

MINUTES OF THE FALL COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS' MEETING

October 3, 2025

Penticton Resort, Penticton, B.C.

The Council Meeting was called to order by Council Chairperson Steve Brooks at 8:41 am, followed by a moment of silence for those who have passed since July 1.

The following Lions, Leos and Guests were in attendance and signed the Attendance Sheets.

I. Council of Governors

Steve Brooks, Council Chairperson
Wanda Eddy, Vice Council Chairperson
Patty Allen-White, Past Council Chairperson
Peter Anderson, Executive Director
Teresa Ng, District Governor 19-L
Steve Sweeney, District Governor, 19-I
September Stokes, District Governor, 19-O
Donna Murr, District Governor, 19-N (online)
Roger Schramm, District Governor, 19-S
Kevin Borde, PDG, 19-L
Chuck Robinson, PDG, 19-I
Leslie Chasse, PDG 19-N
Tammy Allan, PDG 19-S

II. MD19 Committee Chairpersons & Appointees

PCC Patty Allen-White – Contests & Awards
PDG Georgia Medwedrich - Diabetes
Nancy Messmer – Environment
PDG Debbie Bostock, Global Leadership
PDG Lonnie Morgan – Youth Exchange FDN
PID Don Shove – LCIF-US
J.D. Nellor – Parliamentarian (online)
Peter Walkup – LEO Liaison

Foundations & Societies

VCC Wanda Eddy, BC Lions Society for Children with Disabilities

III. Lions, Leos and Guests

PDG Ken Allan
Michele Barrie
Judy Brooks
2nd VDG Michael Cheng
ID Chris Carlone
PZC Bob Elliott
PCC Al Hedstrom
ZC Sherman Lo

PDG Elaine Luk
PDG Harry Lippincott
2nd VDG Caroline O'Dell
PZC Bob O'Dell
1st VDG Joanne Payment
Irene Stokes
PZC Rosemary Walkup
1st VDG Rock White

ONLINE GUESTS

Int'l President A.P. Singh
Kyle Hartje (LCIF Rep)
ID Sangeeta Jatia
PDG Debbie Mansell
ID Mark Mansell

International President A.P. Singh spoke for some time to the Council regarding membership growth. After he and ID Sangeeta Jatia spoke, Council Chairperson Steve invited the five current District Governors to speak to A.P. comments: Teresa Ng, 19-L; Steve Sweeney, 19-I; September Stokes, 19-O, Donna Murr, 19-N and Roger Schramm, 19-S.

International Director Mark Mansell reminded the Governors to be working on their nominations for International Leadership and Presidential Medals. They are to send their nominations to PID Allan Hunt, himself and the MD19 Office.

Meeting recessed at 9:44 AM

Meeting resumed at 10:00 AM

MOTION: A motion was made by District Governor September Stokes, 19-O and seconded by PDG Chuck Robinson, 19-I to accept the minutes of the Annual Convention Council of Governors' Meeting, held at the Chilliwack Coast Hotel in Chilliwack, B.C., May 16, 2025, as posted. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Ratify vote for PDG Kathy Crawford

MOTION: a motion was made by PCC Patty Allen-White and seconded by District Governor Steve Sweeney, 19-I to ratify the vote for PDG Kathy Crawford (19-N) as a member of the Evaluation Committee. Motion approved.

Appointment for 2026 Int'l Convention Chairperson

MOTION: A motion was made by VCC Wanda Eddy and seconded by PDG Tammy Allan (19-S) to accept the appointment of ZC Shelley Staudinger as the 2026 International Convention Chairperson. Motion approved.

Appointment for Strategic Planning Rep. 19-S

MOTION: A motion was made by District Governor Steve Sweeney, 19-I and seconded by PDG Kevin Borde (19-L) to accept the appointment of PDG Laura Wintersteen-Arleth as the 19-S representative for the MD19 Strategic Planning Committee. Motion approved.

NORTHWEST LIONS LEADERSHP INSTITUTE

MD19 Leadership Chairperson, PDG Debbie Bostock reported that the Chilliwack Dogwood Monarch Lions Club in 19-O would like to help the institute by assisting in getting it promoted and working out the logistics, after the current superintendent of the institute resigned. It will be held during the first weekend in June, 2026. There are already 7-8 people signed up to attend with a hopeful attendance of 30. Currently rooms are \$180 per night at the Coast Hotel. Debbie is working with PZC Roger Chevrier and the club to finalize details.

MOTION: A motion was made by District Governor September Stokes, 19-O and seconded by PDG Chuck Robinson, 19-I for the Council to endorse and support the Northwest Lions Leadership Institute. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Ratify vote for LCIF Grant for Easter Seal House

MOTION: a motion was made by PDG Kevin Borde, 19-L and seconded by District Governor Teresa Ng, 19-L to ratify the email vote taken for submitting a \$25,000 matching LCIF Grant for remodeling rooms at an Easter Seal House in B.C. Motion approved.

MULTIPLE DISTRICT 19 PROCLAMATION October 15, 2025, as White Cane Awareness Day and The First Full Week of February as White Cane Week

WHEREAS, since 1925, when asked to champion the blind by Helen Keller, Lions Clubs International has a long history of serving the blind and visually impaired. We remain committed to this mission into the next century.

WHEREAS, Lions Club International Global objective for VISION is, 'prevent avoidable blindness and improve quality of life for people who are blind or visually impaired.'

WHEREAS, the white cane, which every blind member of Multiple District 19 has the right to carry, demonstrates and symbolizes the ability to achieve a full and independent life and the capacity to work productively in local, district, multiple district and international service; and

WHEREAS, the white cane and/or dog guide, by allowing every blind person to move freely and safely from place to place, makes it possible for the blind to fully participate in and contribute to our society and to live the lives they want; and

WHEREAS, every citizen should be aware of the law requires that motorists and cyclists exercise appropriate caution When approaching a blind person carrying a white cane; and

WHEREAS, Multiple District 19 recognizes our blind members as individuals with productive capacities and skills; and

WHEREAS, Since 1946, thanks to the Canadian Council of the Blind's Initiative, the first full week of February has traditionally been celebrated as 'White Cane Week' in Canada; and

WHEREAS, Since 1964, the President of the United States and later the World Blind Union designated October 15th as White Cane Safety Day and White Cane Awareness day;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steve Brooks, Council Chairperson of Multiple District 19, do hereby proclaim

**OCTOBER 15th as WHITE CANE AWARENESS DAY
AND
The First Full Week of February, 2026 as WHITE CANE WEEK**

In Multiple District 19 and do call upon our local clubs, district, and multiple district to offer full opportunities for training to blind persons; to utilize the available skills of competent blind persons and to open new opportunities for the blind in our rapidly changing society; and upon all members to recognize the white cane and dog guide as tools of independence for blind pedestrians on our streets and highways.

