



October 16, 2023 General Club Meeting

Attendees:

Lions: Brian Havard, Brad Jones, Christiane Zoidl, Kirby Brock, Megan Bennett, Mike Barker, Sylvia Brock, Marilyn Gray, Ellen Gallacher, Jeanette du Plessis, Ron Head, Suzanne Kishonti, Brigitte Brennan, Don Gardiner, Rick Metcalfe, Mary Singer, Diana Graham, John Liska and Tom Alderson

1. **Call to Order/Welcome:** Lion President Mike Barker

2. **Singing of O Canada:**

3. **Introduction of Guests:**

Guests: Governor Lion Sudha Verma, Bernard Fernandes and Mars Hayward

4. **Approval of Minutes of the October 2, 2023 meeting:**

Motion: Lion Brad Jones - "That the minutes of the October 2nd meeting be accepted as presented."

Second: Lion John Liska

Motion: *Carried*

5. **Correspondence:**

-Benefit Hockey tickets for Special Olympics

6. **Treasurer's Report:**

-None

7. **Governor Sudha Verma**

-a Lions since 2008

-President of Markham Milliken Mills Lions from 2009-2013

-now a member of a new Charter Club- The Markham Mantra Lions

-She has served on the Cabinet and also as Region Chair for Region 18

-She has been honoured with the Melvin Jones Fellowship, Helen Keller Award, the International President's Certificates of Appreciation and the prestigious International Flag set

-Presented readings from International Director Dr. Patti Hill: "The more we grow the more we can give."

-mission 1.5 million members an initiative to increase members worldwide

-collaboration in the community is key

-Camp Dorset is her project, thanked the Club for supporting the camp through Catch the Ace

-noted several of the Club's activities including PJ's and Pancakes for Paediatric Cancer awareness, Blue Door shelter toiletry kits for adults and children

-her vision is building a legacy of service, strengthening bonds of service and welcoming new members

-Encourages contact with Region Zone Chairs and District Governor's Team

-she will sponsor a Fellowship picnic in May, each Club should plan on preparing a dish for families to share together

- "We Serve" is not just a slogan but a call to action
- quality of service matters more than quantity

- the Governor presented Lions President Mike Barker and Club Secretary Megan Bennett with her personal pin
- Lion Rick Metcalfe was advised to check with Paediatric Cancer chair, Chris Weerdenburg as to whether a \$1,000 donation to Childhood Cancer from the Kirkfield Lions Club would partly go to Southlake Regional Health Centre's Paediatric Cancer unit

8) Purchase of Second Fryer for Lunch with Santa: Lion Mike Barker

- French fries are a popular item at Lunch with Santa, need more capacity
- this year expecting more people (approximately 600)
- Lion Mike Barker to look into costs of fryer and fryer rentals
- purchasing decision deferred
- make our own fries or purchase? Lion Rick Metcalfe to look into precut potatoes

9) Committee Reports:

A) Meal Kits for Food Pantry: Lion Sylvia Brock

- sign up sheet circulated; help required in purchasing supplies
- meal kit assembly slated for Monday, November 27

B) Sleeping Children Around the World: Lion Megan Bennett

- annual Club donation to Sleeping Children Around the World (SCAW)
- response to SCAW chair Dale St. John's request for Club donations

Motion: Lion Megan Bennett - "That the Club donate \$480 to Sleeping Children Around the World to provide 12 bed kits."

Second: Lion Brian Havard

Motion: *Carried*

C) School Requests:

1) Maple Leaf PS BBQ Recap: Lion Kirby Brock

- there were 14 volunteers for the BBQ and information event
- 500 people were served between 5:00 and 6:30 p.m.
- The Club was there to explain Lions Club services

2) Maple Leaf PS Grant: Lion Sylvia Brock

- United Way grant to help community by providing programs, presentations and other services to assist families in the school district
- The Club has been tasked with distributing the funds as needed for projects
- Thursday, October 19th 6:00 to -7:00 p.m. Looking for Lion volunteers to help with reading books, simple games to keep children entertained while the parents meet with teachers (Contact Lion Sylvia)

D) Community Requests: Lion Sylvia Brock

Wheelchair Request: Lion Sylvia Brock

- an 80-year-old gentleman with Parkinson's has a need for a wheelchair so his wife can assist him
- asking for \$209.05 for chair from Walmart

Motion: Lion Sylvia Brock - "That the Club grant the request for \$209.05 for a wheelchair."

