



District 25A-Newsletter

Officers

District Governor:

Nick Gonzalez

3204 Teresa St

Portage, IN 46368

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Nsg1917@yahoo.com

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Stephen Helmken

6522 W Laura Lane

LaPorte, IN 46350

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2nd VDG-

Patty Cooke

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Cabinet Secretary:

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Portage, IN 46368

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lioncarolynlaviolette@outlook.com

Cabinet Treasurer:

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*"IN RUGBY, YOU SAY THE PHRASE
'WITH YOU' WHEN YOU WISH TO HELP
YOUR TEAMMATE.*

*LIONS, I AM 'WITH YOU' WHEN A FELLOW
LION NEEDS HELP WITH A SERVICE
PROJECT, FINDING NEW MEMBERS OR
NEW LEADERS."*



DG-NICK GONZALEZ

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© 219-487-6886

June 2023

District Governor: Nick Gonzalez

DG Visits

*6/1- Hebron**6/10- Portage**6/13 -Morocco**6/14- Bass Lake**6/19-Wanatah**6/29-Cabinet meeting
at Hobart*

Greetings fellow Lions of 25A!

It was a pleasure seeing some of you at our Indiana Lions State Convention. The sweltering heat was nice, except when you're dressed in full uniform. For those who have never been to a state convention, I highly recommend it. You can boost your Lions knowledge while meeting new Lions from all over the state. Time sure does fly fast. One minute I am in District

Governor training, the next minute I am writing my last article as a DG. This was a fun and wild ride. I have met plenty of fun people and learned a lot along the way. I have done my best to be an exceptional leader. I have been nowhere near perfect, but I will grow from my mistakes. I was hoping to introduce a new service project to our group. Food packing events are fun and I was looking forward to building a new relationship with the Food Bank of Northwest Indiana. My first attempt didn't work because I didn't know the signup rules and the event filled up. The second time I did everything right, but the Food Bank had to cancel the shift a few days before the event. For anyone who has volunteered at Pack Away Hunger events, the Food Bank experience is quite similar.

As we close out this Lions year, I encourage you to try new projects. Be willing to listen to the ideas of your newer Lions. You all work wonders! You have seen needs in your community and found ways to help. You have invited people to join you in service and encouraged them to be Lions. You have looked after your fellow members in your club, keeping them up-to-date and lending a helping hand. You are wonderful people! You continue to embrace the spirit of Lionism. I am honored to have been your leader this year; you will be in great hands as DGE Stephen leads you into the new year.

*Thank you all for a wonderful year.
In the words of International President Brian Sheehan, together
we can! I can honestly say, together we did!*

Yours in Lionism,

DG Nick Gonzalez

1st VDG-Stephen Helmken

June 2023

*Happy June, Lions.*

Summer is just around the corner. As cold as I am right now while I sit at my desk to write this, I can't wait for it to warm up. I've found that living in a brick house really keeps the cold in. I hate having to run the furnace when it's the end of May!

May has been a busy month for many Lions. The weekend of May 12-14, 2023 found many Lions in Bloomington for the Indiana State Convention. I thought there was a good turnout of Lions from all over the state. It would have been nice to see more Lions from District 25A, but I was happy to see those that did attend. IP Brian Sheehan was there, and he was a real breath of fresh air. A true motivator to get every Lion to work together. His slogan says it all,

"Together We Can, Together We Will!"

On May 20, 2023, in Kouts at St. Paul Church Hall, GLT Jim Furlong organized the Officer training event. What an excellent job he did along with the help of 2nd VDG Patty Cooke. It was a great morning of training, fun and fellowship. There were about 25 Lions in attendance who will be ready to lead their clubs this next Lions year. I was really proud of all who showed up to learn. Some new and some who just wanted a refresher. We talked about what's coming in the next year as we prepare for the new portal that International will be bringing our way. I want to thank Lion Chuck De Las Casas for training the Treasurers and Lion Cindy Beckman for training the Secretaries. Thank you to these two awesome Lions for sharing their knowledge and giving up a Saturday morning. I had the pleasure of training and getting to know the incoming Presidents. Don't forget that DG Nick's last Cabinet Meeting will be happening June 29, 2023.

I'm sure there is more information in this issue of the newsletter.

