

Minutes of the Pennsylvania Counsellors' Meeting

May 15, 2026

Kovalchik Center
Indiana, PA

The fourth meeting of FY 2025-26 of the PA Counsellors was called to order at 8:05 a.m. by President PDG Maria Loudermilk. Vice President PDG Gary Hilbert served as Master of Ceremony. PDGs were urged to sign-in. There were 30 PDGs in attendance.

Minutes of the January 31, 2026 Meeting: The minutes were previously submitted to the Counsellor Officers and sent to all the PDGs with email addresses in the Counsellor Directory and/or Lion Portal. A motion was made by PDG Don McConnell to accept the minutes, with a second by PCC Linda Zaneski. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer PDG Jeff Loudermilk brought copies of his report for distribution. He reported that the Counsellors have \$122.20 in the account. The report included a summary of moneys collected for the Stop the Hunger Project, \$2170.00 so far. The annual donation of \$500.00 to the host district for the PA Counsellors/Honors Banquet was included in the ending balance. We have still not received the requested grant from the North East Pennsylvania Lions Service Foundation. Checks submitted since the last meeting for PA Counsellors Life Memberships have not been received from the Secretary as of this meeting. PDG Denise Shaffer moved to accept the report "subject to audit", seconded by PDG Deb Lillegard. Motion passed.

Old Business:

- PA Counsellors Distinguished Service Award Summary.:
 - Based on the report from the January meeting, there was a question about which Districts participated. PDG Dave Barrett said he would provide that information.
 - PDG Dave Barrett stated that each year, he sends out a packet to each District Governor for the awards, including two applications and the list of previous recipients from each District.
- Annual Donations and Contributions to the Stop Hunger Project.:
 - PDG Maria Loudermilk thanked all attendees for their continued support to contributing dues and donations for the food packaging projects. The impact of their generosity is real and helps so many families.
 - PDG Jeff Loudermilk noted that the PA Counsellors have not heard anything from NEPALSF on the grant request submitted to assist with the Stop Hunger Project.
 - Once again, we reiterated that the Counsellors don't have mandatory dues, and our suggested donation is still \$5.00 per year.
- Voting for the slate of Officers for 2026-2027.:
 - President – PDG Gary Hilbert – approved
 - Vice-President – PDG Dennis Alleman – approved (pending his acceptance...not present)
 - Secretary – PCC Dave Leon – approved (pending his acceptance...not present)
 - Treasurer – PDG Jeff Loudermilk – approved
 - A motion by PCC William Morgan and seconded by PDG Tom Gregg were made. Motion carried.

New Business:

- As in the past, the PA Counsellors made a donation of \$500.00 to offset the cost of the PA Counsellors/Honors Banquet.
- The International Convention will be held in Hong Kong, China this year. Please be supportive of those Lions and DGEs that plan to attend.
- The USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum is being held in Memphis, Tennessee this year.
 - The dates for the Forum are the 2nd through the 6th of September at the Renasant Convention Center. If you intend on attending this Forum, please get your applications submitted before the end of May when the price goes up for registration.
 - PDG Tom Gregg will be running the Forum Store again this year, and would love to have as many volunteers to help as possible. If you are interested, please let PDG Tom know.
 - Please encourage any emerging Lion Leaders in your Districts to attend for the best leadership development events held by Lions Clubs International each year.
- There is a requirement to have an internal audit of the PA Counsellors account each year.
 - We are asking anyone with knowledge of the process who is willing to conduct this internal audit to let the Treasurer know.
 - PCC William Morgan, PDG Tom Gregg and PDG Gloria Schmalz volunteered to conduct this audit.
 - PDG Jeff will coordinate a time and date for the audit to be conducted.

Good of the Counsellors:

- PCC Dr. Linda Zaneski discussed a program for Succession Planning that she is willing to share with the Districts.
- PDG Jeff Loudermilk discussed changes in the most recent Constitution and By-Laws that expands the positions which qualify a Lion to move from Club to the next level and adds Cabinet positions in addition to Zone Chairpersons to qualify to move to a Vice District Governor position. This may make it easier for districts to find qualified people to move into those leadership positions.

There being nothing more to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by PDG Deb Lillegard, with a second by PDG Amy Thompkins. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 a.m.

Respectfully,

PDG Jeff Loudermilk