

THE LIONS TALE



From the District Governor

By DG Charles Sheets



Carolyn & Charles Sheets

As I write on a dreary and rainy day, I think back on the club visits and have been inspired by YOUR dedication in helping with our fall conference and in fulfilling needs in each of your communities, especially at this time of year. Please do not neglect any children in need in your community. I read that last Tuesday was supposed to be a day of giving after “Black Friday” and “Cyber Monday”. You as Lions can be proud because *You Give* every day.

Please give the ASK1 campaign priority in your community. Our membership continues to drop since July 1. We have lost 44 members and gained only 25. We distributed almost 200 of the ASK1 campaign badges and I am requesting that clubs order more to wear at every meeting. I want to congratulate Lion Paul Hodges, Secretary of the 26 member Athens Club who has sponsored 15 members into the club. Let’s be “on fire” to recruiting new members.

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We have some challenging but great upcoming events, such as: (1) Redistricting and voting for a new District Governor December 14th at Tamarack Conference Center; (2) the *Worldwide Week of Service* January 10-16, to showcase your clubs’ community projects and to celebrate the birthday of our Lions founder Melvin Jones (Club Secretaries, please report your “showcase” projects and earn a Centennial Banner Patch); and (3) The WV Lions 19th Annual Leadership School to be held January 30-February 1, 2015 at Days Hotel in Flatwoods. This will be the best leadership seminars for future Lion leaders. WVU President, Dr. Gordon Gee, is the Saturday noon luncheon speaker and he will be exciting with his knowledge and wit. I trust that each Club takes this event seriously and considers paying all or a portion of the Registration fee for those attending.

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Booker T. Washington, said "THOSE WHO ARE THE HAPPIEST ARE THOSE WHO DO THE MOST FOR OTHERS". The dictionary defines the word PRIDE as "the feeling one gets when doing something good for others". Remember our theme, STRENGTHEN the PRIDE!

Carolyn, Durbin and I wish you a very Fulfilling and Meaningful Christmas.

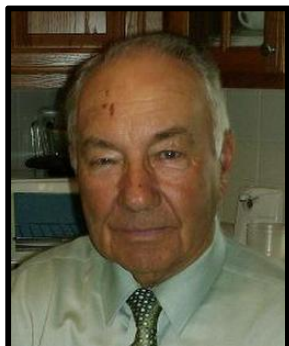
Together in Service,
Charles Sheets, District Governor

More info about the Worldwide Week of Service can be found at <http://lions100.org/EN/worldwide-week-of-service.php>



In Memorium

District 29N has recently lost three Lions: Steve W. Tyra, President of the Fayetteville Lions at his death; John M. Furrow of the Union Lions; and PDG Norville Ellison of the Mt. Hope Lions.



*Union Lion John M. Furrow
Nov. 2, 1931 - Nov. 18, 2014*



Mrs. N. L. Ellison receiving a certificate honoring her late husband for his 57 years of service to the Mt. Hope Lions. Mr. Ellison served as District Governor 1969-70, and passed away Oct. 25, 2014, age 92.



Agenda

DISTRICT 29C SPECIAL CONVENTION

DECEMBER 14, 2014

TAMARACK CONVENTION CENTER, BECKLEY, WV

1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Certification of Delegates
3:30 p.m. Convention Call to Order Council Chairperson Ed Via
Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation
Report of Nominees Elections Committee
Presentation of Candidates Council Chairperson Ed Via

Nominating and seconding speeches for each candidate for each office will be heard, with candidates for each office presenting in alphabetic order by last name. There may be one nominating speech of not more than 5 minutes and one seconding speech of not more than 3 minutes.

Closing of Nominations Council Chairperson Ed Via

Voting

All voting is done by secret written ballot. Delegates will proceed to the Credentials Committee area, where they will present their credentials, have them marked, and receive ballots. They will move to the voting area, mark their ballots and place them in the receptacle provided. When all have voted, the Elections Committee will count the ballots in a closed room.

Caveats:

- A candidate must receive a majority of votes cast to be elected.
- Not making a mark in the proper box on the ballot in a particular election is a non-vote and will not be counted as a vote cast.

