



March 2020

UNLIMITED HORIZONS

District Governor Ruth Straley



March and April are Membership Drive months for Multiple District 29. The three District Governors banded together because we must have membership growth. Since the 1980s the United States and Canada have decreased their membership by 50%. We cannot afford to continue the downward trend. Our West Virginia Lions clubs are well known for the service they provided over many years. However, as membership decreased and many of us aged the Lions clubs have decreased the services in many of our communities. It is time TODAY to make membership growth the number one goal of your club. Lions, you encounter people daily. Ask those people to join a service project, attend a meeting, or whatever activity you may have going now. If you are in a college town, ask the faculty members and the students to become Lions. How about your minister or spiritual leader? Look around you and find new Lions. We want Lionism to live long after each of us is gone and the way to do it is to get new members now. Look around at club meetings. Have some members stopped attending? Do you know why? Now is the time to talk to those members and get them re-engaged with the club. The killer of membership is the drops at the end of June. Try hard to avoid those drops by retaining members. For 29I through the year to date we have added 93 members BUT we have dropped 124 members. We need to reverse this. We have not recorded many deaths this year so the majority of the drops are members who just didn't renew. Clubs with the most new members will be recognized at the state convention and the club with the most new members will receive one free convention registration.

The District 29I Cabinet met on February 29. We talked about lots of issues. One major event is club officer elections. Instead of having the same members as last year or for many years it is time for a change. We are having a difficult time finding Lions to serve as zone chairs and vice district governors because too few members are serving as club presidents – a requirement to move forward to district positions. We also have learned that being a club secretary means using MyLCI and MyLion online. Now is the time to elect a secretary with computer skills. The position of Service Coordinator may be new to your club. It is an official who plans and coordinates the club's service activities for the year and is a member of the Board of Directors. If the club secretary is unable to do computer input then this position may be designated for the input. The other often forgotten position is the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) Coordinator. The Lion in this position works closely with the LCIF Coordinator to keep members updated on LCIF actions. He/she is the club coordinator to obtain individual donations and guarantee annual club donations at the Parade of Checks. This year the PU-101 identifying club officers for 2020-2021 must be input prior to 1May. This is a mandatory date because the printed directories are going away and all information on clubs and officers will be on-line.

The reporting of membership in MyLCI and service activities in MyLion is tracked at the international level. According to today's health assessment only 16 of 54 or 29.6% of active clubs are current on reporting service activities in MyLion. This is a responsibility of the club president to see it is done by the club secretary or a service activities coordinator. This is unacceptable. The MyLion software bugs have been fixed and there is no excuse for not reporting.

FVDG/Secretary John Mason is handling the delegate cards for the 29I election. Each club will have an authored delegate count based on the number of members. The convention will be in the Charleston Marriott on

May 8 – 10. A Lion member can attend on Saturday only registration and vote. All club dues must be paid before a club is authorized to receive delegate cards.

My year as Governor is going by so fast. There is still much to be done. I have only 3 visits left on the schedule. If you would like to have a return visit that is not a formal DG Visit, I will try my hardest to get to your club. Contact me by phone or text at 904-608-4715.

Enjoy March. St Patrick's Day gives us a chance to celebrate and have some fun. Spring is on its way!!!!

Ruth Straley

RUTH'S DISTRICT GOVERNOR SCHEDULE

March 2020

5	Adamston DG Visit	6:30 pm - Adamston Christ Church United Methodist
13-14	District L Conference	Parkersburg Blennerhasset Hotel
14	Council of Governors	4:00 pm - Parkersburg Blennerhasset Hotel
19	90 th Birthday Celebration	6:00 pm – Bridgeport Civic Center

April 2020

14	Wilsonburg DG Visit	6:00 pm – Parkette Restaurant
20	Moorefield/Petersburg DG Visit	6:00 pm - TBD

May 2020

8-9	MD 29 Conference	Charleston Marriott
9	Council Meeting	Charleston Marriott

Not scheduled yet: Visits to individual club meetings missed during combined meetings.



