



Official Minutes Third District Meeting – District 4-A1 February 21 – 22, 2014 Club House for Murphys Angels Lions Murphys, California

Friday, February 21, 2014: Friday evening was casual night in the mountain region at the Murphys Angels Club House. Menu was roasted chicken, lasagna, and dessert. There were about 100 people there and those who did not make it missed a good time to get acquainted with some “new faces” as members were encouraged to attend who had never been to a district meeting.

After dinner, the convention management committee of Chair Dave Bailey, PDG Francis Bognuda, and Lion Jim Weaver met with PDG Pat Dimond (treasurer), DG Tom Bauder, Lion Toni Dickerson, and PDG Gene Weatherby.

Saturday, February 22, 2014: 0745 continental breakfast was served by Clements Lockeford Lions.

Cabinet Meeting was started at **0810** in the old school building across the parking lot and presided over by DG Tom Bauder. Present: RC Kenny Ayers, ZC Dave Thompson, ZC Carrie Guadagnolo, RC Eileen Vaccarezza, PDG Steve Granlees, 1VDG Kent Christensen, visiting 1VDG Eva Hebebrand with spouse PDG David Hebebrand, PDG-Treasurer Pat Casey-Gillum, PDG Francis Bognuda, CMC Ch. Dave Bailey, ZC Wendy Dart, CS Sue Carner, 2VDG Ron Raines, ZC John Sondeno, IPDG Jim Syvertsen, PDG Tom Penhalegon, PDG Francis Bognuda, PDG Russ Custer, PDG Dave McCullough, RC Kenny Ayers, RC Marilyn Richardson, and PID Bob Smith.

PDG Steve Granlees reported on Camp Pacifica – rentals are up, but we still need more funding. Many of the clubs are not contributing at all. His recommendation was to have every club donate \$500.00 each per year. Work completed or still being done included expanding the cement area between the house and the dining hall, and redoing the end of the house as an office. There is a need to replace the 2 tractors. Water system is OK at present. Members recommended restarting Lions Day at the camp to encourage club participation and get them interested in THEIR district project.

2VDG Ron Raines reported on the fundraiser for the MD4 Rose Parade Float – the district raised \$8000 with one contribution for \$5000 for a seat on the float! After listening to the Camp Pacifica

Report, he recommended that the committee might want to think about doing patches also as a fundraiser.

Membership was discussed; 4 clubs have less than 10 with one planning to drop completely.

Convention management committee chair Dave Bailey reported that there are 71 reservations for the convention (April 24-27) at present and that we need 186 “room nights” in order to fulfill the contract.

RC Eileen Vaccarezza reported that the state speech tournament is scheduled for the same weekend as the convention. Our convention dates were in first.

0900 was the finance meeting in the same building with IPDG Jim Syvertsen presiding. Treasurer PDG Pat Casey Gillum will be doing the minutes for this meeting.

Meeting was adjourned and members returned to the main building for the general meeting.

1000 General Meeting: RC Marilyn Richardson started meeting with Pledge by ZC Wendy Dart; Song and Invocation by Lion Jill Loving. DG Tom Bauder introduced the head table: PID Bob Smith and spouse Lion Vicki; DG Tom’s spouse Lion Toni Dickerson; 1VDG Kent Christensen; visiting 1VDG Eva Hebebrand and spouse PDG Hebebrand of District 4L1, 2VDG Ron Raines, Cabinet Secretary Sue Carner, and CT PDG Pat Casey-Gillum.

Honorary was done by PDG Russ Custer.

The following nominations were submitted for the convention ballot: for DG - Kent Christensen, Merced Breakfast Lions; for 1VDG - Ron Raines, Le Grand Lions; for 2VDG - Marilyn Richardson, Copperopolis Lake Tulloch Lions; for at-large position on Eyemobile Committee, Lion Bill Ames, Modesto 500 Lions; for Stanislaus Region Representative on the Convention Management Committee – Lion Sue Carner, Modesto 500 Lions; for positions on the Camp Pacifica board – Lion Sinath Vann (Mike), South Stockton Lions; PDG Jim and Lion Jill Loving, Livingston Lions; and PDG Steve Granlees, Clements Lockeford Lions.

