FIRST COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS MEETING

August 1, 2026
Marion Downs Center, Greenwood Village, CO

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:40 a.m. by CC David McIlnay.

Attendance

Those in attendance included:

- CC David McIlnay (CC)
- DGs Steve Allen, Gary Northup, Travis Walker and Chuck Youmans (DG)
- First Vice DG-Elect Andrew Weber
- Past ID Ken Schwols, attending via Zoom
- Immediate Past CC Lisa Schlotterhausen (IPCC)
- Past CCs Maria Herndon, Holly Rutherford-Allen and Ted Peterson
- Past DGs Dianne Christian, Carol Young, Gwen Balk, Stokes Anderson and Corky Carlson
- Lions Pat Carlson, Michael Wright, John Spice, Dwight Steen, Janice Davis and Lenora Rogers
- State Office Manager Donna Walker-Hulben

Special guests were ID David Wentworth and Past CC Lori Langley, Global Action Team Leader for Constitutional Area 1G.

Opening

The invocation was given by DG Travis Walker. DG Gary Northup led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CC McIlnay introduced ID David Wentworth, who would also attend the Leadership Rally. He then introduced Past CC Lori Langley, Global Action Team Leader for Constitutional Area 1G, followed by Immediate Past CC Lisa Schlotterhausen and the District Governors.

Procedural Items

Approval of Previous Minutes

DG Gary Northup presented the minutes of the Council of Governors meeting held on April 10, 2026. The minutes had previously been distributed to the Council and committee chairs.

DG Steve Allen requested clarification regarding the two sets of minutes that had been distributed. State Office Manager Donna Walker-Hulben explained that the April 10 minutes were the official minutes of the Council of Governors meeting. The notes dated April 12 documented an informal meeting requested by CC McIlnay for incoming leaders and were intended as informal notes for the incoming CC.

DG Northup moved to approve the April 10 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by CC McIlnay. There was no discussion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Reports

The reports consist of the Statement of Accounts and budget comparison. DG Steve said the district's finances are dire and must be addressed this year. Dues income has roughly halved over the past two decades while obligations haven't, and dues haven't kept pace with inflation. The district risks running out of money this year; it ran a deficit of about $12,000 last year, the current bank balance is about $12,000, and that reserve will again be needed to cover the gap despite incoming dues revenue.

CC Dave proposed tabling detailed discussion for the action items and moving on to the financial reports themselves, noting the budget (prepared by CC Dave and Donna) needs a hard look and that a dues increase would require a formal process. He suggested forming a committee or task force. DG Steve agreed, wanting broad involvement in reviewing dues and the budget. IPCC Lisa noted a similar task force stalled last year, and that dues can't be raised this year, but an increase could be recommended for next year. CC Dave pushed to actually form the task force this time, asked DG Steve to lead and coordinate it, and requested that 1VDG Andrew Weber be included.

DG Gary proposed referring the matter to a committee chaired by DG Steve, made up of the District Governors, the Council Chair, and two others of DG Steve's choosing, kept small enough to confer easily with the District Governors.

PDG Carol asked for clarification that a dues increase couldn't take effect this year, since it would need a formal proposal placed on the ballot for a vote at the State Convention. CC Dave confirmed this, noting that International dues were increased at the Hong Kong convention and are being phased in.

CC Dave moved to approve the financial reports as presented; DG Chuck Youmans seconded. With no further discussion, the motion passed 3-1, with DG Steve opposed.

Presentation by ID David Wentworth

CC McIlnay invited ID David Wentworth to address the Council.

ID Wentworth shared observations from his visits to other Lions organizations, including information about their budgets, dues structures and staffing. He noted that some organizations maintain paid staff, while others operate with volunteers. He cited Nebraska as an example of a state organization without paid employees, allowing more funds to be directed toward leadership development.

After reviewing the Multiple District's budget, ID Wentworth stated that, based on his preliminary calculation, dues might need to be increased to approximately $25 per member to address the projected deficit.

He also reported that International dues had been approved for an increase beginning July 1, 2028, at a rate of $2 per year for five years.

ID Wentworth discussed changes to the number of IDs assigned to Constitutional Area 1. He stated that the area is expected to have nine IDs in the coming years and described changes in the number of directors rotating off and being elected.

Roadside Signs

ID Wentworth informed the group that new Lions roadside signs were available at no cost for a limited time and that approximately 300 signs remained.

E-Clubhouse

ID Wentworth asked how many clubs currently use an E-Clubhouse website. He reported that the current E-Clubhouse platform would be discontinued the following year and that E-Clubhouse 2.0 would be introduced.

