



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



Club Visits Are the Heart of the Journey

By District Governor Kim Ebert

One of the best parts of being District Governor is visiting our amazing Lions Clubs! So far, I've had the pleasure of visiting **Fairmont, Mt. Olivet, Weirton, and Grantsville** — and what a joy it was. I've traveled to places I've never been before, enjoyed some truly delicious meals, and, most importantly, met so many **kind and passionate Lions** who embody service with heart. Each club has been so **welcoming and full of spirit**, and I'm looking forward to meeting even more of you as my travels continue!

IMPORTANT DATES

11/6/2025 – New Cumberland Lions

11/8/2025 - District 29L Cabinet Meeting

11/10/2025 – Warwood Lions

11/11/2025 – Friendly Lions Club

12/1/2025 - Wheeling Island Lions

As your District Governor, I'm looking forward to an exciting year of service and connection! I would love the opportunity to visit your club, get to know your members, and learn more about the amazing work you're doing in your communities. Please email me at kimwvlscf@gmail.com with an invitation or to schedule a visit. I'm truly excited to meet everyone and celebrate the impact we make together!

2025-2026 29-L CABINET

Kim Ebert, Governor
Tony Vandenberg, 1st 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

Ajv26170@yahoo.com Mobile: (808) 557-1113

Lion AI

AI – Artificial Intelligence – is much in the news these days. Some say it is our future and super-powerful; some say it is super-dangerous and will lead to humanity’s downfall. I tend to be in the center between such extremes, middle ground, a “third way.” As such I think we can gain great benefit from such tools, as long as we think about and examine the topic and AI’s answers. The AI tool’s output may not be perfectly true. And let’s not leave all the “creativity,” as it were, up to that tool.

With that caveat, there is a very useful tool at Lions International’s homepage <https://www.lionsclubs.org/> – “**Lion AI**”. It is in red letters, at the top of the page, and you need not have a login username or password and need not enter the Lions Portal. Upon clicking on that link, it appears:

Want to learn more? Head to the [About Lion AI](#) webpage for tips, tools and even some sample prompts.

The Lion AI tool goes by the name Ellie. That link above gives some explanation of Ellie. Ellie is Lions Clubs specific. Ellie is “trained” on Lions International documents: Constitution, By-Laws, LCI Board Policy Manual (currently 395 pages long, in the English version), brochures, all the stuff in the Member Resource Center, on and on.

Oh, this is so much better than the “search” function at the home page (that works poorly for me most times). You can ask Ellie a question, or request information in plain English. She pays attention to the combination of words you enter. She might figure out mistyped words. She will come back with an answer, and then you can refine or request a follow-up query. You can ask Ellie for the reference to her answers.

Some examples:

- “what are lions global causes”
- “tell me about knights of the blind”
- “give me an example of an eyesight screening event”
- “give an outline for forming a new Lions Club in rural West Virginia (Ellie listed 9 steps)”

- “explain the difference between activities and administration accounts for a Lions Club”

Ellie’s answer to that last request is:

In a Lions Club, funds are typically managed through two separate accounts: the Activities Account and the Administration Account. Here's a breakdown of the differences between them:

1. Activities Account:

- **Purpose:** This account is used exclusively for funds raised by the public through fundraising activities. The money in this account is intended for charitable purposes and community service projects.
- **Usage:** Funds from the Activities Account must be used for the benefit of the community or to support Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) initiatives. They cannot be used for administrative expenses of the club.
- **Transparency:** It is important to maintain transparency and accountability in how these funds are used, ensuring they are directed towards the intended charitable activities.

2. Administration Account:

- **Purpose:** This account is used for the club's operational and administrative expenses. It is funded through club dues and other internal sources, not through public fundraising.
- **Usage:** Funds from the Administration Account cover costs such as meeting expenses, club supplies, and other administrative needs necessary for the club's operation.
- **Flexibility:** Unlike the Activities Account, the Administration Account can be used for any expenses related to the club's internal operations.

By keeping these accounts separate, Lions Clubs ensure that funds raised by the public are used solely for charitable purposes, while administrative costs are covered by the club's own resources. This separation helps maintain trust and integrity within the community and among club members.

If you have any more questions or need further clarification, feel free to ask! Is this what you need?

