

DISTRICT 29-C NEWS



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We Still Must Play the Game!

By DG Tom Crouser

Yeah, but you don't understand. It's harder to recruit members now. People have so many different activities. Besides we've asked them all before.

A thought crossed my mind during my visit to the Pineville Lions Club. Amongst the group was a young man who coached a middle school football team. "Coach, have you ever been faced with a tough opponent. One that, at least on paper, outweighed your guys and outscored them when playing common opponents?" Of course, he had. "Did you play the game anyway?" Of course, he did.

WVU or Marshall doesn't get the luxury of deciding not to play when they face a tough opponent. They play the game anyway. That's because the only other alternative is to forfeit. And if they did that, they'd be taking themselves out of the game. Other teams would stop scheduling them. Before long they wouldn't have a team.

Same with us. Just because we've been dealt a tough hand, doesn't mean we forfeit. We marshal the forces at our disposal and play the next game, win or lose. We conduct our membership campaign in the spring and in

the fall without fail. We don't take ourselves out of the game.

Yet some talk that way. They forfeit. They then talk about all sorts of reasons why people won't join and conclude there's no use trying. We've already asked everyone in the county to join. Besides, the county is losing population, and people just have too much to do. It just can't be done.

I understand how you feel. It's more discouraging now than at other times in the past. Lots of people have felt the same way. But it's only when we forfeit, when we take ourselves out of the game, that we doom our club to extinction. And who will be left to do the good works we do? No one.

Melvin Jones taught two pillars of activities. We raise money from the community and provide money to the community. Today we must add one more. And that's spending structured club time on replacing ourselves by recruiting others.

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If we don't, well, we will be forfeiting. And unfortunately, that means our clubs won't survive. Don't forfeit. No matter how easy it is.

We serve!

DG Tom Crouser

Mark Your Calendars – DG Club Visits & More

May 4-6, 2018 - WV Lions Convention, Lakeview Resort, Morgantown

May 8: DG visits Iaeger Lions Club

May 22: DG visits Glasgow-Cedar Grove Lions Club

If you haven't, contact DG Tom to schedule his visit to your Club!

Editor's Note: Please have submissions for the 29-C newsletters in by the 1st day of the month. Issues will be posted soon thereafter. Send submissions by e-mail to: rdnorrod@gmail.com or call (941)662-6770.

Editor Lion Roger Norrod



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



1st VDG Message

By District 29-C 1st VDG Charolette Henson

May is upon us and the excitement of state convention is here! Hoping to see lots Lions this weekend in Lakeview. May also brings PU101's due no later than May 15th. If you would like me to send yours in, mail me the list of your officers. Thank you to everyone I have heard from. Remember if you have taken in new members to get them into LCI right away. Will be sending out lots of information on officers training and plans for next year. Keep working on membership.

*1VDG Charolette Henson
304-951-9022
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2nd VDG Message

By Lion Keyota Jarvis, District 29-C 2nd VDG

Greetings to all Lions in 29-C. I want to encourage each of you that are attending the State Convention May 4th, 5th, and 6th at Lakeview Resort to stop by and chat with me. Ray Harper from New Club Development had to cancel the new club effort that was slated for April 9th thru the 12th in Summersville, WV. I will be shooting on a new date after July. I would love to see lots of you out to help this area get a Lions club back. Please contact me if you can help at Charityinwv@yahoo.com or call my cell at 304-651-4150. Looking forward to getting out more the upcoming year.



LCI Items

Important Date

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

<http://llicon.lionsclubs.org/EN/attendees/registration-information.php>

We Serve!

Our motto says it best—We Serve.

Service is the reason our global organization exists. As we enter our second century, we are evolving to meet the needs of our ever-changing world. We can show the world that solving our greatest problems is within reach if we work together for the common good.

The Power of We

Standing together in service. As individuals, we can only do so much. But when 1.4 million Lions work together, there is no limit to what we can achieve. If each of us invested just \$10 each month in service or served just one more hour per week, we could truly change the world.

The Power of Action

Transforming hope into action. Lions are active in communities all over the world. Let's take advantage of our global presence by engaging each Lion in service early and often. We must address the urgent needs of our communities by selecting projects that convert every hour, dollar and member into service.