Lion John Mason First Vice District Governor

I had a great time in St. Charles, IL in February for DG training. Our class consisted of FVDGs from Estonia, Lithuania, Sri Lanka, India, and of course USA. I made new friends and am looking forward to seeing them again in Singapore at LCI Convention.

District 29 I still has over 20 clubs that are not reporting their service activities in MyLion. It is very important for club secretary, president, service coordinator, or administrator to enter their club's service activities. If

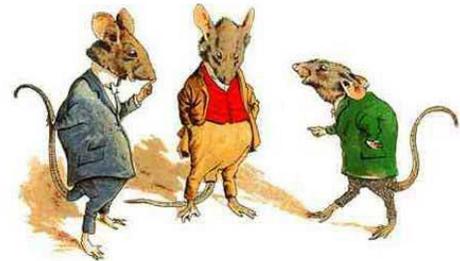
you are experiencing difficulties in reporting, please let me know so I may provide assistance. We need ALL CLUBS to report.

If I can provide any assistance to your club, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone at 304-820-7742 or email me at jmason0531@gmail.com.

Let's have fun being a Lion serving our communities. FVDG John Mason



Melvin, Leonard and Janey set a plan in motion!!!



As we reflect on the last article, we found that Melvin's group found no cheese at the Cheese station. They became very upset and wonder what happened. However, Leonard's group, a smaller contingency from Melvin's group, notice some gradual changes taking place and were not surprised to find the station empty. Melvin's group returned back to the base. The following day they went back to the original station and still found no cheese. Leonard's group stopped, not surprised of the lack of cheese, put on their running shoes, and ventured into the maze. They looked for a new source of food. Not only did Leonard's group break away from Melvin's group, another group, lead from Janey, a fun loving and happy mouse, set out for a new food source. At the end of the day, all the groups returned to the main starting area, very hungry and disappointed about the lack of food. Now Melvin, Leonard, and Janey quietly slipped away from their groups and decided they would meet to strategize their plans. Remembering, the three different personalities from 3rd article, each leader mouse purposed one specific question: Melvin asked, why did the food source disappear? Leonard asked, how do we regain the food source? Janey asked who would steal our cheese?

- **Melvin's question can reflect on membership loss**
- **Leonard's question can reflect retaining membership.**
- **Janey's question can reflect on how did this happen?**

WELCOME new members

Mary Theresa Gain	Bridgeport
Brian Cox	Elkins
Lisa J. Childers	Harrison County HOPE
Patricia Zara	Harrison County HOPE
Kristie Tenney	Hodgesville
Brittney Bartlett	Jane Lew
Elias Virden	Jane Lew
Priscilla E. Evans	Petersburg
Sobha Priyadarshiri Gorugantuda	Philippi
Jennifer Money Penny	Philippi
Tammy Clay	Shepherdstown Centennial
Danny J. Hinkle	Tennerton
Deborah L. Hinkle	Tennerton
Paul Norko	Tennerton
Brett Morris	Tygart Valley

19 Total new members in February. Congratulations to new Lions for joining a great organization.



Barbara S. Myers	Bruceton Mills
Dorothea Bosley	Central Upshur
Mary McCalley	Petersburg

AROUND THE DISTRICT

HOPE Lions Club



On Friday, February 21, 2020 four members of the Harrison County HOPE Lions Club celebrated Lions Flag Day with 49 second grade students at Northview Elementary School. The Lions Flag Day Program was endorsed as a Lions International Program in 1978 to promote patriotism and respect for the American flag in the elementary schools of America through the personal involvement of Lions clubs members presenting small flags and appropriate brochures with pertinent facts about the flag including the meaning of the stars and stripes, proper handling and display, and how to properly dispose of worn and tattered flags.

Shown in the accompanying photo during their presentation to the second-grade students of Ms. Williams are Lions Rob Garcia and Laura Kennedy.

