posters vote on. This year's theme is “Peace, Love and Understanding.” Voting guidelines will be posted.

Youth Exchange chair also Lion Sandy King, mentioned Youth camp is located in District 27B1. Our district however is the lowest in donations and activity. They are in need of host families for 16-20 year old and are open for sending youths to other countries.

District 27 B1 news editor Lion Mike DeBaere mentioned our District 27 B1 page is ‘BORING.’ We need to get better articles and more action photos. PLEASE send them to him, remember the lead time needed for publishing.

Lion Wendy Hartmann the district pin chair mentioned there are currently 3 pin designs to be voted on. Anyone is free to submit a design, just draw it up and post it by the voting area. The winning design gets \$25.00

Hearing and Speech chairman Lion Wendy Hartmann has had 12 applications for hearing aids, 3 denials, 3 approval and 2 pending. Lion Wendy mentioned a SPECIAL PROJECT she would like to see District 27 B1 support. Previously District 27B1 was the number 1 supporter for the Hearing Loop Project. BABY GREYSEN FUND is for a special hearing aid need for baby Greysen, who was born with no left ear and ear canal. He would need a special hearing aid which cost \$8000 is needed now while he is developing. Funds need to be collected by December 31, 2014. She is asking for donations from Lions clubs. Motion on the floor made by PDG Merle Strelow, 2nd by Lion Sandy King that District 27 B1 support the "BABY GREYSEN FUND" program. **MOTION CARRIED** "THANK YOU." More info on website. Lion Wendy challenged each club to donate \$100 within the next 6 weeks.

Quest chairman PDG Vern Pautz talked about the Quest Program. Quest is the best program out there, but it is not being used. Money is available, it is not expensive. Quest teaches skills for kids on different levels. There have been many positive results. "LETS GET IT INTO THE SCHOOLS" Youth are our FUTURE.

Nominations were conducted by Lions BJ Blahnik.

First nomination was for District Governor elect. WLF Lion Fred Gebhart did the first nomination for Lion Marv Henke. Lion Marv is a dedicated LION. He ready to step up and will do a super job. Second nomination was done by PDG Merle Strelow. He is proud to be the second for Lion Marv. Lion Marv has completed all of the training and has done extra. Lion Marv Henke did accept the nomination. He thanked everyone for their support throughout the past years. "WE SERVE, not I SERVE" "I WILL DO THIS STANDING UP" Call to the floor 3 times for any other nominations. Motion by PDG Ken Rhode, 2nd by PDG Merle Strelow to close nominations. **MOTION CARRIED**

Second nomination was for First District Governor. There were no nominations filed. Call to the floor 3 times for any nominations. NO NOMINATIONS RECEIVED. Motion by PDG Merle Strelow, 2nd by PDG Ken Rhode to close nominations. **MOTION CARRIED**

Third nomination was for Second District Governor. There are none on the ballot. PDG Merle Strelow came forward with a nomination for WLF Lion Fred Gebhart of Stockbridge Lions. Lion Fred is very active in the club. He is also Zone Chairman, WLF Director and on the WLF committees. Please consider his nomination. He does have his wife's blessing. The second nomination was given by PDG Tom Clausen. Lion Fred is a TRUE BLUE LION! He is proud to support him. Lion Fred Gebhart did accept the nomination. He thanked PDGs Merle and Tom for the nomination. "WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN." He has learned to anticipate what will come. THANK YOU! Call to the floor 3 times for any other nominations. Motion by PDG Vern Pautz, 2nd by PDG Merle Strelow to close nominations. **MOTION CARRIED** Lion Fred's name will be added to the ballot.

