

# THE LIONS TALE



## From the District Governor

By DG Charles Sheets



Carolyn & Charles Sheets

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Dear Fellow Lions,

I would like to invite you to attend our last 29-N Fall Conference, Nov. 7-9, at Pipestem. The agenda for our conference is shown on page 3. To kick off our conference in High Gear, we have a bluegrass band from Pocahontas County, *Juanita Fireball and the Continental Drifters*. That night we invite you to dress as hillbillies or pioneers and come to have fun and enjoy the music and square dancing.

Saturday morning at 8:00 am, we will begin our agenda with introductions and a Cabinet meeting. All Lions are invited to attend. LCI is encouraging all clubs to move up to the electronic age and use the internet for communicating. I commend many of you for communicating through e-mail and Lion Roger Norrod for establishing our first informative 29-N Web Site. High speed internet is critical and many areas of West Virginia have not received upgrades in communication. To explain the complex Internet system of wires and fiber optics

and how your e-mail finds its destination, we have an expert to explain how this works. Mike Holstine, Professional Engineer, and Business Manager of National Radio Astronomy Observatory (NRAO) at Green Bank, WV, will explain the system in laymen's terms. Mike has been a proponent of high speed internet service to Pocahontas County. Lions and spouses/guests will find this talk informative and timely.

Our luncheon speaker will be Congressman Nick J. Rahall II, who will discuss the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and other timely topics. After his presentation we will honor 27 lions with 50 years and more of Service in 29-N. We are asking their home clubs, for those that are able, to arrange their transportation and pay for their luncheon. It is long overdue to recognize their golden plus years,

*Continued on next page*



still the backbone of many clubs.

The proposed redistricting of MD29 (West Virginia) from four districts (L-I-O-N) to three (L-C-I) was approved by the International Board of Directors during their October 5-8 meeting. This change is regrettably due to declining Lions memberships in WV. We will have a panel to discuss and explain how we are to carry out an Action Plan of merging with 29-0. This must be accomplished and ready to put into action on July 1, 2015.

We are honored to have International Director Michael Molenda and wife, Linda, as our special guest from Hastings, MN. They will bring an inspiring message to encourage clubs on how to step out so we can STRENGTHEN the PRIDE in service to our communities.

One of our goals is for ALL 36 clubs to contribute to our charities in the parade of checks during Saturday's banquet. The definition of PRIDE is the good feeling one gets when you and your club performs an act of service for others. Clubs that contribute can feel that pride!

Lion Carolyn and I are looking forward to seeing you at Pipestem State Park.



*Falls at Pipestem State Park.*



*Scenery at Pipestem*

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## Last Call for Conference Silent Auction

By PDG Connie McMichael

District 29-N's Conference at Pipestem is just around the bend. This is the last reminder to bring Silent Auction items to the Conference. One item from each club attending would be very much appreciated.

For questions or concerns about the silent auction, please contact: PDG Connie McMichael at [wvconnie@gmail.com](mailto:wvconnie@gmail.com) or Lion Suzanne Stewart at (304)456-4910.





## Parade of Checks

By Lion Dick Brockway, 29N LCIF Chairman  
(304)536-3341 or [bway@suddenlink.net](mailto:bway@suddenlink.net)

As District 29N LCIF Chairman I would like to encourage all clubs to participate in the "Parade of Checks" for LCIF at the Fall Conference at Pipestem November 8th. If no one from your club is attending the Conference please send your LCIF donation or pledge to me and I will be glad to present it on your Club's behalf. Remember, any amount is helpful. By the way, any Lion giving a personal donation of \$20.00 or more will receive a special lapel pin.

Please make note that the beef raffle is a "fund raiser" to be split between LCIF and WVLSCF and any monies generated from the sale of tickets does not count as a Club's LCIF donation.

Some of the Clubs have donated enough over time to be able to present a Melvin Jones Fellowship to one of your deserving members. I receive a monthly printout of the Clubs and how much they



have in their account. If you are not aware of your Club's amount please contact me and I will give you an update.

*With redistricting in the near future this will be District 29N's last Fall Conference. So, PLEASE let's go out with a bang with 100% of the District's clubs contributing to LCIF!!!!*

*Note that a Parade of Checks form can be downloaded and printed from the [29N website](#)*

## Quilt Raffle for WV Lions Sight Conservation Foundation

This beautiful WV quilt (the pattern is sometimes called "Grandmother's Fan") was handmade by the late Dorothy Henson. This is one of many quilts Mrs. Henson made for Lions raffles, and the proceeds of this fall's 29N raffle are to go to the WV Lions Sight Conservation Foundation (WVLSCF). The drawing will be held Nov. 8 during the Saturday evening banquet, at the 29-N Fall Conference. Dorothy's daughter, Charlotte Henson, will be present for the drawing. Charlotte is an active member of the Cross Lanes Lions Club and District 29-O 2<sup>nd</sup> VDG.