Announcement of Results

The Elections Committee will report the election results to the Council Chairperson.

Council Chairperson Via will report:

- election of officers
- vacancies in offices
- need for another vote

If no candidate receives the required majority, balloting shall continue with respect to the two nominees only who received the largest number of votes on the previous ballot until one receives the required majority of votes cast. If there is only one candidate for an office and that candidate does not receive a majority of the votes cast, then the Council Chairperson will declare that office vacant.

Consideration and selection of the time and place for the 2015 29C conference

Adjournment Council Chairperson Ed Via

FYI, at 2pm there will be a free musical presentation at Tamarack by the women's choral group *Woman's Song*. <http://www.womansongchorale.org/about-us.html>
Also, the Grill at Tamarack comes highly recommended, so come early, get certified at 1 pm, and then enjoy Tamarack until the meeting starts at 3:30pm.



From the 1st VDG

We had a great night last night at Gary Club's Annual Christmas Dinner. I would now like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as candidate for District Governor of the new District 29C. I have been in the Gary Club for over 10 years. Within that time I have had the opportunity and privilege to serve as President, Vice President, Zone 4 Chairperson, 2nd VDG, and now 1st VDG.

As club president for some of those years, a number of projects or activities have returned, and new ones were added. We have initiated new projects that have helped the club reconnect with the community in different ways. With the cooperation of the club I designed new flags to be given to our local Blackwolf Links Golf course. The club has participated in Trunk or Treat. We have participated in the Welch Veterans Day parade. We "adopted" a lady at the Gary Nursing Center, decorating her door for the holidays. Being active at the Leadership School and Conventions have become a priority for myself.

The following are recent awards I have received

and art shows where my work has been displayed. I received the Zone Chairperson Excellence Award, and was honored with the International President's Certificate of Appreciation by Barry Palmer. My soapstone sculptures have been juried in at Tamarack. The two shows were "Natural Wonders", art inspired by the world around us. The second was "The Best of West Virginia Juried Show". This show ran from June 15 to August 3rd of this year. But, at this point Pris and I have decided to place all our efforts into Lionism. We look forward to this great opportunity to serve and, "Change with Creativity".

Lion 1st VDG
Ken Valko



Lions Pris & Ken Valko

Personal and Professional
Information
Kenneth J. Valko
Candidate for 29C District Governor

I was born in Johnstown, Pennsylvania in 1952, and went to Dunlo Elementary School. I graduated from Forest Hills High School, Sidman, PA in 1971, and then attended Mt. Alloysius Junior College, Cresson, PA from 1971-72.

In 1975 I graduated from St. Vincent College, Latrobe, PA, receiving a BA degree in fine and studio art. I began teaching after obtaining an elementary teaching certificate from St. Francis College, Loretto, PA. After some substitute teaching, department store work, and house painting, I began teaching fifth grade at St. Bernards in Hastings, PA, where I met and later married Priscilla in 1980. We moved to Mohawk, WV, where my wife and I both taught at Panther Elementary in McDowell County.

Because of my background and love for art I took a position teaching art at War and Berwind; soon after transferring to laeger Intermediate. When laeger Intermediate closed, my next position was Sandy River Middle and laeger High School where I was the art teacher and yearbook sponsor for 5 years.

After retiring in 2007, most of my time was spent working for the church coffee house, at Coal Camp Dreations, and driving for the Commission on Aging. Presently I have a business called the Carver`s Cave; I carve mostly animal soapstone sculptures.

Candidate for 29C 1st VDG

By Lion Charlotte Henson, 29-O 2nd VDG

As December 14 approaches and the election for the soon to be District 29-C is to be held, I wanted to introduce myself to all members of the new district. Some of you know me and have met and talked with me for those that haven't I am available to talk and to help in any way I can.

My home club is the Cross Lanes Lions Club, and I have served in many club and district offices over the last years. I have worked on service programs, helped clubs with programs, attended fall conferences and state conventions, visited other clubs, served as area Sight Coordinator, and served on varies committees with the Sight Foundation. The joy from Lions for me is the friends met and the service of helping others.