Multiple District 19 Council of Governors

Stephen Brooks

Steve Brooks, Council Chairperson Date: 10/19/2025"

MD19 TRADING PIN

PID Don Shove presented a pin that the Pin Traders Association created for the International Convention 2026, being held in Hong Kong. He is asking for the Council's endorsement of the pin. He noted that both ED Peter Anderson and PDG Steve Staudinger have supplies of the pins.



MOTION: a motion was made by PDG Kevin Borde, 19-L and seconded by District Governor Steve Sweeney, 19-I for the Council to endorse the MD19 trading pin for 2026. Motion approved.

CONSENT AGENDA REPORTS

CARE REPORT by PDG Bob Yeoman, Chairperson:

"Multiple District 19 is approaching the end of our 1st quarter for which I have only figures through August. Through the end of August, we have total donations of \$3440.00 which is slightly behind August of last year. Below are our district totals.

District L-\$0
District I- \$140
District O- \$1550
District N- \$1250
District S-\$500

The District Governor with the biggest increase percentage (%) over last year will be awarded a Gordon F. Smith Fellowship. The DGs should have last year's totals, if not I get them that information. I will keep them updated as to their progress.

The program that donations will help support this year is to Improve Water and Sanitation in Schools located in Guatemala.

All DGs need to promote the Gordon F. Smith Fellowship during all visits and correspondence. A \$500.00 donation during this fiscal year will make a club eligible for a Fellowship. These must be requested by the club prior to year end.



Report from Honduras for MD19 Lions

Biogigesters: Transforming Lives through Clean Energy

Thanks to CARE's partnership with Multiple District 19 Lions, 10 rural families in Honduras have transformed livestock waste into biogas and organic fertilizer, gaining access to clean energy for the first time. The women involved have reduced their domestic workload, improved their health, and strengthened their leadership in their homes and communities.



PROJECT DETAILS

Location: Municipalities of Villanueva, Santa Cruz de Yojoa, and Siguatepeque

Project Duration: November 2024 – May 2025

Reporting Period: November 2024 – May 2025

Grant Amount: \$38,182

Amount Spent: 100%

Reach to Date: 615 people (123 direct)

PROJECT PURPOSE

The Biodigesters in the Circular Economy project helped small farmers in three Honduran municipalities turn livestock waste into biogas and organic fertilizer (biol). This improved food security, reduced environmental impact, and supported the health and independence of rural families—especially women. The project used CARE's proven Farmer Field and Business Schools (FFBS) model to deliver training and strengthen community ties. In partnership with MD19 and the Prosperous and Resilient Communities program, CARE supported biodigester installation with technical, educational, and social support. The model was a finalist in FAO's innovation competition, showing its potential to scale across rural Latin America.

PROGRESS UPDATE

The project achieved strong technical, social, and environmental results, demonstrating the model's potential to transform rural communities:

- Ten System 8 biodigesters were installed, each with the capacity to process 65 kg (143 pounds) of livestock waste per day, generating 2.4 m³ of biogas and 200 liters of biol, used in family gardens and crops like beans, corn, coffee, and bananas.
- 123 people participated in the installation, training, and use of the systems; 296 women were indirectly reached through agricultural extension, biol distribution, and clean cooking practices.
- The FFBS served as the core training platform, using a *learning-by-doing* methodology and supported by 10 peer exchanges to share results and strengthen community learning.
- Community SAA sessions with 123 people (81 women) helped shift social norms and promote shared responsibility in the use of new technologies.
- 100% of participating households now use biogas for cooking, reducing the use of firewood and improving women's health.

These actions have reduced monthly CO₂ emissions from 10.1 to 1.8 tons, creating local employment, improving soil fertility, and strengthening the resilience of families.

Success Highlights:

- **Transforming women's lives through clean energy:** In the 10 participating households, biogas fully replaced firewood, eliminating kitchen smoke and reducing respiratory illness. Women now spend less time on housework and more on their well-being and productivity. This shift prevents an estimated 8.3 tons of CO₂ per month and saved households L120,000 (US\$4,800) in just six months.
- **Unprecedented rural adoption of technology:** 100% of families adopted and continue using biodigesters. Success was driven by a socially transformative approach—including community sessions with 123 people (81 women)—and the FFBS model as a platform for ownership and technical assistance.



Biodigesters in Santa Cruz de Yojoa

- **More resilient, sustainable production systems:** Each biodigester produces 200 liters of biol per day, fertilizing up to 5.2 hectares per year and boosting yields in bean, corn, banana, and vegetables. This reduced reliance on chemical fertilizers and improved family self-sufficiency.
- **Strategic alliances that strengthen local capacities:** BIO provided technical support from installation to operation of equipment, creating 20 temporary local jobs. Collaboration with the private sector enabled training for women and youth, who now apply these skills at home.
- **Forward-thinking institutional scaling:** CARE has adopted biodigesters as our flagship technology in Honduras. The project was named a finalist in FAO's Global Innovation Competition. Advocacy is underway to scale the model to 1,000 biodigesters nationwide.

Challenge Highlights:

- **Sustained support essential for adoption:** While biodigester adoption was achieved, families required at least six months of technical and social follow-up to fully integrate them into daily life. This included adjusting routines, managing waste input, and maintaining systems—made possible through technical support and regular community sessions.
- **Structural barriers to rural financing:** Many smallholders lack credit history or formal collateral, limiting their access to loans and hindering independent scaling. This highlights the need for partnerships with rural banks, state programs, and subsidy schemes, especially for women and youth without access to capital.
- **High upfront cost remains a barrier without external support:** Despite clear medium-term economic benefits, the cost of installation (\$1,655 per unit) is high for most rural families. This reinforces CARE's commitment to a progressive co-financing model involving public, private, and international partners.

