



**The International Association of Lions Clubs**  
**Multiple District 16**  
*Jack Romano State Advisor 2018-2021*  
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## **2021 MD-16 VIRTUAL STATE CONVENTION**

### **GENERAL SESSION MEETING MINUTES**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and governmental restrictions in place at the time of the planning for the MD-16 2021 State Convention, the State Convention Committee in conjunction with the Council of Governor decided to hold the State Convention as a virtual event. This took place on Saturday May 22, 2021, via Zoom.

Convention Central was located at Passaic County Community College (PCCC) in their second-floor conference room. PCC Winster Ceballos provided the technical expertise and directed the program. He was assisted by the Internet Technology Team of: Zone Chair Lou Lambe 16-N from his home, PDG Dawn Kosobucki 16-J who was present at Convention Central, and Zone Chair Heather Roark, 16-L who also operated from her home.

Also present at Convention Central were: Council Chair Mike Pacala, State Advisor Jack Romano, Past International Directors Mel Bray and Bob Moore, District Governors Nalit Patel 16-N, Kevin Kosobucki 16-J, and Second Vice District Governor 16-N, Kam Patel. All others attended via Zoom.

Council Chair Mike Pacala called the session to order at 10:30 A.M. and welcomed everyone, thanking them for attending virtually. We also had a presentation on how to use Zoom from penguin Tennessee Tuxedo (or was it PCC Winster?)

CC Mike explained that the team at Convention Central would be there until noon, at which time there will be a meeting of the Past District Governor's Association. After a break for lunch the keynote address will be presented by our International Guest, Second International Vice President Brian Sheehan, followed by the International Awards Ceremony and a breakout session conducted by Lion Lori Sheehan.

CC Mike appointed ZC Lou Lambe 16-N as time keeper, with a 3-minute time limit for any speakers at the State Convention. If there were any questions specific to the individual sub district conventions CC Mike asked that these questions wait until each respective sub-district session.

Delegate voting will be via election runner software with notices going out via e-mail to each delegate. Districts 16-N and L will vote between 3:30 and 5:30 PM, with District 16-J voting between 4:30 PM and 6:30 PM. For voting questions or issues an e-mail was presented to all delegates if needed.

PDG Dennis Brubaker introduced New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy stating, “on behalf of the State Convention Committee, this is a one-time only virtual State Convention. We are privileged to have a special message to kick off the convention.”

Gov. Murphy stated in his recorded message, “Thank you Lions Paul Sarlo and Dennis Brubaker for being part of the 100th Anniversary of Lions in New Jersey. You serve as role models with your dedication to service. “Have a successful convention and another 100 years!”

PID Mel Bray introduced our International Guests. “It’s a pleasure to be here virtually. Our International Guest is Second International Vice President Brian Sheehan, who flew in from Bird Island MN. 2IVP Brian joined the Bird Island Lions Club in 1991 holding all club, district and Multiple District offices. His partner in service, Lori is a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow from the Olympia Lions Club just a short distance away.” 2IVP Brian thanked PID Mel for the introduction and congratulated the New Jersey Lions on their 100 years of service.

As we did not have a convention in Lionistic year 2019-2020, CC Mike called upon PCC Dayl Baile to close out his year. PCC Dayl recognized his District Governors IPDGs Alvin Cox 16-N, Linda Banks 16-J and Dave Skrivanek 16-L for working hard through the pandemic, as they all helped the Multiple District and their respective sub-districts during tough times. He also thanked State Advisor PCC Jack Romano for his efforts. Each was presented with a desk clock.

CC Mike thanked the State Convention Committee, PCCs Al Olizi and Dayl Baile, PDGs Dennis Brubaker, Jim Dougherty for coordinating with Atlantic City Caesars Entertainment Group, the Virtual Vendors and Projects and CC Mile Pacala for putting together the budget, and especially PCC Winster Ceballos and the entire IT team for dealing with the technology to make the convention happen.

