



**DISTRICT 29-L  
(WV-USA)**

***By District Governor Kim Ebert***

## **Welcome to May!**

As spring reaches full bloom and we begin the final stretch of another Lions year, I find myself reflecting with great pride on all that our district has accomplished together. It has truly been an honor to serve alongside each of you and to witness the dedication, compassion, and generosity that define our Lions family.

I am incredibly proud of what our district has achieved this year. From meaningful service projects and successful fundraisers to supporting those in need and strengthening our communities, your efforts have made a real and lasting difference. No matter the size of the project, each club and each member has played an important role in our shared success.

One of the greatest joys for me has been watching our clubs grow—growing in membership, in leadership, in fellowship, and in service. Seeing new ideas take shape, new members step forward, and clubs continue to expand their impact has been inspiring. It reminds me that the future of our district is bright because of the passion and commitment each of you brings.

As we move through May and toward the close of this Lions year, I encourage everyone to finish strong, celebrate your accomplishments, and continue the great work that has brought us this far. Thank you for all you do and for allowing me the privilege of serving with you.

**Together, we serve—and together, we grow**

## **District Governor Calendar**

May 15 – 16 - Multiple District 29 State Convention

## **2025-2026 29-L CABINET**

Kim Ebert, Governor  
Tony Vandenberg, 1st Vice Governor  
Lori Roberts, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Governor  
Jay Houser, LCIF Chairman  
Bill Syphers, Sec/Treas  
Bernice Pitcock, GLT  
Gary Pitcock, GMT/GET  
Ramona Sago, GST  
Dave Roberts, IPDG  
Ramona Sago, Administrator

Kristine Quinn, Newsletter Editor  
Kathy Syphers, IT  
Amy Houser, Environmental  
Eva Dague, Leo  
Paul Amhrein, Sight/Hearing & WVU Eye Institute  
Michelle Harshbarger, Youth EX (A)  
Patty Nutter, Youth Ex (E)  
Lori Roberts, District Conference  
Dave Sheltin, Reading Action Program  
Richard McMillan, Guide Dogs  
Dave Sago, Peace Poster  
Amy Houser, Sight Equipment Coordinator  
Paul Amhrein, Sight Foundation Trustee

#### ZONE CHAIRS

Zone 1 - Vacancy  
Zone 2 & 3 - Kristine Quinn  
Zone 4 - Scott Beaver  
Zone 5 - Lori Roberts  
Zone 6 – Lori Roberts  
Zone 7 - Vacancy  
Zone 8 - Karen Dudas-Hall



**Lion Tony Vandenberg**

**First Vice District Governor**

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#### **It's That Time of Year**

Time flies, sometimes. Or, times recent by the calendar, seem long ago. It is already May, with just two months left in the Lions Club year. We can work with the time available to prepare and plan and think about next year. Some important tasks for each Club include:

- Nominating, electing, and reporting in the Lion Portal, your Club **officers** for 2026–2027.
- Reviewing and updating as needed your club's **membership** list in the Lion Portal. Remember that dues assessed by Lions Clubs International and District 29 L are based on membership shown in the Portal at June 30.
- Collecting **dues** for the next year or perhaps the next six months, however your Club does this necessary task.
- Club officer **training** will be scheduled soon. While some of you may feel you've been there, done that, know how to do it – refresher training is still useful. And as many of you know, reporting mechanisms have changed considerably over the past few years. It is all doable, provided that the knowhow, training, and information technology resources are available.
- Some clubs adopt a budget. Some follow an informal, repeatable calendar rhythm of **service and fundraising**. Some embrace opportunities as they present themselves. In the spirit of “Your Club, Your Way“, it is all for the good in service to your communities. Now can be a time to look forward to next year.

If you wish advice or assistance with any of these, ask your neighboring Lions Clubs or District Cabinet members.

## **Lions Clubs Are Preparing to Close the Fiscal Year with Renewed Service and Purpose**

As the fiscal year draws to a close, Lions Clubs across 29L are preparing to end the year with a renewed sense of purpose and momentum. While the familiar stories of eyeglass collections, food drives, and community support remain central to their mission, this year's service has taken on a deeper meaning. Lions became a steady presence in a time when many organizations struggled to regain footing.