Lessons Learned:

- A social lens is critical: Addressing harmful social norms facilitates women's adoption of technology and improves household equality.
- "Learning by doing" strengthens learning: Involving families in construction and installation fosters ownership, deepens knowledge, and reduces costs.
- Peer exchanges foster replication: Hands-on peer-to-peer learning built trust and encouraged adoption and replication of the model in 10 communities.
- Sustainability requires local partnerships: Municipal governments play a key role in integrating clean technologies into environmental planning.
- Training local youth was a strategic investment: Engaging young people in system installation empowered them as community promoters, creating transferable knowledge.
- Scaling requires leadership and vision: CARE's commitment to biodigesters—backed by high-level engagement and a goal of scaling to 1,000 units—shows that innovation thrives on institutional leadership and strategic vision.

PARTICIPANT TESTIMONIAL

Lesly and her husband, Roberto, 49, started their pig production with the support of CARE three years ago and were selected to receive a biodigester through their participation in FFBS.

"I always wanted to have a stove inside my house, and I achieved it thanks to the biodigester," Lesly states. "Now I no longer have to go out to look for firewood; I just light it, and the fire is ready." Thanks to the biodigester, they now have a family garden, better nutrition, fewer expenses, and more time for productive activities.



EXPENDITURE REPORT

The funds donated by MD19 Lions clubs – a total of \$38,182 - have been fully spent and utilized.

Line-Item	Budget (in USD)	Total Expenses (in USD)	Balance	Utilization Rate
Personnel/Staff	6,037	6,372	(335)	106%
Staff support	2,596	2,251	345	87%
Transportation to field projects	848	848	0	100%
Construction of Biodigesters	16,556	16,556	0	100%
Communications	333	344	(11)	103%
Motorcycle maintenance/staff travel	751	750	1	100%
Field Schools	444	444	0	100%
Project signage and materials	1,347	1,347	0	100%
CARE Honduras office running cost	4,306	4,306	0	100%
CARE USA Administrative Support	4,964	4,964	0	100%
Total	38,182	38,182	0	100%

THANK YOU! We are grateful for the generous support of Multiple District 19 Lions clubs. The money you donated has improved the lives of hundreds of rural families in Honduras.

CARE Contact: Dana Tseng, dana.tseng@care.org



DIABETES REPORT by PDG Georgia Medwedrich, Chairperson:

"Council Chairperson and Council,

As I am repeating as the MD19 Diabetes chairperson I will continue with the newsletters and of course now that the four districts other than mine now have heard about the fitness challenge, we will continue with the Step Challenge starting in October 2025. All the information has been submitted to the Districts and the Border Crossing. Once started, updates will appear in the monthly newsletter until completion. Who will receive the 'Golden Runner' in May 2026? Get your teams ready!

It has always been a challenge speaking to clubs and getting the news out there regarding awareness of this global epidemic. If I were not secluded on an island where it cost \$100.00 CDN each just to get on and off, I would travel to as many clubs as I could with my famous Sugar Board and speak to the clubs about diabetes. As is, I can only get to the clubs in the southern part of Vancouver Island. This is not a fun disease once you have it. But for those who don't think they have it, check, you may have it, and it's hidden until one day you don't feel well. No such thing as borderline, you are either pregnant or not!



The monthly newsletters and the Step Challenge hopefully will bring awareness to those of us Lions, so we have a little more knowledge to pass on to our clubs. November is World Diabetes Awareness. Hopefully all clubs are doing something in their communities to spread the awareness. Contact me for information."

LCIF-BC REPORT by PDG Al Stobbart, Chairperson:

"I will be attending the LCIF CAIL training in Vancouver October 2-4 (same weekend as the Council meeting in Penticton) and will be preparing additional goals and developing strategies along with LCIF District Coordinators for L, I and O at that time.

Early indications are that B.C. is on trajectory for donations as seen in the past year when fundraising goals and the DG stretch goals were both exceeded.

Looking forward to working with our BC Districts and counterparts on the US side of the border in support of our Foundation and, I can always be contacted with any questions, concerns or suggestions regarding LCIF at:

PDG Al Stobbart

MD19 LCIF-BC/LCIF District O Coordinator

Phone or Text: 604-302-9521

Email: Stobbarta@shaw.ca"

LEO REPORT by PZC Linda Deroche, Chairperson:

"Council Chairperson and Council,

LEOs are becoming a household name and gaining great momentum. Such exciting news. Statistics show, MD19 currently has 28 Leo Clubs in Canada and 18 Leo Clubs in the United States. I have met with a member of the Chilliwack Dogwood Lions and together we are working towards starting up a Leo Club which is very exciting.



Surrey Central Lions sponsored the Guildford Leos, and they were chartered in the 2024-2025 year.

Many other Lions Clubs have reached out requesting information about Leos and what do they need to start a Leo Club.

This is all very exciting news and my goal before June 30, 2026, is to have five more Leo Clubs chartered on either side of the Border."

MEMORIAL GARDEN REPORT by Wes Reynolds, Chairperson and ED Peter Anderson:

"Overview of the Memorial Garden Project

We are pleased to provide an update on the memorial garden project, which commenced in November 2024. The project is now approaching completion, with the final landscaping and finishing touches currently underway.

Wheelchair Accessible Pathway

One of the significant enhancements made during this project is the construction of a wheelchair accessible path. This new pathway now allows individuals with mobility challenges to access approximately 80% of the memorial garden. The path was designed to meet ADA guidelines, ensuring a comfortable and inclusive experience for all visitors. Some sections of the path remain unfinished, with pavers in place but not 'set'. Efforts to engage local volunteers to address the uneven pavers have proved challenging.

Current Status and Next Steps

With most construction now complete, the garden is approaching its fall showcase. Remaining work includes relocating some bench seating, installing signage, and completing final plantings. The Council of Governors has provided ongoing support, and Lions and Clubs have contributed through donations and by gifting plants in memory of deceased members. The Memorial Garden is open to all Lions, and gifts in memory of club members can be made.

Summer 2025 MD19 Lions Memorial Garden Report, by Lion Wes Reynolds (supplemental)

The emphasis in the Memorial Garden this year has been watering, weeding, mulching and creating an accessible pathway through the garden. Several plants are being drought-resistant tested. New plantings mostly await fall rains.