## **STATE PROJECT REPORTS**

Written reports were submitted by PID Mel Bray for Finance & Operations and Lions Eye Research Foundation (LERF)

### **JUVENILE DIABETES RESEARCH FOUNDATION(JDRF) - Barbara Corsaro**

Matthew Corsaro, her grandson now age 11 is managing his diabetes. He was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at age 16 months. The annual JDRF walk at Liberty State Park was cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic; however, Lions performed small local walks to continue to raise funds for research and technology. David Corsaro, Matthew’s father gave a further update. Mathew has a new Dexcom sensor which measures his blood sugar every 5 minutes and transmits that information to a smartphone. This eliminates the need for finger sticks. Matthew also has a new Tandem Insulin Pump which talks to a dispenser and acts like an artificial pancreas to regulate his blood sugar level. Both David and Matthew thanked the Lions for continuing to donate to JDRF.

### **DIABETES ACTION AND AWARENESS – Donna Freidel**

Lion Donna thanked the committee for their work, Lion Barbara Corsaro District 16-N and Lion Dr. Angel Lazo, District 16-J. Diabetes screening and other related service projects raised funds

in each sub district. There was an on-line (virtual) event led by District 16-J and PCC Mahesh Chitnis providing information and speakers on the seriousness of Type 1 and 2 diabetes and methodologies to combat this disease. This reached over 5000 Lions to make Type 1 & 2 into Type NONE! The goal of this committee is to reach 50% of all clubs in MD-16 with information sessions and activities.

### **PEACE POSTER - Bill Francis**

Lion Bill introduced a video of our MD-16 Peace Poster winner Bidhi Vansal. She stated that her poster reflected the theme of “Peace through Service” by demonstrating different professions working together. Mr. James Cusker, principal of the Cavallini Middle School in Upper Saddle River N.J. which Ms. Bansal attends thanked the Lions Clubs for sponsoring this Peace Poster Contest by being role models for all our adolescent students.

### **LEO COMMITTEE – Dr. David Verducci**

Dr. Dave, the MD-16 Leo Chair stated that this was a difficult year for Leo Clubs to function due to the pandemic. However, despite these obstacles, the Leo program in MD-16 is THRIVING! The student members are committed to service and living under the Leo model of Leadership, Experience Opportunity. Today’s Leo’s are the source of tomorrow’s Lions. There were two new clubs established during the pandemic:

1. Bergen Leo Club, a community-based club with students from Bergen Technical High School Teterboro N.J. Campus sponsored by the Midland Park Lions Club. Bergen Tech Teterboro draws students from all over Bergen County.
2. The Somerset Community Cyber Leo Club sponsored by the Somerset Lions Club.

Another crowing achievement is the creation of the Leo Multiple District 16, which was approved by this Council of Governors on March 13, 2021. The MD-16 Leo District was over 1 year in planning due to the hard work of this planning committee consisting of:

- For District 16-N: Leo Chair Dr. David Verducci, PDG Brad Day.
- For District 16-J: Committee Chair Lion Subarna Sahni, 2VDG Kash Delory
- For District 16-L: DG Al Mottola, Lion Stacey Camilleri

The committee established an MD-16 Leo Constitution and By Laws which the Leos voted to accept at their Organizational Meeting of Friday May 21, 2021. He thanked the Lions for the opportunity to lead this program as this is personally meaningful and fulfilling. Dr. Dave also thanked CC Mike, SA Jack Romano and this Council of Governors for their continued support for this effort.

### **NEW JERSEY LIONS EYEGGLASS RECYCLING CENTER (NJ LERC) - PCC Al Brewer**

The NJ LERC recently acquired a relatively new Yale fork lift to replace a 50-year-old fork lift that was difficult to maintain and obtain parts for repair. PCC Al thanked all the Lions Charitable Foundations and clubs for their support in this effort. NJ LERC is open each Thursday, Friday and Saturday and can accommodate volunteers up to 10 people to maintain

social distance still required by the State of New Jersey. The center is following all safety protocols with floors marked at 6-foot intervals with hand sanitizer and cleaners at each table. Gloves and masks are provided for all volunteers. The lensometer room was also retrofitted to continue to operate under these restrictions.

To volunteer to work at NJ LERC please contact PCC Al Brewer at 908-244-9996 or at <http://www.njlerc.org>.

### **INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE – IPDG Alvin Cox**

The International Convention is scheduled to take place in Montreal Canada on June 25-29, 2021. However due to Covid-19 and the enduring health crisis, LCI decided to hold this convention virtually. Every Lion can attend and participate from the comfort of your own home! You will save the related travel costs as the registration fee is only \$75 for Lions, Leo-Lions and Guests and only \$30 for Omega Leos, which entitles you access to all activities including the virtual Parade of Nations.

