

**LEAD TO COURAGE, SERVE WITH HEART!**



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

**☀️ Get Ready, District 29L! ☀️**

***By District Governor Kim Ebert***

## **Spring Forward with Lions Energy!**

As we turn our clocks forward for Daylight Saving Time, we gain an extra hour of evening light — and what better way to use it than by shining that light through service?

Spring is a season of renewal, growth, and fresh momentum. It's also the perfect time for us to come together at the **District 29L Conference!** Just as we adjust our clocks, this is our opportunity to refocus our vision, recharge our commitment, and reconnect with fellow Lions who share our passion for service.

The conference is more than meetings and reports — it's fellowship, leadership development, celebration of accomplishments, and inspiration for the year ahead. When Lions gather, ideas spark, friendships deepen, and communities benefit.

So as you “spring forward,” plan to move forward with purpose. Bring your enthusiasm, your ideas, and your Lion heart to the District Conference. Let's make the most of this season of light — together.

Lead with Courage. Serve with Heart.



## **IMPORTANT DATES**

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](mailto: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!

# District Governor Calendar

February 24, 2026 - Moundsville Lions Club Visit  
March 4, 2026 - Wheeling Lions Club Visit  
March 5, 2026 - Williamstown Lions Club Visit  
March 12, 2026 - Parkersburg Lions Club Visit  
March 13-14, 2026 - District 29L Conference  
March 19, 2026 - Dallas Lions Club Visit  
April 9, 2026 - Boaz Lions Club  
April 13, 2026 - Grantsville Lions Club

## 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

## **District Conference Time!**

As you may see elsewhere in this newsletter, our District Conference will be March 13-14, at the Blennerhassett Hotel in Parkersburg. Please consider joining in! In my mind Lions Conferences are a great for:

- **Learning**  
From the Cabinet meeting, to the International Guest, to the breakout sessions, to chance conversations with Lions from 29 L and other Districts during the day, we all have the opportunity to learn, gather service ideas, gather leadership ideas, and celebrate all that we do as Lions!
- **Friendship**  
One marvelous benefit of membership in a Lions Club is getting to know amazing people you would never have had a chance to even meet otherwise. You have the opportunity to know Lions from your Club, your neighboring Club, Clubs across our District, State, USA, the planet. The District Conference might be your once-a-year opportunity to renew these friendships.
- **Fun**  
The Conference will offer opportunities for just plain fun, entertainment, humor, and the fun learning and friendship.

I hope to see you there.

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

## **Notice to All Lions Clubs**

This is a reminder that **email notices were sent out during the third week of February** regarding outstanding balances with Lions Clubs International.

We still have **numerous clubs with past-due accounts**. Please review your club's status and **check with your Club Treasurer** to ensure all dues and accounting are current.

Please also remember that the **Multiple District 29 Convention is coming up May 15–17**. To be **eligible to vote**, **all accounting must be paid in FULL by April 15**. This requirement applies to **all clubs**, including those with **Past District Governors**.

**Please check with PDG Bill Syphers concerning all district dues.**

Thank you for your prompt attention and for your continued service.

Yours in Lionism,

**PDG Ramona Sago**

District Administrator

# Strengthening Impact Through Focused Service

The latter half of the Lions year provides clarity and direction. Clubs have assessed community needs, evaluated their capacity, and identified the areas where their service can be most effective. This is the time to:

- Complete major service projects planned earlier in the year
- Address urgent, emerging needs within local communities
- Engage new members through hands-on service opportunities
- Reinforce partnerships with schools, agencies, and local organizations
- Highlight the visibility of Lions service through consistent reporting and communication

Every act of service—large or small—contributes to the collective strength of our district. Whether providing eyeglasses, assisting with hearing evaluations, supporting families in crisis, or offering transportation to medical appointments, Lions continue to make a measurable difference.

GST Ramona Sago

## Has your club applied for a Vision Screening Grant?

Grants may be requested to fund the purchase of vision screening devices in relation to KidSight efforts.

