

DISTRICT 29-C NEWS



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DG's Message – Don't Waste Time

By DG Tom Crouser

Lions,

I don't like to waste my time, do you? Few people do. Well, would our Lions Club meetings be seen by outsiders as a waste of time? If so, then is it any wonder that we have trouble attracting members? Let me explain.

Most of us really like to go to our Lions Club meeting to visit with our friends. And that's important. I know it's important to me. It's just that when that becomes the focus of our meeting, well that's when our club begins to coast. And, remember, we can only coast going downhill.

So, what can we do to keep our meetings informative? Let's have an informative program by inviting a local speaker.

Where do we get them? Invite our mayor, county commissioner, police or fire chief, legislator, or school principal to give us an update on their activities. Not only will we build stronger relationships with influential community leaders, but we will be training them in the importance and activities of our Lions Club at the same time.

How about local business leaders or perhaps someone from your company? When is the last time we invited the largest employer in town over to speak? Could be someone from our chamber of commerce or convention and visitors' bureau. Look around for institutions, say the local hospital or even a penitentiary should you have one nearby.

Perhaps we'll have the opportunity to hear from someone who has benefited from one of our service projects. Have the recipient of a local Lions scholarship tell you about their educational adventure or what they plan to do. Great practice for them plus a great way to motivate our members to continue their dedicated service.

Don't overlook any cultural organizations such as museums, theaters and orchestras. Say you don't have one of those? Well, how about the local librarian? They've always got things

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going on.

And let's not overlook other organizations such as Special Olympics, senior service agencies, food banks and more. And, of course, there are many speakers available through our District organization. Each of our specialty areas has a chair who is more than willing to help spread the word on: LEO clubs; diabetes awareness; environment; Lions Club International Foundation; and many more.

In short, let's continue to make our club meetings a worthwhile investment of our time. Have interesting meetings and publicize them and you'll find others attending. Pretty soon they'll be Lions as well. Not only that, but they will often be new friends.

Treasurers: Know that little post card the Internal Revenue sends us each year reminding us that we must file our 990N to maintain our 501(c)3 status as a nonprofit? Well, they're serious about it. Don't file within three years and they kick us out of the club and it can cost as much as \$400 to be reinstated.

Secretaries: When updating MyLCI, make sure you collect and input email addresses as that is where we get the information for our every-now-and-again email newsletter and more.

And Lions, don't forget November 3-4 for our District Conference in Beckley. Be there or be square.

DG Tom

Mark Your Calendars

August 10, 2017	DG Visit – Beaver Lions Club
August 12, 2017	Alum Creek Lions Car Show & Pig Roast
August 15, 2017	DG Visit – Burnsville Lions Club
August 17, 2017	DG Visit - Crab Orchard/Macarthur Lions Club
August 21, 2017	DG Visit – Union Lions Club
September 29 – October 1, 2017	District 29-L Conference, Pullman Plaza Hotel, Huntington
October 20-21, 2017	District 29-I Conference, Lakeview Resort, Morgantown
November 3-5, 2017	District 29-C Conference, Country Inn & Suites, Beckley
May 4-6, 2018	WV Lions Convention, Lakeview Resort, Morgantown



LCI Items

Important Date

June 29 – July 3, **2018** – Lions International Convention – Las Vegas

International President's Message

Namaste! The divine in me salutes the divine in you. Welcome to our new century. My goal over the next 12 months is very simple—to reach a new level of service to Lions and from Lions. Before I ask you to reach a new level of service, Lionism will reach a new level of service to you.

So how can I serve our 1.4 million Lions? I cannot give everyone senior positions. I cannot give you money. I cannot meet all of you. However, I plan to touch all of your lives with the power to serve.

So let's examine every stage of one's Lionistic career and how I can help. The first stage is becoming a new member. When I became a new member 43 years ago, I suddenly felt as if I had left my hometown and become a man of the world. This year, I want every member to download our new mobile app. This will connect all our members on one global platform.

The next stage is beginning to serve. As a member of the Batala Smile Lions Club in Punjab, India, I was proud of how the community began to respect me. This respect depended on the number of people I served and how many people were aware of this service. We now have a new Global Service Team. Your District GST leader will identify projects that serve the maximum number of people per dollar and per hour. They will also train Lions on how to convert a normal project into a Legacy Project via Lions branding and public relations.