### **NORTH AMERICAN MEMBERSHIP INITIATIVE (NAMI) – PDG Bob Freidel**

Under the NAMI Program MD-16 did well overall to increase members. The numbers reported as of today May 22, 2021 follows:

- District 16-J is +29 with 1 new club and 2 club branches
- District 16-L is +14 with 1 new club
- District 16-N remains at -49.

With the COVID crisis diminishing there will be an increased effort to establish new clubs and branches for the 2021-2022 Lionistic year. Please continue the concept of “Just ASK One.” If any Lion has questions about the NAMI process, please e-mail PDG Bob at [srfesq@aol.com](mailto:srfesq@aol.com).

CC Mike thanked all the committee chairs for their reports. There will also be some reports looped throughout the convention and during the lunch period from some of our vendors and supporters not only from the above committees but also including:

- Middlesex County Association for the Blind
- N.J. Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired
- Plus Optix
- St. Joseph’s School for the Blind
- Heightened Independence Program
- Emmanuel Caber Foundation
- Eyes Like Mine
- Pathways to Independence
- N.J. Talking Book and Braille Center
- MAVIS
- Eversight, the Lions Eye Bank of New Jersey
- Lions Eye Bank of Delaware Valley

## **OTHER BUSINESS – Council Chair Mike Pacala**

Since the International Convention will be virtual this year, the vote to increase dues will be tabled until the 2022 convention in Delhi India. If this is approved at that convention the dues increase will take effect in Lionistic Year 2023-2024, beginning July 1 2023.

MD-16 has a bid to host the 2025 USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum in Atlantic City at Harrah's. PCCs Al Olizi and Dayl Baile have met with the Atlantic City Convention Association and Caesars Entertainment Group which owns Harrah's to submit the bid. In fact, the USA/Canada Leadership Forum Sites Committee contacted us (MD-16) to gauge our interest in bidding again. Let's hope we are the winning bid.

The PDG Association will meet in a separate breakout room at 12:00 noon. The PDGs and all First and Second VDGs are invited to attend.

There will be video presentations from our supporters and sponsors during the lunch period from 12:00 noon until 1:00 PM sharp when we will reconvene.

## **MEMORIAL SERVICE – Chaplain Bill Francis**

Chaplain Bill Francis opened the Memorial Service with a prayer to honor our departed Lions. The Service consisted of a listing by Multiple District for any PDGs and Council Chairs and separate pages by sub-district of those Lions who passed away this year. CC Mike thanked PCC Jeff Gans for putting together the virtual Memorial Service.

## **COMMENTS FROM OUR DISTRICT GOVERNORS**

**Al Mottola District Governor, 16-L:** I wish all a good convention as I am unable to attend in person. 16-L had a good year as we are positive in membership with 1 new club and one in the wings. Enjoy the virtual convention.

**Kevin Kosobucki, District Governor 16-J:** Thank you CC Mike. Thank you for all who are on the call attending the virtual convention. 16-J had a successful year as we are +14 in members. Thanks to our club members for bringing in new Lions. We have 1 new club and 2 branch clubs established for 2020-2021. I recommend that Leos who are graduating seniors in High School continue as Leo-Lions. I brought back the District Governor newsletter. Have fun with service.

**Nalit Patel, District Governor 16-N:** Thank you for the opportunity to participate. Take every moment and cherish it. This was a tumultuous year personally losing 16 family members and friends to Covid-19. We partnered with non-profits to serve hot meals to the needy and front-line workers collaborating with churches and synagogues to do so. In partnering with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farmers to Families Food Box Program, we were able to distribute over 250 thousand boxes to needy families. By cooperating and collaborating with all Lions and Charitable Foundations and organizations such as the Share and Care Foundation and Rolling Harvest we were able to achieve these goals.

CC Mike thanked all 3 governors for their comments and stated that he was proud of their accomplishments despite the pandemic.

During the lunch break please be sure to watch our vendor, project and supporter videos. For all attending the PDG Association meeting please enter the breakout room; for all others stay on and enjoy the video presentations. The General Session is adjourned at 12:00 for the lunch period to reconvene at 1:00 PM.

