

MD 40 Council Meeting Minutes
Moose Lodge
T or C, NM
August 12, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Council Chair Melissa Washburn at 12:50 p.m. 40S DG Gemma Ferguson did the invocation and 40N District Governor Rose Himrod led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CC Melissa welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. She introduced all current DG and VDG present. She also recognized our two PIDs, Ray Marley and Gordon Post, and then all PCC and DG in attendance.

The roll was called: Present: CC Melissa Washburn, 40N DG Rose Himrod, 40S DG and MD 40 Convention Chair Gemma Ferguson, PID Ray Marley, PID Gordon Post, 1st VDG 40N, Ursula Garcia, 1st VDG 40S Annie Miller, 2 VDG 40N Ed DeArmond, and 2nd VDG 40S Melissa Washburn, MD 40 Global Membership Chair PDG Vern Leavitt, MD 40 Global Leadership Chair PDG Randy Rhue, MD 40 Global Service Chair and MD 40 Centennial Coordinator Lion Mike Perrone, Sight Preservation, Awareness and Action Chair PDG Bobby Richardson, Youth Chair PCC Tom Himrod, MD 40 LCIF Chair PCC Bob Jones, Constitution and By-Laws Chair Lion Bryson McCool, Leader Dog Chair Lion Bette Reed, International Convention, USA/Canada Forum Chair Lion Jane Wells, Public Relations Chair Lion Gerry Jones, and MD 40 Secretary/Treasurer PCC Bill Whatley. DG Rose said that Lions Dottie and Lenny Bean were not called, and they are the MD 40 Special Olympics Co-Chairs. They were acknowledged.

Including the above named members, there were 38 Lions present.

CC Melissa said that Chicago was better than Hamburg. There are a lot of changes because the new IP is from India. He wrote a new theme song: "I Salute the Divine in You." This convention was a hundred years in the making. Action and Service are being stressed.

40N DG Rose Himrod thanked the members. She congratulated 40S IPDG Ruth Wilkes on a net increase in membership last year.

40S DG Gemma Ferguson said she had 540+ members in her district. She reported that in addition to Vision, Hunger, and the Environment, Lions are now actively engaged in combating Diabetes and Pediatric Cancer.

40S 1st VDG Annie Miller said she was honored to be in her position and would work diligently to be a good leader and promote the goals of Lions.

40N 1st VDG Ursula Garcia was also glad to be in her position and wanted to work hard to catch and surpass 40S in membership.

40N 2nd VDG Ed DeArmond said he would support both districts and MD 40 to the best of his abilities. Membership growth is his number one priority.

The minutes of the May 6, 2017 MD 40 Convention Meeting were accepted and approved.

IPCC Ruben Vigil presented gifts to the committee chairs during his term. He had been unable to do this in Raton because of time limitations.

The starting amount in the budget is \$5,758.43, \$4,269.72 in the General Fund, \$1,488.71 in the Centennial Fund. In addition, there is \$6,328.00 in the reserve Convention Fund. CC Melissa presented her proposed budget. Originally she started based on 1,100 members but had to reduce because there has already been some loss in membership. According to MD 40 Centennial Chair, we will receive an additional \$1,100.00 (\$650.00 + \$250.00 + \$250.00) in Centennial funding, but this can't be used for anything but Centennial programs. CC Melissa said we need to spend this money because we have no idea what will happen with the remaining funds. IPDG Vern Leavitt said that past 40N Centennial Chair Michael Dugas had held a Centennial Dinner and he would get that information to MD 40. DG Rose said that PCC Don Trumbull had told her the Moriarty Lions Club was getting an electronic billboard to put on the back of their clubhouse and would feature Lions projects and accomplishments. GLT Chair PDG Randy Rhue said that there had been a request for funds from the Centennial funds by a car club and funds were sent out. The proposed budget had been sent to all Council, Cabinet, and club presidents and secretaries. DG Rose asked about funds for the new Global Service Team Chair. CC Melissa stated that there are no funds allocated for this position. The MD 40 C&B-L is clear that the funds for the GLT and GMT are strictly for those two teams. We would need an amendment at the state convention in Carlsbad to be voted on and approved before we can fund this position. GST Chair Mike Perrone said he doesn't have any description for this position and doesn't know what funds he would require. Until we find out what the GST is supposed to do, we shouldn't even be discussing. DG Gemma wanted to verify that we would need an amendment at the state convention. DG Rose made the motion to approve, it was seconded, and approved.