Let's have a good showing there to say thanks for a job well done.

In closing, let me say that I am looking forward to this next Lions year. In July I will be attending the International Convention in Boston. This is where I will be officially made your next District Governor. We have made some progress this year in our District. but we still have a lot of work ahead of us. So, I want you to remember this:

"We didn't come this far to only come this far"

Until next newsletter, I am,

1st VDG Stephen J. Helmken

June 2023

2 VDG- Patty Cooke



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UNITED STATES

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219-671-4668

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patty.cooke@gmail.com



Hello Lions of District 25A

I hope you are all doing well. I know you are all busy getting ready for your summer projects. Life has been busy for me. Planning a wedding takes a lot of time! But Lion Jim and I are getting closer- the invitations have gone out and I have a dress and shoes! And in between wedding activities I trained for a half marathon - the Indy Mini. And completed it! A week later we went to the MD25 State Convention in Bloomington. We had a great time catching up with some old friends and making some new ones.

And I know that everyone there was energized by our International President Brian Sheehan! His level of energy is infectious! IP Brian helped us to focus on what we must do to finish this year on an upbeat note, plus prepare for the changes to come next year. In his travels around the world, he has seen the positive impact of what Lions do in their communities. He has witnessed his motto "Together We Can" in action.

After successfully completing a run of 13.1 miles (something I never thought I would do) and feeling the energy of IP Brian, I am motivated to finish this year strong and eagerly anticipate the challenges of 2023-24 as 1 st VDG. I look forward to working with DGE Stephen and having Lion Jim by my side as 2 nd VDG - and husband - will greatly help to conquer any problems.

So, to finish strong, please make sure you have entered your officers for 2023-24 in MyLCI and reported your activities in MyLion. Also check the information for your members - especially address, phone number, email address, and birth date. This will be the data that populates the new Portal sometime next year. And continue to do what you do best - serve your communities.

Take Care and Thank You for All You Do

Lion Patty Cooke, 1VDG Elect

**DISTRICT GOVERNOR
NICOLAS GONZALEZ'S**

**LAST CABINET
MEETING
2022 - 2023**



**THURSDAY, JUNE 29th
TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL
891 LINDA STREET HOBART IN 46342**

**6:00PM - SOCIAL
6:30PM - PORK CHOP
DINNER, \$12.00 PER PERSON
MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING DINNER**

**COME JOIN IN THE FUN!
LET'S SHOW DG NICK HOW MUCH
WE HAVE ENJOYED HIM AS OUR 2022-2023 DISTRICT
GOVERNOR!
WISH HIM THE BEST ON HIS FUTURE TRAVELS IN LIONISM!
SAY HELLO TO YOUR 2023 -2024 CABINET MEMBERS!**

**PLEASE RSVP BEFORE THURSDAY JUNE 22ND
PAY AT THE DOOR, MAKING CHECKS PAYABLE TO
"HOBART LIONS CLUB"
RSVP TO CS CAROLYN LAVIOLETTE VIA
EMAIL AT: lioncarolynlaviolette@outlook.com OR
TEXT TO: 219-741-2340**

District 25A Banner Night



Governor Stephen J. Helmken



Date: Saturday, July 22, 2023

Time: 6:00PM Social 6:30PM Dinner

Place: FOP Lodge #75 in Michigan City

416 US-20 Michigan City, IN 46360

Phone: 219-879-4739

Cost: \$28.00 Menu: Buffet of Beef & Noodles,

Sliced Pork Loin, Baked Breaded Chicken, Au Gratin Potatoes,
Green Bean Casserole & Dessert.

Guest Speaker will be PID Nick Xinopoulos

There will be a Cash Bar and Raffles!

Club Banners are Welcome! Dress is Business Casual

Return bottom of this form to CS Pat Greer:

744 Acadia Rd. Valparaiso, IN 46385 patricia.agreer6@gmail.com

Phone: 219-928-3618

No later than Wednesday, July 12, 2023

Make Check Payable to: District 25A

Number Attending _____

@ \$28.00 = _____

Names & Titles of those attending:



Indiana Lions Mid-Winter Conference





It's not too early to start planning for 2024. Mark your calendar now for the 2024 Mid-Winter Conference.