CC Mike Pacala reconvened the General Session at 1:00 PM. He welcomed everyone back from lunch and reminded all delegates that voting will commence as follows:

- Districts 16-N and L: 3:30 to 5:30 PM
- District 16-J: 4:30 to 6:30 PM.

### **INTERNATIONAL GUEST INTRODUCTION – PID Mel Bray**

PID Mel reintroduced our International Guest, Second International Vice President Brian Sheehan, citing that he served on committees to educate the incoming district governors, Finance and Operations Committee Chair and Diabetes Chair at the International level.

### **KEYNOTE ADDRESS - SECOND INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT LION BRIAN SHEEHAN**

2IVP Brian Sheehan congratulated the Lions of New Jersey on their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Lions have existed in New Jersey since 1920 having a vision to serve. Asking why we are Lions he related his journey as a member of the Bird Island Lions Cub with 68 members in a community of 968 residents where the Lions Club is like a family.

How has the pandemic affected Lions? We developed work arounds such as zoom meetings. For our post pandemic activities, we need to:

- Plan for how to help those who remain shut in
- Plan to strengthen clubs
- Adjust to the “new normal”
- Share best practices at the club, zone, district and multiple district levels
- NO EXCUSES!
- Look for a 10% increase in service and club reporting from same period last year.

For those individuals who cannot change we must be open and embrace them while constantly MOVING FORWARD, especially with technology realizing that this may not work in all places and clubs.

I also bring greetings from International President Jung Yul Choi.

What are some of the Leadership Traits we are looking for to be successful as Lions? Please put some in the chat box. Some of the responses included:

- Be a good listener which is important
- Make joint decisions after getting input

- Do not dictate (my way only)
- Be a uniter
- Positive attitude and transparency in actions
- Have fun
- Always strive to become better.

Trust is also an important component of leadership. Trust must be earned to be kept. It is an investment of time within each community and among Lions.

Communications skills is another component combined with listening skills. You can be a “watcher” or a “doer.”

Commitment by believing in your organization/association.

Challenge yourselves in your decision-making processes Attitudes and confidence can be either positive or negative. Lead with a positive attitude and people will follow. Leaders MUST have positive attitudes without dictating to achieve goals.

Throughout his presentation 2IVP Brian offered funny videos to recognize leadership qualities and to make his points. He also offered a video to thank you for all you do. “Make a Great Day.”

CC Mike thanked 2IVP Brian for his presentation and insights.

### **INTERNATIONAL AWARDS PRESENTATION – Second International Vice President Brian Sheehan and PID Mel Bray.**

2IVP Brian Sheehan explained recognition process for the International Awards:

1. Ambassador of Good Will is extremely selective and is issued by the International President.
2. Presidential Medal is issued to a Lion who has contributed at an outstanding level at the district and/or multiple district level.
3. International Leadership Medal is issued to a Lion who has demonstrated leadership capabilities at the district and/or multiple district level
4. Presidential Certificate of Appreciation issued to a Lion for service to their club community, district and/or multiple districts.

PID Mel Bray then issued the following awards to deserving Lions:

### **INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP MEDALS – 4**

1. Kamlesh Patel, 2VDG 16-N, Livingston Lions Club, assisted by DG 16-N Nalit Patel
2. Subarna Sahni, President Princeton Lions Club, GMT/NAMI Champion 16-J
3. Rohit Gupta, Zone Chair, President Somerset Community Lions Club 16-J
4. PDG Karen Ressler Westmont Lions Club GST-D 16-L

## INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT'S MEDALS – 3

1. Lou Lambe, Zone Chair, President Harrison Lions Club 16-N
2. PDG Dawn Marie Kosobucki, Sayreville Lions Club 16-J assisted by DG Kevin Kosobucki 16-J
3. PDG Robert (Bob) Freidel Jr., Medford Lakes Lions Club GMT 16-L

PRESIDENTIAL CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION. These were distributed at each sub district meeting/convention by 2IVP Brian Sheehan, PID Mel Bray and each District Governor:

### DISTRICT 16-J – 3 Certificates

1. Cabinet Treasurer Dianne Andrade, President Elizabeth Portuguese Lions Club
2. Patricia Contreras, President New Jersey Peruvian Lions Club
3. Zone Chair John Schweska, President Summit Lions Club

