



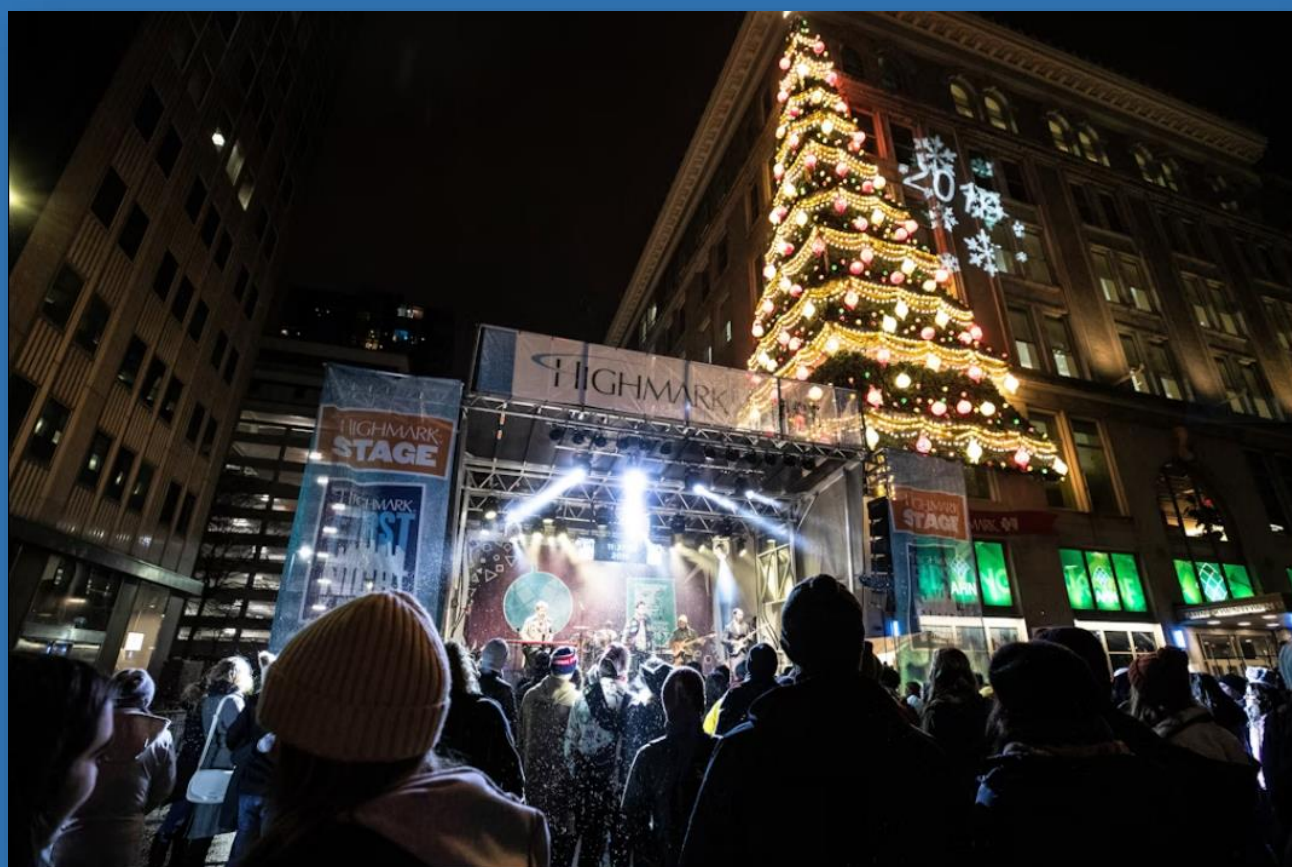
The Cauldron




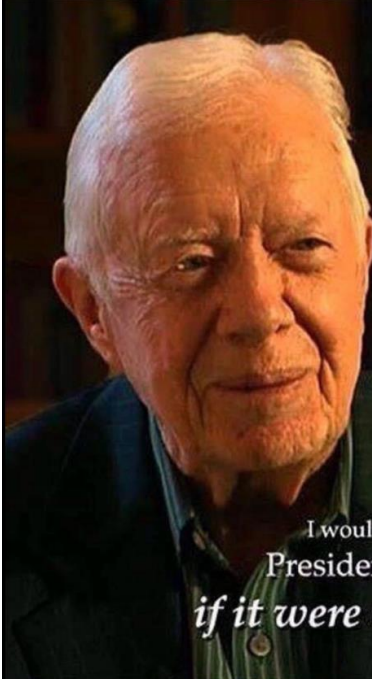
District 14-B's Monthly Newsletter

January 2025

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
"FIRST NIGHT" IN PITTSBURGH 12/31/2024



2025



**Lions
changed my life.**

I would never have been
ambitious enough to run for
Governor of Georgia.
I would never have dreamed of being
President of the United States
if it were not for the Lions.

