

291 DISTRICT NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2024



February is supposed to be the coldest month of the year. It has a long way to go to beat January. I promise, Spring is coming!

Welcome to the 7th month of our Lion's year. Have we accomplished all we set out to do? No, we have a way to go plus a new mission to take on.

Mission 1.5: The mission is to grow to a minimum of 1.5 million members around the world by July 1, 2027.

- Goals:**
1. All Constitutional Areas should achieve positive net growth by July 1, 2027.
 2. All districts should add new clubs.
 3. All Clubs should induct new members during mission 1.5.
 4. All Districts need to incorporate strategies to attract a more diverse membership, including women and young adults.

Mission 1.5 was launched on July 11, 2023. We have some work ahead of us. Our District, as of the first of January, had a negative three members. We are not positive about membership growth. We currently have 1450 members. There is a whole lot more involved in the mission mentioned above. Sufficed to say, you will be hearing more about this goal. The information was taken from Mission 1.5, "Frequently Asked Questions," which contains many more questions. You can go into the Lions "Learn Portal" and bring up additional info relating to Mission 1.5, or type in Lions Club Mission 1.5.

The other thing that Mission 1.5 does is involve the Clubs and Districts in the Global Action Concept. This is not new, as it has been around for several years and has shown itself to be very effective in servicing and membership growth (Mission 1.5). Basically, what you have from Club level up to the International, is Global action teams. This means that the local teams work with the District teams and so on. There are four GAT members in the District Cabinet. You have your Global Leadership Team Coordinator (GLT) whose responsibilities include training. Your Global Service Team Coordinator (GST) is involved with servicing and reporting. Your Global Membership Team (GMT) works with retention and getting new members. And, you have your Global Extension team coordinator, who is involved in new Club development, and a District Chairperson (District Governor). Now, you have the same structure at the Multi District and at the Club level. The goal is to have a system where you have goals and action plans at each level, and you have the support system from the club to the international. Club members structure is the club chairperson (GAT) president, Club Service chairperson (GST), Club membership chairperson (GMT) and Club leadership development chairperson (GLT). Altogether, it is not a difficult concept to

work with. It requires your club to have positions filled, goals established, and actions plans. Our goals at the District Level are based upon the global concept. How well it will work is up to you and your willingness to improve your Clubs servicing and membership growth.

You can find the duties of the Club Officers relating to your Global Action Team are addressed in the "2023-2024 Constitution and by Laws Standard Club" beginning on page 18. District personnel duties are noted in the District Constitution.

For further information on the Goal Action team, type in **Global Action Team** on your browser or go to the Resource portal on your sign in page and check out the Learn Portal. There is a lot of Information on Mission 1.5 and also Global Action Teams.

BE OPTIMISTIC

FOR KINDNESS TO COME FROM THE HEART, TO BE TRULY GENUINE RATHER THAN ARISING FROM A SENSE OF DUTY, YOU NEED TO HAVE AN OPTIMISTIC MINDSET. TO BE ABLE TO SEE THE GOOD IN LIFE AND IN PEOPLE, THE BEST WAY TO CULTIVATE OPTIMISM IS THROUGH FOCUSING ON THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF YOUR LIFE, AND BY BEING GRATEFUL FOR ALL THAT YOU HAVE. IT TAKES PRACTICE!

Have a wonderful February and God Bless.
Yours in Lionism,

DG Kermit
681-270-0211
valleylionsclub@gmail.com



WE MISSED YOU AT THE LEADERSHIP RETREAT!





Awards & Member Recognition
By Lion Judy Harder

Allow me to share some ideas, etc. that I made note of while attending a USA/Canada Forum Seminar in Reno, NV.

Please make award giving meaningful. Throughout Lions Clubs, it has been noted that some awards are given with no presentation, such as reading/telling "why the award is given," special letter, etc. Also, noted was that the award is still in the box, plastic not removed from the award, or the pin that sometimes comes with the award is just handed to the member and not being pinned on the member receiving the pin. Awards such as the Melvin Jones Fellowship and Leonard Jarrett are "SPECIAL." These awards are "Earned" by members who qualified for them. The award plaques should be out of the packaging, as well as the pin and ready for presentation. The same goes for New Member Certificates & pins. Chevron Pins are also special because they are awarded by the International President for "years of service."