Assistance is needed with signage at which we are a couple years behind. New pathways now reach several benches. Places to move benches where signs could better be viewed have been identified. Those moves would limit the need to clean those benches. The oldest bench, an Eagle Scout project from a quarter century ago will soon need replacement.

Adding elements of a sensory garden await creating accessible paths. Then making suitable stops to place signs. Also composing the content of signs (including braille) as well as planning for the maintenance of the signs and the paths to them.

Work in the garden continues to be done on the cheap. Purchases are made at a discount along with many in-kind gifts. Resources already on site are used as much as possible. Hopefully, an endowment for maintenance of the Memorial Garden could be established by March 17, 2028 when the main garden volunteer with multiple chronic conditions turns 75.

PS: Some plantings have done well as you can see from these pictures of autumn crocus and Douglas aster. September 30 will be lavender day at the garden trimming those long established and planting a dozen new lavender in an arc near the flag poles. plants



FOUNDATION REPORTS

KNIGHTS of the BLIND REPORT by PZC Bill Scholl, Chairperson:

Wow—since our convention last May, much has been taken on by the MD19 Lions Knights of the Blind (KOTB) Committee. Here's a look at what we've been working on:

Outreach Brochures

Throughout the summer, committee members placed our brochure in many new locations. These brochures are a great way to tell the public about who we are and what we do. ALL MD19 Lions are encouraged to continue finding new spots—especially clubs that collect eyeglasses for NWLERC. Those sites are perfect homes for these informative brochures.

School Presentations

As August wrapped up and teachers returned to their classrooms, KOTB members renewed contacts with schools where *Grandpa's White Cane* book has been shared. Presentations are now being scheduled for the new year, and we encourage Lions to look for opportunities in new schools as well.

Club & Zone Visits

We encourage every committee member—and really every Lion—to attend their Zone meetings and connect with at least one new club before the end of 2025. Building these relationships strengthens all our efforts.

Holiday Broadcast

The committee is also preparing this year's Holiday Broadcast. Keep an eye out—a flyer will be coming your way soon!

Vision Etiquette Table Topper

One of our newest advocacy projects is the **Vision Etiquette Table Topper**. This 3-sided piece is designed for restaurant and café tables during October, helping the public learn how to respectfully interact with individuals using a White Cane or Guide Dog. It also connects readers to more information about Lions. If you have a favorite restaurant or café, request your toppers and ask if they'd be willing to display them during October (and hopefully longer). If they agree, contact the KOTB Chairperson—toppers are available for just a **nickel each**.

Membership & Meetings

Like many committees, KOTB is always looking for new members. We meet the **first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM**. The link is available on the MD19 website.

Everyone is welcome!"

LIONS OF B.C. HEARING CONSERVATION REPORT by PCC Surinder Gahir, President:

"Council Chairperson Steve and Council Member's, greetings.

Some Lions Clubs have a hearing aid program and the hearing aid recycling program. The newer digital hearing aids are sorted and sent to Island Deaf & Hard of Hearing Centre in Victoria for testing, reprogramming and reuse.

Lions of BC Hearing Conservation Society has been providing Hearing Aids to seniors and others that can't afford them however requests have slowed down.

Lions of BC Hearing Conservation Society have a great awards program for deserving Lions; The Meade Sutherland Fellowship Award for \$500 and the Society Fellowship Award for \$50.

My friends we remain deeply grateful for all your help and donations. For more information, please contact me at governor.gahir@gmail.com or Bob Jones at lions.bc.hearing@gmail.com"

MD19 FOUNDATION REPORT by PDG Brien Patton, President:

"The Foundation has had a busy and productive year, and we have three more months in this year. The Foundation operates on a calendar year January through December. We have had many grant requests and have approved the following grants this year:

- 1) Ilwaco school district,
- 2) Lake Chelan school district for FBLA,
- 3) MD19 DGE, VDGE, ZCE training school,
- 4) MD19 GAT team meeting,
- 5) Poulsbo Lions for Leos,
- 6) Northwest Lions Leadership Institute,
- 7) 4H Grant,
- 8) Cascade school district retreat grant,
- 9) Cascade Pacific council scouting of America,
- 10) Lake Chelan school district for FCCLA and
- 11) Cascade school district leadership and strategic direction planning training.

We are also in the process of reviewing a grant for District I for club officer training.

The Foundation always wants to see more grant requests. Grant applications can be downloaded from the foundation's website. You can access the website through the MD19 website.

My term as President of the Foundation will end on December 31st. PDG Stephen Staudinger will be taking over as President on January 1, 2026. I want to thank all the members on the foundation board for their hard work and due diligence on reviewing grants."

NWLERC REPORT by Kerby Kee, President:

"Thanks to the continued support of Lions Clubs throughout Washington and Idaho, this new Lions year finds the NWLERC on solid footing. Our core team of dedicated volunteers is keeping our facility in Olympia busy, processing high-quality used eyeglasses for distribution by optometric missions around the world.

We anticipate that in 2025-26 we will be supporting an average of 1-2 missions per month, some requesting hundreds of glasses and some for thousands. We have both regularly scheduled work parties during the week, as well as Lions Clubs that visit and work periodically throughout the year. We continue to advertise for more volunteers, including from the local community.

Our annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic was held September 20, and it gave all our volunteers some time to have a little fun, food, and fellowship. It also gave our officers and staff a chance to thank everyone for making the NWLERC so successful.

Each year we award 'Trifecta' banner patches to Lions Clubs that donate in three categories: glasses, volunteer hours, and money. The 2024-25 patches were recently mailed to 35 clubs in MD19: 1 in District L; 3 in District ; 4 in District O; 24 in District N, and 3 in District S.

This summer saw the introduction of our newly designed website. It is like our previous one and has the same web address, but it was set up using software that makes it much easier to edit and keep up to date.

Our *Focus* newsletter is now produced and distributed every other month. In addition to being provided to Lion presidents and secretaries, it is posted on our website, the MD19 website, and on Facebook.

We are still dealing with the challenge of filling some officer and key staff positions, including Admin and Ops VPs, QA Manager, and District Directors. Our Directors act as liaisons between the NWLERC and the Lions Clubs in their District. We have been unable to replace two very active Directors in Districts L and O. We would appreciate help from the district leadership for recommendations for new Directors to assist the American clubs in Zone L-11 (the Canadian clubs support their CLERC), and in the southern portion of District O (formerly District B).

