

**MD 40 Council Meeting Minutes
MD 40 Convention
Stevens Inn
Carlsbad, NM
May 5, 2018**

Council and Cabinet Lions present: MD 40 CC Melissa Washburn, 40 N DG Rose Himrod, 40 S DG Gemma Ferguson, 40 N DGE Ursula Garcia, 40 S DGE Annie Miller, 40 N 1st VDGE Ed DeArmond, MD 40 GMT Chair PDG Vern Leavitt, MD 40 GLT Chair PDG Randy Rhue, MD 40 GST Chair Lion Mike Perrone, MD 40 Diabetes Awareness Chair Lion Linda Cuenco, MD 40 Youth Chair PDG/PCC Tom Himrod, MD 40 LCIF Coordinator PDG/PCC Bob Jones, NM Lions Roar and Directory Editor Lion Jennifer Long, MD 40 C&BL Chair Lion Bryson McCool, MD 40 Leader Dog Chair Lion Bette Reed, MD 40 LCI Convention, USA/Canada Chair Lion Jane Wells, MD 40 Tail Twister Lion Jeff Sakasitz, MD 40 Public Relations Chair Lion Gerry Jones, MD 40 Centennial Coordinator Lion Mike Perrone, MD 40 Convention Chair 40 S DG Gemma Ferguson and MD 40 CST PDG/PCC Bill Whatley. Special guest: ID Jennifer Ware and her husband Lion Jeff, PDG Paul Baker and Lion Deborah McGaffin, and PDG Ken Moore and 1st VDGE Michelle McGowan. In total 113 Lions were present.

The meeting was called to order at 11:09 a.m. by CC Melissa Washburn. CC Melissa gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by CST Bill Whatley.

CC Melissa welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. She assured them that a great convention would be had, in fact had already begun with boat rides, bar-b-cue, hospitality rooms, and would conclude with a great dinner, a wonderful presentation by ID Jennifer Ware, awards, and hospitality rooms.

CC Melissa introduced our distinguished guest, 2 year ID Jennifer Ware and husband Lion Jeff of River Rapids, MI.

CC Melissa introduced the head table: Herself, CST Bill, 40 S DG Gemma, 40 N DG Rose, 40 S DGE Annie, 40 N DGE Ursula, 40 N 1st VDGE Ed DeArmond, and herself as 40S 1st VDGE. She also introduced 40 N 2nd VDGE Deborah Bryan and 40 S 2nd VDGE Bill McKinney.

CC Melissa then introduced all PDG/PCC in the audience. PDG John Sakasitz of Gallup, PDG Paul Baker of the Newcastle Lions in Canada, PDG Ron Gill, formerly of Idaho and now a member of Carlsbad Downtown Lions, PCC Tom Himrod of Santa Fe Capital City, PDG Frank Lasky of Edgewood, PDG Ruth Wilkes of Alamogordo Downtown, PDG Ken Moore of Gill Lions Club in Colorado, PDG Claudia and PCC Rick Jensen of Los Leones de Mesilla, PCC Terry Reed of Carlsbad Downtown, PDG Johnty Cresto of Gallup, PDG Vern Leavitt of Socorro, PDG Veta London of Carlsbad Downtown, PCC Ruben Vigil of Santa Fe Capital City, PCC Bob Jones, formerly of Arizona and now a member of Sandia Mountain, and PDG Randy Rhue of Clovis Evening.

Instead of having the current DG give their opening statements, CC Melissa asked the two DGE to give the opening statements.

40 S DGE Annie Miller said that while it's a short distance from Artesia to Carlsbad, getting to this position has been a long journey! She's glad she's achieved this position and listed some of the issues this coming year: Declining membership, more help for the district, and contributing to LCIF which is 50 years old. Her motto is: "It's not what Lions can do for us, but what we can do for Lions."

40 N DGE Ursula Garcia said it was nice to see so many smiling faces. She asked us to turn to our neighbor and welcome them and thank them for being at the convention. She thanked the Lions for all of their hard work and is looking for more in 2018-2019. If we all work together we can increase membership.

The minutes of the meeting of February 17, 2018 had been distributed. DG Rose made a motion to accept and DG Gemma seconded. APPROVED!