1030 Panel Discussion on Membership with Moderator RC Marilyn Richardson:

■ **PID Robert Smith** spoke about **retention** and the need to keep members interested and happy and to work with them if there are issues with the club. It also helps to have good role models (especially sponsors). Explained Proud Lion program which is on-line.

■ **PDG Pat Dimond (GLT) and PDG Pat Casey-Gillum (GMT)** discussed the question: **Why stay?** For comradery, similar likes and interests and desires to do things for the community. We need to make sure information is provided to the members about current needs of the community; projects started 20 years ago may not be appropriate or necessary for today. If there are cliques, we need to encourage seat changes occasionally. For some clubs, “oh that’s Harry’s chair” is inappropriate unless it is for a handicap. Program chairs need to make sure there are good programs and good speakers especially about potential projects in the community.

■ **Lion Dwight Stephens** talked about **recruiting new members** at which he has had considerable success (Yosemite Region). Clubs need to have good activities and projects which keep the members busy. Sometimes the way to recruit is invite a nonmember to work a project rather than just inviting them to a meeting. If you invite them to a meeting, make sure they are introduced to everybody and made to feel welcome. Also make sure there is a good program and not just a board meeting. Encourage your club to start a Leo club if they do not have one. This is a good source of new members. Try to find out where a graduating Leo is going to school and send a letter of introduction to an Omega club (if available). Also young adults and your family members are a potential source. (He talked about his uncle who introduced him to Lionism.) Baby Boomers (birth year 1945-65) might have more time and resources to participate in Lions as well as money to contribute to fundraisers. New members need to be advertised. He also recommended the new membership brochure that was published this year by LCI: “Just Ask”.

■ **Lion Jim Gormely** (Sonora Lions) spoke of the **Club Excellence Process** which his club has had reasonable success. His club has brought in 8 members in the last year and have more in line. He explained the difference between the Club Excellence Light where a club member does the teaching of the process, and the Club Excellence Pro where an outsider Lion does the teaching. He also talked about modernizing projects for the community. “Worker bees” need to be service minded and not just “ticket sellers”. There needs to be good communication among members and the community; great public relations! Of course, the best would be a strong membership program and really working on retention.

■ **Lion Claudia Miller** (Modesto 500 Lions) is **Top Club Chairperson** and she reiterated that sharing club information with members is a priority especially for those who have missed a meeting(s). Also she talked about marketing the club; again PR, PR, PR. Here we go again – we are the best kept secret in town! This is not bragging, it is public relations! The other thing clubs need to let her know is how many pairs of used eyeglasses has your club turned in and pounds of pull tabs.

■ **PDG Tom Penhallegon** (Sonora Lions) informed us that the new chairpersons for the next three years are Lion Jim Gormely (GMT) and PDG Tom Penhallegon (GLT). His recommendation for retention is new leadership every year and growing the club so that you have a larger pool for leaders.

Audience comments included: cliques which are sometimes OK; what Baby Boomer years are; what to do with isolated communities; and means of recognition of members and new members.

1130 Leo Advisors meeting at old school, Lion Ray Hammersley, Chairperson.

1140 District Reports:

● **“The Walking Man”** – Lion Ric Ryan of Murphys Angels Lions talked about his fundraiser for “Operation Mend”, which is a combination of the best resources of the US military with the skills of UCLA Health physicians in a collaborative and comprehensive approach to healing US military personnel wounded and disfigured in Iraq and Afghanistan. The goal is to treat every patient with honor, compassion, and exceptional care, while recognizing not only the patient’s needs, but also those of his or her immediate family and caregivers. Lion Ric is walking around Murphys every day and waving at passing vehicles. If they wave back, he marks his hand and contributes a quarter for every wave he receives. Then each month he sends a check to the program. He figures he has contributed about \$60,000.00. If you are interested in contributing, make a check out to “Operation Mend” and send it to Ric Ryan, PO Box 1674, Murphys, CA 95247. Phones (H) 209-728-2388 or (C) 209-770-2386.

