



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

A Strong Start to the New Year

By District Governor Kim Ebert

As we welcome the New Year, I want to take a moment to reflect on what an outstanding year 2025 has been for our district. Together, we accomplished a great deal. We successfully established a new branch club in Vienna, thanks to the dedication and leadership of Bobette and PDG Terry. All district clubs are current with their dues to Lions International, a testament to our commitment to administrative excellence. We achieved 92% of our district fundraising goal for LCI, and an impressive 93% of our clubs are actively reporting service.

These accomplishments reflect a strong, engaged, and service-driven district. I am incredibly proud of the hard work, cooperation, and commitment shown by our Lions throughout the year. Let us carry this momentum forward, support one another, and finish strong as we continue to serve our communities with courage and heart.

IMPORTANT DATES

Jan 17 – Council of Governors Meeting – Cannan Valley

March 13 – 14 – District 29L Conference

May 15 – 16 - Multiple District 29 State Convention

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 kimwvlsf@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
Lori Roberts, 2nd 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**

Abundance

Happy New Year! As we enter the second half of this Lions Year, let us consider abundance. Some resources are, or at least seem, limited -- hours in the day, for one. Others can be argued to be expandable -- good wishes, invitations, love, service, ideas, compassion, empathy, prayer. I have often noticed that sharing an idea with others -- a service project concept, for instance -- leads to discussion, further ideas, other approaches, combining objectives, enlisting other organizations, and so on. That initial idea grows, morphs, improves, expands.

January can be a good time to evaluate the Lions Year so far, celebrate successes, and plan. Share service successes with other Lions, and other Clubs. Submit articles to this newsletter as a means of growing ideas and service. Our District is doing very well reporting service in the Lion Portal. Those service projects range from small to large, all adding up to Lions Club Service. At mid-December, District 29 L has reported over 330 service activities, serving 80,000 people.

Here are two initial service ideas. Your Club could carry out a project during Lions International Weeks of Service:

- Hunger, January 3 – 11, 2026
- Environment, April 18 – 26, 2026, with Earth Day on Saturday April 22

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

Welcome New Members

Mt Olivet

Carrie Casto, Laura Rafa

Putnam County

Jane Reed, John Reed

CLUB STATEMENTS ARE PAPERSLESS

As the first of this exciting Lion year approaches, it is important to review your club's roster ahead of the upcoming dues billing. By reviewing the club's roster, you ensure that it is up to date, and your club avoids being billed for inactive members. Log into the Lion Portal to update.

Log into the Lion Portal and navigate to My Club – Club Statements to check your club's balance, make payments and see outstanding balances. Reviewing and paying your club's balance regularly helps keep your club in good standing. For questions regarding your club's statement please contact Membership Billing at membershipbilling@lionsclubs.org.

Thank you for your continued leadership and dedication to strengthening your club and serving your community. We appreciate your efforts to keep your club's information current and your membership strong.

District Administrator

PDG Ramona Sago

Introducing Lion AI

A Simple Tool to Help Lions Serve Even Better

What Is Lion AI?

Lion AI is a helpful computer tool that can support Lions Clubs with everyday tasks. Think of it like a friendly assistant that can write things, organize information, and help you plan — This is a step toward a future where every Lion has the support they need to lead with purpose: **serving communities**.

How Lion AI Helps Lions Clubs

- **Help with communication** by writing clear messages for newsletters, event announcements, and social media.
- **Makes planning easier** by creating checklists and schedules for service projects and fundraisers.
- **Supports club leaders** providing simple guides for running meetings or training new members.
- **Connects clubs worldwide** sharing ideas and success stories from other Lions around the globe.
- **Reduces paperwork** by drafting reports and summaries so members can spend more time serving.

Why Lion AI Matters

Lion AI helps Lions focus on what they do best: **helping people**. Instead of spending hours writing reports or planning events, members can use Lion AI to handle the busy work, leaving more time for service, fellowship, and community impact.

Our Motto, Made Easier

We Serve — and with Lion AI, we can serve **more people, more often**, and with **less stress**.

How to Use Lion AI With Confidence

You don't need to be “good with computers” to use Lion AI. If you can type a question the same way you'd ask a fellow Lion, Lion AI can help you. Here's the simplest way to think about it:

Just type what you need — in plain, everyday language.

Examples of what you might type:

- “Write a short message inviting members to our next meeting.”
- “Help me plan a fundraiser for vision screening.”
- “Explain how to run a board meeting in simple steps.”
- “Create a checklist for our food-drive project.”