The Lion AI page says “Ellie (beta) is still learning and will make mistakes. Only publicly available information is used to train Ellie (beta)” I suggest you try it out, play with it – you may get some useful ideas, that your human Lions Club can build upon.

Please let me know about upcoming service projects, events and significant meetings. I hope to be able to attend.

Alaska Update – Typhoon Halong – District 49A has applied for an emergency grant to assist with disaster relief. District 49B has not requested a grant at this time, citing the robust support provided by Alaska Native Corporations along the northwest coast. Communication remains ongoing with Lions Clubs in the affected communities of Nome and Kotzebue. Please keep these clubs and people of the communities in your thoughts and prayers as they continue recovery efforts. If you would like to read about the devastation, please click on the link.
https://theconversation.com/typhoon-leaves-flooded-alaska-villages-facing-a-storm-recovery-far-tougher-than-most-americans-will-ever-experience-267423?utm_medium=article_native_share&utm_source=theconversation.com

Save 10 Lives every Month with LCIF

A monthly \$10 donation to LCIF can help save 10 lives, as each measles shot costs just one dollar. My wife and I give \$10 every month—it's simple and impactful. LCIF also supports local communities, providing grants like \$25,000 in flood relief to Wheeling and Fairmont last spring. West Virginia has received over \$2 million in LCIF grants, showing real local benefit.

Through dedicated support and fundraising efforts, LCIF empowers communities to provide critical health services, disaster relief, and humanitarian aid. By joining this mission, you can help ensure that vital resources reach those in need, making a measurable impact every month.

To make this happen, visit the LCI home page and locate the donate button. After clicking it and answering a few questions, you will complete the donation process.

When donating, using the Empowerment option allows the district to receive 15% of donations back through a DCG Grant. For additional details, refer to next month's article or call to arrange a Club visit for further information about LCIF.

Jay Houser
M29 LCIF Coordinator
Cell 304-580-6322 email gijay180@Yahoo.com

Leadership Article
November Newsletter
PDG Bernice Pitcock

Qualities of a great leader: communication; accountability; creativity; empathy; integrity; active listening; self-awareness; decision making; adaptability.

Let's go in a different direction now – I'd like our Lion members to send me their thoughts as to what makes a good leader. I'd also like you to share who you personally consider to be a good leader and why. This could be one of the officers in your club but doesn't have to be. Can you think of someone who is not currently a leader but shows you the attributes of a good leader – who just might need some encouragement to take on another role. There are many Lions who are content with providing service to their communities but are unsure of moving into leadership. I'm really interested in hearing from you – please email me at bpit@comcast.net or call 304-670-7216. I may use your comments in a future article, but comments will remain anonymous. Thanks for your thoughts!!

Membership
PDG Gary Pitcock
November 2025

As we start the holiday season, let us give thanks for everything we have. Let us also give thanks to our Lions Clubs and the great work we do for our towns.

Things that you can do this season can include helping with your local food pantry or breadbasket. Right now, they are having a rough time because so many people are struggling. If your town is doing a community Thanksgiving dinner – help in some way - donate needed food items or volunteer your time. My club provides beverages for the community dinner, and we have members who volunteer to serve. This gets your Lions Club name and face out there. Think about being in a local Christmas parade. We just participated in a Fall Festival and Halloween Trunk or Treat at our local park.

If you can try to set up speaking engagements with local churches, other civic clubs – try to get your club involved with other organizations. If you still get your Lion magazine – take copies to your local eye doctor, dentist or family doctor – place them on the waiting room tables. Think outside the box. Kick fresh ideas around with each other. You might be surprised at what you can come up with. Happy Thanksgiving!!

IN MEMORY OF:

Ann Supler of the Dallas WV Lions Club

Sight Equipment Calendar

Vision Testing Equipment Reservations

No reservations



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



Welcome to the Lions Family!

