

DISTRICT 29-C NEWS



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

DG Message	1-2
Mark Your Calendars	2
1VDG Msg	3
LCI Items	4
Youth Camps & Exchange	5-6
Leadership Retreat	7
Leadership Retreat Registration	8

DG's Message –

By DG Tom Crouser

Allow me to first suggest to you to never schedule a newsletter to go out the same weekend as the district conference. Something's going to give and in this case, it was the newsletter. Sorry for the delay.

But I'm not sorry for the great time we had in Beckley! Started Friday night at Pasquale's where International Director Bruce Beck and his bride, Erin, and about 50 Lions from throughout the district gathered for some Beckley Italian! Most all our usual dignitaries were there such as PID Steve Glass, CC Cindy Glass, DG Ken Shahan and DG Lee Ann Welch as well as our friends, Lion Danny Blair of St. Albans Lions, President Les Thomas of Montgomery Lions, and folks from the Bluewell Lions. I mention them as we hadn't seen some in a while. BTW I had the cheese lasagna and I'd do it again.

Saturday's Cabinet meeting went off like clockwork with reports from most of the functional areas. As promised, the folks from the Home Health program were on hand to brief us as to how we can help with their outreach to diabetes patients (more information coming soon). That was followed by ID Bruce Beck's

seminar on membership and more. I'm glad that many of our clubs wanting help with membership were able to hear him. For those who weren't there, lemme say you really miss it when you missed his slide show.

PDG Ray Harper, a special Lion consultant for building new clubs came in early to catch the happenings, and helped heap on the membership ideas. We also found we had a mutual friend in Lion Elwood Smith of Ray's home Temple, Texas Lions Club. Small world, ey?

Lion Erin Beck presented an insightful talk regarding "Women Lions" during an amazing lunch. After lunch it was back to the classroom where PID Steve Glass and panel presented the framework and activities of our Global Action Team which includes Membership, Leadership and Service.

The outstanding reception and banquet Saturday evening had, I believe, 94 Lions in attendance. ID Beck gave an outstanding presentation followed by the exchange of multiple gifts. Recognized at the banquet with a citation from our International

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President was PDG Charlie Biggs, PDG Lisa Keefer and 1VDG Charolette Henson for their outstanding service.

And, most importantly, the Parade of Checks totaled some \$25,500 presented to Lions Charities in our district. What a weekend! If you weren't there, well, you missed it.

My personal thanks, again, to PDG Charlie Biggs and PDG Lisa Keefer and all the members of the Mt. Hope Lions Club for their selfless and tireless contribution of their time and effort to our district conference. It would not have been possible without your efforts.

DG Tom

Mark Your Calendars

November 6	DG Visits Alum Creek Lions Club
November 16	DG Visits Mt. Hope Lions Club
December 2	DG Visits Gary Lions Club
December 6	DG Visits Hinton Lions Club
December 12	DG Visits Charleston West Lions Club
December 19	DG Visits Clay Lions Club
May 4-6, 2018	WV Lions Convention, Lakeview Resort, Morgantown

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 VDG Charolette Henson

November is upon us and its fall conference time, hoping to see lots clubs out as lots exciting things are planned.

As the holidays approach going ask each member to give a gift to their club of inviting one new member. This will be a gift that can continue to grow and help the club the community and the world.

Remember our motto is "we serve" so thru make our communities and state aware of how important lions are and what we do.

Lots of exciting things going on in the district working on forming new club hope will be more by end year.

Diabetic awareness is one of the main thing we

should all be working on. Lots good service projects can be done with this.

Sight: all clubs who do not do eye screening now the time to start. If you don't know how then contact your zone chairman or sight service coordinator or me.

This month would like to have a report from every club as to what you have done the first quarter of this year and whats planned for the next quarter. Can mail or email this to me.

Keep up the good work and continue to serve.

1VDG Charolette



LCI Items

Important Date

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

For Americans, Thanksgiving is a celebration of their blessings. Yet, in most nations, giving thanks also is a part of the culture. In India, Hindus begin their day in their home shrine venerating the divine with fresh flowers and prasadam (a food offering). Every Hindu festival involves counting one's blessings and thanking God.