You don't need special commands, fancy words, or technical knowledge. Lion AI understands normal conversation and responds clearly.

A helpful mindset

Think of Lion AI like a **patient volunteer** who is always ready to help you write, plan, or organize — and never gets tired.

If you're unsure what to type

Start with: “**I need help with...**” and finish the sentence. That's all it takes.

Dist. Administrator PDG Ramona Sago

Hunger 2nd Week of Service

January 3–11, 2026

Join Us in Fighting Hunger & Serving Humanity

Congratulations Lions in District 29L! WE are making incredible progress in service reporting and hunger relief efforts!!

- **Lions Clubs:** 96% reporting completion
- **Leo, Branch, and Campus Clubs:** 67% reporting completion
- **Mission 1.5 Goal:** 91% of the 100%

Every step we take strengthens our district and brings us closer to achieving the **Mission 1.5** goal.

Let's Finish Strong!

We ended the first half of the Lion year on a high note—now it's time to push even harder for the second half. I'll be reaching out monthly to support you with reporting and to keep our momentum going.

Together we can make a lasting impact in the fight against hunger and other humanitarian efforts.

GST PDG Ramona Sago

rsago1959@gmail.com

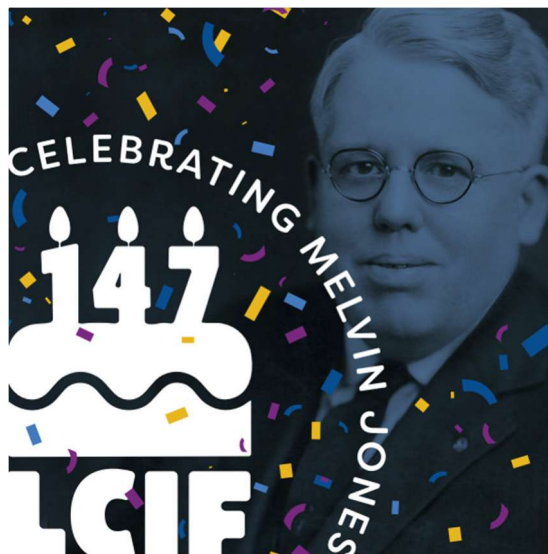
Sight Equipment

Currently there are no reservations for the District sight equipment. Please email me at WilliamstownLionsClub@yahoo.com if you would like to reserve the equipment for your next vision event.

**Leadership Article
January Newsletter
Leadership
PDG Bernice Pitcock**

The 10 Essential Skills of Leadership

- L** – Listen Actively
- E** – Energy/Time Management – focus on energy & time will take care of itself
- A** – Ask Great Questions
- D** - Deliver Predictable Performance
- E** – Elevate Others
- R** – Ruthless Prioritization – focus
- S** – Systems Over Strategy – build processes that work
- H** – Humility With Strength
- I** – Integrity Under Pressure
- P** – Productive Paranoia – always ask what could go wrong – then fix it before it does.



Recruitment Made Simple — for Everyone!

Recruitment doesn't have to be complicated. Whether your club is looking to bring in its very first new member or expand with a fresh wave of volunteers, the right resources can make all the difference.

The Recruitment Made Simple page is your go-to hub for everything you need to revitalize your recruitment efforts. You'll find:

Steps for Success in Recruitment – Practical actions anyone can take to start the conversation with potential members.

Marketing Matters in Recruitment – Tools to promote your club and service effectively.

Success Stories – Inspiring examples of how other Lions clubs have grown and thrived.

Additional Resources – Everything you need to strengthen and refresh your recruitment efforts.

[Learn more](#)

Remember, recruitment is a team effort. The more your members get involved, the stronger and more diverse your club will become. Together, you can build a club that reflects your community and creates a lasting impact.

Thank you for continuing to lead your club's membership growth. Your dedication makes all the difference!





Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION

YOUR US\$100 GIFT CAN HELP LCIF...

- Provide vision screenings for 50 at risk youth through Vision Grants.
- Offer immediate relief to 39 victims of a natural disaster through Emergency Grants.
- House one family during their child's cancer treatment through Childhood Cancer Grants.
- Screen 98 individuals at risk for diabetes through Diabetes Grants.
- Improve access to food for 90 hungry people through Hunger Grants.
- Fund Lions Quest curriculum for one year for an entire classroom through Lions Quest Grants.

100% of your donation supports LCIF grants and programs.



