

**DISTRICT 2-A2
MID-WINTER CONFERENCE
International Center for Trade, 3295 Bob Rogers Drive, Eagle Pass, Texas
January 18, 2020**

Call to Order

The Mid-Winter Conference Meeting of the District 2-A2 was held on January 18, 2020, in Eagle Pass, Texas and hosted by the Eagle Pass Border Lions Club. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. and presided over by District 2-A Governor Lion Janie Garza.

Clubs Represented

There were 27 Clubs represented. They were Alamo Heights, Brackettville, China Grove, Comfort, Converse, Del Rio Host, DR San Felipe, Eagle Pass Border, Eagle Pass Evening, Floresville, Kerrville Hill Country Retreat, Kerrville Host, La Vernia, Laredo Noon Host, SA Central Park, SA Edgewood, SA First Ladies, SA Founder, SA Lady, SA Guide Dogs of Texas, SA Highland Hills, SA Lady, SA Northwest, SA Region 20, SA West Side, SA Windcrest, and Stockdale. There were 73 Lions in attendance.

The Colors, the Military Flags were posted and Pledges were given to the United State Flag and the Texas Flag by **District Treasurer Lion Steve Mays**.

PDG Rod Chisolm led the singing of "God Bless America"

Introductions – First VDG Lion David Splitek

First Vice District Governor Lion David Splitek introduced all PDGs in attendance. District Governor Lion Janie Garza, PCC Don Peppard, PCC Mike Rourke, Second Vice District Governor Doug Thomas, District Secretary Roland Andrade, District Treasurer Steve Mays, IPDG Roberto Castillo, PDG Don Kirchhoff, PDG Sam Pantusa, PDG Rod Chisholm, PDG John Cole, PDG Cal Lawson, PDG Chris Lloyd and PDG John Kimbrough PDG Northcross, Georgia Ed Hasburger.

Welcome – DG Lion Janie Garza

DG Lion Janie Garza thanked the Eagle Pass Border Lions Club for hosting the Conference. DG Lion Janie Garza awarded the Club a Certificate of Appreciation, Women in Lions Pen and an International Lions Pen.

DG Lion Janie Garza also presented Chevron Awards for 30 years of Service to Lion Monsi Marquez and a Charter Member, Maria Carolina Barrier and a Charter Member, and Angie Rodriguez and a Charter Member. Congratulations.

PDG Lion Roberto Castillo presented 100% Club Excellence Awards for 2018-2019 to SA Alamo Heights and SA Edgewood.

Minutes of Second Cabinet Meeting

District Secretary Lion Roland Andrade asked if everyone had read the minutes that were passed out and ask if there were any corrections that needed to be made. DG Lion Janie Garza stated that the minutes are accepted.

Treasurers Report/2019-2020 Second Quarter Financial Review

District Financial Review

Lion Steve Mays discussed the District's finances for the past year. As of December 31, 2019, the Administrative Account had a balance of \$9,989.51.

The Restricted Activity Account's balance was \$43,656.50, and the LEOS had a balance of \$1,129.22.

Revenues Total – Misc Income represents \$4,096.20 excess funds above the \$7,500 carry over not yet paid and \$5,000 in Youth Scholarship Funds not yet transferred to the restricted account.

Expenses – No surprises.

Restricted Activity Account

Revenue – No surprises

Expenses – No surprises.

Club dues – All Club dues have been paid...Big Surprise!

In 2019-2020, seventeen clubs have participated in the Governor's 100% Contributions program.

Scholarships

Please consider sponsoring a scholarship

Texas Lions Camp – Lion George, Eagle Pass Evening Lions – Lion George reported that Camp was a success with 1526 campers. However, funding is needed to continue to help the children on a yearly basis. There was an increase in the number of campers. TLC is 70 years old and the camp needs improvements. He gave an update on where our District stands in the various contribution categories. Clubs were reminded they are still able to be a hole sponsor for the Harry Wickersham Golf Tournament on August, 2020. It takes more than \$2.7 million a year to operate the camp.

GMT – PDG Don Kirchoff

Reminded Club to encourage friends and family members to join your Lion Clubs in your communities. Two good selling points are the Texas Lions Camp and LSRF. Membership is Minus 19 at District Level. Kerrville Host is plus 6. PDG Don is available to visit your Club.

Global Leadership Team – Lion Ken Brook – Texas Lions Leadership Forum is March 7 and 8th in Austin, Texas. MD-2 Website for more information. Wide Variety of topics available.