Giving back out of gratitude also is part of the culture of Lions. We serve because we are thankful. We recognize our advantages and deeply desire to give others what they lack. Sadly, many people worldwide lack enough food. Nearly 800 million people go to bed hungry each night, and a person starves to death every 15 seconds. Hunger is a problem both in developing and developed nations. Shockingly, 16 million U.S. households are undernourished, while 180 million people in my home country of India lack food. In Africa, the situation is even worse. Millions experience chronic hunger because of drought, conflict and high food prices.

Thanks to the green revolution that increased crop production, hunger can be conquered. It's largely a matter of getting food we have to people in need. Well, with Lions, we've eliminated the middleman. We have an army of volunteers, foot soldiers willing and able to defeat hunger. Understanding how vital food obviously is and how well positioned Lions are to lessen it, Lions Clubs International has prioritized hunger as one of Lions's five core concerns. So, Lions, support your local food pantry and bank. Help feed low-income children at schools. Donate to LCIF, which routinely supports highly effective Lions's projects to lessen hunger.

Do what you can. As Mother Teresa said, "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love." So with your club or district feed the hungry. Lions will not fail those in such desperate need. This Thanksgiving, indeed each and every month, I give thanks to all 1.4 million Lions and an estimated 175,000 Leos, men and women and youths grateful for their blessings and determined to save and enrich lives by stamping out hunger.

Naresh Aggarwal

Lions Clubs International President



Youth Camps & Exchange Program

By Chair Henry Krautwurst

My name is Henry Krautwurst and I am the MD29 Youth Camps & Exchange (YCE) program chair. I will be submitting an essay written by the YCE students who traveled abroad from WV as well as those students who came to WV from abroad. I appreciate the opportunity to share these essays with the Lions of MD29. I hope you will come to appreciate what our programs are doing in the lives of the youth of WV and help us to continue through your continued support.

This month's essay is from Madison McMillion from Daniels, WV. She traveled to Peru for her exchange.



Madison McMillion

My Exchange Trip – Lima, Peru

By Madison McMillion

Before I begin, I would like to address my reasons for submitting an application to be a part of the Lions Youth and Exchange Program. I have always had a deep-rooted interest in the subject of global affairs and in culture. Upon hearing of this program from my United States history teacher, I essentially ran to my room when I arrived home from school that day to complete my application and to begin working on my essay. Receiving this opportunity has changed my life; I mean that in the most influential ways possible. Through my trip to Lima, I was able to experience first-hand the diversity of culture and the sheer importance of fostering an understanding among different cultures; a principle that is executed by the Lions Club. Participating in this exchange program has changed my outlook on life, future plans, and has been the source of some of my best memories to date. I would like to thank you for your interest in the youth of our community in a global respect. This world has so much to offer and infinite possibilities for diverse experiences and communications, and experiencing that for myself truly bridged the divide between my dreams and reality.

The family that I stayed with this July consisted of Kelly Silva (mother), her daughter Paz, and her son, Sebastian. Paz and Sebastian also have a half-brother, Benjamin, who I grew very close to almost immediately upon my arrival. Everyone in the family contributed to the well-being of the family as a whole, with respect being held of the utmost importance. There was a closeness and a bond between those in the family that I find almost extinct in American society today. At dinner, there were no preoccupations with phones, and there was always some sort of reflection or conversation before bed. This sort of togetherness was apparent throughout the entire stay, and I never ceased to feel at home. Within no time, I was adapting to the Peruvian way of going about life, whether that be eating quinoa with every meal or mastering the bus system (with tons of practice). It is unbelievable to me just how

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comfortable and welcomed I felt in an entirely different continent.

The way of life in Lima is fairly similar to that in the United States, however, there are some key differences. For instance, lunch in Peru is the largest meal of the day and dinner consists of something smaller like a piece of bread and coffee. Superstition plays an extremely important part in Peruvian culture, from mirrors being in houses to ward off the envy of guests to small figurines of men called Ekekos that were adorned in miniature items and talismans to represent the larger want of the individual. I made it a personal goal to facilitate an understanding between my own American culture and that of Peru every chance I got. Sebastian and I shared the same taste in music and Paz and I enjoyed drawing together.

Lima is a very diverse city, for it boasts citizens from the Andes, Amazon, and metropolitan individuals that reside there. I was able to visit many art and history museums, learning of the history of the Inca and visiting the homes of conquistadores. The home that I stayed at was a short bus ride away from the Mira Flores district, where I was able to walk to the ocean and watch numerous parasails and surfers even in the winter season. One of my favorite experiences was a trip to the catacombs below the Church of San Francisco in the center of Lima.