Lion Jimmy Carter, January 27, 2009



A black and white photograph showing Jimmy Carter, District Governor, standing at a podium in front of a Lions Club banner. The banner reads "LIONS CLUB" at the top, features the Lions International logo in the center, and "MOULTREE GEORGIA" at the bottom. Carter is holding a bag of "MADE IN AMERICA BACON". He is surrounded by four other men in suits. A young girl is seated at the podium in front of him.

District Governor Jimmy Carter pays a visit to a Lions club in Georgia. X

From the desk of **District Governor Mike Crossey**

Happy New Year:!

Today as I write this, It is December 21st. The day of winter solstice.

The shortest day, The longest night: Every day, moving forward, Gets longer, and gives us more light.

I never really thought much about the nature or significance of light, but I've come to realize not one religion celebrates darkness. They all celebrate light.

In Christianity, This is the season of lights, Christmas time, celebrating the birth of Jesus. In the Bible: John 8:12 "I am the light of the world, he that followed me, shall not walk in darkness."

In the Jewish faith: Hanukah: The festival of lights. 8 candles are lit on the Menorah each night of the 8 days, celebrating the great miracles. In the celebration of Kwanza: 7 candles lit celebrating the major principles over 7 nights.

The light allows us to find our way. it always has. It always will.
We need to use the light to see the way.

As Lions, let us be the collective light in our communities. Be the one who lights up the room as you enter. Lions don't just ROAR, We carry the LIGHT, that glimmer of hope, and the light of a better future.

Remember the old quote: Make new friends, but keep the old
Some are silver, Others are gold.

So, This year's New Year's resolution:

Invite new members, but keep the old
New projects, but keep the old
Some are silver, Others are gold

This year, be the light of Lions. Share the light of Lions. Grow the Light of Lions.



Yours in Lionism,

Lion Michael J. Crossey

Email: crossetmike@gmail.com

Phone: 412-983-8387

LION RALPH IMBROGNO

First Vice District Governor



Fellow Lions and Leos,

NEW-YEARS RESOLUTIONS 2025

Every year as the new year comes upon us I get excited and say to myself, this is a good time to make positive changes in my life. It's a good time to improve my outlook on life and focus more on the important things that matter. Too often we slip away from them and later realize that we should always concentrate on helping those in need of our help. This is what Lionism is all about.

Some thoughts to ponder

When I have food, help me to remember the hungry.

When I have work, help me to remember the jobless.

When I have a home, help me to remember those who have no home at all.

When I am without pain, help me to remember those who suffer.

As Lions and good neighbors let us all remember to make an effort to destroy our complacency; bestow our compassion; and be concerned enough to help those in need and those who cry out for what we take for granted.

**ALWAYS REMEMBER TO FOLLOW YOUR HEART AND CONTINUE TO VOLUNTEER!!! HAPPY NEW YEAR AND STAY SAFE!!! VDG
Ralph Imbrogno and Lion Patty.**

Lion Ralph Imbrogno

Email: ralphpatty@verizon.net

Phone: 412-751-2039



In Loving Memory...



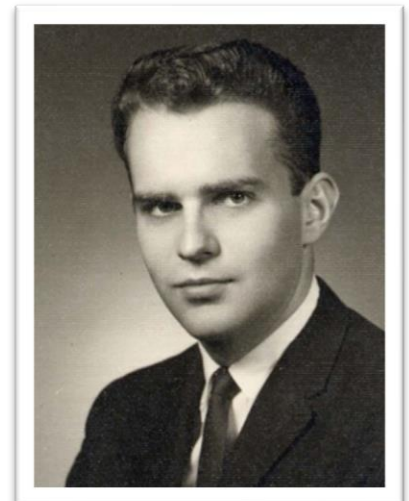
PDG Jimmy Carter
Plain Georgia Lions Club
December 29, 2024



Lion Ann Marie Garber
Elfinwild Lions Club
November 19, 2024



Lion Bob Walter
Central Elizabeth Township
Lions Club
November 6, 2024



Lion William Tomlinson
Oakmont Lions Club
June 3, 2024

May they rest in peace



NAME	CLUB	SPONSOR
Eileen Crossey	Bridgeville Greater Area Lions Club	DG Michae
Angela Hart	McKeesport Lions Club	Lion Jody Goughnour
Anna Lisa Haughwout	McKeesport Lions Club	Lion Yvonne Parhetta
Patricia Topolnak	McKeesport Lions Club	Lion Chuck Jarrell
Elizabeth A. Dalton	Oakmont Lions Club	Lion Gary Rogers

Since July 1, 2024, here's what our District membership looks like from the Lion Portal...