Across the district, Lions showed up wherever they were needed — supporting families, strengthening youth programs, and providing essential vision assistance. Their impact was measured not only in projects completed, but in the consistency and reliability of their response. Each act of service sparked new partnerships and inspired new volunteers.

Through Lions Clubs International Foundation grants, clubs also invested in long-term community strength.

**As one leader put it, “When the world becomes uncertain, Lions don’t step back — we step forward.”**

**GST PDG Ramona Sago**

## **LCI Considering International Dues Increase for 2028-2032**

Lions Clubs International has proposed a future adjustment to international dues that will be considered by voting delegates at the **2026 International Convention in Hong Kong**. Because dues discussions often raise understandable questions, this post is intended to clearly explain what is being proposed, when it would take effect.

### **What is being proposed**

The International Board of Directors has approved a proposal to **gradually increase international dues by a total of \$10 over five years**, beginning in 2028.

If approved by convention delegates, the adjustment would follow this schedule:

- July 1, 2028: +\$2
- July 1, 2029: +\$2
- July 1, 2030: +\$2
- July 1, 2031: +\$2
- July 1, 2032: +\$2

That equals **\$2 per year**, or **\$1 per semiannual billing period**, over five years.

### **Why Lions Clubs International is proposing this change**

Like most global organizations, **Lions Clubs International** has experienced sustained cost increases due to inflation, rising technology expenses, and the cost of maintaining worldwide member support.

Before proposing a dues adjustment, Lions Clubs International reports that it:

- Reduced operating budgets
- Renegotiated vendor contracts
- Cut or consolidated programs after ROI review
- Adjusted staffing levels
- Improved efficiency through automation

The proposed increase is intended to maintain current service levels and infrastructure rather than expand programs.

District Administrator Ramona Sago



Dear Lions Clubs of District 29 L,

On behalf of LCIF, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every member of your district for your remarkable generosity and commitment. Surpassing your donation goal and reaching 133% is a truly outstanding achievement. Your dedication and support not only make a meaningful difference in the lives of many but also set a shining example for others to follow.

Thank you for your unwavering service and continued partnership in making a positive impact at home and around the world.

With sincere appreciation,

Jay Houser

Multi-District LCIF Chair

**REMEMBER THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ITEMS TO BE IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER IS THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH!! LET'S SHARE THE NEWS OF WHAT IS GOING ON AND WHAT OUR CLUB IS UP TO! PLEASE SUBMIT IT TO KRISTINE QUINN AT [TRABBOLD769@COMCAST.NET](mailto:TRABBOLD769@COMCAST.NET). CONTACT FOR KRISTINE QUINN IS 412-915-9465, 375 CLEARVIEW AVENUE, WHEELING, WV 26003, TRABBOLD769@COMCAST.NET**



## Sight Equipment

Is your club planning a vision testing in your community? To reserve your sight equipment, the contact is now

**Lion Amy Houser**

304-200-0146 (text or call)

[WilliamstownLionsClub@yahoo.com](mailto:WilliamstownLionsClub@yahoo.com)

Zoom training is being scheduled for the following dates and times for incoming officers (2026-27) and any interested Lions: Secretaries and Treasurers: Thursday June 11 at 6pm and Saturday June 13 at 10 am; President and Vice Presidents: Thursday June 18 at 6pm and Saturday June 20 at 10 am. I will NOT schedule any inperson training unless there is a specific request to do so. When I have a list of 2026-27 zone chairs I will contact them for 1 in person training and 1 zoom training.

If you have not been to a previously held officer training schedule within the past 3 years, your incoming District Governor, Lion Tony Vandenberg and I highly encourage you to attend one of the scheduled sessions. If you have specific topics you would like to cover, feel free to contact me at [bpit@comcast.net](mailto:bpit@comcast.net) or 304-670-7216. Also, don't forget to take advantage of the Lions Learning Center in the Lions portal – there are officer training and zone chair training modules there as well.

**PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE: CLUB SECRETARIES/ADMINISTRATORS - enter your incoming officers in the Lions Portal as soon as possible –deadline is May 15, 2026.**

29L's PDG association will hold a 2025-26 Cabinet Appreciation Picnic for the outgoing District Governor Kim Ebert and her cabinet on Saturday July 18, 2026 at Crystal Lake, Doddridge County at 12 noon at the community building at the lake. Current cabinet members and PDG's lunches are complimentary – any other attendees have a cost of \$15.00 per person. Doddridge County Lions are hosting the picnic once again this year.

As a reminder, District cabinet members and clubs are encouraged to make a monetary donation to help with the DG's expenses that have been incurred this busy Lions year. IPDG Dave Roberts will be in touch with you for details.

Let's come together one more time to congratulate DG Kim and her team for a successful Lions year!!

## **CLUB HAPPENINGS!!**

### **FAIRMONT LIONS CLUB**

Fairmont Lions Club and Midtown Leos, with the help of other volunteers, collected e-waste for recycling on Saturday, April 18, 2026. Plans were to be set up at 8:00am to be ready at 9:00 am. By 8:00, folks were already lined up and unloading items. About 111 volunteer hours of volunteer work from Lions, Leos, family members and other willing volunteers made it happen. DG Kim Ebert came out to work with the rest of us. Eight Fairmont club members participated alongside the Midtown Leo Club members. Two Leo and Lion family members also pitched in to help as well as several non-Lion/Leo volunteers and included representatives of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. All the help was very much appreciated.

The excitement from what appeared to be a most successful event was dampened, however. There was significant theft Saturday night, and the parking lot was "trashed" by the thieves. Computers, laptops, tablets and cell phones have been removed off-site to protect any personal information. Those were not impacted by thefts. The club was then notified Monday morning that "two guys were taking stuff." That resulted in a call to the police.

Funds received from recycling will be used by the Fairmont Lions Club to provide many services for our community. These thefts have reduced the much needed funding that these two organizations will receive from Saturday's event, but we will continue our efforts to serve.

## Fairmont Lions and Leos Clean Rail Trail

The Fairmont Lions Club and Midtown Leo Club members and other volunteers cleaned litter from the West Fork River/Ralph S. LaRue Rail Trail on Saturday, April 4, beginning at 2:00 pm. Those working the Monongah end spent two hours filling bags, while those working the Fairmont (Norway trailhead) end of the trail spent three hours removing tires and a bicycle along with several bags of litter.

Because of a landslide near Monongah, this section was closed last season and the club cleaned a different section of the trail. That may have contributed to the increased amount of trash collected this time.

The Lions, Leos and other volunteers cleaned approximately 2.5 miles of trail.



## WARWOOD LIONS CLUB

Special Guest at the April 13, 2026, meeting. Thank you to City of Wheeling First Ward Councilman Tony Assaro for attending our meeting and bringing us up to date on what is going on in the city.



**SPECIAL WELCOME TO NEW WARWOOD LIONS CLUB MEMBERS!!** Warwood Lions Club welcomed two new members! Lori Cooper and Frank Zambito. Sponsors are Margaret Stenger and Tom Stenger.



## **MT. OLIVET LIONS CLUB**

Our club presented Easter bags for Cameron Nursing home and presented U S Flags to first graders at Hilltop elementary.



At a recent meeting, Lion President Jim Lightner honored some of our members for years of service as a Lion. We are so proud of these folks who have given many years to our community. Congratulations to all of them!

From left to right, President Jim Lightner, Paul Amrhein, 45 years, Bobbi Lander, 30 years, Joe Wright 40 years, Mary Keyser 40 years, and Gary Moses 30 years.



# WEST LIBERTY LIONS CLUB

We are so excited to announce this years WLLCFSC Back to School Fun Fair! We would love to invite you to set up a table again or for the first time. It will be July 25th at West Liberty Elementary School. The actual event is from 1:00-2:00 and vendors can set up starting at noon. We can expect up to 100 children for this event.

This is how we set ours up:

Each child will receive a stamp card. They will then go to each table to learn about your resource. You are welcome to do a craft or activity with the children. They will have you stamp their card and after seeing all of the table will go to the backpack station to trade their card for a backpack full of their needed supplies. We receive the supply list from Mr Valani each year for what supplies are needed for each grade level. Homeschool children receive the grade level that they are in.

This is a wonderful time to connect to our rural families that are not fully aware of what amazing resources we have available.

