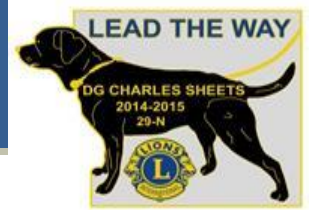


THE LIONS TALE



From the District Governor

by DG Charles Sheets



Carolyn & Charles Sheets

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Like many of you, I became a Lion because I want to serve. The longer I am a Lion and the more Lions I meet in my travels as District Governor, the more I realize that we Lions are very special. Each Club and its members make up that special Club. Lions serve their communities in so many different ways, one of which is to provide many opportunities for our students.

In my club visits, I enjoy recognizing the clubs for their service to their communities, and ask, "What would this community be without your Lions Club and who would step up and do what you are doing?" No other group serves their community like the Lions Club. That is why each member is so important. SERVICE is the bedrock of Lions. Booker T. Washington said, "Those who are happiest are those who do the most for others."

Developing leaders is one of our challenges as well as news ways to communicate. Leadership involves motivating our members and encouraging "teamwork". Team Players are the Leaders of Tomorrow. As Leaders

we must be good listeners and express genuine interest in members. Increasing membership, especially young members is essential if Lionism is to continue.

Our third Cabinet Meeting will be held March 7, 2015, at the Beckley Moose Lodge, located at 410 New River Drive, beginning at 10:00 am. Lunch is soup and salad. I am asking each Zone Chairman to contact each of your clubs and request they be represented by a Club Officer or two. I will be expecting each Activity Program Chairperson to attend and bring a member or two likewise. Please send me agenda items, especially, if you are requesting money for Club projects, so they can be properly voted.

This meeting is crucial because our membership for the first time is below 800 members and we must address membership and plan to form New Clubs. I am requesting that each Cabinet Member, Chair

Continued on next page



Person and any member send me a recommended area with potential, to consider starting a new club before this meeting. We must turn up the speed dial as we have only 4 ½ months remaining. Engage your Club and commit to have a PLUS1 membership by June 30, 2015.

I remind clubs to begin planning for election of officers. The process should begin in March and April to allow time to submit officers by May 15th. Clubs are required to report new officers to

International Headquarters by May 15, via either the LCI website or a paper PU-101 form. Once the new officers are reported, those officers will begin to receive correspondence and have appropriate access to MyLCI and other resources. It is also important to report officer changes during the year. Thank you for your service to Lions.

Charles Sheets, 29-N District Governor

From the 1st Vice District Governor

by 1st Vice DG Ken Valko

Greetings to all those Lions that will hopefully greet February with better weather than what they had in January. In my travels, I have been fortunate to go before bad weather and return without incident. My training in Morgantown had surprises as well as good training sessions. As I read the name note cards at the table. I was trying to find where I was to sit. I noticed the name Priscilla. However, This was a nice lady from Va. and not my wife. Don't know what those odds are. At our table were VDG's from Ohio, Va. Md., and Pa.. We talked and made conversation.

It is important to note that other states are also redistricting. Some of them are shifting from 10 to 7 and 6 to 4 districts. This makes me thankful for the arrangement we now have. But, this is not a solid fix. We must continue looking for members in retention and in other creative ways. Our next goal to create new Leo and other clubs will help insure pools of membership for Lionism's future.

There was great excitement and enthusiasm for this year's Leadership School. The number of new faces seen is a tribute to the word getting around by the District Governors and Lions Clubs promoting this event. I look forward to next year when we will celebrate 20 years of educating our Lions in the

state of West Virginia.

For my recent visits, I would like to thank Alum Creek for their invitation and visit. My thanks to the Union Club for a great visit and dinner celebrating a special year of Lionism. More recently was a fine evening with the Crab Orchard club who hosted the Zone meeting. Meeting the representatives of that zone was an honor. On February 10th I will be visiting Ceredo – Kenova for their Zone meeting. I look forward to meeting more Lion friends in the western area of our state.



Incoming MD29 District Governors Al Cox, John Wensyel, and Ken Valko meet for lunch during Governors' Training at the Lakeview Hotel in Morgantown.



The Second Half – What Adjustments Will You Make?

by PID Steve Glass

During the half-time interview with Coach Urban Meyer during the Oregon–Ohio State National Football Championship, I was quite struck with his comments to the interviewer, which went something like this, “We need to make the right adjustments, and we’ll be fine.” He exuded a confidence that gave me the impression that he knew exactly what those adjustments needed to be. Using football as an analogy, we are into the second half of the Lions’ year now, and I am asking you to make some necessary adjustments to your game plan. I am asking you to focus inwardly on your club as much as you do outwardly to the public that you serve.