There are numerous times when our members do not qualify for a State or International award but deserve recognition. Following are just a few ideas to reward in other ways:

- Thank You card with maybe an invitation to go to lunch, etc.
- Thank You's for those members who braved the cold or rainy weather to clean up the environment. Idea: Give them a "Chapstick." Maybe a member or two picked up a huge garbage item. Give them their own little "dump truck" with a "special" message label on the side of the truck.
- Maybe you have a great pancake cooker. Give them a new pancake flipper with a dried pancake!
- Make time to learn about your members (especially new ones). Do a "fireside chat" taking time to know about them.

- Play "What's My Line." Print out descriptions of members and have others guess who they are.
- How about an award for "Honorable Hot Dog Meister" or "Eyeglass Collector Champion?"
- Special pin that says, "You make a Difference."
- Celebrate birthdays! Sing, have cake, crazy birthday glasses, hats, horns, etc.
- Make a "Bright Idea" pin for members who come up with great ideas. Use a "light bulb."
- Make a pin that gives "friendship recognition."
- Make a plaque that says, "You are Amazing."
- Give a "golden ticket" for the most raffle sales by a member, or give a T-shirt that says, "I AM TICKETMAN or TICKETWOMAN."

The above are just some ideas to get you thinking. SO, WHAT'S IN YOUR CLOSET?? We all have junk drawers, kid's toy boxes, thrift stores and 75% clearance tables. Look around and GET CREATIVE!

Most Members like to be noticed and appreciated for their contributions to the club and communities they serve. HERE'S YOUR CHALLENGE: Think about those members in your club that have made a difference.

Be brave, be genuine, laugh and most of all have "FUN!"

"Oh, the places you will go....."

**2024 MULTIPLE DISTRICT 29 LIONS
102ND STATE CONVENTION REGISTRATION
APRIL 26 – 28, 2024
GLADE SPRINGS RESORT
DANIELS, WV**

NAME/NAMES: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/ZIP CODE: _____

DISTRICT NUMBER: _____ **CLUB NAME:** _____

FIRST CONFERENCE: **YES** **No**

DIETARY RESTRICTIONS: _____

REGISTRATION FEE OF \$100 PER PERSON

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: **MD 29 STATE CONVENTION**

MAIL BY APRIL 5, 2024 TO: **PAUL WHEELER, 29C TREASURER**

46 RANGER LANE

S. CHARLESTON, WV 25309

**FOR LODGING RESERVATIONS, PLEASE CALL 877-814-7316 BY FEBRUARY 26, 2024.
ADVISE THEM YOU ARE ATTENDING THE LIONS STATE CONVENTION.**

LODGING ROOM RATE: EXECUTIVE SUITE \$129, DELUXE QUEEN & KING \$149

**IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING THE CONFERENCE, PLEASE CONTACT PCC PETE
JOHNSON AT 304-575-8964 OR PCC PAUL WHEELER AT 304-746-4415.**



L: Keyser President, Bryan McDowell and Secretary Naomi Bane with DG Kermit
 R: Visit to the Keyser Club: John Cole (on the right) received a 20 yr. Chevron from DG Kermit. Also pictured to the left, is President Bryan McDowell



DG KERMIT IS PICTURED WITH NEW LION MEMBERS OF THE EAST LEWIS CLUB. ALSO IN THE PICTURE IS THE CLUB PRESIDENT, TIM CONRAD, ON THE RIGHT SIDE, BACK ROW.

THE JOURNAL NEIGHBORHOOD

Submit news online at www.Journal-news.net

Friday, January 19, 2024 • Page A10

Lions Club announces the winner

SHEPHERDSTOWN — The Shepherdstown Centennial Lions Club announces the winner of its Peace Poster Contest. The theme of the 2023 Peace Poster Contest was "Dare to Dream" and was intended to promote peace, tolerance and international understanding. The contest encouraged students to think about peace, cre-

atively express what it means to them, and then share their unique visions with the world.