The Power of Service

Making the impossible possible. It all comes down to one thing—service. Our purpose has always been to provide service to those in need. Solving our world's greatest problems is within reach if we work together. But only through service can we change lives and make the world a better place.

The Future is Now

The time to act is now. We can and we will make a lasting impact on our communities and the world. Join me in making this vision of our second century of service a reality.



**Lions Clubs
International**

It's Not Too Late, BUT Time Is Short!

By Lion Larry Johnson, MD 29 Centennial Coordinator



There are only two months left in which to become a Centennial Sponsor. EVERY Lion can become a Centennial Sponsor by sponsoring one new member. After the new member has remained a Lion for one year and one day, the sponsor receives a Silver Centennial Lion award, after two years and a day, the sponsor receives a Gold Centennial Lion award, and after three years and a day, the sponsor receives a Diamond Centennial Lion award.

Would your club like to try some new service projects or fund-raising events? Do you need some additional help for existing programs? The answer could be “new members”. When talking to prospective members be sure to tell them about the difference you are making in your community. Tell stories of the ways your service has changed lives—yours or others. Invite them to help with one of your service projects. Ask them what they would like to do, and what they think the community needs. Maybe the club can help them and create a vital, new project.

When looking for new members, don't forget to check in with members who have left your club. Some may have had business or personal issues that forced them to drop out, and those circumstances may have changed now. Or they may have been dissatisfied with your club for some reason that has now been resolved. Listen to what they say, and even if they don't rejoin, you may learn something that will help you retain existing members or attract new ones.

Be sure your club has an active membership team that is working to grow your club. Lions International has many resources to help. Remember, members are important—we can't serve without them.



Youth Camps & Exchange Program



By Chair Henry Krautwurst

Hello everyone,

During the summer of 2018 we will be sending out 6 youth going to Japan, Italy and Germany. We will host 2 students each from Germany, Italy, Japan and 1 from Finland. I am finalizing host families for the students from Finland and Italy.

We had one of our WV students who had to withdraw from the program for personal reasons. I contacted our alternate who has accepted the opportunity and she is now getting her passport in order. She will travel to Japan.

This month's essay is by Allie Garrett who traveled to Finland. Again, on behalf of all of our youth exchange students I want to say thank you for making this opportunity available to them.

The Incredible Journey

By Allie Garrett



My incredible journey began with Principal Nasia Butcher recommending that I apply for the Lion's Club International Youth Exchange Program. My parents thought it was a good idea to gain experience in applying and interviewing. We filled out the paperwork and waited. Then I received the

message to come in for an interview. Honestly, I don't think any of us thought I would actually be chosen on the first attempt. We were pleasantly surprised when I was selected to represent the Lion's Club. I was overjoyed because I was considered a good representative and I was going to a place I really wanted to visit, Finland!

It seemed so far in the future. Winter was here. Spring came and finally it was summer and time for the trip. The Fourth of July began with a wake call from mom, "Wake up Allie it's 4:00 am." I was about to take my first solo flight to country far from home. My first leg of the flight was from Myrtle Beach to Charlotte. I will admit I was apprehensive. After landing I felt much better. It was a very nice feeling to be self-dependent. I arrived so early in Charlotte that they had absolutely no information posted on my next flight. I met this nice pilot who pulled up a flight chart on his phone and gave me the information about my gate and flight time. So I wandered the airport to pass the time. I finally went to my gate and sat down to wait. One seat over was an annoying and grumpy woman. The terminal was almost full when a man asked if he could sit in the empty chair. Relieved, I told him yes and met another very nice man. We ending up having a great conversation. When I arrived at JFK in New York, I was more anxious because it is so large, but I didn't have any trouble finding my gate. While waiting at my gate a young man about my age sat down next to me. All of a sudden he turned to me and ask if my name was Allie. It turned out that he was one of the three United States exchange youths going to Finland. That was so cool! His name was Jordan. The other

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Continued: The Incredible Journey, By Allie Garrett

exchange youth was Emily and we had been emailing each other for some time.

