

DISTRICT 29 L West Virginia, USA
August 2026 Newsletter



Message from District Governor Tony Vandenberg

SERVE WITH COMPASSION

To Serve With Compassion, as mentioned last month, means serving with care, empathy, and a genuine commitment to improving the lives of others. It also means that we are open to being a *recipient of service* through our relationships with others. Some relationships are direct with the community member, or the Lion we are serving with. Others are indirect relationships through assurance that we are helping to meet a need, for instance through eyeglasses recycling or LCIF. Ponder what do we *learn* from our service?

Our International President Mark Lyon says

*Service is the foundation of Lions. It's who we are and what we do.
Our roots run deep — stretching far and wide to build lasting
connections and strengthen our world.
Every time we serve, our roots grow stronger and deeper.*

Service is why we are Lions. As the summer continues, consider how your Club will serve in September and October. New ideas maybe? Remember to ask yourself, your Club members, and community “What is your Passion? How can our Lions Club help with that Passion?”

Mark your calendars for the Lions Clubs International Weeks of Service – an opportunity to encourage our clubs to serve and be visible in our communities. **Vision** is the suggested global cause for October 8 – 18, 2026 – though any and all service is what we are about. For more on Lions and Vision, see <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/member-resource-center/service/global-causes-initiatives/vision>.

Let us not forget that we can serve others through our thoughts, prayers, smiles, and sending good energies. Storms, tornadoes, flooding, wildfires, personal disasters abound, yet we can help even at a distance: we are more powerful than we sometimes think.

Here are two references that support the theme “Serve with Compassion”; they might help you to explain Lionism to a friend, neighbor, service-minded community member. (Credit for finding these goes to “Ellie” the Lion AI Assistant. It is available at the top of the homepage www.lionsclubs.org)

Resource	Navigation location	Link
What is a Lion?	About Us → Our Membership → What is a Lion	https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/about-us/our-membership/what-is-a-lion
Our Core Values	About Us → Our Organization → Core Values	https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/about-us/our-organization/core-values

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
Mary Keyser	District Diabetes Chairperson
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
Bill Bell	Zone 4 Chair
Dave Roberts	Zone 5 Chair
Kim Ebert	Zone 6 Chair
Richard McMillan	Zone 7 Chair

LIONS CALENDAR

August 1	29 L Cabinet Meeting, 12 Noon, Quinet's Court Restaurant, New Martinsville
August 15	WVU Lions Club Charter Night, Morgantown
August 22	Multiple District 29 Council of Governors First Baptist Church of Nutter Fort, 219 Maryland Ave, Clarksburg
September 3-5	USA Canada Forum, Memphis TN
October 17	District 29 I Fall Conference, Benedum (Bridgeport) Civic Center
October 8 – 18, 2026	Lions Week of Service
October 30 – Nov 1	District 29 C Conference, Pipestem Resort State Park
January 29-31, 2027	Lions of WV Leadership Retreat, Flatwoods Convention Center

Lion Tony Vandenberg

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



LIONS INTERNATIONAL

PEACE POSTER CONTEST

Theme: *"Harmony in Humanity"*

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

- Students ages 11–13 on November 15, 2026
- Schools, youth groups, and community organizations may participate
- One entry per student

CONTEST REQUIREMENTS

- Original artwork only
- Size: 13" x 20" to 20" x 24"
- No lettering, numbers, or words on the front of the poster
- Use any medium except chalk, charcoal, or glitter

HOW LIONS CLUBS PARTICIPATE

- Promote the contest to local schools and youth groups
- Provide contest kits (one per participating group)
- Host a club-level judging
- Submit the winning poster to the district

HOW TO ORDER A PEACE POSTER KIT

Each participating club must purchase an official kit.

- Order from the Lions International Store
- Item: **Peace Poster Kit (PPK-1)**
- Order early—kits sell out quickly

IMPORTANT DATES

- District Deadline: November 15, 2026
- Multiple District Deadline: December 1, 2026
- International Judging: February 2027
- Grand Prize Winner Announced: Spring 2027

CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS

For questions about rules, deadlines, or submissions, Lions may contact:

Lions Clubs International – Member Service Center
 membership@lionsclubs.org ☎ 6305715466
 Peace Poster Chair: **Lion David Sago**

Leadership Article August Newsletter PDG Bernice Pitcock



Our International President Lion Mark Lyon's theme this year is "Rooted in Service". I will take that theme a little further and talk about the "Roots" of LEADERSHIP that are so important to provide support to our local Lion's clubs at the zone, district, and multiple district levels. In order for Lions to provide support to our local and global communities, leaders at all levels are necessary to guide us in setting meaningful goals and take advantage of the resources available to advance our actions towards those goals. Prepared leaders have much information made available to them from Lions International and LCIF. If you are a leader in this organization, it is imperative that you take the time to investigate what information is available to you to make meaningful decisions and contributions towards your stated goals. Encourage up and coming leaders within your clubs to research what's available in the Lions Learning Library online at LI website. Take advantage of the upcoming WV Leadership Retreat being held in Flatwoods the last weekend in January. The information available to you will help you not only in Lions, but in your work and other aspects of your life.