➤ Donate Today | lionsclubs.org/WaysToGive





MD-14 REGIONAL LIONS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

MARCH 6-8, 2026

PA State Council of Lions Clubs Office, 949 East Park Drive, Harrisburg, PA

CANDIDATE'S REGISTRATION FORM

Cost \$195.00 (includes Institute, lodging and meals)

Checks should accompany this form and be made out to "PA State Council of Lions Clubs"

Mail to: PDG Kerry McKnight, 6 Mulberry Lane, New Freedom, PA 17349

All questions to PDG Kerry McKnight

MD14GLT-Learn@Yahoo.com or 717-759-0711

(Past participants, District Governors, Past District Governors ineligible)

Maximum 40 attendees **Please type or print CLEARLY!**

First Name _____ Last Name _____

District Number _____ Member Number _____

Highest Lions Office Held _____ Current Lion's Title _____

Email** _____ Preferred Telephone # _____

****Please Type or Print CLEARLY! Email is used for ALL Communication regarding the institute**

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Club Number _____ Month/Year Joined Lions _____

Offices Held Within Lions Club _____

Committee Positions Held Within Club _____

Why is this institute of interest to you?

By signing below I hereby commit to the conditions of attending the 2026 MD-14 RLLI

- Let us know if there are any special dietary considerations we should be aware of?
- Participants are responsible for arranging their own travel to and from the Institute.
- MD-14 GLT will make all hotel reservations.
- Participants are required to stay until the conclusion on the last day of the institute.
- If they depart early, they will not receive an acknowledgement pin nor their RLLI participation certificate.
- Participants may bring a laptop for use outside of the classroom.
- Participants are required to complete pre-assignments prior to arrival at the institute.

Candidate's Signature _____ Date _____

District Governor Must also Complete and Sign this Form

In what ways will this candidate benefit from attending the Regional Lions Leadership Institute.

District Governor Member Number _____

Name of District Governor _____

Signature of District Governor _____

Email (Please print) _____

Date _____





Youth Exchange Reflections from Finland

Living my dream through the Lions youth exchange Hi! I am Pauliina from Finland, and I had the chance to spend part of my summer in the United States through the Lions Youth Exchange program. The trip was unforgettable, and since returning home, there has not been a single day when I have not thought about it with warmth. I spent three weeks in August 2025 in West Virginia, in a small town called Mathias. My host family lived close to the border of Virginia, so we spent a lot of time there as well. Thanks to them, I also got to visit the state of Maryland. Visiting the United States had been one of my biggest dreams, so I am forever grateful to Lions for making this experience possible for me. My host family was truly more than I could have wished for. They welcomed me with open arms and made me feel at home from the very first day. The family included a mom, a dad, and two younger boys. We spent a lot of time together talking, playing games, going outside, and watching shows. During my stay, we shared our cultures with each other. I learned a lot about the USA and I got to share my Finnish culture. The host family lived in the countryside surrounded by beautiful scenery and many animals. I am grateful because I was able to experience so many different sides of the United States. My host family made it possible for me to see stunning nature, movie-like neighborhoods, and the excitement of big cities. My host family was always full of ideas for things we could do together. Almost every day we explored the local area and experienced something new. We spent time in West Virginia's nature, had picnics by the water, went shopping in Virginia, and tried new restaurants. I finally got to go to Target and Walmart, which had weirdly been little dreams of mine. I know it might sound silly to anyone who lives there, but I was genuinely so excited. Every day during my exchange felt like a gift. I still remember driving over the mountains at sunset, with music playing and the sky glowing orange. In Virginia we visited the amazing Luray Caverns. We also spent a day at a traveling fair, and I experienced my first American rodeo, which was incredible. One of the funniest days was at the Virginia Safari Park, where hungry animals kept sticking their heads into our car. Another unforgettable moment was horseback riding along a forest trail in West Virginia, something I had wanted to do for a long time. I got to meet so many wonderful people, and I feel like my English improved a lot while I was there. We also took two overnight trips to bigger cities, where I got a taste of city life. In Maryland, we visited Baltimore, where I saw beautiful city views and explored different museums. Before I flew back home, we also visited Washington DC and got to feel the atmosphere of the capital. I got to see incredible landmarks, including the White House and many historic memorials. We also spent time exploring the impressive Museum of Natural History. This exchange was one of the best things that has ever happened to me. I had never traveled alone before, but everything went smoothly. After graduating from high school, I had been longing to travel and see more of the world. The youth exchange taught me independence and courage, and it showed me how much there is to explore beyond home. I truly recommend the Lions Youth Exchange to any young person who is thinking about applying. It is so much more than just traveling to a new country. You get to experience a different way of life, meet wonderful people, and learn things about yourself that you would never discover at home. It gives you confidence, independence, and memories that stay with you forever. I am incredibly thankful to my local Lions Club for supporting me and for making this dream come true.