Second: Lion Rick Metcalfe

Motion: *Carried*

E) Community Meal: Lion Kirby Brock

- Inn from the Cold shelter on November 10th
- volunteers- Lions Ellen, Sylvia, June, Diana and Marilyn
- 12:00 to 2:30 ish, cook meal, leave staff to distribute
- meal to serve 80-130 people
- usual ham meal

F) Santa Fund/Lunch: Lion Kirby Brock

- in the 1940's the Lions Club started by distributing food baskets, now we distribute food vouchers
- applicants apply to the Salvation Army for assistance, the Salvation Army passes on any Newmarket residents to the Club
- voucher amounts have increased: Single -\$50
 - 2 people- \$75
 - 3 people -\$100
 - 4 people - \$125
 - 5 people- \$150
 - 6+ people -\$175
- we need to find a way to advertise for donations as the local paper has folded
- a quote of \$1,200 has been given by online newspaper "Newmarket Today": ad will run from November 5th to December 10th. 188,000 people should see this ad
- Lion Kirby is still trying to get Newmarket Plaza for voucher distribution
- Lion John Liska is already collecting items to fill 400 gift bags for the children
- Lion Rick Metcalfe has a contact for a balloon maker
- Lion Kirby Brock trying to get a magician

Motion: Lion Kirby Brock - "That the Club spend \$1,200 to advertise the Santa Fund in Newmarket Today"

Second: Lion John Liska

Motion: *Carried*

G) Vision Screening: Lion Sylvia Brock

- waiting for approval from YDSB to start vision screening
- apparently an equity issue, some schools/parent's councils complain to media if their schools aren't included in the screening program and want to deny all other children access
- schools need at least 3 weeks to send permission letters home and get them returned
- last time over 300 children screened with half presenting issues
- lazy eye must be caught by age 8 to be remedied
- Lion Diana Graham suggested contacting the Separate School Board although they have

a history of denying the Club access

H) Lions Quest: Lion Sylvia Brock

- The mission of Lions Quest Canada is to provide leadership, knowledge, and resources to develop healthy, capable young Canadians of strong character through school based programs
- Lions Quests Canada needs funds
- check webinar on November 12th, 2:00 p.m.

Motion: Lion Sylvia Brock - "That the Club donate \$500 to Lions Quest Canada."

Second: Lion Rick Metcalfe

Motion: *Carried*

I) Catch the Ace: Lion Rick Metcalfe

- This draw is supporting Lions Camp Dorset; they need \$2 million
- trying to involve Clubs all over Ontario to advertise
- this week the Ace is worth \$26, 000
- \$37,757 (half of sales) with \$4,300 in expenses
- so far have raised \$33,500 for Camp Dorset
- Kudos to the CTA selling team-Lions Brian Havard, John Liska, Kirby Brock, Don Gardiner and the unmentioned Rick Metcalfe
- Thank you to Lions Howard Wetmore and Suzanne Kishonti for their help
- two more weekends of the Farmers Market left
- this Saturday bodies needed for 8:00-12:00 p.m.as Lions Rick and Kirby are away
- trying to get online advertising

J) Bingo: Lion Marilyn Gray

- the Club raises approximately \$5,200 per month from Bingo
- a few spots need to be filled on the schedule for the end of the year

10) Good of Lionism:

A) Christmas Get Together: Lion Diana Graham

- Lion Diana Graham will run the wine draw again this year

B) Harvest Dance: Lion Rick Metcalfe

- the North Newmarket Lions Club is holding their annual Harvest Dance on October 28th
- \$40 per person

C) Santa Claus Parade: Lion Mike Barker

- no interest in involvement from members

Adjournment: 8:30 p.m.

Next meeting Monday November 6, 2023
Munch and Mingle

Guest Speaker: Danielle Gibb of Community Living of York Region

Newmarket Lions Club President: Mike Barker
Newmarket Lions Club Secretary: Megan Bennett