The fourth nomination on the floor was for the bowling site for 2016. Poy Sippi Lions club is interested in hosting it. Poy Sippi President nominated their club to host and Vice President Jay made a second for Poy Sippi to host. No other nominations. Call to the floor 3 times for any other nominations. Motion by PDG Merle Strelow, 2nd by PDG Ken Rohde to close nominations. **MOTION CARRIED**

The fifth nomination was for the Advisory site for 2015 conference site. There will be 4 sites to be voted on. Alphabetically they are: Blue Harbor Resort in Sheboygan, Fox Hills Resort in Mishicot, Heidel House in Green Lake and Radisson Paper Valley in Appleton. Blue Harbor Resort did not have a representative but was offering rates at \$99. Fox Hills Resort has the dates of October 30th or November 6th available. PDG Vern represented Mishicot Lions and Fox Hills Resort, they are offering a rate of \$70 with a rebate of \$8. They have hosted the conference 5-6 times. They would also have special rate of \$159 for condos. Heidel House Resort had a representative manning their booth. They are offering a rate of \$69. Radisson Paper Valley is offering a rate of \$81 on the November 12th weekend. They will offer complimentary meeting space. They are located in downtown Appleton and accessible to the vibrant downtown area, just outside their doors. Call to the floor 3 times for any other nominations. Motion by PDG Merle Strelow, 2nd by PDG Ken Rohde to close nominations. **MOTION CARRIED** The question of the date for the convention was asked. It will be decided by the voting. Nominations officially closed by Lion BJ Blahnik.

DG Gary commented that it is impossible to do the job alone. He has 3 special International Presidents Award of Appreciation to present. The awards were given out by ID Ed Farrington. The first award was given to Cabinet Secretary Treasurer Lion Dave Holschbach. With the short notice of DG Gary becoming District Governor, he needed a lot of help and organization, Lion Dave accepted the challenge. The second award was given to Lion Mike De Baere who has helped as District Editor and District Raffle chair along with District Convention. The third award was given to WLF Lion Fred Gebhart who has been WLF representative, zone chairman and now has accepted nomination for 2nd District Governor.

PDG Merle Strelow asked if nominations could be reopened, he now has a candidate for the vacant 1st District Governor. Nominations are officially closed. Any possible candidate will have to be a write in or cabinet appointed.

WLF Lion Fred Gebhart representing Wisconsin Lions Missions reported that there currently is a mission to Haiti. They are still working on missions to Mexico. Lions Missions are helping those that need help. This is not only for out of the country but also helping IN STATE for disaster programs.

Lion BJ Blahnik, our Leader Dog representative, reported that the special funding for the canine development center is under construction and funding has surpassed what was expected. Lion BJ is available for speaking to clubs, zones.....anyone. There currently are 55 active guide dogs. The financial goal of Leader Dog has been met. Please continue your support.

WLF President Lee Vrieze thanked Lions for their support. He gave recognition to the District 27B1 WLF representative PDG Tom King and Lion Fred Gebhart, he also asked the Program Associate to stand. Kids Sight USA is a new LCI project. The Quest program and Diabetes Awareness are expanding. There were 1335 campers this past year. The camp is in need of male counselors. Deer Hide collection is now going on, last year's proceeds were \$96,000.

LEBW President PDG Shirley Lemke introduced District 27 B1 representative Lion Phil Weber. There were 877 recipients for eye transplants and 220 other. They are hired new staff and more surgeons. They are always in need of donations for technology advancements. Currently they are working with Shopko stores for "PROJECT EYECARE PROGRAM." Thanks to all LIONS for your support and the KNIGHT of SIGHT awards given. All transporters stood for recognition and applause.

PID Peter Cerniglia reported on the Wisconsin Lions Project, "RESTORING HOPE TRANSPLANT HOUSE". Restoring Hope is a home away from home for the family of transplant patients. It is a safe environment and a very understanding atmosphere. Currently it is always full. They are looking for a 3 year capital expansion campaign fund to add 11 more rooms. They would like each district to commit to \$10,000 per year. Every little bit helps.

Lions Pride Executive Director Lion Geri Schlender put out a challenge to donate more. The donations are not enough to cover costs. This year's interest was enough to cover the cost of 40 campers. They anticipate this year's interest to cover 101 campers. District 27B1 had 100% participation. Special THANK YOU to Cleveland Lions for leading the way in major donations, they are a great supporter of the program and 1st in donations. 8% donations come from corporations, 22 % comes from Lions Clubs and the other 70% comes from individuals. There are various awards and programs to donate to.

BREAK FOR LUNCH

Luncheon program called to order at 11:30 am.