Lion Ken also presented Certification of Appreciation for volunteering for vision screening at TLC to Lion Clubs; Comfort, SA Central Park, Alamo City, Hill Country Retreat, Westside Lions, Edgewood, Universal City, La Vernia and to Lion individuals; Lion David and Lion Estella Silva, Lion Ken, and DG Janie Garza.

Children Services Committee – Lion Ken Brook – Purpose to conduct vision and hearing screenings in public, private and parochial schools and licensed day care centers. Provide for eye exams, glasses, audiological exams and hearing aids for children who fail the vision and/or hearing screening and meet the eligibility requirements.

Vision Screening: 909.5 Lions Hours, 11,752 children screened, 2546 referred.

Hearing Screening: 9,521 children screened; 734 children referred.

Lion Ken also recognized the volunteers from 15 Clubs and 32 Lions who participated in the 2019-2020 Screenings.

Lion Ken then reported on the surplus funds raised by DG Janie Garza to help fund the Children's Services Program. A total of \$30,000 was raised. Three new SPOTs were purchased. There remains approximately \$14,000. Lion Ken then proposed a Motion to allow LSRF to purchase a Blinq by February 1, 2020 or to transfer the \$14,000 to the Children Services restricted activity account to purchase the Blinq. There was a first and a second by Lion Cathy Ripps, then the discussions began:

Issue, cost of machine: \$10,000 however may discount price to \$7,500.

Lion Sam, LSRF Operations Officer had some concerns. Please see attached Summary of Points raised by COO Sam Pantusa during discussion of about LSRF due diligence investigation of purchase of the Blinq device.

Issue if there is no purchase, the monies will be used for the Vision Services Program.

Lion Steve clarified that it's a District program and the funding comes from a Foundation. Foundation doesn't administer program therefore the monies should revert back to the District. Where the monies were originally raised. Allowing the District to buy the Blinq.

Issue is whether the Foundation can deny the District the use of the monies for a program administered by the District.

Call to Question was stated. PPC John Kimbrough stated we need 2/3 majority vote to vote to end debate. After a vote of 49 in favor to end debate and 14 to continue the debate. Vote to end debate passes. Total of 63 were present.

Vote on Motion to allow LSRF to purchase a Blinq by February 1, 2020 or to transfer the \$14,000 to the Children Services restricted activity account to purchase the Blinq fails by a vote of 23 in favor and 34 against. Total of 57 votes. NAYS CARRY.

Nominations and Elections - Lion Nancy Hosek reported the following:

Resolutions: Lion David F. Splitek – District Governer. Lion Doug Thomas – First District Governor. Lion Steve Mays – Second Vice District Governor. Lion Tim Flick – Board of Director of the Texas Lions Camp. Lion Christopher Porras, Lion Mary Ann Mays, Lion Cathy Ripps – Human Needs Board. Lion Roger Gary, Lion Ernesto Castro – LSRF.

Camp Director – one position available. HNB – six positions available. LSRF – six positions available. Please email, Lion Nancy or DG Janie Garza, Resolutions March 2, which is 30 days before April 4, 2020.

Other matters on the ballot will be constitutional changes to the HNB, CSB, and District 2A2.

Lions International Dues will increase to \$3.00

Texas Lions Foundation – PCC Lion Don Peppard – The following Club are recognized with TLF Badges: China Grove, Comfort, DR Host, Kerrville Host, Leakey, SA Alamo, Westside, Uvalde.

Please consider a gift to TLF as an end of the year award in your clubs.

Human Needs Board – Lion Joseph Guerra - Lions Joseph reports HNB goals are to streamline the application process to provide those in need. The Board presented the proposed changes to its Constitution to DG Janie Garza.

Stride For Sight – FVDG David Splitek – 5K is Scheduled for March 21, 2020 at Comanche Park on Rigsby Avenue.

Lions Sight Research Foundation – COO/PDG Lion Sam Pantusa

Lion Rod Chisolm reports that Lion Wally Jackson resigned as chairman for personal reasons. Lion Rod is now Chairman. Lion Rosann is the Vice-Chairman. Lion Rod reports that Baptist Health Foundation donated \$7,000. And San Antonio Area Foundation donated \$15,000.

Erbilen – Imaging Lab is expanding. LSRF has donated \$50,000. UTHSC has donated \$75,000. And Lions International has donated \$100,000.

March 7, 2020 – Tripoint Center of Light.