Jane Lew Lions Club



Members of the Jane Lew Lions Club visited Crestview Manor nursing home in Jane Lew to bring some love to the residents for Valentine's Day. Louie the Lion (played by Lion Mike Walker), along with Lions Club members Liz Vincent, Linda Aman and her service dog Jake, Ray Smith, Debby Walker, and President Tonya Price visited all of the nursing home's residents and presented a Valentine's card to each of them. The cards were filled out by the Jane Lew Lions Club members present at our weekly meeting and contained a special message for the residents. The residents were very grateful and the cards, along with hugs from Louie and Jake brought smiles to faces of many of them.



Flag Day at Jane Lew Elementary School. Shown are Jane Lew Lions Bill White and Charlie Straley. This is an annual event.

Wardensville Lions Club



Wardensville Lions Club welcomes new member and returning Lion Robert Oakley on January 9, 2020



Lions Seniors Valentines Luncheon of Love

HAPPY VALENTINES! Over 75 citizens turned out to feast and be entertained at the The Wardensville Lions Club's annual Valentines Luncheon for Senior Citizens held in the War Memorial Building last Saturday. Headlining the entertainment was 83-year old Mary Howard from Hayfield, VA, singing and playing the accordion to a delighted audience. Further merriment was provided by King Lion Tom Austin, who shared may laughs through the luncheon, along with musings by Aggie Mason, a vocal solo by Rev.

Robert Oakley with piano accompaniment by Lion Patty Austin, and readings from Ann Heishman.

The event was catered by the East Hardy High School Band.

Two West Virginia Natives Wow the Audience in St. Charles, Illinois!

By Past International Director Steve Glass

As the Chairperson of the 2020 District Governor Elect Seminar I was given the opportunity and challenge to help shape the curriculum for this year's seminar. One of the curriculum modifications that we adopted was the idea of utilizing storytelling as a way to attract and recruit new members to our clubs. We believe that if non-Lions hear our stories of service and the passion that we Lions bring to our association, that this is more meaningful than an "elevator speech", which tells people why they should join.

I was very honored and humbled to be given the opportunity to invite two native West Virginians to relate their success stories to the six hundred and ninety first vice district governors assembled in St, Charles, Illinois on Thursday, February 11, 2020. Both storytellers gave the attendees clear models of how to build and rebuild Lions clubs, each sharing a very similar approach; yet coming from different perspectives. LEO Olivia Turman of the Barboursville LEO Club in District L wowed the audience with her story of how her LEO club helped to rebuild the Barboursville Lions Club by sharing joint projects and working hand in hand to help each other on large scale community projects. This partnering has led to increased membership in both the Lions club and the LEO club.

Daniel Elkins from Deleware, but with roots in Elkins, West Virginia, followed Olivia and related how he, through using asset-based community development partnerships, has been able to extend a branch club with five members into a vibrant club of one hundred thirty-eight members in less than one year. In the process his club has extended a LEO club, which is involved in many service projects and works hand in hand with their sponsoring Lions club.

Both of these leaders received standing ovations after their presentations and were approached to do speaking engagements. They did West Virginia proud and will continue to be outstanding leaders in our association. I am very proud and honored to have them as part of this year's district governor elect experience.

Following are photos of each of them during and after their presentations:



Olivia Turman holding the audience spellbound during part of her presentation



Daniel doing his usual outstanding magic



Olivia and Daniel being presented Peace Poster Plaques By DGE Seminar Chairperson Steve Glass

A Personal Gift to LCIF? It's EASY!



When we think about giving to LCIF, we often only think about what our club gives each year to the Parade of Checks at the District Conference. But every Lion can contribute to this important cause, and it is so easy.

You can use the traditional method and write a check to LCIF, and mail it to LCIF, 300 W. 22nd Street, Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842. It is helpful if you include your member number and contact information, to make certain you are credited with the donation.