Standard Grants are a matching grant opportunity where Lions may request **up to 50%** of the overall project cost (not to exceed \$100,000) and must contribute local matching funding for the remaining 50% of the project.

The minimum grant request amount for Standard grants is \$10,000. (2 vision screeners).

Funding may not be requested for operational expenses or on a reimbursement basis. Additionally, the local match must be cash and at least two Lions clubs must sponsor the grant application; although, several clubs could be involved.

Applications may be submitted at the District or Multiple District level.

Standard grants are reviewed by the LCIF Board of Trustees 3 times a year. Applications must be received in completed form by the Humanitarian Programs Department no later than sixty days before scheduled board meetings. Please check with LCIF on the application deadline dates.

For more information on the Standard Grants program and Vision Screening Grants Project Guidelines, please contact Wesley Gatherings in the LCIF Humanitarian Programs Department at [Wesley.gatherings@lionsclubs.org](mailto:Wesley.gatherings@lionsclubs.org) or 630-468-6887. The following Grant Statements can be found on the District Webpage.

- LCIF Grant Statement
- Standard Grant Application
- Vision Screening Project Guidelines

District Administrator

PDG Ramona Sago

# District and Club Community Impact Grant Program

District and Club Community Impact Grants (DCG) empower Lions to support humanitarian activities in their communities. Funded by contributions from clubs and districts to LCIF, these grants incentivize Lions' donations and service projects that align with the foundation's key areas of focus. A percentage of qualifying, undesignated, unrestricted donations is made available for DCG grants. The percentage made available is based on the amount donated through a giving structure, and all projects require LCIF approval. This initiative is available to both districts and clubs. Multiple districts are not eligible. Only donations to the Empowering Service Fund are eligible for DCG funding.

## New DCG giving levels

Beginning with donations made in fiscal year 2025–2026 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026), DCGs will feature new giving and grant levels. The more your club or district gives, the more funding is available to apply for as a grant. Grants remain subject to LCIF approval.

### Club giving (per fiscal year)

- US\$5,000 – \$9,999.99: Eligible for a 15% grant
- US\$10,000 – \$19,999.99: Eligible for a 20% grant
- US\$20,000 and above: Eligible for a 30% grant

### District giving (per fiscal year)

- US\$10,000 – \$19,999.99: Eligible for a 15% grant
- US\$20,000 – \$29,999.99: Eligible for a 20% grant
- US\$30,000 and above: Eligible for a 30% grant

Minimum eligibility remains US\$5,000 for clubs and US\$10,000 for districts in a single fiscal year. Grants require LCIF approval and only qualifying, undesignated, unrestricted donations to the Empowering Service Fund (unrestricted) are eligible.

## Grant guidelines

Donations can be made throughout the fiscal year, with grants available for application in the following fiscal year. The DCG requires a minimum donation of US\$5,000 for clubs and US\$10,000 for districts. The minimum donation amount must be given within the fiscal year (July 1–June 30). Qualifying districts and clubs can use earned funds for local projects by submitting a DCG application or as matching funds for other LCIF grant programs. Clubs may retain their DCG funds for their use or release them to their district to count toward the district's DCG account. The amount of DCG funding available is determined by the giving structure.

## Grant examples

Support humanitarian projects that enhance community welfare and showcase Lions' impact.

- Fund health initiatives, such as wellness programs.
- Develop community engagement activities that foster collaboration between Lions and local organizations.

## Download application with link below:

[https://cdn2.webdamdb.com/md\\_6RJWUMalmfh0.jpg.pdf?v=1](https://cdn2.webdamdb.com/md_6RJWUMalmfh0.jpg.pdf?v=1)

# 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

## Plan now for Environmental Week of Service

Lions and Leos around the world are being called upon to plan service activities that improve the environment during April 18-26, 2026. Many clubs in 29L already do this! Some examples are highway cleanup, river, creek and trail cleanups, recycling events, tree planting, etc. There are so many ways to get outdoors and get involved with Lions around the world! This is also an excellent opportunity to publicize your event and get non-Lions involved. Research shows that younger people want less meetings and more service. Invite the public through your Facebook posts, offer needed supplies and refreshments. Make sure you have some new member applications on hand!