The third stage is aspiring for leadership. While I enjoyed rising up the Lions' ladder, I sometimes wished that our leaders focused more on work than on long speeches. A new awards system will incentivize the efforts of Lion leaders in the right direction. We plan to reward retention of members, hence keeping the focus on you—our existing members. New awards will also be given for involving over half the club in service and for creating the most Legacy projects.

As a global leader of Lionism, I want to keep every Lion connected to Lionism. Our new Welcome Home program is an international online club for members unable to attend club meetings. Meetings and fee payments are conducted entirely online.

The last stage is now. I want to give every Lion the same goal for the next 12 months. My dream is that every Lion will serve 10 people each month. If this happens, we will serve 170 million people this year—a big increase from our current level of 100 million and a big step toward our goal of serving 200 million annually by 2020. This is the focus of all my meetings around the world.

All the best. See you as I travel around the world.

Naresh Aggarwal



LIONS Help Resore A Young Lady's Sight

By Lion Rich Bishoff

The Kanawha City Lions Club in Charleston, WV recently had a unique opportunity to help change the life of a young lady. Jasmine Mills graduated from this year's class at Riverside High School and has suffered from a rare eye disease since birth. She has Aniridia, which is a disorder where a person is born without irises, the colored part of their eyes. It is a rare disorder, with one occurrence being reported for approximately every 40,000 births. Persons born with this condition have severely compromised vision up to and including total blindness.

The Cincinnati Eye Institute is one of the pioneers in the United States performing iris implants to treat this disease. The cost is \$10,000.00 for the surgery and implant per eye. And, since the implant procedure is still experimental most insurance plans do not cover the cost.

Jasmine's family was able to obtain enough money from fundraisers and borrowed money from retirement plans to fund her first surgery. That surgery was fully successful and achieved vision in her left eye. Still, she was deemed legally blind and could not obtain a driver's license. Her family hoped for a successful implant in her other eye but faced raising the necessary funds. They had no idea Lions could help.

Rich Bishoff, President of Kanawha City Lions Club, had a chance meeting over a year ago with Jasmine's mother, Erica Mills. Erica was coaching cheerleaders at Horace Mann Middle school in Kanawha City, and was asking for donations for the cheerleader program. "We invited her and another coach and some of the girls to attend a meeting and be a guest for dinner and receive a check." When Erica spoke she mentioned Jasmine's condition and asked if we knew of any help Lions Club could give.

The Sight Chairman for the Kanawha City Lions Club, Lion Joe Robertson, had Erica fill out applications and give us the reports from her doctors and the Cincinnati Eye Institute. We worked with the WV Lions Sight Conservation Foundation and their President Jeff Baxter and Secretary/Treasurer Pete Johnson. After investigation and going through the right channels, approval was unanimously approved at the Foundation meeting last November to donate \$10,000 to fully fund Jasmine's iris implant surgery.

The iris implant procedure was performed July 24th at the Cincinnati Eye Institute, and was completely successful. Jasmine has 20/20 vision and looks forward to her new life with full vision. Jasmine and her family send a warm and hearty THANK YOU !!!!

We hope that everyone that reads or hears this story will understand that when they support any Lions Club around the state, they are "A Part of Making the Miracles Happen".



Jasmine Mills



Club News

The Kanawha City Lions Club has selected Lion Jan Gilbert as "Lion of the Year". Lion Club President Andy Richardson and last year's President Rich Bishoff presented Lion Jan with a plaque at a recent lions club meeting in recognition of his dedicated service. Lion Jan currently serves as the Club Membership Chairman, is the a member of the Accounting Committee for the Art and Crafts Show and volunteers for the Adopt a Highway team that helps pick up trash along MacCorkle Avenue in Kanawha City. He also volunteers by picking up food at different locations and delivering it to Manna Meal Program. Being a dedicated Lion, he climbed the ladder of Club Officers to become Club President on July 1, 2013 for a one-year term. The Kanawha City Lions are very proud of Lion Jan and all of his community service.



L to R: President, Andy Richardson, Jan Gilbert and Rich Bishoff



The South Charleston Lions Club has a display at the City Bank on MacCorkle Avenue in South Charleston. The bank features a different organization or business each month. The Lions display features the 1936 Club LCI Charter. Please stop by the bank and check out the display.