Lion Bryson McCool said in LCI strategic plan, under the old MERLE Team, retention was put on the back burner. Everyone was talking new clubs and new members, but we were losing more members out the back door than we were getting.

1st VDG Ursula reported that the convention in Raton was a city effort, not just Lions. They did not have to pay for the convention center. DG Gemma said Carlsbad plans for the 2018 convention is going well. They are planning for the Friday night dinner a cookout on the Pecos River. They also have a boat ride planned and a wine tasting. They will have the registration cost by the next MD 40 Council Meeting. CC Melissa said that the boat ride is not on just any boat, but on a pirate ship.

What's MD 40's sustainability. Positive membership growth is the driving factor. Our growth has been average, but our loss has been really bad. 40% of our clubs have 15 or less members, 10% are 10 or less. 80% that dropped weren't really encouraged to stay. 40% of clubs actually participate in district and MD 40 activities. Since 2000, MD 40 lost 49 clubs and membership dropped by 1,002 members. (Lion Bryson's report is very good and can be sent out, but it's much too detailed for the minutes). GLT Randy said clubs need to have more social activities to get members

CC Melissa said she attended a Council Chair Class. She was told that if a district drops below 1,000 members we may be forced to go to one district. We need to put together a team of Lions to create a plan. DG Rose agreed that we need a plan. 1st VDG Ursula, Lion Bryson, GLT Chair PDG Randy, Lion Dr. Deborah Moy(?), and Lion Jane Wells volunteered to be on the team. DG Gemma said we had gone from 3 districts to 2, and it's foreseeable that we could be one if we don't do a drastic turnaround.

Leader Dog Chair Lion Bette Reed: Only 1 in 1.8 million dogs become a Leader Dog. Each Leader dog receives up to 17 months of hands on training. Dogs generally serve 8-10 years. MD 40 donated \$5,745.00 last year. Leader Dog does about 30 home deliveries a year, training the recipient and dog where the client is unable to attend Leader Dog School. Lion Bette wants members to make clear to their clubs and potential recipients that Leader Dogs are absolutely free to the recipient. Leader Dog services are not covered by insurance and receives no government funding.

Public Relations Chair Gerry Jones: She wants to see how the electronic billboard in Moriarty does. She also said that clubs need to keep sending articles and photos to their local newspapers.

Sight Preservation Awareness and Action Chair PDG Bobby Richardson: PDG Bobby reported on the dry eye symptom. Because we do more things up close (computer, reading, etc.) we don't blink as much. An eye that waters can also cause this problem. Tired eyes after a day on the computer can be another symptom. Dry Eyes can also be caused by inflammation, medications, and hormonal changes as we age. To aid in helping, use the 20-20-20 rule every 20 minutes, look away for 20 seconds at something at least 20 feet away. A warm compress can also help. The Rio Grande Lions Club is sponsoring a "Bike For Sight" Poker run on October 1, 2017, in conjunction with LIONS WORLD SIGHT DAY. Registration is \$25.00.

Youth Chair PCC Tom Himrod: PCC Tom recommended Leo "twinning" where a Leo is given a new Leo so they can learn and share together. PCC Tom had a list of all the chairs for the various youth programs in MD 40, along with a description of what these programs offer. (Available on request). DG Gemma said Lion Philip Van Veen is getting ready to start a new Leos Club in 40S.