Finally, we made it to Finland. In Helsinki we had to catch another short flight to Rovaniemi and then almost a two hour bus ride to Kiitila. Tired and sleep deprived we arrived at the Arctic Light Camp, home for the next eight days. After getting to our rooms and unpacking, the camp gave us a presentation on Finland. The evening was spent with introductions and getting to know our fellow campers. I finally got to meet Emily in person!

Arctic Light Camp was so much fun! We went to a sports center for rock climbing, badminton and capture the flag games. At the youth house some gave their presentations. Later we listened to a Finnish rock band. We planted trees in honor of Finland's Celebration of Independence. We attended a play in Finnish. On the third day we went to the top of Levi Mountain to see the midnight sun. It was beautiful and it was my favorite thing we did at the camp. The next day we went to the hotel for some more presentations. They loved my handmade wind chime and I was asked to be interviewed and have my picture taken by a local newspaper. I finally got a copy. We also saw reindeer in the wild that day. Which reminds me, the next day we almost hit a reindeer with the bus. One day we took a long hike to admire the beautiful landscape of trees and lakes. We had the opportunity to swim in a lake and I was not about to miss it. It was cold, sixty-eight degrees to be exact. There were cabins located everywhere for people to stay free of charge. The next day we rode bikes up a mountain and through Hades! It was torture enough to ride bikes uphill for miles but the mosquitos were out in force by the millions. Bug spray just seemed to invite them to feast on us, even biting through our clothing. Good thing we knew we were meeting Santa at his house the next day or we all would have been on the naughty list. The eighth and final day of camp we swam in the spa and had a goodbye party. A girl from Hungary requested someone one sing "Country Roads", they asked if I knew it, of course... Then Jacob from Austria said, "I'll sing it with you". Jacob and I sang the song and before it was over everyone had joined in. Funny thing about that song, it seems everyone has a road to home. I had an amazing time and met so many great people. Some were extraordinary, gifted with different talents and some were extra ordinary but we were all on the same path of fellowship. Everyone was just so kind and helped each other. I am very fortunate to have had the opportunity to experience Arctic Light Camp and to make lifelong friends with several of them. The goodbyes were sad, for we knew some of us would never see each other again.

When I arrived at the airport in Helsinki my host family was there waiting to greet me. Father Jukka, sisters, Roosa and Fiina, who was wearing a cute little U.S. Flag. Roosa immediately made me feel welcome. The other sister, Noora was in Columbia, S.C. participating as a Lion's Club exchange youth. Mother Salla was still at work finishing up before her holiday started the next day. I know beyond any doubt that I had the best family of anyone. By the end of the day I felt like I was a part of their family, and know I always will be.

As if things couldn't have gotten any better, Emily's host family lived one house down from of Jukka and Salla and they were friends. We ended up doing most of our activities and sightseeing together. It was like a big extended family! We toured the toy truck factory that Emily's family owned and went to their house and baked some type of Finnish bread that was delicious. I don't know how they are all so slender, because they eat all of the time. After dinner Salla said she had a surprise for me. We went to the local school's ball field and played Finnish baseball. I had written to her that I played softball for my school. It

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Continued: The Incredible Journey, By Allie Garrett

