



District 4 – A1 Meeting Kick Off Yosemite Region Minutes

Game Day: September 19, 2026
Home Field: Merle L. Fuller School
1101 Monterey St. Chowchilla



- Welcome/Pledge/Song/Invocation/Honorary—11 PDGs were in attendance including 1 visiting PDG/Roll Call—25 Clubs were in attendance including 2 Leo Clubs. Total Lions, Leos, and Cubs in attendance: 62 includes 8 Leos and 2 cubs.

Introduction of District Governor/Cabinet/Visiting Dignitaries. DG Steve Moore then inducted a new member David Valdez from Stockton San Joaquin Lions. To welcome new Lion David Valdez, PDG Kent Christiansen issued a challenge of \$10.00 to all Lions in attendance to make donations in his name to get him started in supporting LCIF. The donation challenge to LCIF for the new member totaled \$70.00.

- Keynote Speaker PDG John Posey, Executive Director Lions Eye Foundation followed by service project—sorting eyeglasses.
- Student Speakers Contest Training—ZC Shawn Monnin: Important take-aways—how to run a contest, qualifications for judges, must read, and follow rules. Zoom meeting training September 28th 7:00 PM--notices sent to club presidents & secretaries. Packets must be ordered by Oct. 1st to receive physical packet; digital packets are available on the MD-4 website. (handout)
- DG Steve Moore spoke about holding the Student Speakers Contest at the April District Convention. A poll was sent and resent to all presidents for their input on scheduling the District Contest at the District Convention in April 2027 at Black Oak Casino Resort.
- Peace Poster/Essay Contest—Jeff Hammar: Theme—Harmony in Humanity. Jeff shared common reasons why posters may be disqualified (poster size, age of student, label not affixed properly to back, missing parent signature). Deadline to purchase contest kits Oct. 1st. (handout)

Chairpersons/Committee Reporting

- Top Clubs Awards/Long Tail Short Tail—Maggie Stickler (handout)
Top Club 2025-26 winners:
Clubs under 25 1st place: Merced Healthy Leo Lions, 2nd Place Stockton San Joaquin
Clubs 26-50 1st place: Madera Evening, 2nd Place Denair
Clubs 51-75 1st place: Patterson, 2nd Place Tracy Breakfast
Clubs 75+ 1st place: Linden, 2nd Place Oakdale
Shout out to Sonora and Stockton Healthy Leo Lions was made for their activities and reporting.

- Finance Committee—PDG Pat Casey-Gillum: July-August report submitted and summarized. Pat explained the reimbursement process.
- LCIF—PDGS Kent Christensen & Don Allen: Report included information about LCIF, grants (1.4 billion since 1967), 4-A1 club participation (26/48 clubs), ways to donate, and support pins. Winner from the LCIF Buy-A Square board announced. Information on Quest Juvenile Justice Diversion program shared. \$500 donation to LCIF received from the All-Star Football committee in honor of DG Steve Moore.
- CLF—Todd Riebe, District 4-A1 CLF Director, explaining the matching grant criteria and specialty grant criteria. (handout)
- Proud Lion—GMT Tom Machado: Tom distributed Lions Membership Application cards that can be given at events. He spoke about the Proud Lion Mentoring Program, handed out forms, and explained how to earn pins. (handout)
- Fentanyl Free America—PCC Claudia Miller: Claudia spoke about the Lions and US Drug Enforcement Administration Fentanyl Free America program, that could become a project for the District and all individual clubs. (handout)
- Youth Protection Policy—CS Debbi Hopman & DG Steve Moore: Our district was the first in MD-4 to submit all club Youth Service Compliance Forms. The MD-4 YPP policy is being rewritten, along with a new Youth Service Compliance Form. Once approved, more information will be shared with clubs. At this time, we do not know the implementation date.
- Patchwork of Purpose—Jennifer Gass: Jennifer shared information on this project. ZC Rodrigo Acosta showed samples of quilt squares. We will be featuring this project at our next district meeting.
- 2027 Convention—Mike Ostrom: Mike shared information about our April 1-4, 2027 convention. New activities are being planned. Tickets for a Lions-only raffle including convention registration for 2 nights at the hotel, and all convention meals will be available. (handout)
- All Star Baseball/Softball—ZC Ron Cutler: San Joaquin All Star Baseball and Softball games are back! Lion John Estante is helping to coordinate this event.
- Dignitary Comment/Closing Remarks/Adjournment

Future Meeting Dates: Nov. 7, 2026 Mountain Region: Mel & Faye's Diner 31 CA 88, Jackson
 Jan. 9, 2027 SJ Region: 444 Argonaut St., Manteca
 Apr. 1-4, 2027 District Convention at Black Oak Casino Resort, Tuolumne
 May 15, 2027 Stanislaus Region: Waterford Community Center 540 C St.,
 Waterford

Submitted by CS Debbi Hopman 9/21/26