I know there have been lots of pros and cons discussed on redistricting, but I look at it as a way for Lions to move forward and I am looking forward to helping make this happen, and to meeting and making lots more friends.

If there any individual Lion or club that has questions, please contact me for I am hoping to be elected as first vice for next year, to work to make this an exciting time for all.

Hoping see you on the 14th at Beckley,

2nd VDG Charolette Henson
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Hurricane, WV 25526
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Email: charlions29o@yahoo.com



Tis' a Time for Giving

By Lion Connie McMichael, MD29 LCIF Coordinator

It seems like every charity is asking for a donation this time of year, but as with many, the money is needed all year long. Donations can always be made to LCIF at any time of year and should be included in your list of yearly donations. Each year LCIF recognizes the Lions clubs, districts, and individuals who are the top contributors in support of the Foundation. It is through this generosity that the Foundation can save and preserve sight, provide disaster relief, support youth and meet humanitarian needs around the world.

More than \$4.4 million was awarded in 56 grants just during October 2014. These grants are possible



through your support of LCIF.

Did you know that measles kills more than the Ebola virus? LCIF is providing support to fight both these deadly diseases. Those who survive measles often have lifelong health problems. There is still a global need for vaccination efforts to fight this deadly disease.

When considering where to make tax-free donations this time of year or throughout the year, please remember LCIF as one of your contributions.

Calendar

- Dec 8 – DG Visits Pineville Lions
- Dec 14 – District 29C Conference
- Dec 16 – DG Visits Clay Lions
- Jan 12 – DG Visits White Sulphur Springs Lions
- Jan 22 – DG Visits Marlinton Lions
- Jan 30–Feb1 – WV Lions Leadership School

News Notes

- District 29N Cabinet meetings are scheduled for March 7 and June 15 at Crab Orchard and Summersville respectively. See the 29N website calendar for locations and updates.
- The 93rd WV State Lions convention will be held at the Charleston Civic Center May 1–3, 2015. Contact person is Lion Dick Clark (304)768–8722. More info will be forthcoming.
- The 29N DG Contest remains open and the coordinator Lion Michael Fleshman encourages all clubs to participate as they *Strengthen the Pride* in their communities. More information about the contest is on the 29N website.



WV Lions Leadership School

By Lion Robert Stigall

The 19th Annual West Virginia Lions Leadership School will be held on January 30, 31 and February 1, 2015 at the Days Hotel in Flatwoods. Here is a brief synopsis of the seminars that will be offered at this year's School.

The Heart of Leadership – Presented by PID Steve Glass Who do we serve? Where do we serve? How do we serve effectively? Where do we find those who need our aid? Are all of those who need us out in the community or might they be right beside us? How do we lead effectively?

The Value of Planning – Presented by PCC Wendy Cain Successful clubs don't just happen; they are a result of caring teammates who take the time to plan, dream, understand the mission, develop goals, and execute the plan.

So You Want To be An Effective and Dynamic Club President? – Presented by 2VDG Linda Leasure, Lion Michael Gibbs and Lion Brandon Johnson We will examine successful leadership strategies as seen through the eyes of three very energetic and dynamic Lion leaders who have successfully served their clubs as president. They will also provide added value about generational differences and campus club successes.

Creating a First and Lasting Impression – Presented by Nikki Bowman Learn how to create a positive public image and to develop effective public speaking skills from a young entrepreneur who has seen her dream become a reality and who will share her wisdom with you.

Gender Differences in Leadership Roles – Presented by PID Judy Hankom Revisit *Women are from*



Venus, Men are from Mars. Understanding how males and females view their roles differently and perhaps use vastly different styles and approaches to solving leadership issues.

Increase Your Performance and Reduce Stress As a Club Secretary – Presented by PDG Eva Dague Understanding the constitutional requirement of the role of club secretary and learning how to have fun while serving in this very vital role as ambassador to Lions Clubs International.

Zone Effectiveness = Club Effectiveness – Presented by Lion Linda Amos Understanding the essential role and responsibilities of a zone chairperson in our Association and the critical link that a zone chairperson provides to the district leadership team.