was so kind of them to do this activity for me. I was confused by their game and slightly embarrassed. However, when I taught them how to play softball, they were just as confused, we all laughed. The next day we drove around Turku and went to Salla's workplace where I had the pleasure of meeting the people she works with. After that meeting Salla and Jukka surprised Emily and I by taking us to a U.S classics car show. They knew I loved old cars. That evening a friend of Roosa's had a party that we went to. Salla wanted us to go so I could meet other Finnish youths. They were all so kind and welcoming to me. I felt like I belonged there. On the 16th we went to the lake beach below their house and paddle boarded. We all tried to do Yoga poses on them and failed. We watched Jukka in a sailing competition. Emily and I taught them how to make smores. Later we all went to one of their friend's summer cottage on an island in the largest lake in southern Finland. After dinner we soaked in the hot tub. What a way to end the day. It rained the next day so we just relaxed at home. Later Salla took us to the cemetery where her sister and dad are buried. I appreciated the trip. Then we went to get strawberries but there were none picked because of the rain. So we visited the strawberry lady and her sweet cuddly St. Bernard, one of six that she owns. We woke up early the next morning to get ready to go into the city to visit Hassan, one of the guys from camp. We had so much fun, walking around Helsinki, exploring the shops and having lunch. Emily, her host sister, Saimi, Roosa and I went back to Roosa's apartment and watched a movie. Roosa has had an apartment since she was sixteen. Her high school closed due to dwindling numbers. There were only eight students in her class. Jukka and Salla rented her the apartment so she would not have such a long bus ride into the city and could attend the best high school, one where you have to apply to attend. The next morning we finished up our shopping. It was really cool to explore the city and I felt very safe. We went home and Emily and I cooked dinner for both families. I think we impressed them with our culinary skills! That night we had a family dance party complete with disco lights. I felt like I was really starting to connect with my family. Salla is just like my mom, only a Finnish version. I had really come to love her and the entire family. Fiina, age seven, and doesn't speak much English is a sweet little girl. Nonetheless we communicated. She is full of wonder and tends to wander! They live in a secluded safe neighborhood where Fiina and her pals just jump on their bikes and ride. Jukka doesn't speak much English either. It was ok, he is the strong silent type, you know, still waters run deep like dad. He cried when I left. We visited many churches, all very different in architecture and they were beautiful. On my last Sunday we went to church. I was blessed to have communion with my family in their very old country church. We had lunch that Sunday at Salla's mom's home and met Salla's sister and her husband. After lunch we four girls paddled around this island on paddle boats. On the 24th of July we went to a farm owned by a guy that looked like my cousin, Sam, the cattle dealer. The farm reminded me of our farm and the cows looked pretty much just like ours. We petted the cows and had our pictures taken while we pretended we were driving farm tractors. We went to another little village the next day where we shopped and toured a couple more small churches. This was Emily's last day and we were experiencing bitter sweetness. We know we will see each other again however, for the last twenty-some days we had been each other's anchor. I took a picture as she walked away from the wonderful experiences we had shared. The next day the family just relaxed together and I packed for the long trip home. We played old rock classics exploring everyone's taste in music.

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Continued: The Incredible Journey, By Allie Garrett

I left Finland on the 27th of July. I had to say goodbye to the people and the places I didn't want to leave. I knew my family was eagerly waiting on me to return home. Everything was so perfect in Finland. The exchange youths at the camp were from all over the world. Yet we all blended together, sharing our talents and our abilities in the spirit of friendship. It is too bad we cannot accomplish this on a grander scale. In Finland everything is so different than in the United States and yet somethings are the same. The people I encountered throughout Finland were warm, caring and hospitable. They are very respectful of their environment and not one time did I see litter in the country or the city. Education is a high priority for them. Children must learn to speak Swedish, English and demonstrate mastery of Finnish in order to graduate. We could use a few pointers on those issues. They love their families as much as we do ours. However, I don't think my mom or dad would have set me up in an apartment fifty minutes away I was sixteen. They seem to have less crime and yet they had a terrorist attack in the building next door to the restaurant where we ate at in Turku. They have all of these beautiful churches and no goes to church regularly. The day I attended there were ten or twelve people in church and we had five of those people with us. The pastor never looked up as he gave the sermon. If I thought we had a boring church service sometimes, this one was dead. Nevertheless, I was with people I had grown to love and was grateful to be in Church with them. Salla informed me that people only go to church after the death of a family member. Each Sunday the pastor reads the list of people that died in the previous week. If it was a member of your family, you go to hear the pastor read their name. It is no wonder there was no joy on anyone's face. These are also people that get in a hurry to wait. We saw a line of people stretched around a half of a block and Salla explained that most of them did not even know what they were waiting for. Gentle, compliant people that not only survive the harsh cold winter but thrive and are happy for each snowfall.

I am so fortunate to have had the opportunity to live with Salla, Jukka and their girls. They were so loving and kind. They went far beyond what was expected of them. Others were not as fortunate as I was. I am sorry their experience was not as fulfilling and glorious as mine. I know God put me with them and I know God gave them to me.