I am always available to help you with training needs or questions by email: bpit@comcast.net or phone: 304-670-7216. Let's make a big effort to strengthen our leadership roots this year and assist DG Tony in meeting his and District 29L's 2026-27 goals.

Service + Visibility = New members

"Rooted in Service" is International President Mark Lyon's theme for the new Lion year. As the new Global Membership Team chairperson, I want to thank PDG Gary Pitcock for his leadership as the GMT in past years. He has been instrumental in helping clubs gain and retain members and I look forward to leaning on him as I learn the ropes.



I'm an 11-year member of the Williamstown Lions club after having moved here from Altoona PA. My husband, PDG Jay Houser, and I have a blended family of six adult children and two grandchildren. I grew up as a "PK", preacher's kid, rooted in service and active in my church which continues today. As a Lion. I can honestly say that being a Lion has been the most rewarding and fun!

When Jay was a District Governor, we visited many clubs and listened to their successes and concerns. Top of their concerns was the aging membership and the need to gain new members. While an increase in membership is what makes our clubs grow, retaining our membership is also a challenge. By being "rooted in service", your club will be attractive to new members; those who want to serve their community.

As we begin a new year, I challenge your club to do three things in August: first, name a club Membership Chair and put their information into the Lion Portal. Second, plan your next service activity and advertise on Facebook, the local paper and the tv station. Invite people to join you and don't be shy about what you do....be proud! That enthusiasm is contagious! Finally, follow the District 29L Lions 2026-2027 Facebook group to keep up to date with what's going on within our district and multiple district and for club leadership ideas. Set your club up for success during September's membership drive.

I'm here to help and will be happy to attend your zone meetings. Feel free to contact me at 304-200-0146.

Thank you for all you do!
Amy Houser
Global Membership Chair

CABINET APPRECIATION PICNIC



CLUB HAPPENINGS

FAIRMONT LIONS CLUB



Fairmont Lions Club member Elizabeth Swiger celebrated her 100th birthday on June 27, 2026, with a party in the social hall of Central United Methodist Church in Fairmont. A large crowd came by to wish her well, including a number of club members. The club presented her with flowers. She is Professor Emerita of Chemistry at Fairmont State University (then Fairmont State College) and served the institution from the 1950s until she retired in 1994. She has been very active in supporting the Fairmont Lions Club and is a Melvin Jones Fellow.



The Fairmont Lions Club and Midtown Leo Club hosted an e-waste recycling event in the parking lot of Country Club Shops on June 27, 2026. Barrackville Lions Club members joined and assisted with taking apart TVs and monitors. In addition to providing a service to the community, the Fairmont Lions and Midtown Leo clubs receive some funds from the recycling companies involved. A fee was charged for TVs and monitors, which the Barrackville club received to support their fundraising. It was a busy, but fun and productive day.

WARWOOD LIONS CLUB



Warwood Lions Club Tribute to America's 250th Birthday



Warwood Lions Club sells 50/50 at Toe Tappin Tuesdays at Garden Park in Warwood to help support their Sight and Community Projects

OHIO COUNTY VIRTUAL LIONS



Chris Doty from the Ohio County Virtual Lions took part in the Mt. Olivet Lions Club America 250th Birthday Celebration. The club gave away free books to the children to encourage them to read more!

WEIRTON LIONS CLUB



VIENNA LIONS CLUB



Congratulations on your charter!

WVU LIONS CLUB

Join Us for Food, Raffles, and Fellowship!

WVU LIONS CLUB CHARTER NIGHT

Camp Muffly Park Pavilion 5, Morgantown, WV

Saturday, August 15th
1 PM

Admission: \$10*

Children under 5 free

*Please bring cash for admission and raffles!

RSVP by August 3rd to wvulionsclub@gmail.com

Please include party headcount and any dietary restrictions

Can't attend but would still like to support?

Checks can be made payable to WVU Lions Club and mailed to
Caitlin Cather (Room 3123) at 64 Medical Center Drive P.O. Box 9142
Morgantown, WV 26506



WILLIAMSTOWN LIONS CLUB

Williamstown Lions Club celebrated the Fourth of July by displaying Flags for Heroes and serving pancakes and sausage in the park!



You're Invited to

Williamstown Lions' Club's 80th Anniversary Dinner

Thursday September 17, 2026

Historic LaFayette Hotel, Marietta Ohio
101 Front St, Marietta Ohio

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 Redskinned 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. Please call Julie at the hotel at 740-373-5522 for more information.

To reserve your dinner, please return the below form 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

MT OLIVET LIONS CLUB



The MT OLIVET LIONS recently donated food and drinks to the Simpson Church Soup Kitchen in Moundsville, WV. Pictured above are staff from Simpson Church, Lion President Jim Lightner, and Lion Paul Amrhein.

Mt Olivet Lions celebrated the 250th Anniversary of America with pride!

The Mt. Olivet Lions Club extends our sincere appreciation to all who supported our **250th Anniversary of America Celebration on July 11th**. Our community enjoyed a day of patriotic pride, family fun, fellowship, and celebration. Please accept our heartfelt thanks for helping us serve our community and celebrate this important milestone.

