



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

By District Governor Kim Ebert

Welcome to June!

As I write my final newsletter article as District Governor, I find myself reflecting with deep gratitude on this remarkable journey we have shared. What began as a leadership role quickly became something far more meaningful — an opportunity to build friendships, strengthen our commitment to service, and experience the incredible spirit that defines our district.

Over the past year, I have had the privilege of visiting clubs, attending events, celebrating accomplishments, and witnessing firsthand the compassion and dedication that each of you brings to our organization. The memories we have created together will stay with me long after this term concludes.

What I will treasure most are the relationships formed along the way. I sincerely hope that the new friends I have met throughout this journey will remain lifelong friends. Though titles and terms may change, the connections we build through shared service and fellowship continue well beyond any single year.

I look forward to seeing many of you in the months and years ahead — at district events, club gatherings, community projects, and wherever service calls us next. I may be stepping away from this role, but I will always remain grateful to be part of this district family.

Thank you for your encouragement, your kindness, and your unwavering support throughout this incredible experience. Serving as your District Governor has truly been one of the greatest honors of my life.

Wishing each of you continued success, friendship, and joy in the journey ahead.

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**

Year-End

My goodness, this is the Last month of the Lions year. Let's Finish up strong.

Here are a few thoughts., a partial To-Do list:

- Service: plan / start / complete any of your club's "usual" summer projects; opportunities with school year ending, warmer weather, or related to the economic stresses on your community. Take time to brainstorm new service for the new Lions year.
- Leadership: elect, report, and install your officers.
- Membership: Just Ask — invite people to service projects and fundraisers; ask again those you have talked with about Lions before, contact former Lions. Collect dues from current members, drop those who won't pay, so that International and District dues are billed correctly.
- Celebrate this year's successes. All in District 29 L thank you for all you do in your community, your Club, and for your own spirit.

End of Year Service Reporting

Fellow Lions,

As we close this fiscal year, thank you for the incredible service you've given to your communities. Through your efforts, you've brought the mission of Lions Clubs International to life in meaningful ways.

Please remember to report your services using the Portal so your impact is fully recognized and counted.

As we look ahead, I encourage each club to build on this year's success by setting strong, focused goals for the upcoming year. Please take the time to do officer training.

Thank you for your dedication – Where there is a need, there is a Lion.

In Service,

GST PDG Ramona Sago

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

WHAT DOES THE DISTRICT GST DO?

The Global Service Team (GST) supports clubs to make a **bigger impact** in their communities and the world.

SUPPORTS CLUBS
Provides guidance, resources, and training to help clubs serve more effectively.

INCREASES IMPACT
Encourages service projects that meet real community needs and create lasting change.

BUILDS PARTNERSHIPS
Connects clubs with organizations and partners to expand reach and resources.

STRENGTHENS SERVICE
Helps clubs align with Lions International's global causes and share their success.

CELEBRATES & SHARES
Promotes and celebrates the incredible service happening across our district.

THE GST EMPOWERS CLUBS TO:

- ✓ **Serve with Purpose**
Focus on the needs that matter most.
- ✓ **Grow Stronger**
Build leadership, skills, and confidence.
- ✓ **Make a Difference**
Transform lives in your community and beyond.
- ✓ **Inspire Others**
Share your impact and inspire more to join.

*Stronger Clubs.
Stronger Communities.
A Better World.*

TOGETHER, WE CAN CHANGE MORE LIVES.

Your Service. Our Mission.
GLOBAL IMPACT. *THAT'S Lions!*

May 2026

29L's PDG association will hold a 2025-26 Cabinet Appreciation Picnic for the outgoing District Governor Kim Ebert and her cabinet on Saturday July 18, 2026, at Crystal Lake, Doddridge County at 12 noon at the community building at the lake. Current cabinet members and PDG's lunches are complimentary – any other attendees have a cost of \$15.00 per person. Doddridge County Lions are hosting the picnic once again this year.

As a reminder, District cabinet members and clubs are encouraged to make a monetary donation to help with the DG's expenses that have been incurred this busy Lions year. IPDG Dave Roberts will be in touch with you for details.

Let's come together one more time to congratulate DG Kim and her team for a successful Lions year!!

Zoom training is being scheduled for the following dates and times for incoming officers (2026-27) and any interested Lions: Secretaries and Treasurers: Thursday June 11 at 6pm and Saturday June 13 at 10 am; President and Vice Presidents: Thursday June 18 at 6pm and Saturday June 20 at 10 am. I will NOT schedule any in person training unless there is a specific request to do so. When I have a list of 2026-27 zone chairs, I will contact them for 1 in person training and 1 zoom training.

If you have not been to a previously held officer training schedule within the past 3 years, your incoming District Governor, Lion Tony Vandenberg and I highly encourage you to attend one of the scheduled sessions. If you have specific topics you would like to cover, feel free to contact me at bpit@comcast.net or 304-670-7216. Also, don't forget to take advantage of the Lions Learning Center in the Lions portal – there are officer training and zone chair training modules there as well.



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. CONTACT FOR KRISTINE QUINN IS 412-915-9465, 375 CLEARVIEW AVENUE, WHEELING, WV 26003, TRABBOLD769@COMCAST.NET

Sight Equipment



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



Environmental Service Week Kudos!