Mr. Krautwurst and Members of the Selection Committee, I extend my gratitude and sincere thanks for selecting me as a representative of the Lion's Club International Youth Exchange Program, my state, West Virginia and my country, The United States of America. I am a different and better person because you had faith in me.

Sincerely,
Alexandra (Allie) Garrett



Our MD 29 Convention - Information You Should Know

By PID Steve Glass, Convention Chairperson

Important Information Regarding the 2018 MD 29 Convention

By Steve Glass, General Chairperson

Date: May 4-6, 2018

Location: Lakeview Golf Resort & Conference Center

Convention Calls, Registration and Delegate Certification: *The West Virginia Lion*, the official publication of the Convention went out to each West Virginia Lion either through the U.S. Mail or via email on March 4, 2018. It included the official convention call for the multiple district convention and the three district conventions. A copy of the registration form was also included in the *West Virginia Lion*, and is included in another section of this newsletter.

PLEASE NOTE: *In order for a Lion to vote at the Sunday morning district convention, the Lion must be registered for all or any part of the MD Convention, have been designated a delegate or alternate delegate from his/her club, and have his/her delegate card certified by the DG or District CST of his/her district before 9:30 A.M. on Saturday morning, May 5th or by 8:00 A.M. on Sunday, May 6th.* This means that I must receive a registration form from that Lion and the registration fee for the entire convention or for the part of the convention that he/she wishes to attend.

District Conventions (Breakfasts): Lions wishing to have breakfast on Sunday morning at their district convention will need to make a reservation with their district cabinet secretary-treasurer by Wednesday, May 2nd. It will be a plated breakfast and the cost is \$15.00 per person.

Weekend Entertainment: Friday night: *Matt's Blues* Saturday night: *Trailer Grass Orchestra*
You can find out more about each in the *West Virginia Lion*.

We will have a cash bar during each entertainment session and we will be giving away prizes and cash for those who are on the dance floor when we draw for prizes.

The Saturday Luncheon will feature Morgantown native, Larry Delawder, who is renowned for his Barney Fife impersonations. Larry and his family has traveled thousands of miles across the US to bring laughter and good will to thousands. How ironic that both he and Don Knotts, who starred as the lovable, bumbling deputy in the classic *Andy Griffith Show*, are both Morgantown natives. You will not want to miss this performance!

West Virginia Past District Governors Luncheon: Friday, May 4th at noon. The cost is \$20.00 per person. Checks are payable to the 2018 MD 29 Convention. Reservations must be made with CC/PDG Cindy Glass (304-203-2006 or cinwa130@gmail.com) by Tuesday, May 1st.

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



MD 29 Convention continued ...

Seminars: We will have one seminar focusing on the implementation of and the roles and responsibilities of the club and district global service coordinator. Another seminar will provide an integrated approach for club officer training, reviewing the roles for each officer and the duties and responsibilities of the club officers and board of directors.

Service Project: The Appalachian Prison Book Project (APBP) is a nonprofit organization that sends free books to people imprisoned in the Appalachian region and facilitates year-round book clubs inside federal prisons in West Virginia. It grew out of an American prison literature course taught by Katy Ryan in 2004 at West Virginia University. Since then, APBP has mailed over 20,000 free books to people in prison in six states: West Virginia, Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, and Maryland. APBP is a labor-intensive effort that requires books, volunteers, money for postage and supplies, and lots of organization. A team of volunteers responds to letters from imprisoned people who are looking for reading materials. The Project receives approximately 100 letters every week. You can bring new or slightly used books to donate to the project. Self-help or how to books in paperback form are needed. **Hard cover books cannot be accepted.** You will have the opportunity to wrap books and send a note of encouragement to an incarcerated person during our activity session. You may also make a financial donation.

Silent Auction: We ask that each club donate one item for our silent auction so that there will be a good variety of items to bid on when you come to the Convention. We will accept gift cards and packages as well as the usual hand-made and handcrafted items. Possible ideas include any of the following: a handmade craft item, specialty or theme baskets, special glassware or collections, trading pins, wearing apparel (ties, vests, scarves, etc.), gift certificates, and packages. We ask that you bring items that are enticing enough that YOU will be willing to bid. Please email or call Lion Cindy Glass at cinwa130@gmail.com or 304-203-2006 with the item being donated, item's value, club name, and who to contact with their email address and phone number.