By the end of my trip, I had become accustomed to the Peruvian way of life and had established certain connections to Lima and to my host family that made leaving something that was dreaded. After countless conversations in Spanish and hints of English before bed, stories shared while walking through the city, and endless respect gained for Kelly and her family, I was torn to board my plane home. I never thought that I would be brought to tears after being away from my home in West Virginia for a month, but as the tears flowed and final embraces were given, I struggled to compose myself and with the comfort in knowing I had already promised a return visit. Not only did my participation in the program allow me to create life-long friendships and a connection to Peru, however, it verified my interest in global affairs and culture. Before my trip, I hesitated to speak Spanish due to my fear of making a mistake. Now, many in my family and close friends become annoyed when I answer them in Spanish or repeat phrases learned while in Peru that they do not understand. I recently received a college offer from a University in Madrid, Spain, and I feel extremely confident in applying now that I have a deep love for Latino culture and I have established a connection with another Spanish-speaking country. My view on life here in America now integrates Peruvian ideals of kindness and efficiency, and often I tend to find myself daydreaming of the country I was able to call home for a month. I promised to return as soon as I could, and I have every intention on doing so whenever I am able.

Again, I would like to thank Lions Club International for providing me with such an astounding opportunity and for being such an inspiration to me and what I would like to do with my life. I have become a member of my local Lions Club since my trip, and I enjoy it more and more with each meeting.

Lion Madison



Lions of West Virginia Leadership Retreat

By PID Larry Johnson



LEADERSHIP RETREAT SPEAKERS ANNOUNCED

Three speakers have been confirmed for this year's Lions of West Virginia Leadership Retreat, and an invitation is outstanding to the fourth. They will bring a variety of messages to enlighten and encourage the participants.

Past International Director Cindy Gregg of Pennsylvania will be the speaker for the Saturday night banquet. PID Gregg served as International Director from 2013-2015. She is currently the Global Membership Team Coordinator for Group B of Constitutional Area 1, which includes West Virginia. She and her husband, PDG Tom, have previously participated in the Lions of WV Leadership Retreat.

Jonathan McCormick, Director of Military & Veterans Affairs from Marshall University will be our Saturday Luncheon speaker. He is a graduate of Pocahontas High School and Marshall University. He served in the United States Marine Corps until 2007. He accepted the position as the director of military and veterans affairs at Marshall to help students who, like him, found it challenging to reacclimate to civilian life and adjust to college life simultaneously.

Ann Hammond, a member of the Harrison County HOPE Centennial Lions Club will speak on Sunday at lunch. Ms. Hammond, a recovered addict, currently works with women at risk/users in a professional capacity, and tells a powerful story about overcoming addiction and the current epidemic this country faces.

You don't want to miss the messages these speakers will share. All Lions are welcome to participate in the Retreat, and non-Lion spouses and guests will find much of the program to be of interest. The Retreat will be held at Stonewall Resort January 26-28, 2018. The \$125.00 registration fee includes four meals, each with a speaker, six seminars, as well as displays and opportunities for interaction with Lions from across West Virginia, our guest speakers and our presenters.

Don't wait! Register now! See the form included with this newsletter, and contact the Resort for room reservations.

For further information contact Bob Moffett at 304-363-7060 or rmoffett@ma.rr.com

The Leadership Retreat registration form is attached to this newsletter.



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





Lions of West Virginia Leadership Retreat
January 26-28, 2018
Stonewall Resort, Roanoke, WV



Registration Fee: \$125

Registration fee includes Friday dinner, Saturday Lunch and Dinner, and Sunday Lunch.

Please type or print clearly.

Lion _____
Name Name for Tag

Lion or Guest _____
Name Name for Tag

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (H) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Email _____@_____

Club Name _____ District _____

First Time Attendee (Yes) _____ (No) _____

Please indicate special dietary requirements: _____

Make checks payable to: Lions of West Virginia Leadership Retreat and mail with completed registration form to: PDG Bob Moffett
26 Fairway Lane
Fairmont, WV 26554-2076

Questions: PDG Bob Moffett, 304-363-7060 or rmoffett@ma.rr.com

Room Rate: \$109 (includes breakfast, wi-fi, parking and other amenities)
Make room reservations directly to the resort by phone, 304-269-7400, no later than December 26, 2017.

Note: You may request a room close to the Retreat activities when you make your reservation.