LCI's Environmental Service Week was April 18-26, 2026, and we had some wonderful projects reported on the Portal! Six clubs reported environmental service projects during the week: Fairmont Lions and Midtown Lions had an E-Waste recycling event, Morgantown Lions sponsored an E-Recycling event, Mt Olivet Lions planted trees, West Monongalia County picked up litter and Williamstown Lions picked up litter through Hiway Cleanup and made seed bombs. Thank you to all Lions who participated and served!



I would also like to thank all Lions who have participated in their club's environmental projects. To date, 29L's Lions Clubs environmental projects have **served 19,133 people** with **248 volunteers** and **901 volunteer hours**. Pat yourself on the back for a job well done!

Thank you for serving your community!

Amy Houser, Environmental Chair

CLUB HAPPENINGS!!

CHESTER LIONS CLUB



 **Chester Lions Club**
4th of July Car Show

Chester City Park, Chester, WV
Saturday, July 4, 2026



We will once again be limited to about 175 – 200 entries.
Come early to ensure a space. Some overflow parking available.
Due to the space limitations, please no trailers.



- ★ 36 Trophies
- ★ Dash Plaques to the First 170 Registrants
- ★ Door Prizes, 50/50 & Chinese Raffles
- ★ Music (since we have a DJ, please no outside music)
- ★ Food available
- ★ Amateur Judging

11:00 AM to 3:00 PM | Registration 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
\$10 Registration Fee - Judging begins at 12:30 -
Cars, Trucks, & Motorcycles welcome
All Makes, Models & Years



Pre-registration available.
Contact Steve at sfwilson55@gmail.com
(412-370-7356)
PRE-REGISTERING DOES NOT RESERVE A SPOT.

RAIN DATE – FRIDAY, JULY 10, 5:00 PM TO 8:00 PM

Not responsible for any loss, damages, or injuries.

 **Chester, WV Lions Club**

WEIRTON LIONS CLUB

2026 Heart of a Lion

On May 19, 2026 the Weirton Lions Club honored Holly Greaver as their “Heart of the Lion” award recipient for 2026. The “Heart of a Lion” award is given in recognition of an individual who exemplifies the qualities of service and commitment to their family, their church or spiritual affiliation and their local community as well as, concern for the people of the world. This person is not a member of the Lions Club, but someone who has the same concerns and heart for service to those in need as members of the Lions do. The total membership

of the Weirton Lions nominates individuals that meet that desire to serve and then chooses the recipient of the honor. This is the 4th year of the program – past recipients include Nick Tranto, Gene Hunt and Tom Banketas.

Holly was born, raised and resides in Weirton, attended Brooke County Schools and WVNCC. She obtained associates degrees from WVNCC in business and accounting. Holly is currently studying at the University of the Cumberland for a Bachelors degree in Missions and Ministry. Her goal is to become a pastor. She works full time at Industrial Scientific with 18 years of service there. Holly attends the United Methodist Church on West Street – there she teaches Sunday School, is chairperson of the Church Administrative Council, and is a member of the Pastor Parish Relationship Committee (PPRC). She runs the church’s food pantry and clothes closet and is currently working on this summer’s Vacation Bible School. Holly is married to Pete Greaver and has a daughter Rianna and grandson Archer.

Holly’s pastor – Kyle Ashley – gave the Invocation at the dinner. Past Lion President John Porco explained the program and gave a brief Lion’s history for those in attendance. Past District Governor Bill Syphers (Wheeling Island Lions Club) presented Holly with her award and current Lion President and Past District Governor Gary Pitcock presented a monetary donation to her that will go to the charity of her choice.

The event was held at Giovanni’s Restaurant in Weirton, where the Lions regularly hold their meetings – the meal was great as usual. A fabulous dessert was provided by Lion Vanessa Beaver of Sweet Temptations Pastry Shop. For more information on the projects of the Weirton Lions or if you are interested in learning more about Lions in general, please contact Lion Gary Pitcock at 304-797-8374.



crowd picture

Holly Greaver and Past District Governor Bill Syphers



Holly speaking to group

Holly Greaver & Past District Governor & Lion President Gary Pitcock

PLEASANTS AREA LIONS CLUB



Pleasants Area Lions club donated books to the children of the local elementary school and the children sent them thank you cards.

WARWOOD LIONS CLUB

The Warwood Lions Club held their education night on May 10th. After dinner was served awards were given out to the following students.

First picture from left Lion Mark Vieweg, \$1000.00 scholarship winners Anthony Mealy and Anna Contraguerro from Wheeling Park High School and President, Dave Bonenberger.

Second picture Warwood School Citizenship winners Jaycee Campbell and Kenzie Kasunic who received \$100.00 checks. Also pictured Mark Vieweg and Dave Bonenberger.



WEST LIBERTY LIONS CLUB

We are so excited to announce this years WLLCFSC Back to School Fun Fair! We would love to invite you to set up a table again or for the first time. It will be July 25th at West Liberty Elementary School. The actual event is from 1:00-2:00 and vendors can set up starting at noon. We can expect up to 100 children for this event.

This is how we set ours up:

Each child will receive a stamp card. They will then go to each table to learn about your resource. You are welcome to do a craft or activity with the children. They will have you stamp their card and after seeing all of the table will go to the backpack station to trade their card for a backpack full of their needed supplies. We receive the supply list from Mr Valani each year for what supplies are needed for each grade level. Homeschool children receive the grade level that they are in.

This is a wonderful time to connect to our rural families that are not fully aware of what amazing resources we have available.