Larry Delawder – “Barney”



LEO Chairperson Visits LEO Clubs

By PDG Ken Valko, MD 29 LEO Chairperson

On March 22 Multi District LEO Chairperson Ken Valko and Zone Chair Pris Valko, of the Gary Lions Club, spent the day visiting the LEO Clubs in Wyoming County. Their first stop was with the Wyoming East Warriors at Wyoming East High School. This LEO Club is one of the largest in the state of WV. The active membership is around 70. Club Sponsor Tracie Smith, Club President Allie Lusk, and Secretary Jasmine Blankenship were given LEO lapel pins. All the officers from both clubs were presented Certificates of Appreciation for stepping up and being willing to volunteer to help their community.

Some of the projects from the High School LEO Club, this past year, include the following: Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets and Volunteer work at the Food Bank. They gave toiletries to the Rosenbaum House, and they sorted eyeglasses and hearing aids that will be given to the LIONS for later distribution for those in need around the world.

Later in the afternoon we were welcomed at the Pineville Middle School office and by the LEO Club. Club Sponsor Lori Pettus-Leather welcomed us and told us we would be presented with a Power Point presentation of this year's projects. Projects they completed included: a Tale Gate activity at the Fall Festival, and a breast cancer awareness project. They gave out Christmas Mugs and collected a full truck load of toys. They did a Day Care project which improved the playground. This Power Point presentation was the only one of the year for the MD Chairperson. The Power Point presenters along with club officers of the Middle School LEO Club were also given Certificates of Appreciation. Club Sponsor Lori, President Tanner Whitpen, and Vice President Laela Rosas were given LEO lapel pins. MD Chair Ken and Zone Chair Pris were honored to have made the visit and had such a wonderful time with the two LEO Clubs.

Wyoming East High School Officers with certificates of appreciation, presented by LEO Chair Ken Valko and Zone Chair Pris Valko.



Club News

The photo below left shows Roger Norrod, Editor of District 29-C Newsletter, receiving the Leonard Jarrett Award, presented by Durbin Lions' members Rick Wooddell and Jacob Meck. The Leonard Jarrett award is recognized by Lions of WV as founder of the WV Lions Sight Conservation Foundation. This award is the highest honor given by WV Lions to worthy persons who have contributed to advance sight awareness. Roger has led Durbin Lions in conducting eye screenings, particularly among youth, and has attended and supported WV University Lions Eye Institute Lions Day. A donation of \$1,000 to the foundation is required for this award.

The second award given to Roger is from PDG Charlie Biggs, thanking Roger for serving as Editor of 29-C newsletter. Roger has served four DG's as Newsletter Editor; Charles Sheets, 29-N 2014-2015, Ken Valko, 2015-2016, Charlie Biggs, 2016-2017, and Tom Crouser 29-C, 2017-2018. Roger exemplifies WE SERVE.

The Foundation has also established Progressive Leonard Jarrett Awards. These honor those individuals who have had donations of \$1,000 increments above the initial \$1,000 contribution to be recognized. All the funds generated from this program are used for sight related purposes.



The photo above right shows some of the Kanawha City Lions Club who participated in "Adopt A Highway" along MacCorkle Avenue in Kanawha City, a trash pick-up day on April 28, 2018. Several Lions and volunteers with the Kanawha City Community Association carried orange trash bags and collected trash and plastic bottles that littered the streets. The trash pick-up was along the roadway, sidewalks, and within four feet of the sidewalks. Since there was not enough time to pick up all the trash along the store fronts, the store owners were asked to help clean up their areas. WE NEEDED THEIR HELP!

The Lions decided to recognize those that are good citizens and awarded three locations with a certificate of recognition for their clean store fronts. Those selected were: ValvOline Oil Service, Creative Kitchens and City National Bank. Lions that volunteered were Chris and George Rignwald, Jan Gilbert, Lynn Himelrick, Bill Campbell, Chuck Denham, Eugene Skaff and Jim Slamick. Nancy Guthrie volunteered from the KCCA.