The financials were given. The administrative account had \$4,562.60. We have pin money to add, and a reimbursement from the host club for seed money. Of this \$4,562.60, \$1,100.68 is for the GLT/GMT Teams, \$600.00 is for the GST, and \$1,353.97 is left in the Centennial Fund. In addition a portion of the MD 40 Convention Fund will be transferred to the separate Convention Fund Account.

The MD 40 Pins had just arrived this week and were given to those that ordered. CC Melissa introduced Lion Ronnie Jackson of Artesia Downtown who designed the pin.

CC Melissa stated that every registration bag had the Lions Manual "Guide for Consolidating Districts" in it. Redistricting is a very hot topic in MD 40. Lion Melissa led the discussion, asking ID Jennifer Ware not to speak.

The questions are: Why, When, and How? CC Melissa asserted this is just a plan, not a done deal! A plan was drawn up but it's still just a plan. We've discussed this at our Council Meetings. Most clubs were not given a copy of the plan until April 4th, less than 60 days before the Convention. Why is this a bad or good idea? Right now, neither 40 N or 40 S has 35 clubs and 1,250 members. Even if we go to one district we would still be short on membership: 1,066 Lions combined as of today.

CONS

2nd VDG Debbie Bryan: When we went from 3 districts to 2 in 1993 we lost 10 clubs and over 100 members. We have brought a new club into 40 N. It's not a war between the north and the south. We should all be working towards the same goals.

DGE Ursula Garcia: She's not sure how she feels. She had a letter from PCC Wesley Brown saying this would be the 3rd mistake LCI has made in regards to MD 40. In 1987, LCI mandated that we go from 3 districts to 2. They gave us 5 years. in 1993 when it was implemented, within 3 years we lost 30 clubs and 1,000 members. The 2nd mistake was when in 2002 LCI issued a plan that if a club didn't have 15 members they would have to become a branch club of a stronger existing club. Springer and Clayton immediately sent in their charters. If we do this we'll lose more clubs and members.

PCC Bill Whatley: PID Ray Marley has not been informed of any plans by LCI to mandate a consolidation! LCI would inform him out of respect. We should spend more time on attracting new members and less time worrying about what LCI may or may not be going to do!

DG Rose: She will vote "NO" on the motion because she believed increasing the size of the district while decreasing the number of officers would not benefit MD 40. She read 40 N GST Lion Michael Valverde's comments that large organizations should be doing simple activities to achieve results, and "our united energy should be spent on attracting new members, training more of our existing and new members and visiting clubs." GST Lion Michael did not believe that redistricting would be a benefit or necessary when the district is doing well!

Lion Ken McDaniel: It's a bad idea. We have a very large state and it's very far to drive and do visitations in the districts now.

Lion George Mulholland: His club had 7 meetings on this. The Los Leones de Mesilla club wants it to remain as it is.

Lion Jane Wells: She would like to see us shed some of the layers of bureaucracy. The problem with consolidation is that the pool of officers will get smaller because of the additional travel. Using substitutes is not a good idea. We elected the DG and that's who we want to have make the visitation.

Lion Gerry Jones: Likes the idea of 2 districts. It's good to have the competition between N and S. It's healthy!

PROS

PDG Randy Rhue: This is not about being consolidated. It's about being proactive in case we drop below 1,000 members in MD 40. Something may occur. Should we have a plan or should we just react? It would still be a 3-5 year plan.

DG Gemma Ferguson has heard both pros and cons. She doesn't see why everyone is against having a plan.

PDG Ron Gill: When he was in Idaho they were still not attracting new members. He's proactive. They discussed redistricting but did not implement. They came up with a

plan. They would establish branch clubs and they are growing. Also, they implemented a plan to use technology. VDG would do club visitations.

ID Jennifer Ware came from a district that was consolidated.

PDG Paul Baker: He came from a large district that had been consolidated. Guiding Lions need to help.

Lion Mike Perrone is for at least having a plan.
We recessed at 12:11 p.m.