He stated that E-Clubhouse 2.0 would provide an updated website platform. The current platform is free, while the new platform would cost local clubs approximately $100 per year. Websites for Leo clubs, districts and Multiple Districts would be updated at no cost. Local clubs using the current E-Clubhouse platform may be invited to transition to E-Clubhouse 2.0.

Social Media Hashtags

ID Wentworth encouraged Lions to use hashtags when posting about Lions activities on social media. He referenced #LCI, #WeServe and #MD6, explaining that hashtags help organize posts and allow Lions International to track the reach and impact of Lions-related content.

My state is Nebraska and I agreed to take on Colorado to assist in the growth and the leadership. Let's work with the numbers in your budget, let's work with the vacancies you have in your leadership. Those are the things we are going to work with this afternoon. DG Chuck asked if E-clubhouse 2.0 was through the Portal or if it was stand alone and ID David confirmed that it was stand alone and should be up and running within the next 30-45 days.
ID David also stated that the District Governors can request that your clubs get paper dues statements because there are so many clubs that are not paying dues and they are not paying the dues because they did not get a paper statement. It is all online and some clubs are not paying online.
Your situation is not unique. We are struggling in a lot of places. Mission 1.5 is still out there. We had 126,000 Lions. How is that going to help us this year? We need 140,000 Lions. ID David reviewed the statistics of various countries, and the United States was down 3900. We were the worst. But 3900 compared to years in the past was a huge improvement. Regarding membership, worldwide we are struggling with membership. We are not the only ones who are not filling positions.
Has anyone heard about Lions Edge? Lions Edge is a new program that is going to semi-replace FDI and the RLLI. After October it will go out to all of your RLLI's.

PCC Lori Langley, Global Action Team Leader Constitution Area 1G: CC Dave asked PCC Lori to share some wisdom with our group and explain your role in this organization. PCC Lori stated that she is the Global Action Team Leader for Constitution Area 1. The United States is divided into eight constitutional areas. We have a large area geographically, but we are a smaller membership. We are part of area 1G which encompasses ten states which includes west to Missouri and south to California and includes Nebraska, Kansas, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and Colorado. There are four states that have only one district whereas you are holding on with four districts and are one of the larger in this area. We must hold onto that and keep this moving forward. As DG Steve pointed out, we need to talk about this. If we don't talk about this, we don't face it. If you don't acknowledge that we have a problem, you are never going to be able to overcome it. We see this is not going the way that we want to go. How can you help us change it. That is what we are here for. The Global Action Team helps with your Governor team and leadership. We are not here to debate who is the most important part of that because it is a straight line. Everyone has the same most important role. We are going to talk a lot about leadership today and how we can get your folks better involved, better trained and better resources to make sure that they have success. We are going to talk about how that turns into better service, which is why we are all here. Thank you for letting me sit in and be a part of that. We are here to be a resource to you in whatever way that we can.
CC Dave mentioned that PCC Lori is leader of the GAT team and that every Lion is

welcome to sit in on their monthly telephone calls. PCC Lori stated that invitations go out to your team, and I hope they realize that they could benefit by attending those monthly calls.

ACTION ITEMS

Discussion of GOALS for membership, growth and service reporting. Selection of GAT members in the District and MD GAT coordinating with District GAT: CC Dave stated that PCC Maria would report on the global service information and PCC Holly would report for GAT.

Global Service Reporting

- PCC Maria is contacting district representatives to clarify roles, communication with clubs and service-reporting goals.
- A proposed goal is for every club to report at least one service activity in the Lion Portal.
- District Governors have included service reporting in their district goals.
- Leaders emphasized that clubs need clear communication and hands-on training, especially those facing limited internet access or difficulty using online systems.
- Reporting service demonstrates Lions' community impact, increases visibility and may help attract business support.
- Accurate reporting also provides a stronger story about the service completed by Lions in Colorado.

Leadership Development

- PCC Holly, serving as the Multiple District GLT coordinator, recently conducted zone chairperson training, with five zone chairs attending.
- She created a Multiple District calendar and an event-responsibility chart outlining key activities, attendance expectations, schedules and potential expenses for Council Chairpersons, District Governors and First Vice District Governors.
- The Paul Barbour Regional Lions Leadership Institute is scheduled for September 11–13, but only one application had been received. District Governors were asked to promote the institute.
- Leaders discussed whether July might generate greater participation and noted that scholarships are available.

- District GLT coordinators should record all Lions training in the Lion Portal.