July 1st 636 Members added 13 dropped 18 November 30 631

We are ranked 15th out of the 17 Districts with District 14W beneath us.

**MULTIPLE
DISTRICT
MEMBERSHIP ***

14G	1479
14A	1295
14D	1197
14C	1161
14T	1143
14M	1006
14N	939
14F	921
14P	896
14U	845
14L	835
14K	735
14J	710
14E	688
14B	631
14H	627
14W	580

TOTAL 15,635

***as of 11/30/2024
Health Assessment
Report**

**There are a lot of
membership plans out
there but the best one is
sit ill just to...**



NEW DISTRICT PROJECT... **Here is the information you've** **been waiting for!**



My eyesight isn't what it used to be... I'm worried... What can I do?

District Governor Mike Crossey has adopted a project that he hopes will enthusiastically receive the support of all thirty clubs in the District by raising funds to bring this project to fruition

The UPMC McKeesport Internal Medicine clinic serves as a vital safety net for the underserved population of McKeesport. It provides essential healthcare services to a diverse population, including many individuals with diabetes. Diabetic retinopathy, a serious eye complication that can lead to irreversible vision loss and blindness, is a significant concern for this patient population. Early detection and treatment of diabetic retinopathy are crucial to preserving vision.

The Importance of Diabetic Retinopathy Screening

Diabetic retinopathy occurs when high blood sugar levels damage the tiny blood vessels in the retina, the light-sensitive tissue at the back of the eye. Over time, this damage can lead to vision loss and even blindness. The good news is that early detection and treatment can significantly reduce the risk of vision loss. Regular eye exams are essential for people with diabetes to identify and manage diabetic retinopathy.

The Need for a New Screening Camer

Ten years ago, the Lions Club generously donated a diabetic retinopathy screening camera to the McKeesport Internal Medicine clinic. This camera has provided invaluable service to our community, enabling early detection and treatment of diabetic retinopathy for nearly 1000 patients. Unfortunately, due to technological advancements and the wear and tear of constant use, the camera is now obsolete and malfunctioning.

The Proposed Solution

To continue providing high-quality eye care to our community, we are requesting the Lions Club's support in funding a new, state-of-the-art diabetic retinopathy screening camera. This investment will:

- **Improve patient care:** A new camera will enable earlier and more accurate diagnosis of diabetic retinopathy, leading to timely treatment and better patient outcomes.
- **Enhance efficiency:** Modern cameras are faster and more efficient, allowing for more screenings to be performed in less time.
- **Strengthen community health:** By preventing vision loss, we can improve the overall health and well-being of our community members.

Conclusion

We believe that a new diabetic retinopathy screening camera is a worthwhile investment that will directly benefit the health of our community. We are grateful for the Lions Club's past support and hope that you will consider this request for future funding.



Evan L. Waxman, MD, PHD

Professor of Ophthalmology,
Mercy Eye Institute of
Pittsburgh

See the following page to see additional information...

HOW WE WILL ACCOMPLISH THE RETINA SCREENING CAMERA PROJECT...

The financial goal for the camera plus accessories is \$22,000.

With the support of all thirsty Lions clubs, we will not have a problem raising the funds.

If each club could have a minimum of \$300, we would have \$ 9,000. Our District has already donated \$2,000. That would give us \$11,000. We will contact the Lions of Pennsylvania or LCIF to apply for a matching grant.

WE CAN DO THIS!

To Make your donation, please send it to:

Lion George Belles
District Treasurer
37 McMurray Road, Suite LL7
Pittsburgh, PA 15241-1601



Born in Tuscumbia, Alabama, USA, in 1880, Helen Keller developed a fever at 18 months of age that left her blind and deaf.

With the help of an exceptional teacher, Anne Mansfield Sullivan of the

School for the Blind, Helen Keller learned sign language and braille. A few years later, she learned to speak. As an adult, she became a tireless advocate for people with disabilities. And in 1925, she attended the Lions Clubs International Convention and challenged Lions to become "knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness."

The Lions accepted her challenge and our work ever since has included [sight programs](#) aimed at preventable blindness





2024 Annual Appeal Campaign

“Making a Community Impact”

Lions of Pennsylvania Foundation Mission

To empower the Lions Clubs of Pennsylvania to improve health and wellbeing, strengthen communities and support those in need through their humanitarian service to Pennsylvanians. This will be accomplished by providing financial assistance to Pennsylvania Lions Clubs through matching grants.



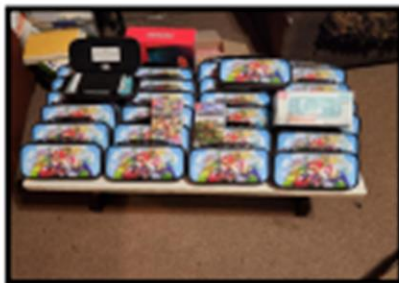
Lions of Pennsylvania Vision

The Vision of the Lions of Pennsylvania Foundation is to maintain a permanent organization able to provide financial assistance to Pennsylvania Lions Clubs in support of their humanitarian service to their communities.

