

DISTRICT 29 L
West Virginia, USA

July 2026
Newsletter



Message from District Governor Tony Vandenberg

Welcome Lions of District 29 L to a new Lions Year. It can be an exciting time, a chance to reflect on the year past, and consider which traditions to continue, and how we might create new opportunities for service.

MORE LIONS, MORE SERVICE!

Congratulations and many thanks to Immediate Past District Governor Kim Ebert for a fine year, and her caring leadership. District 29 L has shown impressive growth in reporting Service. And we finished 2025-2026 with an increase of 14 in membership – we can grow.

SERVE WITH COMPASSION

The Lions Clubs motto “We Serve” can be brought to life when we strive to *Serve With Compassion* for our communities and for our fellow Lions. A useful metaphor for Lionism is a three-legged stool, where each leg helps our purpose as Lions.



- **Service** is why we, the Lions, are here. We serve locally in support of our global causes: Childhood Cancer, Diabetes, Disaster Relief, Environment, Humanitarian, Hunger, Vision, Youth. Without service, we lose our purpose.
- **Leadership** provides direction, vision, and organization. Leadership encourages members to grow, inspires others to serve, and helps clubs be strong for the future. Without leadership, we lose momentum.
- **Fellowship** creates connection. It builds friendships, strengthens teamwork, and reminds us that we are part of something larger than ourselves. Without fellowship, we lose our sense of family.

Upon the seat supported by these three legs sits **compassion**. By one definition, compassion means serving with care, empathy, and a genuine commitment to improving the lives of others. It transforms activity into impact and membership. When we serve with compassion, lead with

compassion, and build fellowship with compassion, we become stronger Lions and stronger communities. District 29 L demonstrates West Virginia as “Almost Heaven”.

The 29 L cabinet is being assembled. These Lions are here to help Lions and Clubs Serve. Feel free to contact us with questions and concerns, and we will do our best to assist.

DISTRICT 29 L CABINET 2026-2027

Tony Vandenberg	District Governor
Kim Ebert	Immediate Past District Governor
Lori Roberts	First Vice District Governor
Bill Syphers	Cabinet Secretary-Treasurer
Kristine Quinn	District Global Extension Team Coordinator
Bernice Pitcock	District Global Leadership Team Coordinator
Amy Houser	District Global Membership Team Coordinator
Ramona Sago	District Global Service Team Coordinator
Dave Roberts	LCIF District Coordinator
Jay Houser	LCIF Multiple District Coordinator
Ramona Sago	District Administrator
Kristine Quinn	Newsletter Editor
Kathy Syphers	District Information Technology Chairperson
Eva Dague	District Leo Club Chairperson
Paul Amhrein	Sight/Hearing & WVU Eye Institute
Patty Nutter	Youth Exchange (Elected)
Lori Roberts	District Convention Chairperson
David Sago	Peace Poster
Richard McMillan	Guide Dogs
Amy Houser	Sight Equipment Coordinator
Bernice Pitcock	Zone 1 Chair
Kathy Syphers	Zones 2 & 3 Chair
Kim Ebert	Zone 6 Chair

LIONS CALENDAR

July 18	Cabinet Appreciation Picnic, Crystal Lake, West Union
August 1	Cabinet Meeting, 12 Noon, Quinet’s Court Restaurant, 271 Main Street, New Martinsville WV
August 22	Council of Governors, First Baptist Church of Nutter Fort 219 Maryland Ave, Clarksburg WV 26301
September 3-5	USA Canada Forum, Memphis TN
January 29-31, 2027	Lions of WV Leadership Retreat, Flatwoods Convention Center

Lion Tony Vandenberg

District Governor

Ajv26170@yahoo.com

Mobile: (808) 557-1113

Administrative Report

June 2026

PDG Ramona Sago

District administration remains stable, with continued emphasis on **accurate service reporting, timely officer updates, and LCI dues compliance**. Clubs are progressing, but several areas require reinforcement to ensure full eligibility and accurate year-end reporting.

Service reporting continues to be one of the district's strongest administrative indicators.

- Most clubs are reporting monthly, but a few still need reminders to submit activities consistently.
- Secretaries must click **"Report Complete"** for each activity; without this step, the service does not count toward district totals.

Clubs are encouraged to report **every month**, even if no service occurred.

Officer reporting is underway, but several clubs still need to complete their entries in the Lions Portal.

- Required positions: **President, Secretary, Treasurer,**
- Missing officer entries cause communication gaps and prevent clubs from receiving district and LCI notices.
- Clubs are encouraged to appoint a **Club Administrator** to assist with Portal updates.