We're looking forward to another successful year of upholding our motto 'Saving Lives, One Pair of Eyeglasses at a Time'".

MOTION: A motion was made by PDG Chuck Robinson, 19-I and seconded by District Governor Teresa Ng, 19-L to accept the Consent Agenda reports as printed. Motion carried.

REPORTS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

ENVIRONMENT REPORT by Nancy Messmer, Chairperson:

"District Environment Chairpersons

L-Kitty Chiu I-Bernie Jensen O-Mike Contreras N-Fred Ferreira S- _____

MD 19 Environment Team Lions Year 2024-2025

Representing all 5 districts, District Environment Chairpersons & Zone Environment Chairpersons and Club Environment Chairpersons work closely with four Lions serving as MD 19 Environment Co-Chairpersons. We are an Environment Team that meets monthly on Zoom, hosted by Council Chair Steve Brooks **We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 12p.m. and invite interested Lions to join us.** For invitation, write to able@olypen.com. Our team increases in size and scope as we are joined by Lions from throughout our MD and from across the continent.

Lions International Website and Facebook, along with Lions Virtual.org provide ideas, images, and resources for Lions around the world. Spend time learning from these videos and more. When you post a Club Environment Service project, use the hashtag #LionsGoGreen.

As Lion Environment Chairpersons circulate through our districts, speaking to Lions, scanning Facebook pages, websites, and service reports, these are some of the Lions Environmental Service projects we see. We want to learn from each other and share the stories of our service. We post them here to inspire ourselves and YOU to tell our stories widely and well.

Service areas

Get your club involved in one of these environment service areas and see how your service will help achieve the **U.N. Sustainable Development Goals**.

TREE PLANTING AND TREE CARE
Improve your community through the planting of locally appropriate tree seedlings or saplings, contributing to cleaner air and a healthier environment.

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP AND RESTORATION
Protect nature and habitats by cleaning debris and shielding pollutants from harming ecosystems, marine life and the community.

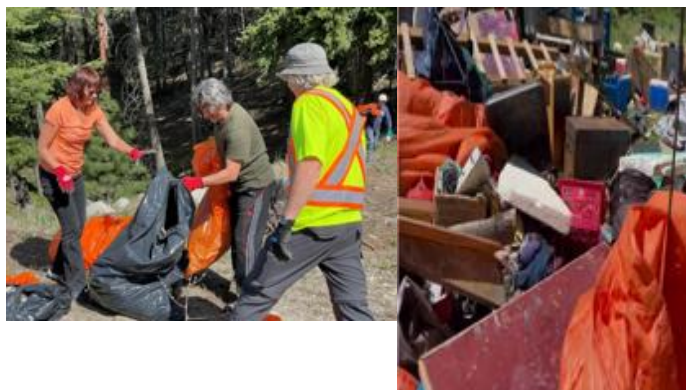
RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT
Conserve resources and reduce waste to minimize adverse impacts on sustainability.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS, EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY
Raise awareness of the importance of protecting the environment, educate your community members and create positive change.

CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
Ensure safe water and adequate sanitation for all, promoting better health outcomes around the world.

LCIF grants

GRANT RESOURCES
LCIF offers a wide variety of grant programs to empower Lions projects. We encourage you to explore the different grant types and resources within our online grants toolkit to find out if there's a grant program that's right for your club, district or multiple district now, or in the future.



Peachland Lions Club serving food to the Peachland Watershed Protection Alliance annual forest clean up event. The event literally removes tons of garbage from wilderness areas surrounding Peachland. District I.

Kitty Chiu, District L Environment Chairperson is creating bi-monthly newsletters. Enjoy this first edition.

DISTRICT 19L ENVIRONMENT

For environmental awareness this term (2025-26), I plan to put together a one-pager bi-monthly (every 2 months) "environmental tips and tricks" to share with all the Lions Clubs and its members in 19L in Western BC and Northwest Washington. *Regards, Kitty Chiu*

Environmental tips and tricks are a great way to bring environmental awareness to our community for a few key reasons:

- 1. They're Practical and Actionable**
Tips and tricks break down big environmental issues into small, manageable actions. When people see something simple they can do—like reducing water use during dry summer months or composting food scraps—they're more likely to get involved.
- 2. They Make Sustainability Feel Accessible**
Not everyone knows where to start with environmental action. Seasonal, local tips show that being eco-friendly doesn't require a complete lifestyle overhaul—it can begin with small steps that fit into everyday life.
- 3. They're Relevant to the Community**
By tailoring tips to the seasons and the specific conditions in Western BC and Northwest Washington, the advice feels personal and useful. People are more likely to act on information that relates directly to their home, weather, and way of life.
- 4. They Spark Ongoing Awareness**
Sharing tips regularly keeps environmental issues on people's minds year-round. Over time, this consistent messaging can lead to stronger habits and a deeper understanding of how individual choices impact the environment.
- 5. They Build a Sense of Shared Responsibility**
When community members see others making eco-conscious choices, it encourages a sense of collective effort. Tips can create conversations and inspire neighbors to support each other in caring for the environment.

19-L ENVIRONMENTAL TIPS & TRICKS



July & August 2025

Sustainable Summer Living For Western BC & NW Washington


1. Wildfire Prevention in Coastal Forests

- Comply with campfire bans and fire restrictions (check with BC Wildfire Service and WA DNR).
- Use camp stoves instead of open fires for cooking while camping.
- Clear dry brush near properties to reduce fire hazards.
- Report smoke or illegal burns immediately to local authorities.

2. Conserve Water During Drought

- Metro Vancouver and WA counties often issue Stage 1–3 water restrictions in July/August.
- Water gardens with greywater or rainwater collected in barrels.
- Install low-flow showerheads and faucets at home and in vacation rentals.
- Use native and drought-tolerant plants like salal, sword fern, and Oregon grape.

3. Reduce Plastic at Beaches and Parks

- Bring reusable water bottles, utensils, and containers on outings.
 - Avoid single-use packaging for beach snacks and picnic foods.
 - Participate in or organize a beach cleanup (especially after long weekends).
 - Dispose of fishing line and marine debris in proper receptacles.
-  Hotspot areas: Kitsilano Beach, Juan de Fuca Trail, Whidbey Island, Lake Crescent.