The Club Excellence Process and Blueprint For a Stronger Club – Presented by PDG Cindy Glass, PCC Garland Burke and PCC Gary Van Horn Bring out the very best in your club and district by understanding a different way to listen to, motivate, and appreciate your members as well as those you serve. Discover a way to become a high performing Lions club.

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WV Lions Leadership School (continued)

Lions 101 – A Potpourri For all Ages of Lions (brand new or seasoned) – Presented by PID Bob Browning

This will be an orientation for all Lions, sprinkled with some legal aspects of Lions clubs governance. For some, it might well be a first-time orientation into how clubs function within the Association; for others, it will be a golden opportunity to relearn and refresh.

Characteristics of Highly Effective Lions Clubs –

Presented by PCC Kris Pinkerman, PDG Amanda Ross and PDG Lisa Keffer Examine what qualities a growing, service-oriented Lions club exhibits to the public and its members. Improvement comes through developing effective leadership habits and minding the small stuff.

Membership, Retention, and Extension: A New Service That Has Come Of Age – Presented by PDG John Pinkerman and PDG Glenn Ryburn

A look at membership recruitment ideas; strategies to increase your members' satisfaction, and a mini extension workshop all on one!

The Money Guy and the Other Leadership Team

Members – Presented by PID Larry Johnson The Team that works together, grows together. The constitutional duties of the club treasurer and the board of directors blended with some tidbits on protocol as well as policy aspects of club operations.

Millennials Love Boomers and Vice Versa, Don't They? – Presented by PID Steve Glass and Lion Jordan Glass A look at generational attitudes through the eyes of a Baby Boomer and a Millennial. Learn some very practical information about how Lions can attract the Gen Xers and the Gen Yers through looking differently at how we serve and where we serve. In this session the Gen Xer will discuss a very special legislative initiative that she was instrumental in helping to launch. The Baby Boomer will share a personal experience in saving a club through blending these two important groups.

As an additional service project, all Lions are asked to bring cans of food and/or children's books that will be donated to Mountaineer Food Bank by the committee after the School.

Registration fee for this year's Leadership School is \$115 if paid before January 15, 2015 and \$135 after that date. Hotel rooms at the Leadership School rate can be secured by calling Days Inn at 304-765-5055. Make certain you tell the hotel representative that you are with the Leadership School.

The Leadership School registration form was printed in the November newsletter, or can be downloaded from the [29N webpage](http://e-district.org/sites/29n/).



Vision Screening

by Lion Roger Norrod

Like many Lions Clubs, each year the Durbin Lions offer vision screening services to their community. On December 4th, club members performed an annual screening at the Green Bank Elementary Middle School. This year, a new (to us) instrument supplied by District 29N was used and we thought it would be useful to describe our experiences with the new instrument for those clubs who have not yet used it.

The new portable instrument resembles an old-fashioned polaroid camera in size and shape, but is thoroughly modern in operation. Except for a very brief demonstration during screenings at the State Fair, none of us had experience in operating the machine, but we were able to turn it on, follow the menus displayed on its screen, and begin testing students within about a half-hour. In less than three hours, 210 students were screened and 24 were referred for follow-up by eye-care professionals. The VS100 Spot Vision Screener operates at a distance of 3 feet from the subject, so young students feel less threatened – we tested students as young as five with no problems.

Lighting in the testing room needs to be dim –

the subject's pupils must be at least 4–5mm diameter (about 3/16th inch), so we tested in a room with no windows and used only a desk lamp. For steadiness, we found it useful to mount the VS100 on a camera tripod and sit the students in a chair. The VS100 can test subjects wearing glasses or contacts. The operator points the VS100 at the test subject, and sees his or her image on the VS100 screen. Instructions appear if the subject is too near or far and the operator moves the VS100 forward or back until the image freezes and the machine makes a measurement. The Result Screen then displays either "All Measurements in Range" in green, or "Complete Eye Exam Recommended" in red. In the case of the latter, a diagnosis (myopia, astigmatism, etc.) and the readings the machine considers out-of-range are highlighted in red. For our students who needed follow-up, we wrote down the machine's diagnosis and passed it on to the school nurse.