● **Relay for Life** – Lion Ramona Green of Arnold Lions discussed the American Cancer Society’s signature fundraiser which is coming up this Spring. A new American Cancer Society report shows that the decline in cancer mortality has reach 20%, translating to the avoidance of about 1.2 million deaths from cancer over the past 9 years. That’s more than 400 lives saved per day! From 1988 to 2009, here in California, there has been a:

23% drop in cancer deaths
30% drop in breast cancer deaths
36% drop in prostate cancer deaths

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One of her friends had a birthday in January. His family was hesitant, but decided to throw him a big party. She wanted to bring a present, but what do you give to someone who's on Hospice? So she went to the party empty-handed. She met his daughter there, and asked her what she could give him. Without a moment's thought, she said a Relay For Life Survivor Medal from 2013. After opening ceremonies at Relay, survivors are invited to take the first track around the lap, called the Survivor's Lap. During this lap, everyone celebrates their victory over cancer. They cheer them on; as they pass by, they applaud and shout out words of encouragement; and when the survivors finish the lap they are presented with a medal like this one. Now her friend had participated in many Relays, but last year, he was too sick to attend and didn't get his 2013 Survivor Medal. So she went home and came back with hers and gave it to him. He was so happy! He told everyone how much Relay meant to him and how glad he was to get this medal. She knows Relay makes a difference. And if you still don't think Relay makes a difference, she doesn't know what else will.

In your mailboxes, you will find a listing of all this year's Relays within our District. Please try to participate in one. Form a team. Hold a fundraiser. Go walk. Invite a survivor to attend. Once you experience a Relay, your life will change and you will be hooked forever. And remember that participation in Relay qualifies for Top Club points. Last year, our District made a donation to the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life in Memory of and In Honor of District 4-A1 Lions Touched by Cancer. In appreciation of this donation, the American Cancer Society has given us a recognition award. To DG Tom Bauder and IPDG Jim Syvertsen she presented this award to them for 2013. Thank you, District 4-A1, for celebrating those who have faced cancer and have survived, for remembering those who have lost the battle to this horrible disease, and for fighting back against a disease that takes far too much from so many.

Noon – Lunch of sub sandwiches by Lake Don Pedro Gold Chain Lions and Sonora Lions. ZC Wendy Dart reported on the First Timers contest were first timers had to get signatures from the cabinet and certain important district Lions – Lion Mary Raso of Arnold Lions won with the most signatures (whoever looked important! ☺).

1300 - Life as an International Director by PID Robert Smith. PID Smith and his spouse Lion Vickie gave us a very interesting commentary about their lives during his tenure – a two year commitment with traveling 40,000 miles a year. Besides International Conventions and ID meetings, there are also District Conventions and meetings, and Club Anniversaries to attend. She talked about learning to pack Wednesday or Thursday night, just about every week for the weekend (3 weekends/month, sometimes more), and then return Sunday or Monday, do the laundry and get ready to pack for the next trip. She did not mention also having to pack for different seasons depending on where in the world the next meeting was. Fitting life around sleeping and eating and going to and from the airport was interesting. At the ID board meetings there were always lots of people, like a giant Council of Governors meeting. Thursday night of the ID board meetings was used for reading the "book" of reports from all the committees so that they could discuss them the next day. They visited 33 states and 5 countries (Scotland, Hong Kong, Sydney, Korea, and Canada x 2).