### DISTRICT 16-L – 3 Certificates

1. Cabinet Secretary Terry Rosiak, Secretary West Berlin Lions Club
2. Ely Mateo, 2VDG 16-L, President Pennsauken Lions Club
3. Zone Chair Donna Freidel, Secretary Clayton-Glassboro Lions Club

### DISTRICT 16-N – 3 Certificates

1. Diane Jablon, Secretary Knowlton Lions Club
2. Claudine Baptiste, Treasurer, South Orange Lions Club
3. Enrique Urquiola. Member Livingston Lions Club

## **INTERNATIONAL GUEST SEMINAR – THE POWER OF WORDS – Lion Lori Sheehan.**

Lion Lori Sheehan, partner-in-service of Second International Vice President Brian Sheehan gave an interesting seminar on “The Power of Words.”

Lion Lori stated that words can have an impact on our environment, clubs and social media. Our choice of words is very important. Words can bring us to our highest potential or can tear us down. In life and as Lions we want to build positive relationships.

Words can also be used as a weapon or tool which is why the Lions Quest program is important to combat bullying in schools. Words can create change and affect our lives, interactions and health by the use of pronouns:

- “I “versus “We”
- “He/She “versus “Us.”

At club meetings use words wisely. Set the tone by using positive words which encourage, inspire, motivate members to accomplish service projects.



Use Social Media to bring Lions and the general public to your Face Book page by:

- Knowing your audience to get your message to the community
- Avoiding problem posts which can and will have negative reactions
- Show Lions in the best light possible
- Separate personal and political posts from Lions posts which will require a separate Lions page.
- 30 Words or Phrases to Use Other Than “Support”
  - Continued connection
  - Commitment (to)
  - Investment (in)
  - Engagement (with)
  - Caring
  - Kindness
  - Partnership (with)
  - Participation
  - Gift
  - Donation
  - Help
  - Contribution
  - Being part of our (movement/mission/legacy/program/services)
  - Belief in our (movement/mission/services/program)
  - Impact
  - Generosity towards
  - Being a generous friend of
  - Assistance
  - Collaboration (with)
  - Endorsement (of)
  - Champion (of)
  - Sponsor
  - Strengthen
  - Move forward
  - Defend/Uplift
  - Encouragement
  - Selflessness
  - Kindheartedness
  - Compassion
  - Concern

Lion Lori urged all Lions to “Be the Change.” As with 2IVP Brian, she used some interesting and comical videos throughout her presentation. She concluded her presentation by thanking the Lions of MD-16 for allowing her to spend some time with them today.

## **BREAK AND RETURN**

After a break at 2:00 PM., CC Mike welcomed everyone back at 2:15 PM. He reminded all Lions that there will be 2 resolutions on each sub district ballot to advance Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) and Special Olympics from district projects to State Approved Projects.

JDRF has been a District 16-N Project for over 3 years. Special Olympics has been a District 16-J project since its inception in 2015. It is also an International project. If there are any questions, please refer these to Lion Barbara Corsaro for JDRF and Jeff Baldino for Special Olympics.

For each sub-district election there will be 3 election monitors:

- District 16-N – PID Bob Moore
- District 16-J – PCC Bob Virgadamo aka “THE BOB”
- District 16-L – PID Mel Bray.

Please be reminded that the election runner link will be e-mailed to all registered delegates as follows:

- Districts 16-N & L at 3:30 PM
- District 16-J at 4:30 PM. This is due to the fact there are additional considerations to be discussed at this sub district meeting.

Beginning at 2:25 PM there will be 3 seminars available to all Lions attending the convention:

1. Leo MD-16 District Installation
2. Top 10 reasons your club might be struggling by the District 16-N GAT.
3. A social session among all Lions.

CC Mile Pacala adjourned the meeting at 3:30 PM, transitioning to the sub-district meetings/conventions and to reconvene at 8:00 PM for the election results.

## **CONVENTION WRAP-UP – Council Chair Mike Pacala**

CC Mike Pacala reconvened the State Convention at 8:08 PM. He thanked everyone for returning to this part of the convention which will feature the election results and the LCIF presentation by our International Guest Second International Vice President Brian Sheehan.