Statement of Accounts: DG Gary moved to approve the Statement of Accounts as presented. DG Travis seconded the motion. With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

- **Budget**: DG Steve moved to approve the budget as presented, with DG Gary seconding. DG Gary proposed that the budget be subject to committee review and presented to the District Governors at the next Council meeting. Concerns were raised about available funds, but DG Gary stated that sufficient extra funds were available. The provided text ends before the final vote and outcome are recorded.
- **State Committee Chairs:** DG Gary moved to approve the GAT's recommendations for the State Committee Chairs. DG Travis seconded the motion. With no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
- **Comments from ID David Wentworth:** ID Wentworth recognized Colorado's membership progress, noting that the district's membership deficit improved from 127 members two years ago to 14 in June. He thanked the team for its efforts and encouraged continued progress. He also assigned homework to the District Governors and planned to review it during the afternoon session.
- **Kidsight Screening Presentation:** Michael Wright, National Program Coordinator for Solutions in Low Vision and a Kidsight board member, presented information about the importance of children's vision screenings and follow-up care. He explained that children with vision problems—particularly those needing glasses—may face challenges with depth perception and reading performance. Approximately 25% of children screened in the district are referred for glasses, while more than 35% of screened children see a doctor. The presentation emphasized the need to increase follow-up after screenings, as cost may prevent families from obtaining needed care. Lions could potentially assist with follow-up services and eyeglasses. The presentation also highlighted research indicating that vision screening can identify children who may benefit from reading intervention and stressed the importance of expanding vision-screening efforts, particularly as childhood nearsightedness continues to increase.

State Office Report Summary

- The state checking account was hacked, resulting in four fraudulent checks totaling more than $5,500. Wells Fargo returned the funds, and the account was closed and replaced with a new account and checks.

- The State Office has transitioned to QuickBooks Online, which is providing helpful support and automatically filing quarterly tax returns. This may cause temporary differences between the QuickBooks balance and the bank balance.
- The 2026–27 State Directory is available online under restricted access and has been sent to the publisher. Updates will be posted periodically as information changes. PDF copies are available upon request.
- A new computer was purchased for under $900, and no printer was needed, keeping the purchase well below the approved $2,000 budget.
- Dues statements will be sent in August.
- District Governors will be asked to submit leadership reports for the *Mane Lioner* during the third week of August, with publication planned for on or before September 10. The State Office emphasized the importance of timely and complete reports from every district.

Let me know if there's anything else I can help you with.

Committee and Entity Reports Summary

- **GMT-Family First/Lions Forever:** Lion Lenora Rodgers**:** Districts were reminded to learn about family-support resources available in their communities and be prepared to assist families with questions.
- **Environment:** PDG Stokes: stated Members were urged to prepare for fires, mudslides and other emergencies. Personal preparedness checklists were distributed. LCIF emergency funding must be requested through the District Governor and distributed within 30 days. LCIF grants must be reported as income on the appropriate tax return.
- **LCIF:** PDG Gwen Balk The state has reached 80.5% of its fundraising goal and continues to seek volunteers. MD6 also has $3,536.53 in unnamed funds available for Melvin Jones Fellowships or Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowships, potentially supporting three awards.
- **Regional Lions Leadership Institute** PCC Holly**:** The event location was confirmed at the Centennial Airport building. Attendance numbers are needed before final logistical arrangements can be made.
- PDG Dianne Christian wanted to thank the **Marion Downs Center:** Lions were thanked for collecting hearing aids. Lions will provide snacks for a family event on August 29 at Red-Tailed Hawk Park, and attendees should wear Lions vests.
- **Youth Speech Contest:** The state coordinator’s report will be distributed to district and club contest chairs and published in the *Mane Lioner* to encourage greater participation.
- **Colorado Lions Camp:** Missy Williams was selected as the new Camp Executive Director and will receive three weeks of training with Erin. A farewell gathering for Erin will be held August 8 from 1–3 p.m.

- **Colorado Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center:** COLERC shipped more than 43,000 pairs of eyeglasses to 12 countries— a 70% increase over the previous year. Volunteer hours increased by approximately 60%. New automated lensometers were provided in Pueblo, Woodland Park and the State Penitentiary through support from MD6 and the Wyoming Lions Foundation.
- **Additional Business:** Updated policies and the employee handbook were distributed for review and are expected to be completed and voted on at the next Council meeting. A Rocky Mountain Eye Institute tour is scheduled for September 25 at 9 a.m.
- **Meeting Efficiency:** Committee chairs were encouraged to submit reports early so members have time to review them and prepare questions.
- **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m. by unanimous vote.

Thank you for making a difference! And it is a great day to be a LION

Respectfully submitted and approved by,

DG Gary Northup
Council Secretary
on September 7, 2026