You see, fellow Lions, membership satisfaction, membership involvement, membership recruitment, and leadership development opportunities are also a part of WE SERVE. We not only serve those who are less fortunate than we, we also serve one another. How do we do that? One way is by asking them how they want to serve. What projects would they like to do? Would they be willing to lead a project or co-chair an activity? Do you take time to explain why your club does certain projects and what the projects are all about? In general, does your club mentor its new members and provide meaningful orientation. Do you ask every member, “What is your opinion?” Try it.

As a service organization within an Association, we do a magnificent effort in finding ways to help the blind and deaf, feed the hungry, provide all kinds of humanitarian assistance, reach out to youth, and the list goes on and on. Where we fall woefully short is in helping our fellow members understand their roles within our clubs and encouraging them to reach their fullest potential. Here is where our game plan needs its greatest adjustment. Let’s turn our focus inward as much as outward in the coming months.

Soon, your club will be asked to have a nominating committee seek and nominate officers for the next Lion year. Now is a perfect time to have the district leadership development coordinator, the district leadership team, and other knowledgeable Lions do a program at your club on the roles and responsibilities of club officers, especially the presidents, secretary, treasurer, and board of directors. This way newer Lions can gain a basic understanding of those responsibilities, making it much easier to encourage them into these leadership roles. To make this task easier on the leadership, please consider having joint meetings with a sister club. As the old saying goes, there is strength in numbers.

By its very nature the journey of leadership is not intended to be easy; however, it is a very rewarding journey in the end.



Let's Make WV 100% In for LCIF!

by MD-29 LCIF Chair Connie McMichael

One of the MD LCIF goals for this year was to make MD29 a 100% contributing district. PDG Glenn Ryburn, 29 I LCIF Chair is well on the way to achieving this goal for his district. He reports that several of his Zones have already reached the 100% level. The Parade of Checks is a sure way of securing donations for LCIF, but not all clubs make a donation at that time unfortunately. Beef Raffle Chair/PCC Gary Van Horn listed clubs and individuals who contributed to the beef raffle. Therefore clubs also received credit for donations made at that time. Some clubs make contributions to LCIF for a variety of other reasons and thus get credit for those donations. Individual donations are always welcome and not only do the members get credit for their donations (usually), but the club gets the recognition also. (The \$20 contributing members and measles donors do not get



credit toward the MJ for their donations.) There are still several months left to this year and time to make even a minimal donation to LCIF. If your club has not made a donation, please contact your District LCIF Chair listed below to help WV become a 100% LCIF contributing district.

District L LCIF Chair PDG Harrison Schramm
 District I LCIF Chair PDG Glenn Ryburn
 District O LCIF Chair PDG Jim McMillon
 District N LCIF Chair PDG Dick Brockway

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".

The West Virginia Lions Sight Conservation Foundation (WVLSCF) began their relationship with WVU in 1961 with a donation of \$2400 to the WVU Medical School to equip one room of the four-room eye clinic. That led the way to collaboration between the WV Lions and what was then WVU Eye Center to fund the construction of the WV Lions Clinical Eye Research Unit.

Thanks to the continuing partnership with WVLSCF and state Lions Clubs, WVU Eye Institute carries on the crusade of the "Knights of Blindness" by providing vision screenings, general clinics, sub-specialty clinics, and education on the importance of vision health to those who do not have access to regular vision care due to economic or other barriers.



History of the WVLSCF

by Lion PDG James McMillian

On Thursday, January 15, 2015, at a regular noon meeting of the Charleston Lions Club, Lion Jason Conley who actively helped establish our West Virginia Lions Sight [and Hearing] Conservation Foundation, Inc., hereafter referred to as the "Foundation" presented me with an original document—pertaining to a Certificate of Incorporation for the Lions Sight Program, Inc., filed with the Honorable D. Pitt O'Brien, WV Secretary of State in 1955. This document preserved by Lion Jason all these years shows that the Certificate of Incorporation filing fee (of \$5) was paid (as officially signed by Secretary D. Pitt O'Brien's Chief Clerk) and helped start the beginning of what evolved into our Foundation today. By the way, today, a filing fee for non-profits is \$25

I am honored to receive this original document with Lion Jason's instructions to show it to Lions during my club visits. At some point he wanted the document returned. I will do so.

I considered the historical value to our Foundation and thought that many members/individuals and clubs might enjoy seeing

the document and learning a little more about our Foundation and its origin. A scanned copy is included at the end of this message. Please feel free to copy it along with the rest of these pages about the Foundation's work and organization, and circulate the information among club members and appropriate Lions members and persons interested in historical documentation at your club meeting(s).

