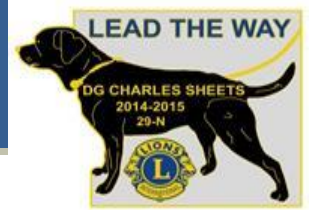


THE LIONS TALE



From the District Governor

by DG Charles Sheets



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A Challenge to All Lions

Our International President Joe Preston, our area Global Leadership and Membership Teams, our Cabinet and our District Governors are asking all Lions Clubs to commit to ending the year June 30th with positive membership. We can achieve this goal as we are currently at minus 29 members. We began the year with 826 members, dropped 73, and added 44, giving us a current balance of 797 members. We have almost three months to accomplish **Strengthening the Pride**. We have a simple strategy to help each Club end the year with a positive membership. I am requesting that Club Officers and Membership Chairs **Lead the Way** by:

1. Contacting every member that you haven't seen for a few meetings, especially the ones the club will likely drop at the end of the year, and do whatever you can to get them involved again.
2. Ask each member to invite at least one person to join the club, following the **ASK1** theme that was developed this year. We have the time to accomplish

this important task. We have sent letters to each club president and secretary requesting they present this information to their club and ask each member to accept the challenge to end the year with a net gain of members.

Montgomery Lions Club Reorganization

(also see p13) I will be asking for your help in reorganizing the Montgomery and surrounding area Lions. We will meet May 5, at 10:00 am, at Montgomery City Hall, where MD Secretary/Treasurer John Pinkerman, will present an action plan for recruiting members, providing talking points, and then we will divide into teams. We are working on assembling names and businesses to contact. We will have brochures and membership applications and by attending Lion John's training, you will feel comfortable in contacting potential members.

Continued on next page



Lions Day at WVU Eye Institute

Please promote and schedule April 18, 2015, 1:00 to 4:30 pm for an opportunity for Lions and Leos Club members to attend an afternoon with eye care professionals discussing research, tours, service available and a special "blind cafe". We must support WVUEI, our partner in working to give people sight.

May 16-22, 2015, Worldwide Week of Service

Please consider a service project this week to promote your club and to help children in need and/or a worthy community project. Eye screenings, diabetes awareness, spring clean-up projects or helping senior citizens after a hard winter.

Four Centennial Service Challenge Areas

Most of our Clubs qualify for this special banner patch by providing assistance in the following four Areas: Engaging Youth, (many high school students

are looking for volunteer work to add to resumes for college applications), Sharing the Vision, Relieving Hunger, and Protecting the Environment. However, Club secretaries must report these projects to LCI in order to document and receive the special banner patch.

Club Officers Elections

Election of officers with the required information must be submitted by April 30th, to LCI on form PU-101 with a copy to me.

All Lions, as we are entering the final laps of the race in 29-N, let's make a commitment to a strong finish for 2015!

*Yours in Lions Service,
Charles Sheets, 29-N District Governor*

Ten Practical Retention Strategies for Club Presidents

by PID Steve Glass

1. As soon as possible after a new member submits the application and pays the initiation fee and pro rata dues, arrange for a meaningful induction ceremony. Invite the spouse (if she/he is not already a member) and other family members to the induction.
 2. After the induction, make a personal call to the new member within two days to welcome her/him to the club and express your genuine gratitude that she/he is a member.
 3. Immediately assign the new member a mentor (may or may not be the sponsor).
 4. Seek out the new member's interests, passions, and hobbies and give her/him some service activity to perform *immediately* around that interest or passion.
 5. Encourage the new member to invite others to become members.
 6. Talk to the new member about some project or issue going on in the club and seek the new member's opinion about it.
 7. Constantly emphasize the service projects going on in your club, no matter how small or large, and find some way to involve the new member.
 8. Seek the new member's feedback about how satisfied she/he is with their experience within the first two months after they become a member.
 9. Try to get the new member to visit another club's service activity or meeting with you and the mentor as soon as possible.
 10. Provide orientation immediately to the new member, whether it is one-on-one or in more formal settings – orientation should be a journey without an end.
-



From the 1st Vice District Governor

by 1st Vice DG Ken Valko

Much has taken place this month. The following are the events, business and fun activities worked on, hosted or visited by Pris and myself. Starting with the business aspects of being First VDG, let me state that all positions on the cabinet and Zone Chairpersons have been filled except for a Webmaster and Lions Tale Newsletter Editor. Roger has been marvelous and will be moving on. We have discussed the transition for who will take over for 29 - C. Roger will set up templates and connections so 29 -O and 29 -N will have a smooth transition. DG Karen Hall Dundas, PDG Amanda Ross, and PDG Jim McMillion have been my good contacts to get information out recently.