Lion David Means was given a Melvin Jones award at the Alum Creek Lions meeting on July 6, 2017. The award was presented to him by his daughter, PDG Mandy Ross, and son-in-law, Lion Dean Ross. Lion Johnny Workman, his sponsoring Lion, pinned him with the Melvin Jones award pin. Congratulations Lion David on this accomplishment.



Club News

At their July 11th meeting, the South Charleston Lions Club inducted two new members: Debbie Barker and Mary Jordan. The installation was conducted by PDG Dick Clark. Members were also visited by the Pig, helping kick off their upcoming Kiss-a-Pig contest.

For those who are not familiar, local business people vie in the contest, each trying to get the most votes (at \$1 per vote). Contestants benefit from articles in newspapers and TV promoting their business in conjunction with the contest. There currently are ten contestants.

PDG Darrell Jennings is chairman for the project. The money will go to help send kids with diabetes to camp, and to other diabetes projects of the Club. Last year the Gold Dome Club ran the contest and raised over \$6000.

Formal kick-off of the Kiss-a-Pig for Diabetes Contest is Friday, August 4th, 6pm at Appalachian Power Park. Please try to attend to support the South Charleston Lions and those with Diabetes!



The Alum Creek Lions Club will be having our 35th annual car show and Pig Roast on Saturday, August 12th. Registration will be 8:00 am to noon. Awards will be given at 2:00 pm. There will be activities going on for children and adults throughout the day.

The location will be at the Alum Creek Lions Club Park on Coal River Road in Alum Creek. If you have any question call David Pauley at (304) 539-4168 or Carla Graley-Finch at (304) 552-5534.

In Memorium

Dr. Ross G. Childress, 89, a prominent Optometrist of South Charleston, passed away on Friday, July 14, 2017. He was born and raised on a farm in Alum Creek, a graduate of Washington District High School, Morris Harvey College and the Chicago School of Optometry. He established his practice "Childress Eye Care Center" on D Street in South Charleston. His practice spanned a 40 year period. Dr. Ross also served as the Optometrist for Union Carbide and FMC and he served as a volunteer Optometrist for Kanawha County Schools. He was a member of the Lions Club of South Charleston, West Virginia Board of Optometry, The American Optometric Association, and the Charleston Baptist Temple, where he served as a Deacon.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to either St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, P.O. Box 1000 Dept. 142, Memphis, TN 38101-9908 or Hubbard Hospice House, 1001 Curtis Price Way, Charleston, WV 25311.





WV Lions Sight Conservation Foundation



PDG Paul Amrhein, PDG

4957 Glen Dale Heights Road, Wheeling WV 26003

pamrhein25@comcast.net 304-242-0911

Dear West Virginia Lion:

It is hoped that every effort is being made to sell/buy **ALL** the Beef Raffle tickets which each club in MD29 has before the November 1st deadline! Four (4) happy recipients will each receive a quarter of a beef through this raffle, while helping fellow West Virginians with their sight and hearing needs. If you have not received your tickets, or if you wish additional books of tickets, contact me at the e-mail or phone number above.

Clubs have been sending in their sold ticket stubs and checks; however, I feel sure there are several more that could be forwarded to me. Just because the deadline for selling is November 1st, it doesn't mean you have to wait until then to turn in your sold tickets. I will be attending several functions between now and the District C Conference, so if you don't want to mail your contribution you can give it to me there. I plan to attend (and have a table to sell tickets) at the Lions Car Show on Labor Day at Cabela's, and District L's Conference in Huntington in September to just mention a few.

The drawing will be held on November 5th at the Sight Foundation Meeting held during District C's Conference. **Keep in mind that every ticket sold has four (4) chances to win!** Additionally, if your club sells \$200 or more in tickets, your club will receive credit toward a Leonard Jarrett Award according to the amount of sales that are made. (This amount will be credited to the club account after the completion of this project.)

PLEASE SEND CHECKS – WRITTEN TO THE “WV LIONS BEEF RAFFLE” – PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 1, 2017

Since the Sight Foundation is **YOUR** Foundation, it is my hope that every club in our state will participate in this project. **THANK YOU** in advance for your participation in making this raffle a success and helping our fellow West Virginians with their sight and hearing needs.

Thanks for all you do!

Lion Paul Amrhein, Beef Raffle Chair

A special **THANK YOU** to Lions Paul and PCC Patty Nutter for graciously donating a beef cow for raffle by the West Virginia Lions Sight and Conservation Foundation.