LCI dues remain a critical administrative responsibility.

- Most clubs are current, but a few have **outstanding balances** that must be resolved before the next billing cycle.
- Clubs are reminded to:
 - Remove **deceased members** promptly
 - Update **contact information** for all members
 - Verify rosters before dues are assessed
- Inaccurate rosters result in clubs being billed for members who are no longer active.

Direct outreach has been made to clubs with overdue balances.

The district is moving in a positive direction, but continued focus on **service reporting, officer updates, and LCI dues accuracy** is essential. With timely action from clubs and consistent communication, the district will enter the new Lions year with strong administrative footing.

Service in the New Fiscal Year: Renewed Purpose for Every Lion

As Lions Clubs begin a new fiscal year, we step forward with a clear opportunity: to strengthen our commitment to **purpose-driven service** and to meet the changing needs of our communities with fresh energy and focus. This is more than a calendar reset — it is a moment to reaffirm who we are and why we serve.

Across our district families and neighbors continue to face challenges that call for the steady, compassionate presence of Lions. Whether through **expanded sight and hearing support** or small but meaningful **micro-impact projects**. Lions are positioned to respond quickly and effectively.

This year, we also renew our commitment to one another. Strong service begins with strong clubs — clubs that welcome new members, celebrate achievements, and give every Lion a meaningful role. When members feel connected and valued, service grows.

As we look ahead, let this be a shared message:

“This fiscal year, our service will not only continue — it will evolve.”

GST/PDG Ramona Sago

LOW VISION: CLARITY THROUGH UNDERSTANDING

“Low vision is a type of permanent vision loss that **glasses, contacts, or surgery cannot fix**. People with low vision are *not blind*—they can still see, but not well enough to do everyday tasks safely or independently.

Low vision can make it hard to read, recognize faces, drive, use a phone, or move around without bumping into things. It can look different for everyone. For example, macular degeneration affects the center of vision, glaucoma affects side vision, and diabetic retinopathy causes patchy or distorted sight.

The important thing to remember is this: **low vision does not mean giving up independence**. There are tools that help—digital magnifiers, screen readers, large-print materials, talking devices, and adaptive lighting.

As Lions, our role is to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and connect people with the support and equipment they need. When we help someone understand low vision, we help them stay confident, capable, and connected to their community.”

West Virginia Lions Sight Conservation Foundation

Trustee, PDG Ramona Sago

990-N Non-Profit Tax Reporting
Administrator: Ramona Sago

Lions Clubs whose gross receipts are normally \$50,000 or less must file Form 990-N, Electronic Notice (e-postcard).

A Lions Club that fails to file the required e-postcard (or annual return) for three (3) consecutive years automatically loses its tax-exempt status.

The first time to be re-instated will cost a club \$400, the second time will cost the club \$800.
Filing period begins on July 1st and ends on November 15th of each year.

PLEASE DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO FILE!

Contact PDG Ramona Sago at 304-662-6265 or rsago1959@gmail.com if your club does not know how to file.

Leadership Article
July, 2026
PDG Bernice Pitcock

Welcome to a new Lions year! Congratulations to DG Tony Vandenberg and let's work hard this year to assist him in meeting the District's goals for Mission 1.5; membership ; service; leadership and LCIF. Congratulations to Immediate PDG Kim Ebert for her successful 2025-26 year.

Just a brief update – all scheduled zoom officer training sessions have been completed with modest attendance. Sincere thank you to DG Tony Vandenberg and District Administrator PDG Ramona Sago for their assistance during the trainings. I will be holding a zone chair training in the near future via zoom.

I will be providing monthly District newsletter updates on leadership. If you are in need of any training – please contact me at 304-670-7216 or bpit@comcast.net.

Let's have a fantastic year Lions!!



Congratulations to new International President Mark Lyon!



Lions International

PEACE POSTER CONTEST 2026

THEME: "THE POWER OF PEACE"



WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

- Ages 11–13
- **Entry Deadline:**
Nov. 15, 2026

CONTEST RULES

- Size: 13" x 20" to 20" x 24"
- No words or numbers
- Original Artwork Only

IMPORTANT DATES

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- District Deadline: Nov. 15, 2026
- MD Deadline: Dec. 1, 2026
- International Judging: Feb. 2027

PRIZES

- Grand Prize: \$5,000
- Plus Awards for Finalists

ORDER PEACE POSTER KITS FROM THE LIONS INTERNATIONAL STORE ★

For More Information:
Contact Lion David Sago

✉ membership@lionsclubs.org

☎ 630-571-5466

LIONS OF WEST VIRGINIA LEADERSHIP RETREAT

January 29-31, 2027

Flatwoods Days Inn & Suites and Conference Center

Registration Deadline: **January 15, 2027**

Enjoy a weekend filled with seminars that elevate your Lions experience, dynamic motivational speakers, informative displays, Lions merchandise, a Silent Auction, a welcoming hospitality room, exciting door prizes, excellent meals, and plenty of fun and fellowship. Specific seminar details will be provided in District newsletters.