Our testing went quite smoothly and much faster than when using the "read the letters" type machines. Probably it was much less stressful for the kids too. For most of them the test consisted of sitting down and watching dancing lights on the front of the machine for a few seconds. And, more experience should help testing go even better in the future.

Clubs who wish to conduct vision screening in their communities can borrow the equipment at no cost by contacting Lion Charlie Biggs, the 29N eye-screening equipment coordinator, at (304)469-4400, or by email at charlie@biggsinsurance.net. For those who wish more technical details or to see the VS100 operation manual, go to the manufacturer's website: www.welchallyn.com



*Durbin Lions Vision Screening at the Green Bank School Dec 4.
The VS100 is held at right.*



Scenes from 29N

One of the joys of the DG position is the opportunity to visit each and every Lions Club within the district during the year. DG Charlie continues to visit clubs.



Mt. Hope Lions Nov 20th



Athens Lions Dec 1st



The Rainelle Lions Club fundraiser raffle for a Henry 22 Rifle culminated with a drawing on Nov 22. Ronnie Patterson (center) of Meadow Bridge was presented the gun at Park Center Sporting Goods store where the gun was purchased. President Larry Yankey and store manager Brent Crookshanks made the presentation.

29N Quilt Raffle



The 29N Quilt Raffle was won by Lion Phylis Lucas of the Marlinton Lions. Pictured with Phylis is Lion Larry Lucas, President of the Marlinton Lions and Zone 6 Chair. The Quilt Raffle raised \$570 for the WV Lions Sight Foundation.

MD 29 Beef Raffle

The West Virginia Lions Sight Conservation Foundation and the Lions Clubs International Foundation thank the Lions of District 29N for participating in the sale of "WV Lions Beef Raffle" tickets for the fall of 2014. The efforts of the Lions of District 29N and Lions across West Virginia raised a total of \$5,555 from this year's raffle. This will assist the Sight Foundation to provide eye surgeries, sight screenings, and assist in the purchase of hearing aids for those West Virginia's in need and will assist the LCIF to provide humanitarian assistance in West Virginia and the world. Edward Zeto of Beaver, WV, Ray Slayton of Ansted, WV, Melodie Nichols of Adamston, WV and Jack Powell of Salem, WV were the winners of the four mixed quarters of beef. Thank you again for your efforts to sell beef raffle tickets.

PCC Gary Van Horn, MD 29 Beef Raffle Coordinator

Peace Poster Winner



The winning Peace Poster from District 29N.

The 29N winner of the Peace Poster Contest is Emilee Blankenship, age 13, who is in the 8th grade at Glen Fork Grade School. Emilee's entry was sponsored by the Pineville Lions Club, and will now advance in the LCI contest.

Each year, Lions clubs around the world proudly sponsor the Lions International Peace Poster Contest in local schools and youth groups. This art contest for kids encourages young people worldwide to express their visions of peace. For more than 25 years, millions of children from nearly 100 countries have participated in the contest.

The theme of the 2014-15 Peace Poster Contest is "Peace, Love and Understanding." Students, ages 11, 12 or 13 on November 15, are eligible to participate. The grand prize winner of the international contest wins \$5000 and a trip to the award ceremony, and 23 merit award winners receive \$500.



Editor's Notes

by Roger Norrod, Editor



As this issue of the Lions Tale goes to print, several dates important to WV Lions are fast approaching. The December 14th organizational convention for District 29C is discussed in several articles here and two candidates for officers took the opportunity to introduce themselves to readers. DG Charlie reminds all clubs of the *Worldwide Week of Service* coinciding with the January 13th birthday of Lions founder Melvin Jones. And, Lion Robert Stigall describes the seminars planned for the WV Lions Leadership School coming up January 30th.

I want to thank everyone who sent in photos of the Convention at Pipestem. Several are posted on the website and were included in the November newsletter. We hope to publish more after we've had a chance to sort through the stack!

I encourage clubs to send in photos and information about their club service activities for inclusion in the newsletter. My mailing address is below, and my email address is rnorrod@frontiernet.net.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you and yours!

Roger Norrod
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