Community Impact

Here are just a few of the projects that we have funded to improve the quality of life in our communities across Pennsylvania.

- ◆ AED's for Northern Tioga School District
- ◆ Delivery Van for Northern Lehigh Food Bank
- ◆ Belmont Hills Elementary Playground
- ◆ 2 KidSight Vision Screeners for the Export/Greensburg area
- ◆ Crooked Creek Braille Trail construction
- ◆ Snyder Park Baseball Dugout & Tree Planting
- ◆ Pennbrook Community Garden Expansion (see their story on the next page)



Your support to the Lions of Pennsylvania Foundation will allow us to continue to make a positive impact in our communities through our local Lions Clubs. All donations remain in Pennsylvania and are 100% tax deductible.

IRS Identification # 25-166417



YES, I want to help make our Pennsylvania communities better. Here is my donation to your 2024 Annual Appeal.

Visit www.lionsofpafoundation.org/general-donation to donate online.

Or mail to our Executive Director at:

Wade Markel
LOPF
156 South Broad St.
Hellam, PA 17406



This amount will really help.

___ \$10 ___ \$25 \$___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$250 ___ Other _____



MD-14 Pajama Project a HUGE Success!

Thanks to the generosity of Lions Clubs in Pennsylvania, foster children all over the state received new pajamas! At the second Council meeting this year, District 14-B, MD-14 Global Team Service Coordinator Lisa Leon challenged the Clubs in Pennsylvania to bring pajamas to donate to children in the Foster Care system. The Clubs delivered. We processed over 4,000 pajamas at the Council Meeting. Each of the 17 Districts in the state was then given a large bin, two 40-gallon bags, and a couple of boxes to donate to their local Foster program however they wanted. District 14-B donated to the Allegheny County Department of Human Services; Office of Children, Youth & Families; the Foster Love Project; and Aberle. District 14-B, DG Mike Crossey, VDG Ralph Imbrogno, District Secretary Mary Ann Belles, and GST Annette James thank all the Clubs and Lions that helped with this project. We couldn't have done it without you

Submitted by Lion Annette James, District Global Service Tm Coordinator (GST).



Please see the next 2 pages for thank you notes for this project.

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

SARA INNAMORATO
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

November 20, 2024

The Lions District 14B
c/o Mary Ann Belles
37 McMurray Road
Suite LL7, Building One
Pittsburgh, PA 15241

Dear Lions,

On behalf of the Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS) and the families that we serve through the Office of Children, Youth and Families, thank you for your donation of new pajamas for children and youth receiving DHS services related to child maltreatment and homelessness.

Your generosity will provide these children with a necessity that many of us take for granted, as well as provide an invaluable sense of normalcy for young people whose lives are shaped by daily challenges.

We are truly fortunate to receive such amazing support from the community, and we are deeply grateful for your assistance in providing for the children and youth of Allegheny County.

Kind regards,

Shelli L. Luchs
Senior Manager, Event and Donations
Office of Equity and Engagement
Allegheny County Department of Human Services

ERIN DALTON, DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF EQUITY AND ENGAGEMENT
HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING • ONE SMITHFIELD STREET • PITTSBURGH, PA 15222
PHONE (412) 350-6787 • FAX (412) 350-4004 • EMAIL DHS-OEE@ALLEGHENYCOUNTY.US

FOSTERLOVEPROJECT

Linking love to foster children and the families that care for them.

DEC 09 2024

November 26, 2024

Mary Ann Belles
District 14-B Allegheny County
37 McMurray Rd
Suite 47
Pittsburgh, PA 15241

Dear Mary Ann,

Thank you for your generous donation of **pajamas** to Foster Love Project! Your support brings us one step closer to impacting lives and empowering children like Ava who have been impacted by foster care in our region.

Ava comes from a very difficult living situation. We found out that she dropped out of high school. After helping to provide for her physical needs through a shopping appointment in our Center, specifically the Teen Boutique, we connected her with further support through our Teen Connections program. Ava has shared with us that Foster Love Project feels like her safe space. Because she lives close to the Center, she often visits in order to, in her words, "say hi." We always ensure she gets some food, snacks and water. She uses our WiFi when needed, to study for her GED exam and to apply for jobs. We also always ensure to check-in with how she is doing and if she needs anything.

Thanks to your gift, teens like Ava are given the resources they need to empower and build them up to have a better future.

YOU are the key to our mission of showing love in action to children impacted by foster and kinship care through the provision of goods, services & support.