March 14, 2020 at 6:00PM - St. Patrick's Day Casino Night at the Windcrest Civic Center.

March 28, 2020 – Milbergers Nursery-Lions Day – MESU/Blood Drive

This Day in History-January 18, 1919. Industrial Accident in Boston, Massachusetts. Around lunchtime on the afternoon of, a giant tank of molasses burst open in **Boston's** North End. ... The molasses flooded streets, crushed buildings and trapped horses in an event that ultimately killed 21 people and injured 150 more. The smell of molasses lingered for decades. And according to Lion Rod reminded us that sugar is a dangerous thing...especially distilled.

Peace Poster Contest – Lion Steve Medina- reports there were 5 entries. SA Windcrest. SA Hill Country Retreat, SA Hills, DR Host and DR San Felipe. Congratulations to Morgan Stone, 8th Grade student at Dolph Briscoe Middle School.

Opportunities for Youth – Abel Martinez – All Clubs should have participants for the following: Outstanding Youth Contest, Diabetic Essay Contest, Drug Awareness Speech Contest, and Young Women’s Scholarship Pageant. Winners will be announced April 4, 2020 at the District Convention. The Opportunities for Youth Contest applications are ready for download on the District website (district2a2.org).

Breakout sessions:

“How to start a Leo Club and the Club Responsibilities - Led by DG Janie Garza and Chris Lloyd.
My Lion – led by Lion Steve May.
Spot Training – Led by Lion Ken.

Raffle: Congratulations to Lion Jeanette Lawrence-Complimentary hotel stay and to Lion Harriet Kirchhoff -complimentary convention registration.

Invocation: Second VDG Doug Thomas – In memorium: Lion Jesse Sanchez-SA Highland Hills, Lion Ernest “Neto” Ojeda-DR San Felipe, Lion Xavier Rodriguez-DR San Felipe, Lion Roy Thomas-SA Alamo City Lions Club, Lion Floyd Carriker-Kerrville Sunrise Lions Club, International 1st VP Haynes Townsend.

Lunch

Speaker – Lion Josh Overfelt, LCIF Chair

District 2A2 is lacking in donations. Please consider donating. Goal is \$20,000 for the District.

Campaign 100 – Goal is 300 million by the June 2021.

A new program with LCIF is the Lions Share Program. Empowering, Disaster Relief, and Melvin Jones are different areas of donations.

The Mid-Winter Conference was adjourned at 1:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lion Roland Andrade
Cabinet Secretary, 2019-2020

A SUMMARY OF POINTS RAISED BY COO SAM PANTUSA DURING DISCUSSION ABOUT LSRF DUE DILIGENCE INVESTIGATION OF PURCHASE OF THE BLINQ DEVICE --- Mid-Winter Conference, Jan. 18, 2020 Eagle Pass Tx.

The LSRF Executive Committee and LSRF Board have reviewed much information that had been obtained by COO Pantusa from the Rebio Corporation and from Lions KidSight USA Foundation Chairman, PID Dr. Edward V. Cordes. The LSRF Board had presented a list of questions about the device and its intended use as part of the District's KidSight vision screening program to DG Garza and to Lion Ken and had then forwarded the questions to the manufacturer of Blinq and to Lions KidSight USA. However, that information did not answer some of the questions that had been asked.

It was learned that the device had only recently been put on the market. To date, only a handful of purchases have been made by Lions and of those, only one in Texas.

Guidelines for use of Blinq are not completely formalized, especially in the setting that volunteers would be using it. Additionally, it was learned that those guidelines are the responsibility of the users based on what is learned in training and other protocols that they may have in play.

Lions KidSight USA does not endorse the use of Blinq as part of the Lions KidSight USA program but does not prohibit its use. The device's primary purpose is to supplement what is already done in the offices of pediatric ophthalmologists. The Lions KidSight USA program has been established to determine many refractive error conditions in children which is a much broader scope of issues than only amblyopia which is the only condition that Blinq can detect. For that reason, Lions KidSight USA has developed partnerships with SPOT and Plus Optix but has not partnered with Rebio to utilize the Blinq.

Another point not yet addressed is where the device is planned to be used since the target ages of the children to be screened that are the primary of interest are, for the most part, those under three years of age. And, as of yet, the manner in which the Blinq would be used in conjunction with SPOT has not been clearly explained.

Also discussed and unknown is how the Children's Services members are selected, governed and how the Children's Services Committee/Group will operate –this was discussed as a subpart of the full board request for written guideline procedures which have not been provided.