## **ELCTION RESULTS – 2021-2022 Lionistic year - Council Chair Mike Pacala**

For District 16-N:

District Governor: Marie Nieto, West New York Leones Cubanos de Hudson Lions Club

First Vice District Governor: Kam Patel, Livingston Lions Club

Second Vice District Governor: John Carroll, Jersey City/Hudson City Lions Club

Resolutions:

1. Special Olympics be elevated to a State Approved Project: Passes
2. Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) be elevated to a State Approved Project: Passes

For District 16-J:

District Governor: Varsha Nail, Menlo Park Lions Club

First Vice District Governor: Kash Delory, West Windsor Township Lions Club

Second Vice District Governor: Evelio Salermo, Elizabeth Cubanos Lions Club

Resolutions:

1. Special Olympics be elevated to a State Approved Project: Passes
2. Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) be elevated to a State Approved Project: Passes.

District 16-J Resolutions:

1. Wave/Refund member dues sponsored by the Edison Visionary Lions Club: Failed.
2. Change By-Laws to lower member dues sponsored by the Edison Visionary Lions Club: Failed.

For District 16-L:

District Governor: Doug Both, Allentown Lions Club

First Vice District Governor: Ely Mateo, Pennsauken Lions Club

Second Vice District Governor: Donna Freidel Clayton Glassboro Lions Club

Resolutions:

1. Special Olympics be elevated to a State Approved Project: Passes
2. Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) be elevated to a State Approved Project: Passes.

Lions District 16-L Charitable Foundation Board of Trustees – 3 trustees:

1. Lion Robert Turner Haddonfield Lions Club
2. DG Al Mottola, Allentown Lions Club
3. PCS Donna Freidel Clayton Glassboro Lions Club

Council Chair for 2021-2022: PDG Armando Guerra Elizabeth Cubanos Lions Club

State Advisor for 2021-2022: PCC Mahesh Chitnis, Edison Visionary Lions Club.

Congratulations to all our incoming district and state officers!

## COMMENTS

DG Nalit Patel 16-N asked if any State Approved Projects will be removed this year to which PCC Jeff Gans responded “no” as due to the pandemic the proper notice was not given to those specific projects. PCC Al Olizi added that this council had previously discussed the timing of the proper notification and due to the pandemic situation facing us as Lions this will carry over to the next Council of Governors and State Approved Projects Committee.

CC Mike Pacala thanked 2IVP Brian Sheehan and Partner-in -Service Lori for attending our virtual convention. As an honorarium \$1000 will be donated to LCIF in the name of 2IVP Brian and \$250 will be donated in the name of Lori.

CC Mike also mentioned that Future Sites Committee members PCCs Al Olizi and Dayl Baile informed him that our deposit at Bally's Atlantic City was retained by the Caesars Entertainment Group prior to the sale of Bally's to Twin Rivers Casino Group. This was transferred to the Tropicana which has better facilities than Bally's. "The Trop" is offering us the same price points we had at Bally's for the 2022 and 2023 state conventions.

### **LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION (LCIF) REPORT - Second International Vice President Brian Sheehan and PDG Dawn Kosobucki.**

PDG Dawn Kosobucki started this session with a video outlining Model Clubs, Melvin Jones Fellowships and The Legacy Society. She also informed all Lions that the recent LCIF Telethon reached over \$885 Thousand in pledges and donations. For further information on these and other programs and available grants please log on to: [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org) and click on the LCIF dropdown bar.

2IVP Brian thanked all district and multiple district LCIF coordinators for their work in supporting the Foundation. As the N.J Lions are celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary, LCIF is celebrating 53 years starting in 1968 for grants above the club level. To date over \$1 Billion in grant funds has been distributed worldwide. The Foundation needs constant and consistent contributors to provide this level of service. The world needs us especially since LCIF was a contributing factor in reducing measles deaths by half.

How can we as Lions have an impact on our global causes? These are the five ways to do so:

1. With our own donation. We should encourage our clubs to donate as well as educating community leaders to donate. Presentations are available to speak to groups outside of Lionism.
2. Personally pledge \$2.00 per week or \$100 per year
3. Various recognitions are available based on the donation level
4. Congratulate our Model Clubs and encourage all clubs to attain this status.
5. A \$100 donation goes a long way toward helping those in need.

For MD-16 Campaign 100 donations have reached a total of \$358,000 with \$81,000 raised this year. Over the past 10 years, MD-16 has received over \$821,000 in total LCIF grant funds with 22 grants made by LCIF. Overall donations to Campaign 100 are at \$200 million.