On behalf of all of us at Foster Love Project, thank you.

With Gratitude,


Jina O'Neill
Director, Development and Communications

Thank you so much!!

P.S.: If you have any questions, please reach out to me directly at joneill@fosterloveproject.org or 412-801-1001.

Please retain this letter for tax purposes. No goods or services were received in exchange for this donation. Date of Gift: 11/21/2024

Foster Love Project | PO Box 8779 | Pittsburgh, PA 15221 | 412-819-5908 | www.fosterloveproject.org

HEY, LIONS... STILL HAVE TIME TO APPLY!

Where would you like to be sworn in as

DISTRICT GOVERNOR?

* * * * *

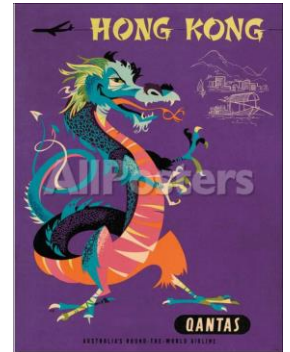
Future Lions Club International Conventions



2025-Orlando FL– July 13-17

2026 Hong Kong – Jul 3-7

2027 Washington DC – July 2-6



2028 Singapore -June 23-27

2029 Minneapolis, MN

2030 San Antonio TX

2031– Helsinki Finland



To find out details, contact

PDG Rich Keller at rkeller5@verizon.net

Sign Up Today - Space Is Limited!



RLLI



REGIONAL LIONS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE



March 7-9, 2025

Red Lion Hotel Harrisburg/Hershey



SUBJECTS

- Lions Fundamentals
- Team Work
- Diversity
- Public Speaking
- Time Management
- Personal Mission Statement
- Member Motivation
- Goal Setting

INSTRUCTORS

- PID Cindy Gregg
- PDG Tom Gregg
- PDG Jason Long
- PDG John Mallonee
- PDG Dick Sware
- PID James Cavallaro
- PDG Kerry McKnight

Contact Your District
Governor

Or

PDG Kerry McKnight
md14glt-learn@yahoo.com

Space Is Limited!

\$175 Per Lion

Meals & Rooms Included



**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR**

Breakfast with Santa in Brentwood...



The Brentwood Lions Club had their Annual Breakfast with Santa today. Here are a couple photos showing all the volunteers who helped to make this another huge success. Thank you too all!

Submitted by Lion Mary Ann Dayton, Secretary

Mt. Lebanon Lions Club's Farmers Market Celebrates 34 years as a Fundraiser



At the November meeting of the Mt Lebanon Lions Club, a club high charity contribution of \$10,000 was committed to its fourteen charities. The driving source of charity funds is the Club's 34-year-old farmer's market. Other funds are triggered through White Cane Day, sponsorships, and garbage bag/ broom sales. A club volunteer force of thirty members continues to drive the Lion motto "We Serve."

Now in its 34th consecutive year. The Mt Lebanon Lions Farmers Market, held June through October, is a charity fund stable and a rallying point for the Club.