Opportunities for Learning

Opportunities for Service

Opportunities for Fellowship

**Crowne Plaza Indianapolis Airport
January 19-20, 2024**

A Note from our Cabinet Secretary

**To all of District 25A,
Please report your new officers for 2023-2024 Term.**

**For those of you who have already reported this to
LCI, thank you.**

**For those of you who have not, please do so as soon
as you can. Even if your officers have not changed,
you need to report to LCI.**

**Thanking you in advance,
CS Carolyn Laviolette**

Region 1 Combined Zone Meeting – Railcats

Date: June 11th game against the Cleburne RailRiders - Game starts @ 2

Picnic starts when the Gates open **@ 1PM** and goes for 90 minutes.

Meeting Location: The Steelyard – Home of the Railcats

1 Stadium Plz

Gary, IN 46402

*Note – This is a Prepaid Event – all you can eat - includes game ticket and general parking – for \$26 per person. If you have never been to "The Yard" – this is your chance – **if you would like to attend the game and NOT the PICNIC** – tickets are \$13 – the ballpark uses a wristband to attend the picnic portion – we want everyone to attend for fun and fellowship!

Please RSVP to one of the Zone Chairs **by May 15** – All Lions their Families and Guests are Welcome:

1A ZC Lion Joy Robinson – jrobinson28@hotmail.com – 219-973-3457

1B ZC Lion James Furlong – JIMFURL179@aol.com – 630-699-4278

1C ZC Lion Carlyle Edwards – LionCarlyle01@gmail.com – 219-218-4372



Koorsen's
FIRE & SECURITY
RAILCATS
PICNIC PATIO
\$26 PER PERSON
MENU

- HOT DOGS
- HAMBURGERS
- BRATWURSTS
- BAKED BEANS
- HOUSE-FRIED CHIPS
- ICE CREAM SANDWICHES
- SODA AND WATER

PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- RESERVED TICKET TO THE GAME
- DESIGNATED PICNIC SEATING
- ALL YOU CAN EAT 90-MINUTE PICNIC STARTING WHEN GATES OPEN
- WELCOME MESSAGE ON JUMBOTRON

While we are not scheduling a Featured Speaker – we will have several people on hand who can work with anyone on:

The Lions Portal

Service Reporting

Leadership Roles at the District Level

New Lion Training

Open inquiries – *Freebird!*

SOUTH HAVEN LIONS CLUB



GOLF OUTING



SATURDAY JUNE 24, 2023

CHECK IN 7 AM / SHOTGUN 8 AM

DUCK CREEK GOLF COURSE
638 N. 700 W. HOBART, IN. 46342

Cost per person: \$75.00

Cost per team: \$300.00

Team deposit: \$75.00

(food & drink included in registration cost)

**Registration
form
on back!**

**-Skins & Pins
-Raffles
-Door Prizes
-1st Place
wins \$400**



Golf Outing Registration Form Scramble **FOUR** a Cause!



Benefiting South Haven Lions Club Projects

Location: Duck Creek Golf Course
638 N. 700 W. Hobart, IN. 46342

When: Saturday, June 24th, 2023
Registration @ 7 am / Shotgun @ 8 am

Cost: \$75 per person / \$300 per team / \$75 deposit per team

Contact Information:

Team Name: _____

Team Captain: _____

Contact Number: _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Participation Entry:

Individual (\$75)

Foursome (\$300)

Deposit (\$75)

Payment Method:

Cash \$ _____ OR Check \$ _____ # _____

For questions, please contact Randy Greer (728.8432)
or Lion Ken Laviolette (741.4915)

Submit Payment & Form to:
Lion Ken Laviolette 3017 Bender St. Portage, IN. 46368



Lions Clubs International FOUNDATION

The Lions Year of 2022-2023 is coming to a close. So far 56% of the clubs in District 25A have made donations totaling over \$19,000.00. Our goal is to get 100% club participation. Let us make it two years in a row.

If your club has not made a donation or is in striking distance to qualify for a Melvin Jones award, please donate. Rewarding a deserving Lion in your club is a great way to end the year!

There have been 15 Melvin Jones Awards presented in the first 11 months. I have the honor of presenting two more Melvin Jones this month. If you need help with the application or need one, contact 2nd Vice PDG Patty Cooke or PDG Randy Greer our info is at the bottom of the page.