This is a view of a piece of history about our Foundation that many may enjoy thanks to Lion Jason's thoughtfulness. Immediately following this message is a review of "Lions Contributions to Eye Care in West Virginia" along with Historical Highlights of 1955 and 1959 for your use and/or club files. The complete historical highlights from 1921 through 1994 can be found at the website: www.wvsight.org (Click "History" tab).

Thank you for the great works that you do for your communities and recipients of services/products from our Foundation. Historically, WV Lions Clubs have generously donated to our Foundation. Please remember our Foundation now and in the future when you consider donations from you club and/or personal accounts.

PLEASE RETURN WITH YOUR REMITTANCE

Charleston, W. Va., May 19, 1955

R. M. Burgess,
Lions Sight Program, Inc. Station C, Box 10072, Charleston, W. Va.

To D. PITT O'BRIEN, Secretary of State, Dr.

(Remit by Certified Check, Money Order or Bank Draft)

IN RE: LIONS SIGHT PROGRAM, INC.

TO: Certificate of Incorporation \$5.00

Received Payment *(Paid)*

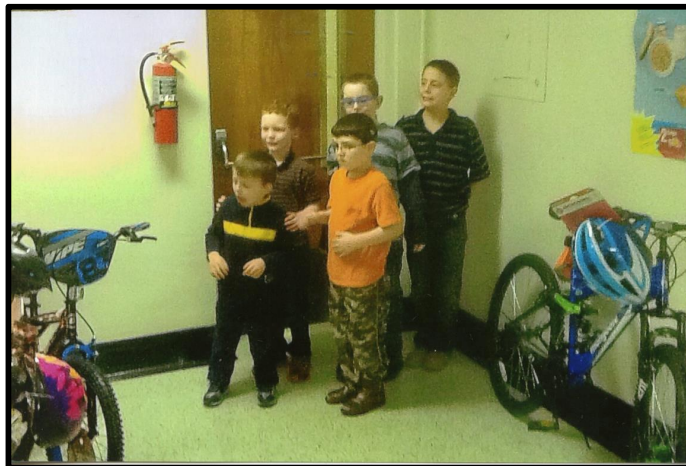
D. PITT O'BRIEN, Secretary of State
By *[Signature]* Chief Clerk

*Prepared by Bill Bowers
So. Adms. W.V.*



Calendar

- Feb 23 – Blind ski trip sponsored by MD29 Deaf & Blind Recreation Program, Timberline Ski Resort.
- Feb 26 – Deaf ski trip sponsored by MD29 Deaf & Blind Recreation Program, Timberline Ski Resort.
- March 7, 10am – 29N Cabinet Meeting, Beckley Moose Lodge, 410 New River Drive, Beckley.
- March 10, 6:30 pm – DG visiting Lewisburg Lions celebrating their 75th Anniversary, Lewisburg UMC.
- March 14–15 – District 29L Conference, McClure Hotel, Wheeling.
- April 18, 1:00–4:30 pm – WV Lions Day at the WVU Eye Institute, Morgantown.
- May 1–3 – WV State Lions Convention, Charleston Civic Center.
- May 15 – Reporting of 2015–16 officers to LCI due.



Students get their first look at new bicycles provided for the WV School for the Deaf & Blind by the MD29 Deaf & Blind Rec Program "Buy-a-Bike" campaign last December.

News Notes

- District 29N Cabinet meetings are scheduled for March 7 and June 15 at Beckley 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 PCC Paul Wheeler (304)746–4415. A registration form is attached to this newsletter.
- 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.

The Lions Club of Clarksburg will celebrate its 91st year of service with an anniversary celebration on Saturday, March 28th at the Best Western Plus Bridgeport Inn in Bridgeport. Our special guest speaker for the event will be Past District Governor John Pinkerman. The evening will begin with a social time at 6:00 P.M. followed by dinner and presentations. The cost is \$21.00 per person, and reservations and checks should be mailed to PID Steve Glass, 191 Ridgeway Drive, Bridgeport, WV 26330. Phone: (304)203–2988 or scjglass@aol.com. All Lions are cordially invited to join us for an exciting evening of good fellowship, good food, and great fun. Please make your reservation before March 24, 2015.

American Buffet Menu
 Tossed salad with assorted dressings
 Stuffed chicken breast
 Salisbury steak
 Mashed potatoes and gravy
 Country style green beans
 Fresh baked rolls with butter
 Coffee, Decaf, hot tea, and iced tea
 Sheet cake



Honored Lions



<- At a recent meeting of the White Sulphur Springs Lions, DG Sheets presented Lion Lane Ellis with a certificate honoring his 56 years of service to Lions. Although he now lives in WSS, Lion Ellis maintains his membership in the Clay Lions and is a Lifetime member of LCI.