We are thrilled to welcome 23 incredible new Lions to our pride! Your passion, dedication, and spirit of service make our community stronger than ever. **Meet Our Newest Lions:** Rebecca Tenney • Marlene Dent • Marc William Hively • Dortha Gump • Hunteer Aliff • Annahita Amireskandari • Haley Bochiuss • Caitlin Cather • Kimberly Cordwell • Shannon Eshelman • George Holmes • Elena Pugacheva • Sherri Rice • Ezequiel Salido • Rob Smith • Brooke Brothers • Souradip Chatterjee • Alexis Crockett • Kristin Haggerty • Roberta Leonardi • Visvanathan Ramamurthy • Michael Robichaux • Holly Shultz • Sarah Starcovic



Never know where you will meet up with fellow Lions! Second from left, Warwood Lion Tom Stenger chatting with Wheeling Lions, Chris Bowie, John Wensyel, and Vince Gallagher while waiting for their wives shopping in Virginia Beach!

REPORT SERVICE - Did you know?

- Every district has a goal to increase the percentage of clubs that report service! District leaders can access Insights Reports in the Lion Portal to view the number of service activities reported by each club.
- If you're a district leader, here are a few ways to help your district reach its reporting goal:
- Connect with club leaders. Find out who is responsible for service reporting and offer your support. Share the benefits of reporting service activities.
- Encourage clubs to elect a service chairperson. This person can take ownership of reporting if that works best for the club.
- Provide coaching. Walk service chairpersons and club secretaries through the steps of reporting service in the portal.
- Appoint a district IT chairperson. This role can provide hands-on assistance to clubs entering service activities.
- Let's work together to make District 29L proud by ensuring every club reports at least one service project each month!

If you're having trouble reporting or need me to report for you, please reach out at: PDG Ramona Sago
rsago1959@gmail.com

PEACE POSTER CONTEST REMINDER Deadlines:

November 15 – Clubs: Please submit your winning poster to DG Kim by this date. Entries received after November 15 will not be accepted. December 15 – DG Kim: Submit the winning District 29L poster to the Multiple District 29 Peace Poster Chair

REMINDERS 990-N tax filing deadline:

November 15, 2025 International Dues: Treasurers need to make sure LCI Dues are paid by: November 30, 2025
Please refer to PDG Bill Syphers for District Dues For more information contact: PDG Ramona Sago
rsago1959@gmail.com

HOW IS YOUR MENTAL HEALTH? Lion UPDATES IF YOU SEE SOMEONE STRUGGLING, REACH OUT TO THEM!

CLUB HAPPENINGS

Warwood Lions Club

The Warwood Lions will hold their annual Light Up Night at Garden Park on December 2, 2025 at 7:00 PM. There will be Christmas Caroles, hot chocolate and cookies, and a visit from Santa Claus as the park becomes a spectacle of Christmas lights and decorations. All are welcome to attend.



Warwood Lions participated in Trunk or Treat held by the Ohio County Virtual Lions and Grow Warwood Pride on October 12, 2025

The Warwood Lions invite you to attend their District Governor's Night on November 10th at 6:00 PM at the Warwood United Methodist Church Warwood Avenue, Wheeling, WV. For reservations call 304-242-7908.

Midtown LEO School Safety Fundraiser



EIN: 99-4849333

Website: https://e-leoclubhouse.org/sites/midtown_alpha_leo/

You never know if or when something is going to happen in a school, but the Midtown LEOs want to make sure our schools are prepared if it happens in our schools. To add extra safety for our kids, the LEOs are raising the funds needed to purchase a Nightlock bolt for every classroom door in all Marion County schools.

Nightlocks provide extra security to prevent bad actors from entering a classroom and endangering our youth while the teacher can control access to the security bolt.

The Midtown LEOs are conducting many fundraising efforts to accomplish this lofty goal but needing to raise almost \$50,000 to purchase enough Nightlocks for every classroom door, the LEOs will also accept donations from the public to help achieve their goal faster.

If you are an individual that wants to donate, you can send a check made out to: **Fairmont Lions Midtown LEO Fundraiser**, 13 Opal Dr. POBox 16 Whitehall, WV 26554.

Businesses can email the Midtown LEOs at; Midtownleo@yahoo.com to arrange for a Midtown LEO to pick up your donation.

For more information about the Midtown LEOs check out our website: https://e-leoclubhouse.org/sites/midtown_alpha_leo/.



Funds will be turned over to Marion County Schools as each school goal is met so they can order the Nightlocks.