4. Eat Local & Seasonal

- Shop at local farmers markets: Victoria, Nanaimo, Bellingham, Port Angeles.
- Support small farms growing berries, greens, and tree fruit.
- Avoid food waste by freezing or preserving extra produce.
- Skip imported or out-of-season goods with high carbon footprints.

5. Garden for Pollinators

- Plant bee-friendly flowers: lavender, echinacea, yarrow, and lupine.
- Avoid chemical fertilizers and pesticides.
- Leave some bare patches for ground-nesting bees.
- Add a shallow water source with pebbles for bees and butterflies to drink safely.

6. Protect Marine Life

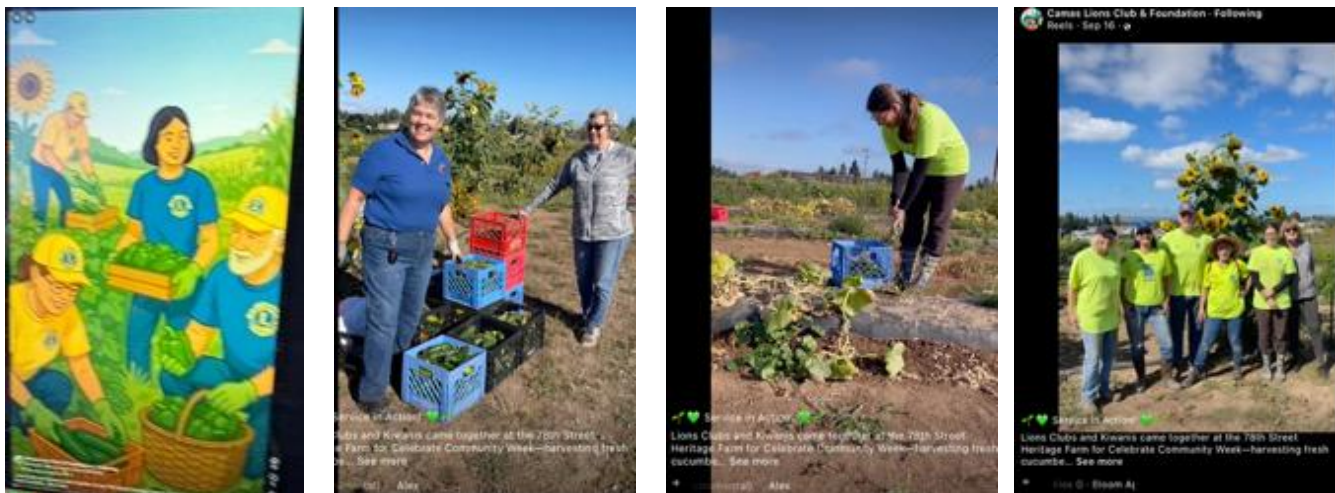
- Avoid using chemical sunscreens—choose reef-safe, mineral-based alternatives.
- Keep boats slow near orcas and marine mammals (stay at least 400 meters away).
- Report injured wildlife or pollution sightings to local marine authorities.
- Never flush chemicals or meds—these harm local waters like the Salish Sea.

7. Travel Light, Travel Local

- Use ferries, trains, or bus networks to explore (e.g., BC Ferries, Amtrak Cascades).
- Choose eco-lodges, campgrounds, or off-grid rentals with sustainability practices.
- Try cycling routes (e.g., Galloping Goose Trail, Lopez Island loop).
- Offset your travel emissions with local conservation projects.

8. Community Stewardship

- Join a local trail crew, park volunteer day, or beach cleanup.
- Donate gear or garden produce to community fridges or shelters.
- Share your sustainability efforts at farmers markets or on social media.
- Support Indigenous-led conservation initiatives across BC and Washington.



Lions Clubs and Kiwanis came together at the 78th St. Heritage Farm for Celebrate Community Week—harvesting fresh cucumbers, peppers and zucchini for the Clark County Food Bank. District N. (Camas Lions Reel)



Selah Valley Lions Harvest Community Garden. District S.



Lion Leslie Hall reports on a partnership with the Chemainus Food First Initiative, involving a Community Herb Garden, collaboration with Secondary School students with seed saving, sustainable agriculture and food resilience. They organize Seedy Saturday (seed exchange and education), Fruit Gleaning (collecting excess produce for redistribution), and Mason Bee Awareness. District L.

Report from District I Environment Chair Bernie Jensen to District I Lions

I am still working on the idea of a family fishing pond within Kamloops City limits. BC Ministry of Environment and Parks are testing the water for the proposed pond that may be used. There are already goldfish living in it, but they will live pretty much anywhere.

I contacted Brock Secondary School in Kamloops at the end of the school year regarding The Farm to School project idea. They were quite interested but there were things they needed to work out at that time. The Vice-Principal said to call him back in the fall to follow up.

Kamloops Brock Central Lions Club had their annual Pancake Breakfast as part of the Kamloops Canada Day celebration, and we are pleased to report that garbage was down by 75% and recycle and compost was up of course. We served 600 people from 7 to 11 am. In the photo you will see that there is a gray bin for garbage, a green bin for compost, and a blue bin for recycle. Our Concession Coordinator Extraordinaire is Gary Crook who made the changes to how we served food to the people in the park. Beside him is Hayden, a City staff person who is part of the Eco-Smart Team. Please contact me if you have any questions, ideas, or concerns that you would like me to address. My contact information is: Bernard.jensen2@gmail.com or phone/text 778-257-2033.



Clallam Bay Sekiu Lions host Harvest Event in Late September, after completing beach cleanups as part of the 40th Anniversary of the International Coastal Cleanup, in collaborative partnerships with the Washington Clean Coast Alliance (www.CoastSavers.org), Visitor Center and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary.



MD 19 Lions were a powerful presence at the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum.

Lions gathered to learn in an action-packed atmosphere, with 100 seminars to choose from, interactive and immersive learning experiences, emphasis on service and fun!! There were two workshops that drew folks interested in impacting our environment. Seminars on **Urban Farming** and **Gleaning** are subjects of interest to folks around the world as we seek to protect the workings of our planet, including clean water and nutritious food and limited waste in a world where we build cooperation and peaceful communities. Themes throughout the three-day event were growing our service by growing our Clubs and telling our stories in powerful ways.