As part of his presentation 2IVP Brian asked, "Why remain a Lion?" He asked respondents to post in the chat box. A representative sample of the responses were overall "helping people" and "giving back."

## **RECOGNITIONS**

The following Lions were recognized by 2IVP Brian Sheehan and MD-16 LCIF Coordinator PDG Dawn Kosobucki with Melvin Jones Fellowships (MJF):

- PDG Jim Dougherty, a Progressive MJF (PMJF) 3 diamonds
- PDG Dawn Kosobucki, a PMJF with 3 diamonds
- DG Kevin Kosobucki a PMJF with 2 diamonds
- Lion Subarna Sahni a PMJF with 1 diamond
- Lion Kevin Child, an MJF
- LEO Rohan Agarwal an MJF

All Lions were encouraged to donate to LCIF otherwise we would need to endure the dulcet tones of PCC Bob Virgadamio singing his world-famous Hurricane Sandy Reports!

A District 16-J Leo of the Year recognition was announced by Leo-Lion Ojas Chitnis being awarded to Leo Kaitlin Roth of the Warren Township Leo Club.

2IVP Brian thanked PID Mel and Ginny Bray for the gifts sent on behalf of MD-16 which included penguin flannel sheets, N.J. related T-shirts, a penguin problems book (and who doesn't have problems, including penguins?), a penguin bowling game and penguin themed glassware as a remembrance of his attendance at the MD-16 State Convention. He stated, "I hope to be invited back to New Jersey!"

CC Mike thanked both 2IVP Brian and Lori Sheehan for being our guests.

## **ACCEPTANCE SPEECHES**

Acceptance speeches were made by video from the elected candidates for each district office:

District 16-N DGE Marie Nieto

District 16-J DGE Varsha Naik and 1VDGE Kash Delory

District 16-L DGE Doug Both, 1VDGE Ely Mateo, 2VDGE Donna Freidel.

All the acceptance speech videos will be posted to the MD-16 web site: [www.njlions.org](http://www.njlions.org)

## **CLOSING AND THANK YOU**

CC Mike Pacala thanked each District Governor for getting through a tough year faced with no in person meetings, and most business conducted via zoom. DGs Nalit Patel 16-N, Kevin Kosobucki 16-J and Al Mottola will receive a certificate in appreciation for their work and a \$100 donation will be made in each of their names to LCIF in lieu of any plaques. He also thanked the entire IT Team PCC Winstor Ceballos, ZC Lou Lambe 16-N, PDG Dawn Kosobucki 16-J and Lion Heather Roark 16-L for their incessant work to put on a great convention.

He also thanked 2IVP Brian Sheehan and his partner-in-service Lori for attending the MD-16 virtual convention. Both presentations were excellent.

PID Mel Bray also thanked 2IVP Brian stating that it has been a long 3 years and thanking him for holding the date to speak at our convention. “See you at the Forum.”

2IVP Brian will send to the Lions of New Jersey some “stress relief penguins” and penguin hockey pucks.

### **PASSING OF THE GAVEL AND BELL**

At this point CC Mike passed the imaginary gavel (we actually do have one) and Bell (it is missing – who has the Bell?) to Council Chair Elect Armando Guerra.

CCE Armando thanked PCC Mike for hosting the convention and all his work in providing a great virtual experience.

CCE Armando thanked the State Convention Committee for hosting the convention. He thanked 2IVP Brian and Lori for their words of wisdom, Jeff Gans our ID candidate, and partner-in-service Ellyn for their continued service to MD-16 and Lionism.

He also thanked the following:

The outgoing Council of Governors for leading through the pandemic, PCC Mike and partner-in-service SuzAnne, PCC Winsten Ceballos for his work behind the scenes to put on the convention as well as being named the GAT Area1-F leader for Lionistic year 2021-2022, my wife Horleida and children for their support, PCC Al Olizi President of the PDG Association,

CCE Armando also thanked his incoming Team/Council of Governors stating I want to work with you to grow the pride. We must lead by example. He also congratulated the incoming First and Second Vice District Governors promising to keep them in the loop.

For his final remarks, CCE Armando stated, “Let’s continue to serve.” “ROAR!”

CCE Armando closed this convention at 9:11 PM.

### **WHO HAS THE BELL?**

