



GR Lions Club Full Board Meeting Agenda
May 27, 2025
Via Zoom at 8:00PM

In Attendance: Gary Anderson, Kyle Travis, Jim Schuyler, John Rice, Cheryl Anderson, Board Members: Anne Baird, Meagan Baker, Shelley Irwin, Tim Tuthill
Guest: Don Jakel,

Absent: Treasurer Drew Wessell, Board Members: Joe Annoreno & Bob Younger

1. Meeting Called to Order by Chairman Gary Anderson
2. Secretary's report: The report was sent out earlier for review. Jim Schuyler moved to accept, John Rice seconded, no more discussion, voted & passed
3. Treasurer's Report: Kyle Travis, said Drew sent out the year end suggested disbursements/expenditures. This is the amount of money the club has to give out. The report shows who we gave to in the past. The amounts were displayed and the changes discussed were to delete the Lake Michigan Academy and Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services. Suggested to add to the disbursement is the Lions Youth Exchange and the Michigan All State Band. Gary suggested \$500 to Youth Exchange and \$500 to the All State Band. Then to add the additional \$500 to Cherry Health and ABVI. Anne Baird said the Camp T line should read that it is a field trip. John Moved to make the changes suggested. Jim Schuyler seconded, no further discussion, voted & moved. Don Jakel will get the report to Drew.

President's Report: Kyle Travis

The idea of switching the meetings around with one luncheon meeting and one social event every other month, with one dedicated service. Kyle & John met with the committee chairs and they are on board. Next was the dues structure to readjust. Proposal is to have every member pay \$300 or \$25/month. If you attend lunch you will be billed the cost of \$29. To help with the cost of the Holiday dinner and Annual dinner is to offer a sponsor in the Nuda. Kyle will solicit the sponsorships. This will help with those costs and maybe help with some appetizers at the social events. Our club where everyone is a member at the same cost. This cost will also help with streamlining events and priced with future attrition. John created a flyer that explains the new membership structure. The last time our yearly membership fee was changed was 12 years ago. The service membership is actually running at a deficit This is trying to make it scalable and fair. The dues and schedule variety could help drum up more members. Guests are still free at lunch. This change will be brought up before the full membership at the annual dinner. Gary did point out that Lions Int'l has a discount for the second member. Kyle is making a motion to have one luncheon meeting a month, 1st Tuesday, Sept

through May beginning Sept 2025 and add some social and service structure each month. Meagan seconded. No more discussion. Voted and approved. Kyle then moved to change the dues structure to \$300 per member. With lunches added separately and to promote sponsorships. Jim seconded. Vote and passed. Kyle and John will work out the details to be presented at the annual meeting. Watermark needs the rsvp by June 5.

Vice-Presidents Report: Jim Schuyler

Bob Younger and Joe Annoreno are going off the board this July 1. We have two new board members. Kelly Phelps and Bradley Tooker. Bradley does need help with the eyeglass pickup. We will try to get him help with the eyeglass pick up. Jim nominates both Kelly Phelps & Bradley Tooker to be on the board for the upcoming 3 year term. Voted and passed. Cheryl will send out an email for every member to vote for their nomination to the board.

Membership Report: John Rice

Helping with the new dues structure, there has never been a problem with the cost of dues when presented to prospective new members. There is a couple coming from Germany moving to the area that are interested in joining in September.

Director's Report:

A. Bob Younger-absent

Social Committee: we covered & need to create a schedule to go out members. A summer picnic or other options hopefully coming out.

Lunch Programs: we covered

Holiday Raffle: nothing to report

B. Shelley Irwin

White Cane: Anne Baird reported that the letters went out and the campaign is concluding. A total so far of \$2745 has been raised and thank yous are going out this week. The money collected is going to the GR Vision Clinic at Cherry Health.