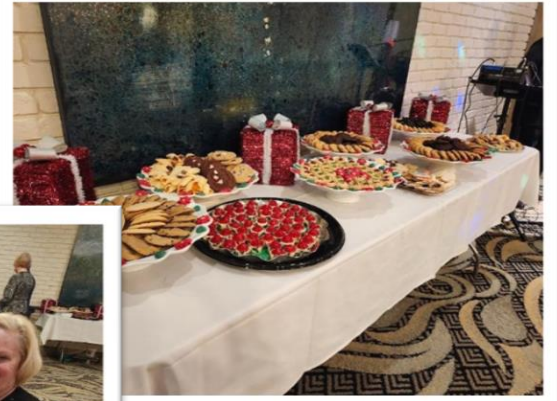
Submitted by Lion John Brown

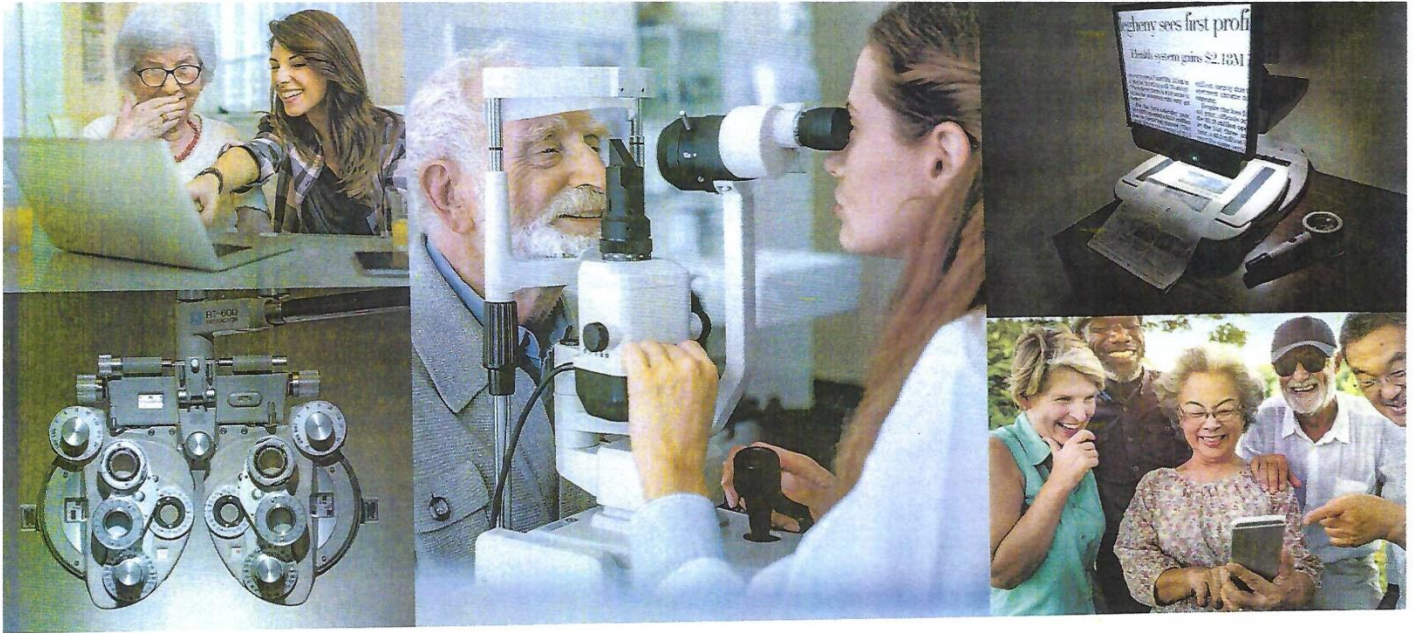


Christmas with the Lions

Saturday, December 7, 2024, 6-9:30 pm
The Lamplighter, 6566 Route 22, Delmont PA

The LDBAW recently held our Christmas with the Lions. It was held at the Lamplighter Restaurant in Delmont. Thank you to those from 14-B & 14-E who attended. Thank you to IPCC Linda Zaneski and her husband, Lion Stan, for joining us in the festivities. All had a good time. The LDBAW thanks you for your support. Watch for the information for next year's Christmas with the Lions.
Submitted by PDG Mary Ann Belles





LOW VISION REHABILITATION PROGRAM

WHO WE ARE

We are committed to ensuring **ALL** patients have access to vision care. Our Optometrist spends quality time getting to know the patients, their vision, and their lifestyle needs. Our program combines specialized optometric services and occupational therapy to help patients maximize their remaining vision. We operate by using the most advanced technologies, accept most major insurances, and offer financial assistance.

HOW WE CAN HELP

Low Vision services at Blind & Vision Rehabilitation Services of Pittsburgh are for individuals whose eyesight cannot be returned to normal with glasses, contact lenses, surgery, and medication.

During the visit, we develop a personalized treatment plan that includes a comprehensive exam, prescribed vision devices, and the training necessary to guarantee success. Our specially

trained Optometrist works with each patient to find the low vision devices that are ideal for their needs. Our Occupational Therapist then teaches the best use of the prescribed vision aids.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

When scheduling an appointment, please ask about our additional services. We offer financial assistance for patients who qualify and door-to-door transportation services for appointments.

SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

Our office is located in the heart of Uptown at 1816 Locust Street, minutes from UPMC Mercy. Our hours of operation are Monday thru Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. We offer **free** patient parking.

Contact our Office Manager at 412.368.4080 to schedule an appointment.



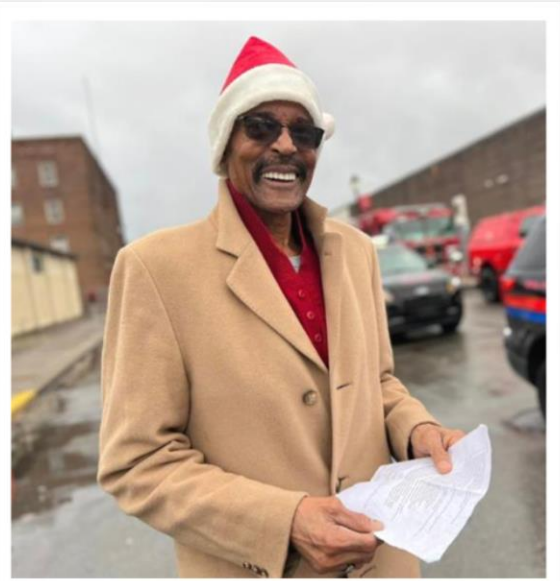
**Blind & Vision Rehabilitation
Services of Pittsburgh**

Office: 1816 Locust Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15219 | 412.368.4400 | bvrspittsburgh.org

Christmas Parade in McKeesport Not Dampened by Rain

McKeesport Lions Club once again took part in the annual Salute to Santa Parade in downtown McKeesport. Club members served in many roles, including walking in the parade handing out candy canes, served as Emcee, served as parade directors, and even portrayed Santa.