Perhaps the easiest way to donate is using your cell phone. If you have the MyLion app, log in, click on the home page, and at the top is a "Donate" button. Tap on it, and it will take you to where you enter your amount, the frequency of your donation, the cause (either "Empowering Service Fund" or "Disaster Relief Fund") and your payment method. Enter the payment information and tap "Donate Now". It's that easy.

You can go online through your computer to donate. The fastest route is www.lcif.org/donate. Click "Donate". Choose a cause (either "Empowering Service Fund" or "Disaster Relief Fund"). Enter how much you would like to give and the frequency of your gift. You can set up a monthly or quarterly payment, if you wish. Tell them whether the donor is a member, non-member, club or district, and indicate whether the gift is anonymous or not. Let them know whether recognition is requested and enter how you want to pay.

Individual donations are encouraged. Many Lions are generous to their places of worship, to school activities, or other charitable organizations, but very few donate to the Foundation that supports the work of Lions at home and around the world. LCIF has given over \$1.7 million to fund projects in the State of West Virginia—far more than we have donated. Please consider a PERSONAL gift to LCIF this year.

BRIDGEPORT LIONS CELEBRATE THEIR



At the Benedum Civic Center located at 164 W Main Street, Bridgeport WV

Thursday March 19, 2020 at 6:30 pm

You and your guest are invited to join us for dinner * Cost is \$12.00 per person

RSVP BY March 12 to

Charlene.R.Smyth@wv.gov or call 304-841-1111

Guest Speakers and Memorial Champagne Flutes for Attending

DON'T MISS THIS EVENT!

In compliance with Article VI, Section 2 of the Standard Form District By-Laws, I hereby issue the Official Call for the 2020 District 29-L Convention. The District 29-L Convention will be held Saturday afternoon, May 9, 2020 at 2:30 p.m., at the Charleston Marriot. The purpose of the convention is to elect a District Governor, First Vice District Governor, Second Vice District Governor, Trustees to the West Virginia Lions Sight Conservation Foundation and other elected positions, if required, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting. Issued by me on this 28 day of February, 2020.

William Syphers

District Governor, 29-L

(Signed electronically)

In compliance with Article VI, Section 2 of the Standard Form District By-Laws, I hereby issue the Official Call for the 2020 District 29-C Convention. The District 29-C Convention will be held Saturday afternoon, May 9, 2020 at 2:30 p.m., at the Charleston Marriot. The purpose of the convention is to elect a District Governor, First Vice District Governor, Second Vice District Governor, Trustees to the West Virginia Lions Sight Conservation Foundation and other elected positions, if required, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting. Issued by me on this 28 day of February, 2020.

Gary Boyd

District Governor, 29-C

(Signed electronically)

In compliance with Article VI, Section 2 of the Standard Form District By-Laws, I hereby issue the Official Call for the 2020 District 29-I Convention. The District 29-I Convention will be held Saturday afternoon, May 9, 2020 at 2:30 p.m., at the Charleston Marriot. The purpose of the convention is to elect a District Governor, First Vice District Governor, Second Vice District Governor, Trustees to the West Virginia Lions Sight Conservation Foundation and other elected positions, if required, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting. Issued by me on this 28 day of February, 2020.

Ruth Straley

District Governor, 29-I

(Signed electronically)