Because the two districts are merging and connections are so important, I want to inform the Lions of 29-O and 29-N that at the first 29-C cabinet meeting July 12 at Alum Creek, the position of 1st VDG will be filled by appointment, according to requirements of the by-laws and subject to cabinet approval. This position is vital to the continued transition and building of 29-C. These words found on a poster apply nicely at this time.

The Light of Optimism

*Sometimes we learn the hard way,
That it doesn't pay to get discouraged.
Positive thinking is an INTELLECTUAL CHOICE,
and by keeping our eyes focused on the light of
optimism,
we can restore faith in ourselves
and stay clear of the shadows.*

Pris and I have been visiting and enjoying the hospitality of Lions in other events in the state. We had an enjoyable time with the Lions of 29-L at their conference at the McLure House in Wheeling. DG Eugene Saunders hosted a funny and informative program. ID Don Shove was the speaker.



*Lions and Guests at the 29-C Open House: L to R
Pris Valko, Henry Paul, Connie McMichaels,
Josephine Cavallo, Steve Moss, Kathy Moss, and
George Gillespie*

Two other clubs highlighted our month. The Clarksburg Lions had a 91st Anniversary Birthday Party. A number of Lions received Leonard Jerrett and Melvin Jones awards. John Pinkerman placed a personal touch to his talk, ending with a sentimental and moving Fishermans Prayer.

This Sunday the short trip to The Bluewell Lions Spaghitti Dinner ended with an exceptionally tasty and well organized meal. They had much help and we were impressed by the Boy Scouts and others who cleared tables and handed out food. Money from this event goes to buying books for students in kindergarden, first, and second grades. Leonardo the Lion helps with the distribution, and was a visitor at our table.

The last truly social event for the month was the 29-C Open House at Twin Falls. The photos attached will show and tell better than any words of the fun had by all.

Continued on next page



To close this month's report I will end with this quote:

*Change is Life Giving.
It helps us grow into something greater than
we already are.*

From 29-N 1st VDG (and 29-C DG-elect),
Ken Valko



Lions Connie McMichael & Kathy Moss



Lions Ken Valko, Pat Sadler, and Ken Sadler



Shelter 3 at Twin Falls State Park used for the Lions
29-C Open House



Lions Jim Hird, Steve Moss, and Ken Valko



DG Charles Sheets will be presiding over a District 29-N breakfast during the annual state Lions convention. The District 29-N breakfast will be held on Sunday morning at 8:30 AM at a location to be determined. For those wishing to attend the District 29-N breakfast as part of the state convention, please fill out the breakfast reservation form below and send it along with your payment to District Sec/Treasurer Lion Rick Wooddell at the address indicated.

Please RSVP no later than 24 April for this event.

The charge for this breakfast is over and above the state convention registration fee.

If you have any questions, please contact either DG Charles Sheets at casheets4@yahoo.com or Sec/Treasurer Rick Wooddell at rwtwo54@frontiernet.net

**LIONS CLUBS
INTERNATIONAL**



93rd Annual West Virginia Lions State Convention

**DISTRICT 29-N
SUNDAY MORNING BREAKFAST REGISTRATION
0830 AM - May 3, 2015**

PRICE - \$15 per person

REGISTRATION RSVP NO LATER THAN - APRIL 24

Name: _____ Club Office Title: _____

Club Name _____

Any other Lion(s) attending District Breakfast with your party: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Amount Paid \$ _____ for _____ number of attendees.