In the last year or so the world has had several catastrophes happen. The Crisis in Ukraine, Tornadoes in Florida, and Mississippi, the Earthquake in Turkey -- to name a few. Several of our clubs and individual Lions have given generously and our District has had collections for these events. Disasters have increased by over 35% in the last 5 years. Lions are some of your first responders working the frontlines -- donating and passing out food and providing needed services.

One of the ways to donate that is catching on is leaving a Lions Legacy Gift. Include a gift to LCIF in your will or trust. If a Club or individual Lion would like brochures or a program about Lions Legacy, contact one of your LCIF Coordinators at bottom of the page.

If your club already has \$1,000.00 in their LCIF account, you can apply for a Melvin Jones online. It is much faster and you will get the award in 2 to 3 weeks. Mailing the form may increase the time to 6 to 8 weeks.

If your club would like an LCIF program or would like a presentation for a Melvin Jones Award, please contact one of us.

PDG Patty Cooke
patty.cooke@gmail.com
219-671-4668

PDG Randy Greer
lionrandy@yahoo.com
219-728-8432



DISTRICT RAFFLE



**RAFFLED OFF AT THE LAST CABINET
MEETING HELD ON JUNE 29TH.**

**THE COST IS
\$5 PER TICKET.
ONLY 300 TICKETS AVAILABLE**

Funds will support District 25A.



LAPORTE LIONS

Lions Past District Governor Glenn Swanson (right) installed La Porte Lions officers for 2023-24 at the club's meeting May 9 at the Blue Heron. Pictured with him (from left) are incoming officers Lions John Spiggle, treasurer; Barb Smeltzer, president; Paul Marsh, 1st vice president; and Sandra Provan, secretary.

La Porte Lions welcomed four new members at their meeting May 9 at the Blue Heron. Past District Governor Glenn Swanson (right) inducted (from left) Lions John Contreras, Chris Smith and Steve Nelson. Lion Pamela Smith was unable to attend.



Hamlet Jr-Sr Leo Club

OD Leo Alexis presenting a check to Starke Co Youth club during their radio thon.



DESK OF CS CAROLYN LAVIOLETTE, PEACE POSTER CHAIRPERSON:

 LIONS INTERNATIONAL

PEACE POSTER

INSPIRE

young people to
showcase their talent

CREATE

stronger ties in your
community

SPONSOR

the 36th annual Lions
International Peace
Poster Contest

Dare to Dream. Invite kids in your community
to express their visions of peace and promote
international understanding.

Get complete contest details
and order your kit at
lionsclubs.org/peaceposter.

Order your Peace Poster Kit today!
lionsclubs.org/peaceposter
#PeacePoster

THE 2023-2024 CONTEST

Dare to Dream

To a young person, a dream isn't just a wish, hope or desire — it's a path, a goal, an ambition. But achieving that dream takes hard work. So this year, we're asking young people to show how they'll turn their dream of a peaceful world into reality.

Peace Poster Contest Deadlines

Students ages 11, 12 or 13 as of November 15 are eligible to participate in the International Peace Poster Contest. Entries not meeting the following deadlines will be disqualified.

- **January 15:** Kits go on sale from the Club Supplies Sales Department at International Headquarters.
- **October 1:** Deadline to purchase kits from the Club Supplies Sales Department at International Headquarters.
- **November 15:** Postmark deadline for a club to send one winning poster (per contest sponsored) to the district governor.
- **December 1:** Postmark deadline for a district governor to send one winning district poster to multiple district council chairperson.
- **December 1:** Postmark deadline for a district governor not belonging to a multiple district to send one winning poster to the Brand & Creative Department at International Headquarters.
- **December 1:** Postmark deadline for a club not belonging to a district to send one winning entry to the Brand & Creative Department at International Headquarters.
- **December 15:** Postmark deadline for the multiple district council chairperson to send one winning poster to the Brand & Creative Department at International Headquarters.
- **February 1:** International winners notified on or before this date.

LIONS INTERNATIONAL PEACE POSTER CONTEST RULES

A kit must be purchased for each contest sponsored. Each kit includes a sticker to be placed on the back of the winning poster prior to forwarding it to the next level of judging. Entries not featuring an official sticker on the back or meeting the rules listed below will be disqualified.

