



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

*By District Governor Kim Ebert*

## **A Special Message from DG Kim!**

As the days grow longer and the promise of spring surrounds us, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you who attended the District 29L Conference. Your presence, energy, and commitment made the event truly special. I hope you left feeling inspired, connected, and proud to be part of such a dedicated group of Lions.

Spring is a season of renewal, a time to plant seeds, nurture growth, and bring new life to our communities. It also brings a wonderful opportunity to take action through our Environmental Week of Service, April 22–28. This is our chance to step forward, care for the world around us, and show what Lions can accomplish when we work together for the greater good.

Let us carry the spirit of the conference forward. Lead with courage, serve with heart, and embrace the season ahead with renewed purpose. Together, we can make this spring a time of impact, growth, and service that truly transforms lives.

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](mailto: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!

### **⚠ Important Notice: Eyeglass Assistance Scam Alert ⚠**

Recently, both I and the Fairmont Lions Club have encountered situations involving individuals requesting eyeglass assistance under similar circumstances. In these cases, individuals reported that they had already purchased eyeglasses—typically from Walmart—and were seeking financial assistance afterward in order to pick them up.

As a reminder, Lions Clubs do not provide assistance for eyewear that has already been purchased. Each club follows its own established approval process, and many work directly with specific optometrists to ensure proper verification, discounts, and the ability to serve more individuals in need.

These recent requests raise concerns of a potential pattern that clubs should be aware of. We encourage all clubs to remain diligent, follow established procedures, and verify requests before providing assistance.

Please consider this a “heads up” to help protect your club’s resources and ensure they are used appropriately for those who follow the proper process.

If you have any questions or encounter similar situations, please don't hesitate to contact me at [kimwvlscf@gmail.com](mailto:kimwvlscf@gmail.com).

**Thank you for your continued commitment to serving with integrity and care.**

# District Governor Calendar

April 9th - Boaz Lions Club  
April 11 - Williamstown Lions Club community project  
April 13 - Grantsville Lions Club  
April 18 - Fairmont Lions Club E-recycling project  
April 20 - Doddridge County Lions Club  
May 15-17 - Lions State Convention  
April 13, 2026 - Grantsville Lions Club

## IMPORTANT DATES

May 15 – 16 - Multiple District 29 State Convention



**The West Virginia Lion**

**MD 29 State Convention 2026**



[Click to View!](#)

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## 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**

[Ajv26170@yahoo.com](mailto:Ajv26170@yahoo.com)    **Mobile: (808) 557-1113**

**Spring Has Sprung!**

Lions of 29 L, we are having a good year. Spring is here, and we are in the fourth quarter. Warmer weather might catalyze brainstorming how your Club can develop new service opportunities: environmental projects, outdoor activities, helping in the schools, meeting humanitarian needs. Or, maybe revive past successful projects or events that for some reason you've gotten away from. Every community can use more Lions in service. Give every Lion in your club a chance to offer ideas for consideration.

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

# SERVICE

## The Meaning Behind Our Service

Every pin on a Lions vest tells a story of service, commitment, and pride. These symbols represent more than recognition — they reflect identity, responsibility, and the dedication each Lion brings to improving the lives of others. From club and district achievements to global causes, every badge marks a moment where a Lion chose to serve with purpose.

Wearing these pins is a reminder that we stand for something larger than ourselves. Proud to be a Lion, serving with purpose.

## Fresh Service Directions for Lions

As service evolves, Lions are leading that change. Our goal is to help clubs find approaches that energize their members, prevent burnout, and create easy entry points for new Lions.

### 1. Build Capacity Without Increasing Workload

The strongest service happens when Lions don't stand alone. When clubs collaborate, share resources, and support one another, they expand their impact without stretching members thin.

### 2. Strengthen Support Systems

Lions need to know they are supported — not just as service providers, but as people. When members feel valued and backed by their district and fellow clubs, they serve with greater confidence and enthusiasm.

### 3. Inspire Through Meaningful Impact

Lions love knowing their work matters. When clubs see the difference they make, pride grows, and the Foundation gains stronger stories to share with donors and partners.

Service tells our story through connection and inspiration.