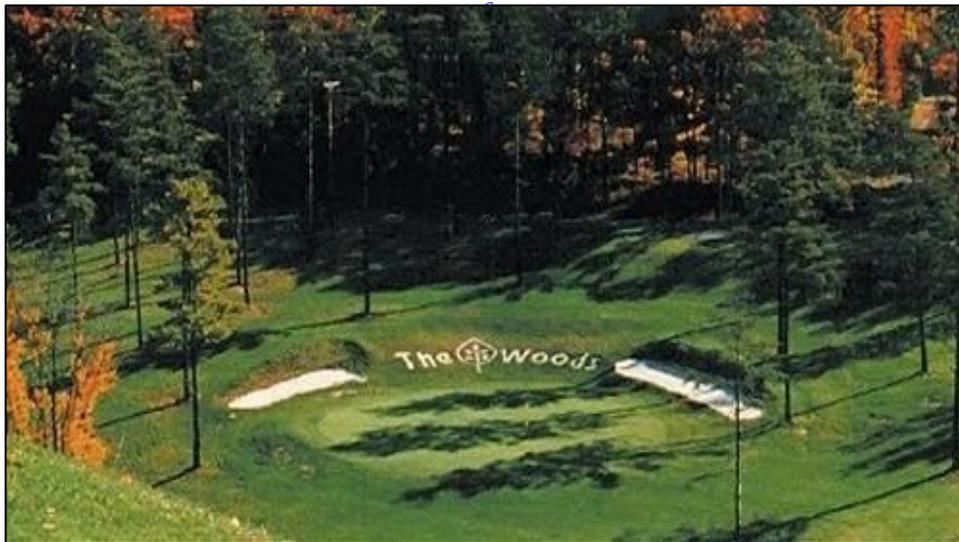
HEDGESVILLE LIONS CLUB 10TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

FUND RAISER

Foursome \$320.00 or \$80.00 each; Single Golfer \$85.00

Held at The Woods – Hedgesville, WV

May 18, 2020* 10:00 Tee Time



PRIZES THIS YEAR CONSIST OF:

Cash for the top 3 winning teams

Opportunity to win a new automobile and other prizes on our **HOLE IN ONE** Contests

Free Putting Contest * Longest Drive * Closest to the pin * Mulligans are available for \$5.00

* Special Player Package Available for \$15.00

Lions may open up the Lions Golf webpage at <https://birdeasepro.com/hedgesvillelionsclub> to get all the details and register for the Tournament



Instructions for Application for a Lion's Club License Plate MULTIPLE DISTRICTS 29

Application Requirements:

Anyone can apply for a Lions Club License plate.

The application must provide a personal property tax receipt or an affidavit from the assessor, if the current plate is expiring within 60 days.

The applicant must submit a check or money order of \$76.50 made out to MD 29 WV LCI to the address below.

Send to: **PCC Ken Shahan**
MD-29 Sec/Treas.
1641 Adams Avenue
Clarksburg, WV 26301
kenshahan@aol.com

Vehicle Requirements & Information:

The vehicle must be a class A car or truck, under 10,001 lbs. GVW

The vehicle must have a WV title.

A valid WV license plate must already be registered for the vehicle, in the titled owner's name.

There are no restrictions on the number of special plates one person can obtain.

Leased vehicles are eligible for Lion's club plates.

Allow for up to 60 days for new plates to arrive:

This allows for the Lions Club, DMV, and the USPS to process and deliver the plates. There are no refunds on special plates, as once a plate number is registered; it cannot be used by another registrant.

What to do when you receive your new Lion's Club plate:

The old plate must be returned to the DMV. It may not be transferred to another vehicle. The DMV will mail out and process all renewals. Remember that you must keep your address up to date. DMV does not honor USPS forwarding addresses. Prior to July 1 when the registration expires; you must provide the DMV proof of insurance and proof of property tax paid for renewal.

Submit pictures and articles by the 3rd of each month in order to get in the next month's newsletter.
Send to our newsletter editor Mickey Nardella at mickey@ma.r.com with a text copy to DG Ruth at 904-608-4715



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Nexstep Commercial Products (formerly known as Cornelia Broom Company and France Broom Company) – Exclusive Licensee of O-Cedar – is now the **One and Only Official Broom Supplier to the Lions!**

Nexstep Commercial Products manufactures high-quality Lions Club Corn Brooms to the same standards the Lions Club have used for over 75 years. The Lions Club Broom Sale has proven to be a major fundraising event that's a very easy way to generate funds.



Contact Information
Lanny Balentine, PDG • Lions Club Sales Representative
Cell: (864) 444-1325 • Email: lbalen1010@aol.com



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