Raffle tickets can be downloaded from the 29N website and printed.



Raffle ticket sales earn clubs points in the DG Contest. Clubs should send ticket stubs and monies collected to cabinet treasurer Rick Wooddell, PO Box 176, Green Bank, WV 24944 no later than October 31, 2014.





## Do You Know the Difference Between LCI & LCIF?

By MD 29 LCIF Coordinator Connie McMichael

Every Lion is a member of the Lions Clubs International (LCI) founded by Melvin Jones nearly 100 years ago. Although started in Chicago, headquarters are now located in Oak Brook, IL. Under the auspices of LCI are many divisions including, but not limited to Club Supplies, Convention, Administration, Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), and many others.

Reports and dues are sent to LCI. Reports are also sent to other divisions as necessary and/or required. These divisions are listed in the front of your directory and are available for viewing on the website.

The Foundation, LCIF, receives and distributes money for a wide variety of projects, grants, and programs. Most, but unfortunately not all, clubs make a donation to LCIF yearly, usually at the club's conference or convention during the *Parade of Checks*. EVERY dollar donated is used for LCIF distribution. There are no administrative costs in this division. West Virginia has received more

money back into the state than we have contributed. Every dollar counts and I urge your club to make a donation this year to LCIF even if it's just \$5.00. Let's show LCIF our gratitude for all they have done for us.

Personal donations are also accepted by LCIF and appreciated. For every \$1,000.00 donated, either at a club level or personal level, a Melvin Jones Fellowship can be presented.

Every month the four District LCIF Coordinators and I receive reports listing club and personal donations. Many of the clubs throughout our state have more than \$1,000.00 to their credit. Therefore, they are entitled to present a Melvin Jones Fellowship. If you are not aware of your club's present contributions, please contact your District Coordinator or me for the information. The four District Coordinators are: L- PDG Harry Schramm, I- PDG Glenn Ryburn, O- PDG Jim McMillon, and N-PDG Dick Brockway.

### Formerly Known As ...

PDG Connie Dorscheid has legally changed her name back to her maiden name as of October 15th. She is now Connie McMichael. She now begins the process of notifying all who need to know.



**Lions Clubs International**  
**FOUNDATION**



## Have You Done Your Taxes?

An important IRS date for Lions clubs is fast approaching. That is November 15<sup>th</sup>, when tax-exempt organizations should file a report to maintain their tax status. All Lions clubs should file, no matter how much money is involved. Most small tax-exempt organizations whose annual gross receipts are normally \$50,000 or less may electronically submit Form 990-N, also known as the e-Postcard, unless they choose to file a complete Form 990 or Form 990-EZ instead.

If you do not file your 990 on time, the IRS will send you a reminder notice. There is no penalty assessment for late filing the e-Postcard, but an organization that fails to file required 990 forms for three consecutive years will automatically lose its tax-exempt status. This loss is to be avoided as the reapplication process is complicated and generally a Pain-in-the-Neck!

More info can be found by searching for Form 990-N on the IRS website: [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

## News Notes

- District 29N Cabinet meetings are scheduled for November 8, March 7, and June 15 at Pipestem, Crab Orchard, and Summersville respectively. See the webpage calendar for locations and updates.
- MD 29 (WV Lions) is holding a Beef Raffle to raise funds for the WVSCF and LCIF. For details contact Lion Merlin Trickett at [mwtrickett@hotmail.com](mailto:mwtrickett@hotmail.com) or (304)619-9981. More info is also available on the 29N website.
- The Cross Lanes club of 29I is sponsoring a membership recruiting & retention training class on Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> in Cross Lanes. For info contact Lion Charolette Henson at (304)951-9022.
- The 93<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## Calendar

- Oct 16 - DG Visits Craigsville Lions
- Oct 17-19 - District I Conference - Canaan Valley
- Oct 21 - DG Visits Bluewell Lions
- Oct 24 - Oak Hill Lions Elimination Raffle
- Oct 31 - Parade of Checks Forms & Quilt Raffle Tickets Due to 29N Treasurer Rick!
- Nov. 7-9 29N Conference - Pipestem
- Nov 10 - DG Visits Union Lions
- Nov 15 - IRS Form 990 Due!
- Nov 18 - Reorganization meeting for Beckley Lions at Beckley Moose building
- Nov 20 - DG Visits Mount Hope Lions



*DG Sheets presents a 30+ years service chevron to Lion Paul Ramsey of the Ansted Lions. Lion Paul is a WWII Veteran who flew the Burma Hump.*



## Diabetes Awareness Month

November is American Diabetes Awareness Month and November 14<sup>th</sup> is World Diabetes Day. Part of our Lions mission is to: *conduct and support local and large-scale effort leading to the control and treatment of diabetes and its complications through education, prevention and research.* This meshes well with the Lions mission of sight conservation because diabetes is one of the leading causes of blindness. It is estimated that some 382 million persons live with diabetes worldwide with 30 million in the USA. And, it is widely reported that WV has one of the highest diabetes rates in the nation.