Only a Lions club can sponsor the contest in a local school(s) or organized, sponsored youth group(s), such as YMCA programs, Boys & Girls Clubs, Scouts, etc. *A Lioness club can sponsor the contest through its sponsoring Lions club.* Note: The contest cannot be held in youth groups that a Lions club sponsors, such as a Leo club or Scout unit. However, individual members of those groups (such as Leos or Scouts) may participate if the contest is held at their school or other organized youth group.

Contest is open to students who will be 11, 12 or 13 years of age on November 15. Eligible birthdates can be found under the Contest Rules & Conditions found in the Peace Poster kit.

Artwork must be no smaller than 13 inches by 20 inches (33 centimeters by 50 centimeters) and no larger than 20 inches by 24 inches (50 centimeters by 60 centimeters). Do not mat or frame artwork.

Only one entry per student per year, and each entry must be the work of only one student.

All artwork must be the individual student's original creation. Duplications are not accepted.

All media are accepted. Note: Chalk, charcoal and pastel entries should be sealed with a fixative spray to prevent smearing. Do not laminate entries.

Three-dimensional entries will not be accepted. Nothing may be glued, stapled or attached to the artwork in any way.

The use of lettering or numbering on the front of the poster, in any language, is not allowed. All artist signatures or initials should be written on the back of the poster.

Artwork should be done on a flexible material, so it can be rolled for shipping in a mailing tube. Do not fold poster.

Participants accept all responsibility for late, lost, misdirected or illegible entries. Entries sent with insufficient postage will be disqualified. Lions Clubs International is not responsible for entries damaged, destroyed or lost during the judging process. Entries cannot be acknowledged or returned; they become property of Lions Clubs International upon receipt. Peace Poster Contest images cannot be used without written permission from Lions Clubs International.

In consideration for the opportunity to enter the Peace Poster Contest, participants agree to allow Lions Clubs International to use their names and photographs for promotional and publicity purposes. In addition, the international grand prize winner, two family members (one being a parent or legal guardian) and the sponsoring club president or a club member (as designated by the sponsoring club president) are required to attend the award ceremony at Lions Day with the United Nations. An international grand-prize winner is not eligible to receive subsequent prizes in future Peace Poster contests sponsored by Lions Clubs International. By entering, participants agree to be bound by these rules and the decisions of the judges and Lions Clubs International.

Lions Clubs International may cancel the contest without notice at any time. The contest is void where prohibited, taxed or restricted by law.

Save the Date
September 9th, 2023
Brian's Trike Race
& Disc Golf
Tournament



22nd Annual Running!

**The Indiana Lions for the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired
 State Project's annual fundraiser 'Brian's Trike Race'
 & Disc Golf Tournament is coming Sept. 9, 2023, to the ISBVI Campus**

This event raises funds to assist both residential and outreach students of the school. Sponsorships and team participation of this event help to underwrite costs, which include but are not limited to, expenses to help students attend national leadership conferences for the blind and visually impaired, to assist with technology upgrades and many other expenses that directly effect improved learning.

Please encourage your club to send a team. You could also sponsor a Leo club, local school team or a local Boy Scout or Girl Scout troop that would like to have a fun afternoon racing around the David Letterman Track on adult trikes. Peddling not your thing? No worries. Play it through on the campus's 9-hole Disc Golf Course. You too could be a basket case!

Bragging rights and trophies are included in all the fun and competition!

All are welcome and participants must be 14 years of age or older.

Applications and sponsorship opportunity forms will be coming soon. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact an ISBVI trustee in your district or the 2023 event chairs.

Be sure to visit the ISBVI booth and attend the seminar at this year's State Convention.

2023 Event Chair

PDG Connie Roe

C: 219-863-0761

E: lionroeable@gmail.com

2023 Event Co-Chair

PDG Robin Smith

C: 219-916-4549

E: mswolfen@aol.com



You'll Love the New LIONS PORTAL



But, we have some important dates & club actions first – 6/15/23 is the date to remember!

7/15/23-7/24/23: Target Conversion Date

Before 6/15/23: Enter all club officers for 2023-2024

Before 6/15/23: Enter service activity for events prior to 6/1/23. Reporting for 6/1/23 going forward will be in the new system after conversion

Before 6/15/23: Record any club or donations to LCIF are in the bank with the appropriate supporting documentation for recognition.