Gracie Leonard, of Shepherdstown Middle School, submitted the winning entry. Gracie explained how peaceful it is for young people her age to be able to dream of expressing themselves by displaying their style of clothing, which allows their indi-

vidual light to shine on the world, thus making it a better place for all.

The contest will be held again in 2024 and submissions will be taken from students ages 11-13 living in the Shepherdstown area.

For more information, go to Facebook Shepherdstown Centennial Lions Club or email ShepLionsClub@gmail.com



Submitted photo

Winner Gracie Leonard receiving her award from Shepherdstown Lion Cheryl Roberts.



Youth Exchange Reflections by Clara Holmes

This trip was full of surprises. When I went to the Lion's Club interview at Braxton County Middle School, I had a strong desire to win the scholarship that would send me abroad to Italy. I kept in mind that there was still a chance that I might leave my interview empty-handed. Henry Krautwurst announced that both I and four other applicants would be receiving scholarships to travel overseas--I felt like fainting. After some important planning with Henry, I hopped on a plane and began my first solo international adventure.

The second surprise occurred on my second flight. Departing from Germany to arrive in Italy, I realized I would not be on this flight alone. My roommate, Barbora Czechova (from Czech Republic) would be on the same flight, sitting right next to me. On the flight to Italy, we talked about our home countries and what we were excited to do in Italy. As we were looking over the itinerary, it hit me: I'm going to Italy! I'm staying with strangers. I'm going to travel to places that I've only seen in pictures before. This is crazy. A rush of nerves swarmed through my body, but at the same time, I was more excited than I had ever been in my life. This feeling of surprise and excitement traveled with me through the next two and a half weeks and created one of the most memorable experiences of my entire life.

We were picked up late at night by the host family, Simon and Laura, and their two young daughters, Aurora and Bianca. To be genuine, I must admit it was one of the more awkward experiences of the trip. What are you supposed to say to someone who you just met, who only speaks one language and who decided to let you stay at their house for a week? "Ciao" is what I remember saying--where did my four years of Italian classes go? I knew my knowledge of the Italian language was still limited but I tried to use it as much as possible.

On the car ride from the airport, I turned to their eldest (Bianca) and asked her "Quanti anni Hai? (How old are you?) She was not that different from me as she shyly responded in the limited English she knew and said "ten." Moments such as these made up most of my time with my host family. They spoke enough English to tell us important things, but despite our efforts it was very difficult to make conversation.

We arrived at their apartment, which was about 20 minutes from the city of Florence. Barbora and I were given their daughters' room, and they slept in the living room. Pink walls, with purple shelves lined with dolls and toy puppies. I'm very grateful that my host family were generous enough to make us feel welcomed to Italy.

My first week in Italy we would wake up and have breakfast with the host family. After a day of camp activities, we came back home and had dinner with the family. I appreciate the way my host family went out of their way to make sure I had a breakfast that I would enjoy. They offered me eggs, and toast, their idea of a "typical American breakfast." We did however have one entire day with our host family in

which they took Barbora and I to a ziplining course, which is something we do have in the United States. We all enjoyed the experience.

The nights we spent were filled with even more surprises as they let Barbora, and I walk around the town on our own. Our host parents even took us to an outdoor restaurant where I officially had my first pizza in Italy-- very good, as I predicted! The moments at home were a delight, after dinner, with their daughters we would watch English shows with Italian subtitles and it was moments like these that I felt like I could bond with Simon, Laura, Bianca and Aurora.

After the first week we said goodbye to our host family and set out for the next two and a half weeks of hostels, bus rides, and new places. Barbora and I met more campers who spoke in, what felt like, a million different languages. It was fascinating hearing all the different accents and interacting with people of different ages. In total there were 22 campers, representing 16 countries.

The first couple of days I was just trying to survive, adjusting to the new place, new food, new weather. I could write a whole essay about the weather, but I won't. Let's just say it was hot, hotter than I have ever experienced in my life. But despite the heat I couldn't help but fall in love with Italy. We traveled around to so many large cities such as Rome, Florence, and Siena. The smaller towns had more charm that made me love Italy's more remote places.