PDG Bobby Richardson for Diabetes Awareness. Lion Linda Cuenco was unable to attend so PDG Bobby reported for her. The NM Lions Diabetes Awareness

Program is sponsoring an expo on November 18, 2017 at the Elegante Hotel in Albuquerque. There will be many speakers and classes, including zumba. Sponsorship is a minimum of \$100.00. A table for a Lions Club or Lions affiliated group is \$50.00 and for any non-Lions group it's \$75.00. Lion Jane wells said this is an important chance for the American Diabetes Association to get its risk assessment out to the public. The risk assessment program is long term. For more information, contact one of the officers of the New Mexico Lions Diabetes Awareness Program (Look in your directory or nmlions.org).

Information Technology Chair PDG Shelly Smith: PDG Shelly was unable to attend but sent her report. She sent out 45 emails to 450 contacts each time and had an open rate of 30%. She couldn't explain how the information on PDG/PCC Merle Terry wasn't distributed, but did apologize. If you send her something to distribute and don't hear from her within 48 hours, get in touch with her, email or text.

Convention, USA/Canada Forum Chair Jane Wells: The USA/Canada Forum will be here next month, September 21-23, 2017 in Portland, OR. If you haven't already made reservations, you'd better hurry! Prepare for the LCI Convention in Las Vegas, NV, June 29-July 3, 2018. Lion Carol Marshall wants to know if the t-shirts are wanted for the 2018 Convention. She can get the tees, but if a Polo shirt is wanted, she thinks IPDG Ruth Wilkes could probably get them. If the chile design is still wanted, she has the artwork.

Special Olympics Co-Chairs Dottie and Lenny Bean: There will be a Special Olympics event in Las Cruces, NM on October 28, 2017 from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. A friend of theirs will make an R2D2 to take to the event. The Special Olympics of New Mexico is hurting for funding.

Constitution and By-Laws Chair Lion Bryson McCool: Lion Bryson said he's working a C&B-L for 40 S, modeled on the MD 40 and 40N C&BL.

MD 40 Centennial Chair Mike Perrone: He had a slide show for the convention and was disappointed he didn't get to show. We will be getting another \$1,100.00. As GST Chair, he awaits information on what is required.

MD 40 LCIF Chair Bob Jones: In 2016-2017, 29 MD 40 Clubs donated \$24,477.00 to LCIF. Our goal was \$29,500.00 so we didn't quite reach it. Clubs from MD 40 have credits for MJF's and PMJF's in the amount of \$31,978.00 MD 40 has a credit of \$1,060.00. We have 535 MJF's and 27 PMJF's. We used to get a bronze pin for a \$20.00 contribution. This year a donation of \$100.00 will get a gold pin, \$50.00, silver, and \$20.00, bronze. It still counts towards a MJF. LCIF came up about \$5,000,000.00 short of its goal in the measles program to get matching funds from the Bill and Melissa Gates Fund and GAVI.

MD 40 GMT Chair IPDG Vern Leavitt: IPDG Ruth Wilkes and PDG Frank Lasky are developing a membership growth plan.

MD 40 GLT PDG Randy Rhue: 40s GLT Chair Lion Jefery Alber and 40N GLT PCC Don Trumbull are going to have the training at the club level. PDG Randy did a leadership training seminar in 40S. September 8-10, 2017 there will be Leadership Training in Wyoming. Registration is \$125.00. There will ALLI/ELLI Training in Denver September 15-17.

DG Gemma presented PCC Jim Brannon with a Premier Centennial Membership Growth Award for the T or C Lions Club. The 50/50 raffle raised \$165.00, \$83.00 for MD 40, \$82.00 for the winner. Lion Dr. Deborah May was holding the lucky ticket. Unfortunately, the ticket belonged to Lion Lucky Sells.

IPDG Ruth Wilkes asked that Lions beg, borrow, or steal, but collect the bottle caps of plastic water bottles. These can be turned in to help defray the cost of dialysis treatment.

The meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted Thursday, this 31st day
of August, 2017

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill Whatley', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

MD 40 CS/T Bill Whatley