-> Lion Dick Reigel receives a certificate honoring 51 years of Lions Service. Lion Dick joined the Durbin Lions in October 1963 and remains an active member today.



Lions Dick Brockway & George Gillespie receive Melvin Jones Awards at a recent WSS Lions Club meeting.



Zone 6 Chair Lion Larry Lucas received a Global Membership Team & Global Leadership Team pin while visiting the Durbin Lions.



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 his visits.



White Sulphur Springs Lions Club President Joyce Poe accepts a Leonard Jarrett Award for \$1000 donated to the WVLSCF.



White Sulphur Springs Lions receiving service years chevrons.



Marlinton Lions receiving service year chevrons at their meeting on January 22.



Several Durbin Lions received 2014 100% attendance awards at their meeting on February 10.



Club News



The Union Lions Club started the celebration of Melvin Jones' birthday with a cake at our meeting on Monday, January 12. Friday, January 16 we served a free soup and grilled cheese lunch to the community. We were glad to have PCC Merlin Trickett at this event. Those who were willing brought health care items for the local family refuge center. During this club year we have donated items to the center. The soup and sandwich lunch was the club's project for the centennial challenge for the week of January 12-16th.

In January the Marlinton Lions Club used the SPOT handheld eye screening equipment to screen 262 students at Marlinton Elementary School and Hillsboro Elementary School.

On February 6 the Marlinton Lions Club purchased the food for the American Red Cross Bloodmobile visit to Marlinton. Club members provided six hours of service helping set up the Bloodmobile equipment.

The Mount Hope Lions Club will soon be performing eye screening of Mount Hope Elementary School students. The 1st Annual Mount Hope Lions Golf Tournament will be held May 23rd at the Bridge Haven Golf Club. The club is planning a Spring Fling Reverse Raffle, and bingo is an on-going fundraiser held every Friday. Contact any Mount Hope Lion for details.

The Durbin Lions Club's annual Pancake Dinner will be held March 28th at the Arbovale Community Center. Regular and sourdough pancakes, sausages, gravy, and all the fixins' will be served starting at 4pm.



Please note that the second *Worldwide Week of Service* of 2015 is scheduled for May 16-22. Begin planning your club's service project for that week to help honor 100 years of Lionism. Visit the Lions 100 website at lions100.lionsclubs.org for ideas and more info.



Editor's Notes

by Roger Norrod, Editor



As a first-time attendee of the WV Lions Leadership School, I was struck by the enthusiasm, dedication, and skill of the state's Lions leadership. The venue at Flatwoods was comfortable and self-contained, the programs were entertaining and informative, and, as usual with WV Lions, everyone was friendly and welcoming. For those who have never attended a Leadership School, four conference rooms held sessions in parallel, two sessions in each during the morning and two in the afternoon. The sessions held to their schedules so one could choose topics and move from room-to-room without a problem. Even if you are not

particularly interested in assuming a leadership role, the school is a good way to learn how the Lions organization works and what is going on around the state. And, one of the best things for us first-timers, we were moved to the front of the buffet line at each meal!

I was also able to observe a meeting of the Sight Foundation board just before the Leadership School, an opportunity to see what goes on behind the scenes. By coincidence this issue has an article about the history of the WVLSF. Take note of the upcoming WV Lions Day at the WVU Eye Institute, which has had relationships with WV Lions for more than 50 years. You will find the websites of both the Foundation and the Eye Institute interesting.

Good day and let's all pull for an early Spring!

Roger Norrod
208 Markwood Gum Rd.
Arbovale, WV 24915



**LIONS CLUBS
INTERNATIONAL**



93RD ANNUAL WEST VIRGINIA LIONS STATE CONVENTION REGISTRATION

AT THE CHARLESTON CIVIC CENTER

MAY 1-3, 2015

Early Registration is \$99.00 per person
Registration after April 6, 2015 will be \$115.00

Price includes:

Friday Dinner 6:30 PM, Hawaiian Night, wear your Hawaiian shirts!

Saturday Lunch 12:00 Past District Governors are encouraged to wear their Jackets.

Saturday Dinner 6:30

Sunday Lunch 12:00

Name: _____ Club/State Office Title: _____

Club Name _____ District: L I O N

Any other Lion (s) attending State Convention with your party: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Amount Paid \$ _____ for _____ number of attendees.

Make registration checks payable to:

West Virginia Lions State Convention

PO Box 224

Alum Creek, WV 25003

For Room Reservations Contact the Holiday Inn Express at (304) 345-0600. Rooms will be \$99.00 plus tax per night. When you call tell say you are part of the "Lions Convention."

For more information contact Conference Chair: PCC Paul Wheeler at 304-746-4415 or email:
AlumCreekLions@gmail.com