## How Service Is Changing

Lions are adapting to meet the needs of today's communities. The future of service is defined by:

- **How quickly we respond**
- **How deeply we care**
- **How far our impact reaches**

This shift reflects the heart of Lionism — compassion in action, delivered with purpose and unity.

# 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

## 2024-2025 Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) Annual Report

To view the report please click on this link: [https://cdn2.webdamdb.com/md\\_Idj1HPZ672cBA904.jpg.pdf?v=1](https://cdn2.webdamdb.com/md_Idj1HPZ672cBA904.jpg.pdf?v=1)



# ENVIRONMENTAL CORNER WITH AMY HOUSER!

It's HERE!! LCI's **Environment Service Week** is **April 18 thru 26, 2026!** What do you have planned for the week? LCI is committed to help achieve the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals of:

- Tree planting and tree care
- Environmental Cleanup and Restoration
- Recycling and Waste Management
- Environmental Awareness, Education Advocacy
- Clean Water and Sanitation

Thousands of clubs around the world will be doing service projects to improve our environment by recycling, picking up trash, planting trees, and more! For more ideas to plan your environmental service project, visit [mylionsclub.org](http://mylionsclub.org) and search Global Causes.

I'm anxious to see what projects your club reports on the Lions Portal!

Thanks for all you do,

Amy Houser

Environmental Chair

## Multiple District Convention Call

Pursuant to Article VI, Section 1 of the Multiple District 29 Constitution, the Council of Governors hereby issues the official call for the annual multiple district convention, which will convene at 6:00P.M. on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of May 2026, in the Balsam/Spruce Rooms at Canaan Valley Resort Lodge.

MD 29 Council of Governors  
David Roberts, Council Chairperson  
Kim Ebert, 29-L  
Lisa Keffer, 29-C  
Greg Greenwalt, 29-I

## District Convention Calls

In compliance with Article VI, Section 2 of the Standard Form District Constitution and By-Laws, the District 29-L convention will be held on Sunday morning, May 17, 2026, at 9:00 A.M. at the Canaan Valley Resort Lodge, Davis, West Virginia. The purpose of the convention is to elect a district governor, first vice district governor, second vice district governor, trustee to the West Virginia Lions Sight Conservation Foundation, and other elected positions. If required, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting. I hereby issue this call on this 14<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.

*Kim Ebert*

District Governor, 29-L

Signed electronically

In compliance with Article VI, Section 2 of the Standard Form District Constitution and By-Laws, the District 29-C convention will be held on Sunday morning, May 17, 2026, at 9:00 A.M. at the Canaan Valley Resort Lodge, Davis, West Virginia. The purpose of the convention is to elect a district governor, first vice district governor, second vice district governor, trustee to the West Virginia Lions Sight Conservation Foundation, and other elected positions. If required, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting. I hereby issue this call on this 14<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.

*Lisa Keffer*

District Governor, 29-C

Signed electronically

In compliance with Article VI, Section 2 of the Standard Form District Constitution and By-Laws, the District 29-I convention will be held on Sunday morning, May 17, 2026, at 9:00 A.M. at the Canaan Valley Resort Lodge, Davis, West Virginia. The purpose of the convention is to elect a district governor, first vice district governor, second vice district governor, trustee to the West Virginia Lions Sight Conservation Foundation, and other elected positions. If required, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting. I hereby issue this call on this 14<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.

*Greg Greenwalt*

District Governor, 29-I

Signed electronically

## **Multiple District Convention**

As we look ahead to our Multiple District Convention, below are several steps our clubs can take to ensure we remain in good standing. Now is the ideal time to begin preparing.

### **1. Convention Dates:**

- Multiple District 29: May 15-17, 2026

These dates will help your club to determine the number of delegates allowed and identify any outstanding dues or fees that must be paid.

### **2. Number of delegates:**

- District Secretary/Treasurer PDG Bill Syphers will be sending out e-mails/letters to each club letting you know how many delegates your club is allowed.

### **3. Club Balances:**

- Clubs need to work with the club's treasurer to ensure the club's account is not outstanding. All balances must be paid at least 15 days before participating in district and multiple district conventions. Failure to pay outstanding balances may result in your club being ineligible to vote.