Make registration checks payable to:

DISTRICT 29-N LIONS

Please mail registration form and check to:

RICK WOODDELL
DISTRICT 29-N TREASURER
PO BOX 176
GREEN BANK, WV. 24944



Lions District 29-N
on the web at <http://e-district.org/sites/29n/>



District 29-C Elections to WVLSCF

by Lion Pete Johnson, 29-C Election Chair

There will be two Sight Foundation Trustees positions that need to be filled at the Sunday, May 3 morning's meeting of District 29-C at the State convention. Any Lion interested in one of these positions must be "an active member of a club in good standing in the district from which he or she will be elected ." If the constitution revisions are accepted this will be a three year term. The election will be by secret ballot. Candidates receiving a simple majority will be declared elected.

The election procedure will be:

- When nominations are called for, any Lion interested in the position will need a Lion to make their nomination and another Lion to second.
- The Lion's name will then be placed on the ballot.
- When nominations are closed the election will take place.

If you have any questions please contact Pete Johnson at (304)574-2836.

International Convention News

by PCC Dennis Keffer

To those individuals who will be attending the International Convention:

The MD-29 breakfast will be held at the Aston Hotel and Resort on June 29, 2015. Cost is \$25.00 per person. Please send your check made out to "PDG Association". Questions please call (304)228-0025.

Send check to:

PCC Dennis Keffer
304.228.0025
PO Box 33
Pax, WV 25904

In addition to breakfast, we will be taking two tours, which can be booked on-line through LCI:

<http://lcicon.lionsclubs.org/EN/travel-tours/tours.php>

Pearl Harbor

Arizona Memorial, USS Missouri, & City Tour

June 25, 2015

6:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Cost is \$82.50 per person

Polynesian Cultural Center

June 29, 2015

12 PM - 10 PM



LCI Position on Suspended Clubs

by 29-N Secretary/Treasurer Lion Rick Wooddell

All Clubs should be aware of Lions Clubs International positions about financial responsibilities. Please read the letter below from LCI and note upcoming changes in policy.

Dear Lions Clubs,

The association views club fiscal responsibility as a principal element to encourage membership growth. As a result, the Financial Suspension Policy has been amended as follows:

Currently, clubs have 120 days to pay outstanding balances before they are in jeopardy of automatically being placed on suspension. Effective July 1, 2015, clubs will have 90 days. Cancellation will continue to occur after the 28th of the month following suspension if full payment is not received. However, clubs canceled more than twice will be ineligible for reactivation.

This amended policy has serious consequences for clubs that have traditionally paid their club balances in excess of 90 days. To prepare for this amendment, we recommend all club officers become familiar with the amended policy and prepare to schedule payments as required. Officers should also prepare to review and update membership by visiting www.lionsclubs.org and consider paying online.

Please feel free to contact us at membershipbilling@lionsclubs.org should you require additional information. We trust all clubs will review their statements regularly, and will send the necessary payments to ensure their active status is protected.

Accounts Receivable and Club Account Services

300 W. 22nd Street

Oakbrook, IL 60523-8842

Email: membershipbilling@lionsclubs.org

Phone: 630-203-3820

FAX: 630-706-9108

Suspension is the temporary deferment of the charter, rights, privileges and obligations of a Lions club due to an unpaid balance.

Clubs on suspension shall not:

- (a) Conduct service activities
- (b) Conduct fund raising activities;
- (c) Participate in district and multiple district functions or seminars;
- (d) Participate in any voting procedures outside of the club
- (e) Endorse or nominate a candidate for district, multiple district and international office;
- (f) Submit Monthly Membership Report and report forms;
- (g) Sponsor a Lions club, or organize a Leo or a Lioness club.

Clubs on Suspension shall:

- (a) Hold meetings to discuss the future of the club and identify the steps needed to regain an active status.
- (b) Make payments to clear the existing outstanding balance, or request a payment plan.



LCIF at the International Convention

by MD-29 LCIF Chair Connie McMichael

Each year Melvin Jones and Progressive Melvin Jones awards are presented at the International Convention. The Melvin Jones Fellowship (MJF) recognizes donations of \$1,000 to LCIF. It is the backbone of LCIF, providing 75 percent of the foundation's revenue. The Progressive MJF recognizes donations above the \$1,000 level. Note that donations credited to a designated individual can be made by other individuals or clubs.