The Seattle Sensory Garden is a Seattle area Lions Club project with the Parks Department. Seattle Lions worked with the Seattle Rose Society to build a rose garden in the 1930's. Lions stepped up to help restore the garden in the 2000's. The first idea was to put a bust of Helen Keller in the Garden, but we all thought she would want something that all people could enjoy. The Sensory Garden was developed with those with visual and hearing differences, mobility challenges, and autism. We built a demonstration garden in 2009 and were awarded a \$700,000 grant from the city to build the garden. Lions and other volunteers have helped plant, weed, and maintain both demonstration and fully developed garden since 2009. All plants have signs that tell the plant names, what sense to use, and how to experience it. (Lion Barbara Bicknell-Porter of Renton Lions. District O)

MD 19 Environment Chairpersons. Call or Email. We can assist you with ideas and resources.

PDG Leslie Chasse 360.600.2007 skymajic@aol.com PDG Tammy Allan 509.697.7966

tammyallan66@gmail.com

PDG Steven Wong 604.218.1002 stevenruns@telus.net

Dr. Nancy Messmer 360.963.2442 able@olypen.com



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INTERNATIONAL 25+ EXCHANGE PROGRAM by PDG Tammy Allan (Oral Report):

I am really excited today, because back in May, I asked for the Council to endorse a 25+ exchange program. JD was the first to say, 'Yes, let her do it!' And the Council agreed. So, I am here to give you a progress report. Things are moving along. (DG Tammy showed a poster that came from Brazil, showing the 25+ Exchange Lion with MD19 represented on it with both the US and CDN Flags). The program was offered in Brazil, and I went in January, and I thought we can do this in MD19.

We have contact people in each district. 19-L is Nancy Messmer, 19-I is Tracey Thompson, 19-O Patty Allen-White, 19-N Leslie Chasse and 19-S will be myself. A big thank you to PDG Kevin Borde, who has given us access to his cabin in Sekiu for a couple of days.

The 25+ Exchange Camp will begin March 1st and end on March 15th and is available to ten campers. It is limited to that number as it will be our responsibility to get them from location to location across all five districts.

We are piggy-backing the exchange program with the North American Youth Exchange Forum, which will be held February 25-28, 2026, in Seattle, WA., and the camp will begin immediately after. If you know of locations we should hit, let me know. Some already scheduled are LERC, the MD19 Office and the Wheelchair Warehouse, Multnomah Falls, in OR. We currently have an open (but tight) agenda.

We have Lions coming from Italy, from Wisconsin and from Brazil who are already signed up.

One last thing I do want to touch on is that we really need Youth Exchange people in the districts. I looked at the roster and we had none. We have MD19 Chairperson Lonnie, but he is one person, and he can't do this all alone. So, please get that position filled as soon as you can.

CONTESTS AND AWARDS REPORT by PCC Patty Allen-White, Chairperson:

- Three Person Committee with a three-year commitment; one challenge we have right now is a need for a third committee member!
- It's being mentioned around the neighborhood that we need more FUN!
 - Make your club meetings FUN!
 - Make your Convention FUN!
 - Make Tail Twisting FUN!
 - Make Installations FUN!
- Perhaps we can help, and it starts with **Education!**

5-Minute Achievement Speech AWARD

- 1 club project – it can be an annual project but....for this speech talk about what you did **during this year. Make it fun and memorable.** I still remember when a Lion member named Gary passed out doughnuts and that was five years ago.
- Do a slide show, video, puppet show – just needs to be 5-minutes or under.

This same speech, if won at the District Convention will be the District contestant at the MD19 Annual Convention. Our MD19 convention will be in Wenatchee, WA in 2026, So, the question is: are you going to help your club get there to give their talk? Start planning!

District Governors, Vice District Governors, "Who Inspires You?"

CLUB INSPIRATIONAL AWARD

There are **Awards** and then there is **Recognition!**
Officer of the Year Awards: Secretary and Zone Chairperson
Officers of Excellence: President, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership

These are recognitions of people doing their jobs. Still, how can they know what their job's entail if we don't get them trained?"

MD19 STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

STRATEGIC PLANNING REPORT by PCC John Kirry, Chairperson:

Executive Summary: Filling the Upcoming Position of the MD19 Office Administrative Assistant

The MD19 Strategic Planning Committee was asked by Council Chairperson Steve Brooks to initiate urgent discussions regarding the planned June 30, 2026 retirement of MD19 Office Administrative Assistant Michele Barrie. Michele has served admirably as the MD19 Office Administrative Assistant for many years and filling her position is a pressing matter for the Multiple District.

The Committee Listed here are the members and ex-Officio members of the committee, a broad cross-section of senior leaders from each district in MD19. Others may be added at the discretion of the Chair.

PCC John Kirry (Chairperson)
PCC JD Nellor, (Dist. N)
PDG Leslie Smith (Dist. L)
PDG Chuck Robinson (Dist. I) (Unable to Attend)
PDG Joe Hagen (Dist. O)
PDG Laura Wintersteen Arleth (Dist. S)

Ex-Officio

CC Steve Brooks
VCC Wanda Eddy
PCC Gary Reidel
PCC Patty Allen White (Unable to Attend)
PDG Brien Patton
ED Peter Anderson
Michele Barrie

Discussion

A Zoom meeting was held on September 16, 2025 to begin planning for Michele's retirement on June 30, 2026. The committee is well aware that finding a replacement for Michele is multi-faceted. The discussion topics, in no particular order, were these: timelines, job descriptions, salary requirements, remote working, hiring considerations, qualifications, training overlap, full/ part time, use of volunteers, and use of 'Indeed' to connect with qualified candidates. In addition, we discussed the concept of service-sharing within the MD19 office involving some of our MD19 Foundations.

It was generally agreed that the target for hiring a new individual should be January-February 2026. This will allow for the new hire to work alongside Michele and observe our office processes during the very busy months when the District Conventions are ramping up, and the office workload increases.

There was a long discussion about QuickBooks as a tool to aid the Administrative Assistant and make our general office paperwork more automated and productive. **As such, ED Peter Anderson is asking for one or more volunteer QUICKBOOKS EXPERTS to assist the office in changing and streamlining our various accounts to create office efficiency. This is an urgent need right now as we transition to a new Administrative Assistant. Contact Peter if you are a QuickBooks expert and would like to help the office make our QuickBooks system more efficient and productive. Next Steps** The Strategic Planning Committee will continue to meet and focus on finding a well-qualified candidate who can begin training alongside Michele early next year. Our next Zoom meeting is scheduled for October 21 at 5PM.