Registration Fee:

\$105.00 Friday, Saturday, Sunday – Three banquet meals, seminars & materials

Early Bird Discount Save \$15.00 **IF** you book your Days Inn room **by October 15, 2026**

Hotel Reservation Confirmation No.		Date Reserved:	
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Rooms: Contact Days Inn at 866-700-7284 (*mention you are with the WV Lions Retreat*)

Rates: \$128 King \$133 Queen (2 beds) \$123 Double (2 beds)

Breakfast is included for individuals staying at the hotel.

Deadline to Reserve Rooms at above rates: **December 29, 2026**

Check In Date:		Check Out Date:	
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NAME:			
NAME:			
ADDRESS:			
PHONE:		EMAIL:	
CLUB NAME:		DISTRICT:	
FIRST-TIME ATTENDEE:	<input type="checkbox"/>		
SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS:			

\$105 per person (X 2 = \$210)	\$90 per person (x 2 = \$180) <i>(only if you qualify for Early Bird Special)</i>	AMOUNT ENCLOSED:	
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Make checks payable to: **Lions of West Virginia Leadership Retreat or LWVLR**

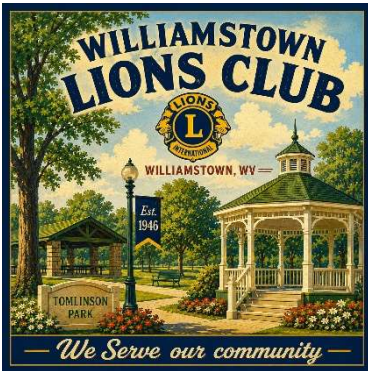
Mail check and form to: **PCC Cindy Glass, 922 East Avenue, Shinnston, WV 26431**

Email: cinwa130@gmail.com; Phone: 304-203-2006

“LEADERSHIP and LEARNING are INDISPENSABLE to each other”



CLUB HAPPENINGS!



You're Invited to Williamstown Lions' Club's 80th Anniversary Dinner

Thursday September 17, 2026
Historic LaFayette Hotel
101 Front St, Marietta Ohio

Cash Bar at the Riverfront Bar & Grill opens at 5:00 pm
Dinner begins at 6:00 pm in the Sternwheel Room

Please join us as we celebrate 80 years of Lionism in the Williamstown community. District Governor Tony Vandenburg will be our guest speaker for this night of remembrance and celebration.

The menu includes a buffet of Baked Steak, Stuffed Chicken Breast, Roasted Redskin Potatoes, Green Beans with Onion and Bacon, Garden Salad and Tortellini Salad and a variety of desserts. Rolls and butter, coffee, tea and water will also be served.

Built in 1918 during the riverboat era, the Historic LaFayette Hotel recently joined the prestigious Historic Hotels of America program through the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The hotel has graciously reserved a block of rooms for guests who would like to stay overnight, at your expense. Please call Julie at the hotel at 740-373-5522 for more information.

To reserve your dinner, please return the form below with payment of \$35 per person no later than August 31, 2026.

Name _____
Phone _____ Email _____
Number of dinner tickets _____

Please return completed form and payment no later than August 31, 2026 to:

Amy Houser
Williamstown Lions Club
423 Henderson Ave
Williamstown WV 26187

Pleasants Area Lions Club Flags For Heroes 2026

The Pleasants Area Lions Club are flying 73 Flags For Heroes at the Greenhouse, St Marys WV on WV Route 2 from June 29 - July 6, 2026. "Throughout our lives we are surrounded by Heroes. They may be public Heroes or ones that are special just to us."

Beautiful by Sun and by Moon.



WARWOOD LIONS CLUB



Congratulations to Lion Al Holderman who was named Warwood Lions Lion of the Year! What an honor and thank you for all you do for the club and the community!



Zone Chairman Lion Kristine Quinn installed the Warwood Lions Officers for the year 2026-27.

Don't forget to submit any club happenings or news to Kristine Quinn at trabbold769@comcast.net. Please make sure it is to me before the 20th of the month! Let's share what each club has been doing!