Pledge of Allegiance led by IPDG Dawn Christensen

Song and Prayer led by Lion Chaplain Diane Henke

DG Gary Silah introduced all District Governors, Past International Directors, WLF Representatives, Eyebank Directors, Past District Governors and other dignitaries. This covered the majority of the crowd. He then asked everyone not mentioned to stand for recognition.

PID Mark Hintzmann introduced the conference special guest International Director Ed Farrington from New Hampshire. This is ID Ed's first conference speaking. ID Ed is very easy to talk to.

ID Ed Farrington talked about LCI Centennial Service Program and "STRENGTHEN PRIDE" He also talked about engaging youth and helping them. Share in vision and sight programs. He also talked about various LCI programs. Thank you to Wisconsin Lions for their time and service. He presented DG Gary and others with special gifts.

Special donation was made to Lions Camp. PDG Len Quinn talked about Lion Tony Baranek of Ripon called forward to receive a donation from Lion Tony Baranek estate in the amount of \$ 46,671.64.

District 27B1 presented a Birch Sturm award to IPDG Dawn Christensen.

The annual district auction was held for the travelling Lions Bank. PDG Merle Strelow gave the rules. The Lions Bank is PROTECTED and cannot be stolen. Final bid was from FAIRWATER LIONS for \$4500.00. A second auction was held for the refreshment cooler won by ID Ed's wife. The final bid was also from FAIRWATER for \$ 300.00.

Necrology Service followed remembering 34 Lions and 1 Lioness.

Parade of checks followed, results at the Evening Banquet by Lion Dave Holschbach, CST

Four Afternoon Sessions were held after lunch. They were "Walking Into the Dim with the Power of Vision" "Chelsea and Her Service Dog, Harken" "The Camper Experience" and "Haiti Medical Mission of Wisconsin, Inc."

Delegate voting to follow sessions.

DINNER

Saturday evening Governors Banquet was called to order at 6:35 pm by DG Gary Silah. PID Mark Hintzmann passed the honor of introduction of guest speaker to his wife Lion Jayne. She introduced Lion Elaine Farrington.

Lion Elaine talked about how ID Ed got involved in Lions. He originally joined because he was running for school board and wanted to show he was involved in the community. Lion Elaine joined 5 years later due to being involved in the Lions projects. ID Ed wanted to be a part of an organization that benefits the community. ID Ed mentioned joining the Lions Club was the best thing he ever did.

Gifts were exchanged between ID Ed and DG Gary. DG Gary said there are a lot of perks with being the District Governor, the best is meeting new friends.

DG Gary presented two Certificates of Appreciation. The first, to 1st Vice District Governor Marv Henke for being a GUIDING LION. The second was given to IPDG Dawn Christensen for being the mentor for District Governor Gary and also in appreciation for her term as District Governor.

The parade of check results were given by CST Lion Dave Holschbach. There were a total of 18 clubs and 1 individual that donated. A total of 15 different Lions programs were supported. Total donations amount to \$ 41,485.00.

Election results were given by Lion BJ Blahnik. District Governor Elect is Lion Marv Henke, 1st Vice District Governor elect was write in candidate Lion Tom Berendes, President of the Oxford Lions, 2nd Vice District Governor elect Lion Fred Gebhart. District Bowling host will be Poy Sippi Lions Club. On a very close vote, the advisory site for the 2015 District Conference was Radisson Paper Valley in Appleton. The winning pin design was # 2 the Eye Glasses and Peace Poster winner was # 1.

Voting results from the Lioness given by Lioness Cindy Rank were Vice President Bonnie Glaeser from Sherwood Pride and President Elect Lioness/Lion Jerry Post.

District Raffle winners were drawn by Lion Elaine Farrington. A total of \$3200 was raised. \$ 1,532.50 was disbursed between 6 winners. 1st place Lioness Karen Ewald, 2nd and 4th place Coloma Lions, 3rd place Chilton Lions, 5th place Neshkoro Lions and 6th place Lion Ken Brzezinski.

Closing invocation given by Lion Diane Henke.

The New Hampshire flag was retired and given to ID Ed Farrington.

DG Gary Silah officially called the 39th Annual District 27 B1 Conference closed.

Adjourned at 8:30 pm

Respectfully submitted.

Lion Dave Holschbach Cabinet Secretary Treasurer