Submitted by Lion Annette James



SAVE THE DATE!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 2025

(That's only 151 days away from January 1st!)



Seventy-fifth Anniversary
WHITE OAK LIONS CLUB

Whitehall Community Lions Club Entertains Senior Citizens

The Whitehall Community Lions Club presents Mr. Kris Tranter, the Director for the Baldwinaires, a check to help with the music and a pizza party for the members. Thank you to the Baldwinaires for another wonderful concert for us and the residents.

Submitted by PDG Mary Ann Belles





Lions Day with the United Nations

Lions International will celebrate 79 years of partnership with the United Nations during Lions Day with the United Nations (LDUN). This event commemorates our long-standing relationship as a consultative NGO to the U.N. dating back to 1945, when Lion leaders were asked to help develop the NGO charter for the U.N.

Celebrate service on the biggest global stage

Celebrate Lions International's over 75-year relationship with the United Nations. When you attend LDUN, you will:

- Hear influential leaders from around the world.
- Learn about key global issues and how Lions and Leos are working to address them.
- Be part of the conversations and the collaboration that are driving real change around the w

Be a part of our global partnership

When you attend LDUN New York, you'll experience an incredible event in one of the most dynamic cities on earth:

- Explore the United Nations headquarters where you can take a guided tour, view exhibits, and visit the bookstore and gift shop.
- Experience all that New York has to offer, including world-class restaurants, museums, hotels, sight-seeing and more.
- Network with Lions, Leos and officials from the United Nations.
- Learn about recent developments in our U.N. partnership and how you can take action

New York City, USA // March 21, 2025

TARENTUM LIONS CLUB's CHRISTMAS CHARITY DINNER

TARENTUM LION'S CLUB CHARITY Dinner has returned. This is our first in person dinner since COVID-19 shut everything down in 2020. The charity dinner was an amazing success with 121 Lions, business owners, and community leaders attending. Lots of Christmas fellowship to go around. Special thanks to the Hill Crest Country Club in Lower Burrell for having us.

Submitted by Lion Tom Ceschini



It's Great to be a Lion !

McKeesport Lions Members Volunteer Each Year to “Ring the Bell”



On Saturday, December 21, members of the McKeesport Lions Club handled bell ringing duties for The Salvation Army at the McKeesport Giant Eagle on O’Neil Blvd. The club does this annually on the Saturday before Christmas, bringing in the highest donations of one day at the local grocery store. Members not only collect funds, but also greet all customers, hand out candy canes, and even help out the store by returning carts inside the store. Some of the members who helped out included Linda Povirk, Donna Byrne, Jody Goughnour & Colin Clarke, who braved the winter weather.

Submitted by Lion Annette James, Secretary



QuotesIdeas.com



Lion George Belles and PDG Mary Ann Belles participated in the Wreaths Across America ceremony on Saturday, December 14, 2024, at the Bethel Presbyterian Church Cemetery. Each of the Armed Forces are honored along with EMTs, Firefighters, Police, and those Veterans who have committed suicide. Both Lion George and I were able to lay two wreaths. It was a cool, beautiful day for the ceremony. The Veterans honored were from as far back as the Revolutionary War in the Bethel Presbyterian Church Cemetery. Find out if there is a cemetery near you to see if you can participate next year.\

Submitted by PDG Mary Ann Belles

Thank you for remembering our Veterans! George and Mary Ann...

PDG Harold



Armed Forces EMT Police Firemen honored at Wreaths Across America.jpg



Whitehall Community Lions Club Secretary Honored



Lion Elaine Frombach was honored recently at the Whitehall Borough Council Meeting for her work as Coordinator of the Whitehall Borough Military Banner Program. Mayor Jim Nowalk presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Lion Elaine for her years of service honoring the Whitehall Borough Veterans. Congratulations to Lion Elaine for a job well done!

Submitted by PG Mar Ann Belles



Introducing the 2025 Rose Bowl Parade Lions Clubs International Float!