Blind Dinner Date: Is this still a valid event or need to be tabled? We did not have one this year. Kyle said we could turn the annual dinner into a fundraiser. Meagan said the last one wasn't a good fundraiser for the time spent and the money raised. Maybe a brainstorming session needs to take place to determine how to handle this event. Meagan stated the cost of the venue and food costs need to be looked at. Gary stated to combine it with another Lions event. Tim said the cost of food and alcohol doesn't seem to be beneficial to anyone at this time. An idea is to maybe have a table sponsor, invite friends and have an experience vs an event. We could do a

blind experience. Eating while blindfolded. People are getting burned out from attending events. Maybe to combine the annual dinner with an experience. An experience like this could highlight what it is like to be blind and how Lions help the blind. Then highlight other Lion activities while meeting new people at the experience. Meagan suggested something like Project Night open to the public to highlight the services that the Lions provide. Gary commented that there is a current activity, Lions Carnival held in Libraries. Several activities are being done i.e. eye screenings, diabetes checks, face painting etc. It brings awareness to the community while promoting Lions and what we do.

Community Wide Celebration 250 - Shelley said she is challenged to bring it to all the service clubs in Sept or Oct. GA2050 How does your service Club get involved in celebrating America's 250 Some exposure and get the GR Lions to do something. More of a marketing strategy.

C. **Joe Annoreno:** absent

Marketing: no report submitted

Community Resource: no report submitted

D. **Meagan Baker**

Drive 4 Vision: Nothing to report other than moving forward. Kyle commented that John put together a document connecting the top committee members as to how many teams there are, duties, etc.

Service Committee. Gary talked with Kelly about different service ideas.

Especially the kidsight program for the younger kids. We will need to have more members on the service committee. There is a need for a new service project, which is drivers for the delivery of screeners from ABVI are needed and discussed. ABVI TV pick-up and delivery. We need volunteers and to set up a schedule as to when we can help with delivery and pickup. It is still only \$40/month to rent these devices. There is usually only 1 or 2 drop off/pick ups a week of these 40 lb devices. Knowing the pickup or drop off can be arranged in the evenings is appealing to members that work 9-5.

Gary is collecting names of volunteer drivers for Tim. Tim can put together a flyer or powerpoint but getting something to John for the Nuda.

Gary said a list of drivers for this service is coming

E. **Anne Baird**

Holiday Shopping: Have not heard anything yet. Funds with the club vary.

GR Lions Foundation: Kim Gary will be giving a report at the annual dinner.

F. **Tim Tuthill**

Student Awards: We will need to revisit that next year. It depends on the venue and space to hold it. Maybe a new format

Eyeglass Mission Trips: Eyeglass recycling center is just reopening up in Rockford. With a working center we can start to do missions again. Jamlca wants us to come but Mexico is a place to go that is cost efficient. We have a very good contact in Mexico that will keep us safe and tell us where to go in Mexico. There will be dates forthcoming.

Old Business:

Kyle Travis is appointing Don Jakel as the GR Lions treasurer. Jim Schuyler seconded and voted. Congratulations Don Jakel on your appointment of the Grand Rapids Lions Treasurer.

Koroma family has many unmet costs for their twin daughter's surgeries. Gary applied to the Lions of MI Foundation for a \$1,000 grant or each of them and received it. The GR Lions Club can apply again after July 1 for another \$1,000 grant for each of the girls. However, there is a cap of \$2,000 per lifetime. The money from the Lions of MI Foundation is money that is collected from the tickets the foundation sells and we buy from them yearly. They are also getting support from a Lion in Ann Arbor. She donated money to Have their car windows tinted.

New Business:

Melvin Jones from the GR Lions need to be decided. Cheryl will send out an email to the board with the three names that were discussed as candidates for Melvin Jones: Ed Thauer, Don Jakel, Kathy Oberlin & Meagan Baker & Bob Winchester. All of these Grand Rapids Lions have not received a Melvin Jones.

Adjourned at 9:23pm
Respectfully Submitted,
Lion Cheryl Anderson