DISTRICT SUPPORT TEAM REPORTS

LEADERSHIP REPORT by PDG Debbie Bostock, Chairperson:

"Work is currently underway to organize seminars in Wenatchee for the District Governors (DGs), 1st and 2nd Vice District Governors (VDGs), Zone Chairpersons, and Global Action Team (GAT) members who will serve in the 2026-27 year. Approval has been granted for a Leadership Grant specifically for VDG training in Wenatchee. In addition, District I has successfully secured approval for a Zone Chairperson (ZC) grant, also to be held in Wenatchee.

District O also submitted an application for this grant, but as of now, no confirmation has been received regarding its approval. Information about the grants and application process was distributed to District Governors, District Governors-elect, and Global Leadership Team (GLT) members in June to encourage timely applications.

GLT members from each District are requested to provide the names of all participants in any officer training sessions conducted within their areas. Notably, District L held an officer training session on 2025-08-30. District N organized officer training for Zones 9, 10, and 11 on 2025-09-13. Additionally, officers from the Camas Lions Club have completed their training.

One ongoing challenge is the inability to enter participants or presenters from the U.S. side of the border into the system. While District GLT members have the capability to enter this information, it remains uncertain whether international Districts can do so for the U.S. side. This issue was escalated to Lions Clubs International (LCI) last year, but a solution is still pending.

I am holding monthly GTL meetings on the 4th Tuesday of each month."

SERVICE REPORT by PZC Jocelyn Wan, Chairperson:

"Below are the updated District GST Coordinators:

L: Lion Wanda Su

I: Lion Laura Kirkham

O: Lion Steven Wong

N: Lion Pat Burch

S: Lion Roberta Fencil

I attended two MD19 GAT team zoom meetings, one in July and one in Aug, hosted by Council Chairperson Steve Brooks. Our goal is to have 100% service report (District reporting in FY - I: 43%, L: 42.5%, O: 34.5%, N: 47%, S: 29% as of Sept 10). DG will train clubs to report service in lion portal.

Also, I am promoting the new service initiatives for 2025-2026: Mental Health & Well-being (Oct 4-12, 2025), Hunger (Jan 3-11, 2026), and Environment (April 18-26, 2026). For the Mental Health & Well-being week, I have organized a workshop with L1, Vancouver East Lions Club and L7, Vancouver Point Grey Lions Club, for the topic of aging and caregivers for seniors. It will be a hybrid meeting, and I am hoping to attract more attendance from the public and other Lions Clubs. The speaker is Dr. Vivian Lo, Educational Psychologist, Counsellor & Art Therapist.

In addition, I have reached out each District GST coordinator and see if we could meet as a group. At this point everyone is busy and will meet later after October. I send out email each month with a newsletter as communication. One Kindness Matters Service Award application from 19N, Federal Way Lions Club, has been received; I will sign the nomination and send to Lions International."

Meeting ended at 11:19 AM

After the break there was the RECOGNITION Of Excellence Awards for President, Secretaries, Treasurers, Membership Director and Zone Chairpersons to those in attendance. The other awards will be sent back home with the immediate past district governors to be presented in an appropriate manner.

The following were recognized:

2024-2025 Club President Recognition of Excellence Recipients

L-A7	Vancouver Diamond Lions Club	Marco Choi
L-A7	Vancouver Metropolitan Lions Club	Anita Ip
N-11	Camas Lions Club	Stephanie O'Dell

2024-2025 Secretary Recognition of Excellence Recipients

L-A1	Vancouver Chinatown Lions Club	Syrus Lee
L-A1	Vancouver East Lions Club	Josephine Lee
L-A7	Vancouver Diamond Lions Club	Clara Chow
I-8	Oliver Lions Club	Linda Schaffrick
I-10	Enderby & District Lions Club	Neil McRobbie
O-2	Aldergrove Lions Club	Tom Latter
O-4	Chilliwack Mt. Cheam Lions Club	Madelene Lange
O-5	Ferndale Harborview Lions Club	Michele Barrie
O-6	Burlington Lions Club	Jackie Bechtel
N-11	Camas Lions Club	Casey O'Dell

2024-2025 Club Treasurer Recognition of Excellence Recipients

L-A1	Vancouver Chinatown Lions Club	Tennyson Choo
L-A1	Vancouver Shaughnessy Lions Club	Teresina Lau
L-A8	Vancouver Metropolitan Lions Club	May Ho
L-I2	Sooke Harbourside Lions Club	Bev Lewis
N-10	Battle Ground Lions Club	Stephen Staudinger

2024-2025 Club Membership Director Recognition of Excellence Recipients

L-A1	Vancouver Chinatown Lions Club	Kenneth Liu
L-A1	Vancouver East Lions Club	Alec Wong
L-A1	Vancouver Shaughnessy Lions Club	Philly Lai
O-7	Oak Harbor Lions Club	Anna Corina Villarreal

2024-2025 Zone Chairperson Recognition of Excellence Recipients

L-A8	Vancouver Metropolitan Lions Club	Albert Wong
L-I2	Sooke Harbourside Lions Club	Joanne Payment
I-8	Penticton Lions Club	Bob Elliott
O-6	Burlington Lions Club	Rosemary Walkup
S-2	Sunnyside Lions Club	Sherre Holden
S-10	Cheney Centennial Lions Club	Tom Osler

2024-2025 Club Visitations Recipients

O-4 Chilliwack Mt. Cheam Lions Club
O-6 Burlington Lions Club
O-11 Des Moines Lions Club
N-7 Lacey Sunrise Lions Club
S-13 Post Falls Lions Club

Of the Year Awards – Zone Chairperson

Winner: Zone Chairperson of the Year – Zones of 9 or More Clubs (No runner up)
Joanne Payment (19-L)

Runner-Up: Zone Chairperson of the year – Zone with up to 8 Clubs
Albert Wong (19-L)

Winner: Zone Chairperson of the year – Zone with up to 8 Clubs
Rosemary Walkup (19-O)

Secretary of the Year:

Runner-Up (s)

Syrus Lee – Vancouver Chinatown (19-L)
Linda Schaffrick – Oliver (19-I)

Winner

Tom Latter – Aldergrove (19-O)