We enjoyed the Melvin Jones Luncheon. Food was good and plentiful. ID Jennifer Ware thanked everyone for the welcome she and Lion Jeff had received. She was honored to present Lion Jennifer Long with a Progressive Melvin Jones Award! ID Jennifer is on the LCIF Fund Raising Board and had pins that she would give for a \$10.00 contributing membership. MD 40 LCIF Chair PCC Bob Jones had the \$20.00 pins.

We reconvened at 1:31 p.m.

40 N DG Rose Himrod thanked the Multiple District and Lions for making her year memorable. She wished the incoming officers a great year.

40 S DG Gemma Ferguson thanked all for coming.

CC Melissa asked ID Jennifer to speak on redistricting. ID Jennifer said her district was formed after a mandate in 1989. She wasn't aware of the things that happened in MD 40. She doesn't understand why members are opposed to consolidation. She heard good arguments on both sides. We all have different view points. We have to have a plan to grow.

Convention City for 2020. Needs to be from 40 S. Lion Roy Robinson of Lovington made a pitch for Loco Hills west of Lovington.. He said Maljamar had tried years ago but did not receive much support. He gave some advantages for selecting Loco Hills. A 76 mile long Main Street for a parade, miles of sandy beaches but not a lot of water, plenty of places to pitch a tent, and a new three holer. They'll have to partition: 2 for lady Lions and 1 for the male Lions. Go Figure! There's no refrigerated air except in the winter, which is a slight drawback.

Lion Deborah Gonzales of the Roswell Downtown Club asked that Roswell be considered. There are many aliens.

CC Melissa asked if any other club wanted to be considered. PDG Ruth Wilkes of Alamogordo Downtown said she would have her club host it if she could sell the remaining Eye Foundation Raffle Tickets.

The vote was taken, Roswell received 44 votes, Alamogordo received 28.

Lion Ethalynn Tollett of Clovis said to start making plans for the 2019 Convention in Clovis. It'll be a good one!

Lion Johnny Washburn complained that Loco Hills did not receive a single vote. In fact, Loco Hills wasn't even given a chance to be voted on for the convention.

The Memorial Service was then held, with Deacon Tony Dominguez from San Jose Catholic Church officiating and the St. Edwards Catholic Church 11th Hour Choir singing the hymns. CC Melissa and DG Gemma are members of the choir and sang beautifully. CC Melissa decided to do it differently this year because of her closeness to PID Gordon Post. There were no plaques. Instead, as each name was called, a bell was rung. After all names were called and the bell rung, we retired to the parking lot to release the balloons. Most everyone liked the idea of balloons and no plaques.

We then had the nomination for CC for 2018-2019. PCC Bill Whatley nominated PDG Randy Rhue of Clovis Evening Lions and CC Melissa's seconding speech was also a nomination.

DG Gemma made a motion to cease nominations and elect by acclamation. We have to vote on a paper ballot by LCI Constitution.

PDG Randy said we need to move to get younger members. We've got to increase membership!

We then passed out ballots. We had separate ballots for Council Chair and the vote on whether to create a plan to be in place if we drop below 1,000 members and LCI intercedes. **SEE LAST PAGE!**

District 40 N had 13 clubs represented, all in good standing. There were 23 delegates present from these clubs.

District 40 S had 15 clubs represented, 1 with no delegates. The other 14 clubs had 28 delegates present.

We had 16 PDG eligible to vote. One chose to vote as a club delegate.

We had 66 ballots cast.

CC Melissa gave out gifts while ballots were being counted. They were very nice portfolios, although they weren't all the color she ordered. She also presented CST Bill with a gift card and a Melvin Jones Proof Dollar, items unexpected and greatly appreciated.

PDG Randy was elected as CC for 2018-2019. The issue of whether to begin planning for redistricting passed.

Lion Jeff Sakasitz collected \$452.00 for the raffle. MD 40 received \$226.00 and 1st VDGE Ed DeArmond won \$226.00.

The meeting adjourned at 3:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, this 12th day of May,

2016

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Whatley", written over a horizontal line.

Bill Whatley

MD 40 CST 2017-2018

If MD40 membership falls below 1000, we will proceed with the LCI Guide for Consolidating Districts (publication DA-GCD) and redistrict YES _____ No _____

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