Anyone who knows someone with diabetes (and who doesn't?) realizes that it can be a difficult, even brutal disease to live with. So, think about how your club can join the mission to increase awareness and knowledge about diabetes in your community. Resources and ideas are available on the LCI website: [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org) and on the American Diabetes Association website: [www.diabetes.org](http://www.diabetes.org). On these websites enter "Diabetes Month" in the search box near the top and press "Enter".

Lion Steve Potwin is the Diabetes/Lions Eye Health Program chairman for 29N, and can be contacted at (716)485-3601 or by email at: [smpotwin@gmail.com](mailto:smpotwin@gmail.com)

## Focus on Welch

The Welch Lions Club, chartered on November 29, 1937, currently has 28 members. The Welch club participates in the Welch Veterans Day Parade, one of the oldest VE parades in the nation, by building a float. They purchase about two pairs of glasses per month for needy community members, and support many school groups with donations. Fund raising events include an annual golf tournament, and the selling of Christmas trees. The club meets each Wednesday at Raymond's Restaurant in Welch.



*A Welch Lions Club Veterans Day float ready to go.*



*The Welch club usually nets \$1000-\$2000 selling Christmas trees.*





## 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 has taken advantage of the beautiful Fall weather in WV to visit several already.



*Hinton Lions*



*Bluefield Lions*



*Fayetteville Lions*



*DG presents 50+ years service chevron to Louis Rahall of the Fayetteville Lions.*



*Beaver & Beckley Lions*



*Ansted Lions*





## Club News

The Bradshaw lions had very successful Fall Festivals on Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> in Bradshaw and Oct 11<sup>th</sup> in laeger. Selling food and drinks as well as having bingo, kids grab-bags, silent auction, 50-50 raffle, and yard sale items to raise funds for more eyeglasses for the needy in the area. As usual the Lions offer free coffee at all these fund raising events. Some of the Lions even wore wigs that were part of the yard sale for those preparing for the upcoming Halloween Holiday! All the Lions were happy with results of the Fall Festival fund raiser.

*The Lewisburg Lions Club members recently conducted a fundraiser project by painting the fence at Lynn Brook Farm, near Ronceverte, owned by Lowell and Diane Rose who made a generous donation to the club for the work. Completion of the Lions club service project provides funds for its primary focus of assisting Greenbrier County residents with all manner of needs related to eyesight.*



Carolyn and DG Charles returned Sunday from the recently constructed Canaan Valley State Park Conference Center where District Governor Doug Long and approximately 125 fellow Lions assembled for an exciting 29-I conference. Saturday evening, International Director John Pettis, a vivacious Lion from Boston, Ma. kept the Lions roaring with his humor and wit. The Steel Drum Band composed of 7th & 8th graders from Frankford Elementary School were terrific. Forty-one clubs contributed a whopping \$49,000.00 to Lion charities!! DG Long, Lion Sue Long, 29-I Cabinet and all others who contributed to make the event successful are to be congratulated for hosting the event, exemplifying WE SERVE.



*DG & Carolyn Sheets with ID Pettis.*



*29L DG Eugene Saunders & wife Ellen, 29I DG Doug Long & wife Sue, 29O DG Karen Dundas, and 29N DG Charles Sheets & wife Carolyn at 29I conference.*



## Editor's Notes



by Roger Norrod, Editor

The arrival of cool Fall weather to many of us means raking leaves, getting in firewood, putting the summer garden to bed, and enjoying the colors all around. To WV Lions it also means the 29N conference at Pipestem is just around the corner. The DG and many other people have been working very hard for months to make the event a success, and we all expect that Lions and their guests who attend will have a great time! As the agenda published here shows, the weekend is packed with informative and fun events. Go and enjoy!

Those of you who receive information from LCI may have noticed recent mention of “webinars”. What is a “webinar”? It is just a seminar held over the Internet, usually for information or education. Sometimes a webinar is live and provisions are made for two-way communication between the “teacher” and the “students”. Often they are recorded and can be played back whenever it is convenient.

One topic of LCI webinars is membership – how to build it and retain it. In addition to webinars, LCI has other resources on the subject that may be useful to your club. To find these resources, go to the LCI website: [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org) then type “Membership” in the search box at the top, and press Enter.

Roger Norrod  
208 Markwood Gum Rd.  
Arbovale, WV 24915