Youth Exchange Interviews



The winning students (L-R) Alyssa Dalton, Gabriela Stevens, Henry Spears, Colton Hetzer, Quin Surles, Oloniyi Jones and Shayle Montgomery

On Saturday December 6, 2025, the Youth Exchange Committee met in Nutter Fort to interview 14 students vying for 6 - \$1,700 travel scholarships. The interviews started at 10:00 am and finished at 3:00 pm. As I have said in the past, we see some of the most incredible students in WV. It is amazing their activities both in school and in their communities.

The interview committee consisted of Lorrie Krautwurst, Mackenzie Harshbarger and Richard McMillen. They all commented on how difficult it was trying to select only 6 winners. They all said they wanted to award a scholarship to all the students. They convinced the Committee Chair, Michelle Harshbarger, to add one more award. Seven students will travel during the summer of 2026. One alternative student was named who will move up if one of the winners is unable to travel.

The students and their families remained with us throughout the day. Lion Paula Shehan is a member of the church in which the interviews were held. At the back of the room was a long table of food for their Backpack Ministry. So, while the students were waiting to hear who the winners would be, we engaged them in a service activity. They filled 183 bags of food and set them on a table for the church backpack committee to find the next day.

At 3:20 the interview committee announced the winners: Gabreilla Stevens, Alyssa Dalton, Oloniyi Jones, Henry Spears, Colton Hetzer, Quin Surles & Shayle Montgomery with the alternate Alanna Hukill. Those who were not selected were encouraged to apply again next year.

CLUB HAPPENINGS

Mt. Olivet Club



Mt. Olivet Club donated Christmas gift bags to the Cameron nursing home again this year. They also presented each veteran with an American flag blanket. Lion Paul Amrhein also presented a flag to one of the residents who is a veteran his name is Charlie Sine. Paul is also a member of the Moundville Honor Guard



(First Pic) Mt. Olivet Club presented a check for \$3500 to local pastor Mike Palmer of Triadelphia Methodist Church which was proceeds from our latest spaghetti dinner. (Second Pic) Induction of a new member Mary Jane Rogerson sponsor (left) Carrie Casto. (Third Pic) Induction of a new member Connie Wright sponsor (left), Laura Rafa

Fairmont Lions Club



The Fairmont Lions Club held its annual Christmas Party for Children at the Fairmont Rescue Mission on Saturday, December 6, 2025. 171 children were provided with a bag of wrapped toys, coloring books, crayons and were also given snacks, socks, gloves and hats. In addition to Lions, volunteers from the Union Rescue Mission, Pierpont Community and Technical College, a West Virginia University sorority and others helped. The Fairmont Lions Club began providing this party for children in 1935.

REMINDERS:

Assign Your 2026 Convention Voting Delegate

If you plan to have a voting delegate attend our international convention in Hong Kong, they must be registered for convention via the convention website. They must also be assigned as a voting delegate in the Lion Portal by their club secretary or other duly authorized officer. For more info, visit the voting section of the 2026 convention webpage

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.

DISTRICT 29-L CONVENTION
PARADE OF CHECKS – MARCH 2026

CLUB NAME: _____

CLUB NUMBER: _____

Our club is making the following contribution(s) to the Parade of Checks to be held at our District 29-L Conference:

	<u>Amount of Check</u>	<u>Club Use</u>
LCIF	_____	_____
WVLSHCF	_____	_____
Camp Kno -Koma	_____	
Deaf & Blind Recreation	_____	
Diabetes Awareness/LEHP	_____	
Leader Dog	_____	
Pilot Dog	_____	
Leo Program	_____	
Romney Work Program	_____	
Youth Exchange	_____	
WVU Children's Hospital	_____	
Disaster Relief	_____	
Total Contribution(s)	_____	

- If your club is donating toward a club Melvin Jones (LCIF) or a Leonard Jarrett Fellow (WV Sight Foundation), please check "Club Use" on this form and also make the notation in the memo portion of your club's check. All undesignated funds for these two charities will be used by the District Governor in naming Melvin Jones or Leonard Jarrett Fellows.
- **Make all checks payable to any of the above choices.** Please send the form and check(s) to: Bill Syphers, 77 Raven Avenue, Wheeling, WV 26003 by March 6 or bring to the conference.