The International Convention is where I have received each of my MJFs. It is quite an honor to see the recipients and the number of Progressive Melvin Jones awards that Lions from around the world receive. If you are considering a gift to LCIF and are going to the Convention in Hawaii, you will be pleasantly surprised at the number of Lions at the ceremony.



LCIF is always in need of funds for all the grants and projects it funds. If you have not made a personal contribution, please consider doing so. Your donation is accumulative, so you can do this over a number of years.

I hope to see many of you in Hawaii. I wish all the LCIF Coordinators best wishes for the upcoming year.

MD29 LCIF Coordinator
Connie McMichael
wvconnie@gmail.com

Lions Day at the WVU Eye Institute

Save the Date - Saturday April 18, 2015, 1:00 – 4:30 pm

Mark your calendar to attend the 2015 West Virginia Lions Day hosted by the WVU Eye Institute. The event includes updates on education, research and service, tours, and a special "blind cafe". WV Lions Day updates and event timeline will be posted soon on the new West Virginia Lions Partnership webpage. The recently launched West Virginia Lions Partnership webpage is hosted by the WVU Eye Institute. Access the webpage by visiting www.wvueye.com and click on "West Virginia Lions Partnership".

West Virginia Lions Club and Leo Club members are invited to attend an afternoon dedicated to the Lions community. Activities will include updates on advances in vision education, research, and service by Ronald L. Gross, MD, Visvanathan Ramamurthy, PhD, and Becky Coakley, MA, CLVT; tours of the WVU Eye Institute will also be provided and refreshments will be served at the "Blind Café." The "Blind Café" provides a no-vision experience in a café setting.

The courtesy of a reply is requested by calling Jeanie Ellsworth,
(304)598-6926 or email ellsworthj@wvuhealthcare.com



Lions District 29-N
on the web at <http://e-district.org/sites/29n/>



The West Virginia Lions Leadership School

by PID Steve Glass

Just below you will find the names of the Planning Committee for the 2016 Leadership School along with contact information. As we commence planning for the 2016 School, we invite your input: ideas for improvements that will make the School attractive to you and your fellow leaders. Please share your thoughts and ideas with any of the Planning Committee members. Our aim is to provide a learning environment that stimulates your desire to improve your leadership skills and knowledge of Lionism to better serve your community and fellow Lions.



2015 Planning Committee

- Chairperson PID Steve Glass, Clarksburg Lions, (304)842-4132
- Vice Chair PCC Gary Van Horn, Berkeley Springs Lions, (304)258-3261
- Immediate Past Chair PCC Kris Pinkerman, Lesage Lions, (304)638-4096
- Secretary Linda Kibble, Parkersburg Lions, (304)665-9448
- Treasurer PDG Robert Moffett, Fairmont Lions, (304)363-7060
- PID Larry Johnson, Parkersburg Lions, (304)295-0635
- PID Robert Browning, Pineville Lions, (304)732-8663
- PID Fred Cole, Mount Olivet Lions, (304)242-3351
- PDG Amanda Ross, Alum Creek Lions, (304)549-5777
- 29C 2VDG-Elect Daniel Harper, Alum Creek Lions, (304)765-2052
- Lion Wayne Worth, Adamston Lions, (304)412-2308
- Lion Larry Lucas, Marlinton Lions, (304)799-6416
- Lion Roger Norrod, Durbin Lions, (304)456-3231

The 2016 School

Date: January 29, 30, 31, 2016

Where: Charleston Marriott Town Center

Registration Fee: \$125.00

We have 70 rooms reserved with a cutoff date of January 1, 2016. Look for more information in coming issues of your district newsletters.

Keep track of the WVLLS on the web at:

<http://www.wvlions.org/LeadershipSchool>

Or follow us on Facebook – search for: *West Virginia Lions Leadership School*



WV Lions work the drumline at the WVLLS with members of the inspirational group "Sheltered Reality"



Calendar

- April 18, 1:00-4:30 pm - WV Lions Day at the WVU Eye Institute, Morgantown (see page 5).
- May 1-3 - WV State Lions Convention, Charleston Civic Center.
- May 15 – Reporting of 2015-16 officers to LCI due.
- June 15 – Final 29-N Cabinet Meeting at Summersville. Meeting will convene at 10am at the Nicholas County Senior Center, 151 Sids Way, Summersville, WV 26651, (304)872-8147. Lunch will be \$9 for non-cabinet members.