Before 6/15/23: Make sure club data is accurate for this year (2022-2023). For Example, new members, sponsors, new clubs formed, transfers and other end of year activities specific to clubs are correct and recorded in MyLion/MyLCI

- **Make sure every member has an email listed and no shared emails can be used in the new LIONS PORTAL.**
- **Make sure member birthdays are entered since birth dates in MyLCI will be converted - even the old conversion 1/1/1900 date! Hint: in MyLCI under reports run "Member Information Update Report" and have your members update their info!**
- **Training is slated to begin in late April 2023 - Stay tuned!**

CROWN POINT LIONS CLUB SPECIAL GUESTS



The guest speaker on May 4, 2023 was Eric Evans who spoke to the club about the Regional Care Group which provide a complete continuum of care including the network of three Social Services; **Regional Health Systems** (provides mental health and primary health care to residents of Northwest Indiana regardless of ability to pay), **Geminus** (provides social services to Indiana children and families) and **Lake Park Residential Care** (provides assisted living/housing to homeless and low-income adults coping with complex and severe mental health issues). Geminus focuses on suicide prevention by working with schools and faith communities. Also, Early Children Education, including Head Start and Early Head Start (which works with families in their home) and expectant mothers.



PDG Kevin Roe was our Guest Speaker on May 18, 2023 and talked about the mission trips to Mexico to do eye testing and provide glasses to people in need. **The Crown Point Club was excited to load up the van with glasses we collected at our Bingo.**



Pictured left to right. Lion President Donna Worst, Lion Jim Worst, PDG Connie Roe, PDG Kevin Roe and Lion Carla Smolek.



FUNDRAISER

Bingo Bacon and Steak Sale
Profit \$3617.14

Thank you to all Lions who helped to distribute the steaks and bacon bundles.

Great Job Lions!



Door Village Lions Club

BINGO!



Door Village Lions Host Senior Citizens Bingo, Refreshments and Humor

Covid 19 may have disrupted the long running Door Village Lions Senior citizens Christmas dinner that the club hosted for well over 20 years, but Lion members resourcefully came up with

another approach to honoring the many Seniors in and around Door Village who made the ever growing village the charming and inviting community what it is today. Lion Joe Pahs, who was

born and raised in Door Village said that, "it is the people, and especially the seniors who settled here raised their families here and made it an exceptional place to live, that are the ones

club members wanted to show their thanks to, by formerly preparing a Christmas dinner every year, and by treating them to a free Bingo and Refreshments event this year"

The event began with Committee Chairperson Lion Bonnie Olson welcoming all seniors and immediately inviting them to have a drink of Lemonade, coffee or water. The bingo game started right after the welcome with Lion Gene Flickinger calling the numbers and throwing in a lot of his favorite jokes.

Bingo winners, one after another, picked up the wrapped packages and proceeded to sit back down and try to win again. Lions Cindy Polito, Nancy Weaver, Cindy Fischer Sam Polito and Dennis Fischer helped Lion Gene verify winners, and made sure glasses and cups were always refilled. Midway through the festivities Lion Cindy Polito stopped the games to invite seniors to a generous display of cookies, cakes, fresh fruit and cheese

cake. The bingo games then continued until all the prizes were gone Lion Sue Kaiser thanked all for coming and asked if they would like to do the same thing again next year. Many were in favor and were invited to come again next year in April. Members were pleased with the thanks and the favorable comments offered by guests, and members are always asking those who enjoy giving a kindness to others, to join the Club and help in the many projects the club conducts each and every year to benefit the community and each other. To join or learn about Lion activities call George Morley at 219-575-3575 or Lion Bonnie Olson at 219-879-5670

BINGO!



Welcome New Members

JUNE 2023

EAST CHICAGO EVENING

GEORGE COSSEY

Sponsor: CESAR PEREZ

LA PORTE

STEVE NELSON

Sponsor: SANDRA PROVAN

Members that have completed their service

JEFFREY R. PAUNICKA
OGDEN DUNES, IN

LEROY BOGARD
SOUTH HAVEN, IN



Remembering a life of service