1330 District Reports Continued:

- **"Rim Fire"** by PDG Tom Penhallegon. PDG Tom acknowledged ZC Wendy Dart, Lion Bob Bader and he were the front table and leaders for the kitchen in Sonora for the people working on the fire or having been affected by the fire. He also thanked those who had actually gotten there and worked in the kitchen, signed up to work but were called off because the kitchen closed down, and those who contributed funds and/or goods for the kitchen.
- **Student Speakers Foundation** by PDG Russ Custer, Trustee. He talked about the different plaques for which the clubs and individuals could donate for the foundation. Of course he is hoping clubs start making donations prior to the end of the year as the district contributions are very low at present.
- **Student Speakers Contest** by PDG Francis Bognuda. He hopes that all the club contests are done as the deadline is in 2 days. Zone contests must be done by March 16th; Region contests by April 6th; and the District contest will be April 19th at the convention in San Ramon.

- **Lions Eye Foundation** by PDG/1st VP Dennis Noble. PDG Dennis updated the district as to the latest information from LEF. He reported that the residents did 348 eye surgeries in this year for northern and central California, and Nevada. Procedures included cataracts 140/year; laser surgery 160/year; and 450 Intravitreal Injections/year. With contracts and donations of funds and services, we were able to leverage \$13.00/\$1.00 for the last year. He also explained the difference between the Eye Foundation and Lions in Sight.
- **Lions Clubs International Foundation** by 1VDG Kent Christensen (for PDG Don Allen). Donations by MD4 for 2012-13 were Number 1 in Area 1 of Canada/USA. In 2013-14 the goal is \$500,000 and we have \$363,000 already.
- **Golf Tournament for District Convention**, we need 32 golfers and so far only 8 have responded. Deadline is mid-March.
- **White Cane** by Lion Norma Bognuda reported receiving 2 club reports so far for the year. She needs all reports in by April 1 for any awards at the convention.
- **Camp Pacifica**. ZC Dee Heller, President reported potential new sessions for camp to include "Blind Camp", and Candle Lighters from Children's Hospital. They have new caretakers who are doing really well. PDG Russ Custer noted that they have had an increase in rentals. PDG Steve Granlees reported that 43 clubs have donated to Camp Pacifica; work days are coming up. Lion Jill Loving noted that 68% of clubs support the camp. 18 clubs have adopted a cabin out of 63. Calendar: 3/22 is the Round Up at Grange Hall, Hilmar; Clay Shoot; 2015 Cruise to be organized 2/7; 8/1 Lions Day at Camp Pacifica.
- **MediAlert Children's Program Update** by PDG Francis Bognuda (for Lion Terry Anderson): As of February 4, 2014 the Lions have protected close to 200 children with memberships and lifesaving medical ID's. We have 28 active Lions Clubs participating in the program and 4 districts –C5, A2, A3, and L3. Contributions have totaled over \$25,000.00 to date. Through a relationship with Country Club Lions from 4C5, we have formed an alliance with Sacramento County Child Protective Services. Don't forget about donations through Harry Carlson Awards for \$300.00.
- **Flag Day** – Don't forget to order flags if necessary for your school presentations and get reports in in a timely fashion.
- **All Star Football** by Lion Elizabeth Gibbs Olson presented PID Smith with his official pink pompom to cheer the members on as she gave her report. Game has existed for 41 years this year and it will be dedicated to the late PDG Felix Romo. It will be held June 14, 2014 at 7 PM game time at Tracy High School in Wayne Schneider Stadium. The press banquet will be April 12, 2014 at the Italian Athletic Club in Stockton. Ads: business card \$50.00; double card \$100.00; ¼ page \$150.00; ½ page \$300.00; ¾ page \$450.00; and full page \$600.00.
- **Parkers Prom** by Lion Liz Bockhop reported that since there was not enough funding by Valentine's Day; hopefully the prom will be held in April or May with enough funding obtained. Send donations to Lion Liz Bockhop, 616 Kings Ave, Chowchilla, CA 93610.
- **Top Club** by Lion Claudia Miller requested that suggestions for changes be emailed to Lion Claudia especially since some of the clubs who were requesting this meeting are not here.

Certificates of Appreciation were given to PID Robert Smith and 1VDG Eva Hebebrand.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1435.

Respectfully submitted,

/S/ Sue Carner

Sue Carner, Cabinet Secretary, District 4-A1