News Notes

- The 93rd WV State Lions convention will be held at the Charleston Civic Center May 1-3, 2015. Contact person is PCC Paul Wheeler (304)746-4415. A registration form and preliminary schedule was included in the March newsletter and is also available on the 29-N website.
- The 29-N DG Contest will end on April 30th and the coordinator Lion Michael Fleshman encourages all clubs to get their reports in as they *Strengthen the Pride* in their communities.



The Four Centennial Service Challenge Areas



MD 29 Youth Camps & Exchange

by PDG Jim McMillon

Dear Lions of Multiple District 29,

Our West Virginia Youth Camps and Exchange (YCE) Committee is composed of a chairperson, Lion Sue Via, and two District Chairpersons in each district. The committee receives no direct funding from State Lions funds. Funds are generated primarily by asking local Lions Clubs to make donations to support the program. Some clubs sponsor special activities for the program. All donations from all sources are greatly appreciated.

Our program's mission is simply to:

- Serve the first objective of Lionism: "To create and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world."
- Encourage West Virginia youth to experience cultures of other people and countries.
- Encourage West Virginia families to host visiting youth from other countries through the Lions International Youth Camp and Exchange Program.
- Accomplish these objectives via a cultural youth exchange, sponsored by Lions Clubs in West Virginia.

We seek your help to raise money for our program. Second Vice District Governor Charolette



Henson has kindly donated a quilt to raffle off. Tickets should be sold at \$1 each or six for \$5. Ticket purchasers need not be present to win.

If you will not be attending the Lions State Convention (May 1,2,3) please mail your sales money and any remaining tickets to be received no later than Wednesday, April 29, to Lion YCE MD29 Chairperson Sue Via, PO Box 37, Union, WV 24983. Her phone and email address are: (304) 772-5273 and bevia@frontier.com. The raffle drawing will be held at state convention on Sunday, May 3rd, at noon at the Civic Center in Charleston.

If you will be attending the State Convention you may sell tickets until 9 am on Sunday morning, May 3rd. If you can send additional donations to our YCE Committee, it will be greatly appreciated.

You can use this letter or put the pictures on a flyer that you can create and hand out to ticket buyers. At the same time, you can give your buyers a club brochure and ask them to join your club. Your club may decide to purchase all of the tickets (\$50) and keep them. If your club's ticket is drawn you could win the quilt and raffle it off in your community or among Lions and friends. Thanks to all Lions clubs and Lions for your kind consideration. Please contact Lion Sue if you have any questions.



Thank you for your support,
Lion PDG Jim McMillon
District 29-O YCE Chairman



Lions & Read Aloud West Virginia

by Lynn Lewis Kessler, Communication and Development Director, Read Aloud West Virginia

Lions Club International's Reading Action Program is a 10-year commitment and a call to action for Lions Clubs everywhere to serve the literacy needs of their local communities. In response to this call, West Virginia Lions Club leaders met with Read Aloud West Virginia in 2013 to learn how we can work together most efficiently and effectively to change the literacy culture in our state.

It became clear that the goals of the Reading Action Program and those of Read Aloud West Virginia are closely aligned and a partnership began. Since that time, Read Aloud Executive Director Mary Kay Bond has visited every Lions district meeting in the state to share her organization's mission. Lions Club members have answered the call and made valuable contributions to the growth and expansion of the non-profit's literacy programming across the state.

In Marion County, Lion Aletta Moffett became a volunteer reader at Watson Elementary. After deciding she wanted to see the program offered at additional schools in the county, she worked with other Lions Club and community members to establish a Marion County chapter of the organization.

Robin Clutter learned that a school in Preston County was in need of a school coordinator for Read Aloud. She volunteered and now serves as a liaison between the school and the organization. Many more Lions Club members have been trained as Read Aloud volunteer readers and are now reading

to classrooms regularly, providing a live commercial for reading to children across the state.