**4. Inquires:**

- **Regarding your club's balance with Lions International, please contact one of the following:**
  - (1) **District Administrator – PDG Ramona Sago at [rsago1959@gmail.com](mailto:rsago1959@gmail.com)**
  - (2) **A/R & Club Accounts Service Department at [membershipbilling@lionsclubs.org](mailto:membershipbilling@lionsclubs.org)**

**5. District:**

- **Balances with the district – Contact PDG Bill Syphers at [billsyphers@comcast.net](mailto:billsyphers@comcast.net)**

**District Administrator**

**PDG Ramona Sago**

**TO ALL CANDIDATES FOR SECOND VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR OF  
MULTIPLE DISTRICT 29, LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL.**

In accordance with the requirements of the Constitution and By-Laws of Multiple District 29, Lions Clubs International, all Lions who aspire to the office of Vice District Governor must follow certain procedures prior to the election time at the State Convention of the Lions of West Virginia.

Attached hereto is the blank form “CERTIFICATE OF CANDIDACY FOR 2<sup>nd</sup> VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR, WEST VIRGINIA LIONS”. Please go over this form carefully, with the officers of your local club, and fill all blanks according to instructions.

As you will note, you are required to file four copies of this form, one to each of the individuals listed below:

- District Governor, [kimwvlscf@gmail.com](mailto:kimwvlscf@gmail.com)
- Secretary-Treasurer of MD 29, [kenshahan@aol.com](mailto:kenshahan@aol.com)
- Secretary-Treasurer of District 29L, [billsyphers@comcast.net](mailto:billsyphers@comcast.net)
- Chairperson of the nominations committee for District 29L, [pamrhein25@att.net](mailto:pamrhein25@att.net)

This form must be filed with the above prior to April 16, 2026.

Congratulations on aspiring to the office of Vice District Governor and good luck in your efforts.

Bill Syphers,  
District 29L Secretary-Treasurer

# Certificate of Candidacy

For

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor

NAME OF CANDIDATE \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS:

(residence) \_\_\_\_\_ (business) \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE:

(home) \_\_\_\_\_ (business) \_\_\_\_\_

(Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ CANDIDATE'S

HOME CLUB: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete all blanks:

1. Served as President of a Lions Club for a full term or major portion thereof.

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_

Served as a member of the Board of Directors of a Lions Club no less than two additional years.

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_

2. Served as Zone Chairperson or Region Chairperson or Cabinet Secretary/Treasurer for a full term or major portion thereof.

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_ None of the above was accomplished concurrently.

3. As President and Secretary of the \_\_\_\_\_ Lions Club, we certify the abovenamed candidate, a member in good standing of our Club, has been endorsed by our Club by a two-thirds or greater majority at a meeting held on

\_\_\_\_\_ and attested to in the minutes thereof.

President \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby submit this certificate of candidacy for the high office of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor of District 29 \_\_\_\_, for the year \_\_\_\_\_, to the present District Governor; to the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee; and to the MD Secretary-Treasurer as required under constitutional procedures.

Signature of the Candidate \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ This

certificate is to be filed 31 days before the first day of the convention where the election shall take place.

# Sight Equipment



**Vision Testing  
Equipment  
Reservations**

**No new 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

**Leadership Article  
April Newsletter  
PDG Bernice Pitcock**



# 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

## A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR:

I attended the District 29L Conference in Parkersburg, WV on March 14-15. We had a fantastic time on the dinner cruise that was taking place on Friday night. The Blennerhassett Hotel & Spa does a fantastic job accommodating the Lions while at the hotel for the conference. They have a fantastic partnership with The Humane Society of Parkersburg. They keep a kennel in their lobby with an adoptable dog in it to see if they can get a dog adopted. They have helped about 200 dogs get adopted with this partnership. Well, wouldn't you know they had a sweet dog in the kennel, and he looked at my husband! We arrived on Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup> and left on Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> driving down the highway with a new four-legged family member. His name is Andre and he is a Hound/Plot mix. They say he is 7 years old, but we have our doubts since he acts like a puppy! So be careful if you go to the conferences at the Blennerhassett Hotel in the future. You may be driving down the road with one of their foster dogs! We have no regrets he is an amazing dog!



**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.**