Midtown LEOs are a 501-C4 Non-profit organization

Pleasants Area Lions Club

The Pleasants Area Lions Club participated in Oktoberfest held in several locations in Pleasants County on Saturday October 11, 2025. Lions greeted patrons with a new Club tri-fold pamphlet, the LCI “Lions Make a Difference” flyer ME40, and PALC pens and eyeglass cleaning cloths. We promoted the 2026 Flags for Heroes display and sold brooms and mops. The weather was beautiful, and we made many contacts with the public, many of whom wanted to know more about Lions, recycling eyeglasses, and our Service.



Lesage Lions Club

Cox Landing Elementary classrooms and staff have been equipped for the current school year, compliments of the Lesage Lions Club. The club donated more than \$4,000 to school supplies, classroom necessities such as paper towels, hand sanitizer and cleaning items. In addition, every staff member - front office, teachers, custodians and librarians - received a \$75 gift card to use for whatever they wished. The cards were designated for personal use, for a night out with their partner, food for their family, clothes or meals and holiday gifts. The teachers were so moved to be remembered in this manner. Some cried, some hugged club members, and all shouted with joy. Word of mouth spread quickly, and other district teachers wished they were in the Lesage area. Plans are being made to personally remember the staff again at Christmas.

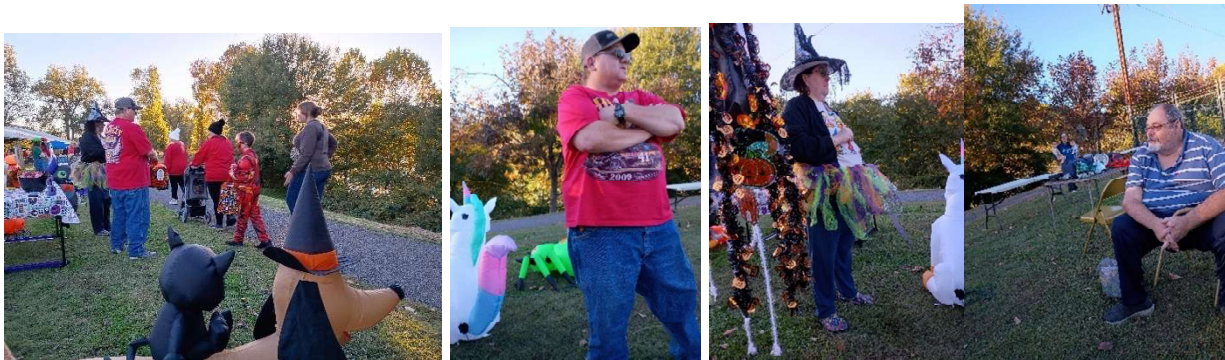




Camp Kno-Koma Fall Retreat 2025 – A sponsored event by Camp Kno-Koma for teens that have Type 1 Diabetes. This event was held at the Adventures of the Gorge Resort near the New River Gorge National Park. Much fun was had and there were many activities to participate in like Zipline that reaches speeds up to 65 mph, horseback riding on some amazing trails and a Jet Boat ride on the New River. There were group games, pumpkin carving, and campfires. This was possible with the donations that are received from District 29L!

Paden City Lions Club

Paden City Lions Club participated in a haunted trail. Over 500 children participated. Lion Charlotte, PDG Dan Heintzman, Lion Jeff, Lion Scott (Friendly Club), Lion Jeff, Lion Rodney (Paden City)



Ohio County Virtual Lions

The Ohio County Virtual Lions recognizes that members of our community are facing food insecurity. We have been made aware of some grocery stores promoting \$40 food boxes to feed 10 people a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. We are asking our community to rally so that we can provide as many \$40 food boxes as we can to families who need a little help. Donations can be made online, by mail, or in person.  <https://www.paypal.me/OCVLC>  PO Box 2102, Wheeling, WV 26003  2197 National Road, Elm Grove (Just Right Homecare)

Dallas Lions Club



Dallas Lions Club has placed a Blessing Box at the intersection of Stone Church Road and Sand Hill. All are welcome to take whatever food items are needed at any time. And if you are able, feel free to leave nonperishable food items for use by anyone who is in need.

Wheeling Lions Club

The Wheeling Lions Club invites everyone to its spaghetti dinner on November 5, 2025.

All proceeds go to the club's charity account.

Tickets are \$15 for adults,

\$10 for ages 5-12, and free for toddlers.

You can use the QR code for payment or pay at the gate on the same day.

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.