Towns such as Pontremolli and Radicofani weren't as crowded and felt alive. When we were given free time in each town, I was able to enjoy the simplicity of Italy. Little jewelry shops, or cafes, or perhaps my favorite: gelaterias.

Aside from walking around touring places, one of my favorite aspects of the Lion's Club itinerary was all the activities they had set up for us. In Pontremoli, the Lion's Club set up a scavenger hunt for us. So not only did we get to run around in an Italian villa and beautiful walkways, but we also got to learn more about the town and its history. The biggest and best surprise however was the Italian music festival. It was the first night I had gotten all dressed up and I'm glad I did because when we arrived at this outdoor venue with picnic tables and a dance floor, I knew it was going to be fun. We danced the night away to Italian songs. Did we know the lyrics? No, but that didn't stop us. It was the most energetic night of the trip. The nights were always full of energy though. People were full of laughter; the tables were in an uproar.

The dinners we had each night were a moment in time where the group of us 22 kids bonded the most. I made an effort to sit next to different people at each dinner to get the chance to properly get to know everyone. I'm glad I did because everyone had their own unique perspective on why they came to Italy and what their favorite part was.

Although I cannot recount every single joke I laughed at, the towns we visited, or food I ate, I will never forget the joy and impact of this trip. I feel like I now have a better understanding of how people from different cultures live and celebrate life. I believe this trip made me more open-minded as I went to places and hung out with people that I normally would not. I cannot express how grateful I am for being able to have this experience, but I will continue to tell people about the time I went to Italy with a bunch of strangers at just sixteen.

DISTRICT GOVERNOR CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2023-2024

FEBRUARY

**FEB 1 @ 6:30PM PIKEWOOD, HEDGESVILLE, MARTINSBURG & INWOOD BUNKERHILL
LIONS CLUBS**

FEB 3 @ 1:00PM COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS MEETING, GLADE SPRINGS RESORT

FEB 8 @ 6:30PM SALEM LIONS CLUB

**FEB 10 @ 10:30AM DISTRICT CABINET MEETING, LOFT CONFERENCE CENTER,
GRANVILLE, WV**

FEB 15 @ 6:30PM CLARKSBURG ADAMSTON LIONS CLUB

FEB 19 @ 6:00PM SHORT GAP LIONS CLUB

FEB 21 @ 6:00PM CLARKSBURG MAIN STREET LIONS CLUB

FEB 27 @ 7:00PM SHINNSTON LIONS CLUB

MARCH

MARCH 5 @ 6:00PM EAST PRESTON LIONS CLUB

MARCH 11 @ 6:00PM PAW PAW LIONS CLUB

MARCH 16 DISTRICT 29L CONFERENCE, VIENNA CONFERENCE CENTER

MARCH 20 @ 6:30PM KINGWOOD LIONS CLUB

MARCH 21 @ 6:30PM TYGART VALLEY LIONS CLUB

APRIL

APRIL 9 @ 6:30PM ROWLESBURG LIONS CLUB

APRIL 26-28 MD29 CONVENTION, GLADE SPRINGS RESORT



DECEASED MEMBER	CLUB
Roger E Straley	Buckhannon Kesling Mills
Glenda J Wright	Buckhannon Kesling Mills
Marvin Lee Ashcraft	Clarksburg Adamston
Argyle Shingleton	Clarksburg Adamston
Darrell F Martin	Kingwood
Larry E Gross	Tygart Valley
Franklin D Nuzum	West Milford
Phyliss A Brown	Wilsonburg



New Member	Club	Sponsor
W Shawn Gilmore	Buckhannon	Charliena Gilmore
Melodie E Nichols	Clarksburg Adamston	Patricia Hamrick
Chloe N Horst	Franklin	Nicole Marsh
William C Burch	Romney	Wanda Rogers
Esther Sanders	Rowlesburg	Nancy Cramer
Amy J Weaver	Short Gap	Melinda Hamilton

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Please submit your articles/photos no later than the 22nd of every month to: brights@atlanticbb.net

Thank you!

Lion Mary Jane Bright
29I Newsletter Editor



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