When Lion Trudy Oliver read to a class at Malden Elementary in Kanawha County, the teacher reported students couldn't wait for her to return each week. They pleaded for one more chapter at the end of each reading. "Every visit brought new insights about the intellects and imaginations of the students," said Oliver. "I discovered that the children depend on me to stimulate and teach them, and that my preparations encourage their interaction. I learned a lot from them—the most important of which is that no technology exists that can eradicate the power of imagination."

Read Aloud West Virginia is a 501 (c)(3) organization with a mission of keeping books in the hands and on the minds of West Virginia's children. Twenty-five counties in West Virginia currently have Read Aloud chapters which are supported by a central office located in Charleston. Funding for the organization is provided by individual donations, grants and corporate sponsors. As the organization continues to grow, Lions Club members can provide critical support by meeting a variety of needs for which the organization relies on volunteers.

West Virginia Lions Club Literacy Chair Mandy Means Ross has encouraged members to become involved in this important partnership with Read Aloud West Virginia. To learn more about the organization, donate or get involved as a volunteer, visit www.readaloudwestvirginia.org or call (304) 345-5212.



Club News

Montgomery Lions Reorganization

The article below is being prepared for the *Montgomery Herald* newspaper. For more info contact DG Sheets.

Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service organization with about 1.35 million members in 206 countries all over the world. Lions were formed in 1917 by a group of Chicago businessmen, wanting to help people to have a better life. Helen Keller, noted author, both and deaf and blind, challenged the group to become Knights of the Blind. From that challenge the small group of caring individuals began forming a national organization called Lions Club of America. Melvin Jones, a Chicago businessman, has been credited as the "Father of Lions", as we know it today. Lions came to Charleston, WV in 1921 and since have grown to over 4500 members throughout West Virginia. Lions have expanded their service to include other health programs, such as hearing loss and diabetes awareness, as well as serving other community needs with youth, literacy, and environmental programs.

Lions around the world have taken on the challenge by Helen Keller and we believe that no child should want for proper eye care. In 1959, WV Lions formed the WV Lions Sight Conservation Foundation to aid those with expensive sight problems. All clubs in West Virginia provide glasses at no cost to qualifying children and adults. Over the years WV Lions have partnered with the West Virginia Eye Institute searching for cures of blindness.

The Montgomery Lions Club was first chartered in 1930 but has recently faltered due to lack of members. We believe there is a real need in this community and surrounding areas including communities along the Kanawaha River to Chelyan, to reorganize and reinvigorate the Montgomery Lion Club. We plan to meet May 5, 2015, in Montgomery City Hall beginning at 10:00 am to discuss and explain our action plan to the communities. We invite all caring persons to this meeting.

Must be Spring, Golfers Going Wild!

The **Hedgesville Lions Club** will hold their Annual Golf Outing at the Woods Golf Resort, Monday May 18th, 10am tee-off. Free breakfast and putting contest starts at 8:30 am. Dinner following golf. People that are interested can call Lion Delmar Barrett (304)754-7489 or by email: dlbar@comcast.net.

The **Lewisburg Lions Club** is sponsoring a golf tournament Wednesday, April 29th at the Lewisburg Elks Club. Proceeds will benefit vision assistance to citizens of Greenbrier County. There will be cash prizes, and a trophy to the Lions Club team that finishes highest. For more information call Lion Ben Lewis at (304) 645-7260.

The **1st Annual Mount Hope Lions Golf Tournament** will be held May 23rd at the Bridge Haven Golf Club. Contact any Mount Hope Lion for details.



Editor's Notes

by Roger Norrod, Editor



This issue has a little of everything, reports on things that have happened and announcements of things to come. You can find news on the state and international conventions coming up soon, and topics ranging from next year's Leadership School to cautions about changes to LCI policies on Clubs late with their dues.

The DG and 1st VDG continue working hard to finish out the year positively and to get a good start to the first year of District 29-C. Take note of the attempt to reorganize the Montgomery Lions Club mentioned on pages 1 and 13. The Beckley Club was reorganized earlier this year and has just wrapped up a fund-raiser with the help of Bob Evans.

Speaking of fund-raisers, golfers could spend most of April and May playing Lions golf tournaments. Check out the announcements on page 13.

Roger Norrod
208 Markwood Gum Rd.
Arbovale, WV 24915