Earth Day is April 22; what will your club do to make a difference? Be sure to share your activities on your club Facebook page, our district Facebook page and through our District newsletter. For more information and ideas visit [lionsclubs.org](http://lionsclubs.org) Member Resource Center for tools to plan, promote and celebrate your service at [www.lionsclubs.org/en/member-resources-center](http://www.lionsclubs.org/en/member-resources-center).

Amy Houser  
Environmental Chair

## 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](mailto:WilliamstownLionsClub@yahoo.com)



# 40/20 CHALLENGE

20 new members in the next 40 days

There's no time like the present to bridge the membership gap and finish this Lions year **STRONG and POSITIVE!**

**ONE** new member every **TWO** days to achieve this goal,

**JUST IN TIME FOR  
WORLD WIDE INDUCTION DAY  
April 25, 2026  
YOU CAN DO IT!**

# JOIN US AS FOLLOW THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD TO LEAD WITH COURAGE AND SERVE WITH HEART



## CONFERENCE INFORMATION

District 29 L Conference will be held at the Historic  
Blennerhassett Hotel and Spa March 13 & 14, 2026

We look forward to welcoming you all with a special evening on  
Friday aboard the Valley Gem for dinner and entertainment  
while cruising the Ohio river. Space is limited so please get  
your registration in quickly. Saturday will see a full day of  
learning opportunities, entertainment and fellowship!

Cost: Registration for the Valley Gem on the Ohio Dinner and Entertainment \$45.00

NOTE: Please add this amount to your conference selection.

Conference Registration: \_\_\_\_\_ \$85.00 Full Day (Lunch & Dinner Saturday)  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00 Lunch Only (Saturday)  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$55.00 Dinner Only (Saturday)

A Block of rooms has been reserved for conference attendees to stay one or both nights at the  
Blennerhassett Hotel & Spa. A special rate of \$125.00 for a double and \$135.00 for a king is  
available by calling 304-422-3131, tell them you are reserving a room for the Lions District 29 L  
Conference. This rate is available through February 20, 2026.

Please make checks payable to District 29 L Conference.

Registration to: P.O. Box 1372 Parkersburg, WV 26102 or email to parkersburgbenefits@cascable.net

Questions please call Lion Lori Roberts at 304-481-4159 or PDG Dave Roberts at 304-482-2410.

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Name to appear on Badge \_\_\_\_\_ Gender  Male  Female  
District and Club \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Home address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Do you have any dietary or medical information that we should be aware of?  Yes  No

If Yes please explain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Will children be attending with you? If so please contact Lion Lori Roberts or PDG Dave Roberts.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **District and Multiple District Conventions**

As we look ahead to our District and Multiple District Conventions, 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:**

- District 29-L: March 13-14, 2026
- 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, [kimwvlsf@gmail.com](mailto:kimwvlsf@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.

## 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

IN MEMORY OF:

Jim McCormick – Age 90 – The Grantsville Lions Club – Joined the club in 1990 and held all offices including President three times and chaired numerous committees. To many Jim was The Lions Club

## CLUB HAPPENINGS

### Pleasants Area Lions Club



**LIONS SERVE!**  
**2026 BOOK DONATION**

The Pleasants Area Lions Club is committed to education. The club recently donated dictionaries to third graders, and thesauruses to fourth graders at Belmont & St. Marys Elementary Schools, along with chapter books for fifth graders at Pleasants County Middle School.

### Friendly Lions Club

The Friendly Lions Club will again conduct its annual Build a Basket Easter event on Friday, April 3 at 2pm at the Friendly Community Center in Friendly. Event is open to all children 12 and under. Children will walk from table to table to build their Easter baskets. Lots of prizes, candy, and fun available.

## Ohio County Virtual Lions Club



**On February 19, 2026, the Ohio County Virtual Lions participated in a Title 1 Night at Warwood Elementary School. They gave out 75 books to children.**

**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](mailto: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 <del>Kno</del> -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.