LIONS FLOAT LAPEL PIN 2025

Rectangular Ship

\$10.00

2025 Lions Float Lapel pin \$10.00

Quantity:



Annual Pennsylvania Lions Spring Fling Leadership Symposium

2 LOCATIONS

Saturday, February 22, 2025 9 AM-3 PM

PA Lions State Office

949 East Park Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17111

Lunch available for a \$8.00 donation (Pay at the Door)

OR

Sunday, February 23, 2025 Noon-5 PM

Butler County Association for the Blind

322 N. Cedar Street, Butler, PA 16001

Snacks will be available

“The Lion Portal – Where do I find that?”

Presenters-PDG Lisa & PCC Dave Leon, 14-U

Are you having a hard time finding information or reporting service in the Lion Portal?

Bring your devices & learn how to swiftly navigate your membership, club, district, & multiple district data.

“Artificial Intelligence Tools Lions can use TODAY!”

Presenter-PCC Dave Leon, 14-U

In this session we will cover two groundbreaking AI-powered apps, designed specifically to help Lions grow, rebuild, and promote our service worldwide.

“Empowering Growth”

Presenter-PDG Mike Schaeffer, 14-D

Join us for an engaging workshop on innovative strategies to recruit new members, retain existing ones, & grow Lions Clubs through actionable plans & community-focused approaches.

“Communicate with impact”

Presenter-DG Mike Crossey, 14-B

In this session, learn to connect, not just connect.

FREE & OPEN to all Pennsylvania Lions

Register to attend contact PDG Kerry McKnight

MD14GLT-LEARN@yahoo.com or call (717)759-0711

Space is Limited!

A Search For Peace: The Story Of A Lion From Plains, Georgia

Jimmy Carter

I CHOSE "SEARCH FOR PEACE" AS THE THEME OF MY YEAR AS 18 C DISTRICT GOVERNOR IN GEORGIA IN 1968-69. IT BECAME A THEME OF MY CAREER AS A PUBLIC SERVANT AND AS THE FOUNDER AND LEADER OF THE CARTER CENTER. MY EXPERIENCES AS A LION FOR MORE THAN 60 YEARS HELPED SHAPE MY LIFE. I WITNESSED FIRSTHAND OUR HUMANITARIAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO COMMUNITIES IN GEORGIA AND THE POWER OF LIONS WORLDWIDE.

My father was a charter member of the Plains Lions Club. When I resigned from the Navy in 1953, I became a member myself the first week I was home. I later became Tailtwister, bulletin editor and president of our club from 1957-58. During my term as president, our club built and began operating a community swimming pool for Plains. Our club also supported blindness prevention projects through the Georgia Lighthouse Foundation and in Honduras.

Being a Lion gave me a way to engage in public service. It helped me expand my horizons and contributed to my success in both business and politics. Key lessons I learned as a Lions leader helped form my career as a politician and peacemaker. The Lions' commitment to service taught me about caring for others.

I served in many roles as a Lion: zone chairman, district governor and then chairman of the Council of Governors in Georgia. As a result of my visible involvement with the Lions, I was well known in the 208 clubs throughout the state during my second campaign for Georgia governor in 1970. During my presidential campaign in 1976, my civic involvement as a Lion contributed to my identity as a community leader.

As president, I had the opportunity to meet with several Lions international presidents in the White House. Whenever I was asked to discuss civic clubs, I always used the Lions as my example.

Continued on following page...

My involvement with the Lions began a wonderful new chapter in the late 1990s. After leaving the White House, Rosalynn and I founded The Carter Center in 1982 to advance human rights and alleviate suffering across the globe. The Carter Center eventually began to counter two blinding diseases, trachoma and river blindness, and in 1999 Rosalynn and I travelled to Mali with Lions International President Jim Ervin of Georgia to formally launch our trachoma program.

Among the world's most successful sight initiatives, the various Lions-Carter Center SightFirst programs significantly impacted the lives of millions. From 1994-2015, the partnership led to the distribution of more than 187 million treatments for river blindness and over 127 million treatments for trachoma. More than 538,000 sight-saving trichiasis surgeries were performed, and nearly 3-1/2 million latrines were built.

I meet regularly with the international Lions leaders. Rosalynn and I have enjoyed hosting them for visits to our home in Plains and The Carter Center in Atlanta. Just a few months ago, 2015-16 International President Jitsuhiro Yamada came to visit me in Plains with 22 other Lions leaders from around the world.

As a Lion for more than 60 years, I am amazed at what Lions from all walks of life have accomplished. The service of Lions is even more important today than when the association was founded in 1917. With the accomplishments of the first 100 years as a foundation, the next 100 years of service will be life-changing for millions of our world's citizens.

Thank you, Lions.



A Continent of Volunteers. A World of Service.

www.lionsclubs.org





Celebrate service in Orlando



Meet fellow Lions and Leos from around the world, proudly march in the Parade of Nations and be part of our biggest event of the year. Experience every dazzling moment Orlando has in store for you during convention—it's a city that's pure magic!

[Learn more](#)