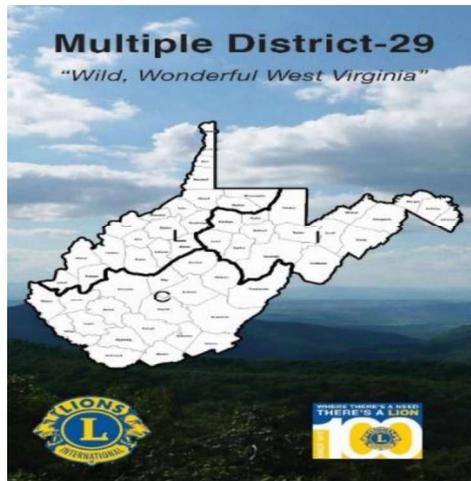


The West Virginia Lion

Official Publication of the 2025 MD 29 Convention
Canaan Valley Resort, Davis, West Virginia
May 16-18, 2025
103rd Convention Issue



As chairperson of this year's convention, I want to invite you to attend our state convention at the beautiful Canaan Valley Resort, which is nestled in the beautiful Canaan Valley, one of the most picturesque areas of our state. This year's convention theme is, "*Adventures in the Valley.*" Please come and enjoy the fun, fellowship, and learning that this convention will provide. Whether it's enjoying outdoor leisure sports and recreational activities, visiting nearby historical sites and natural wonders, shopping in nearby Davis and Thomas, or simply kicking back with friends, this convention has something for everyone. Please take the time to read all about what's happening convention weekend on the enclosed pages and then plan to attend and make your own "*Adventures in the Valley.*" PID Steve Glass



**Program and Agenda
For MD 29 Convention
May 16-18, 2025**

Friday, May 16, 2025:

- 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Registration is open, certification of delegates, and silent auction drop-off
- 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Council of Governors Meeting
- 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. WV PDGA Luncheon Meeting
- 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. WVLSCF Meeting and Training

Afternoon is free for all others who do not want to attend the WVLSCF meeting for outdoor recreational activities, sightseeing, shopping in Davis/Thomas, service project participation, etc.

- 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Friday evening banquet (this evening will be dedicated to recognition of PDGs)
- 8:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Musical entertainment by *Byron "Six Six" Cooper*
Cash bar will be available until 10:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 17, 2025:

- 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Breakfast on your own
Registration is open, district secretaries will make themselves available for certification of delegates and silent auction will be open until 5:00 p.m.
- 10:00 a.m. – 11:30p.m. General Business Session of the Convention
- 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Luncheon
- 2:15 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Learning Seminar
- 3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Learning Seminar
- 4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Teresa Johnson Strides Walk and fun activities
- 6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Reception for ID Steve Middlemiss and Lee Ann (cash bar will be open and remain open until 10:30 p.m.)
- 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Banquet
- 9:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. Musical entertainment by *The Flashbacks*

Sunday, May 18, 2025:

- 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. District Breakfasts and Conventions
- 9:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Necrology Ceremony
- 10:30 a.m. – 11: 00 a.m. Reconvening of MD Convention for announcement of election results, expressions of gratitude, recognitions, and final announcements and adjournment.
- 11:15 a.m. COG Meeting
- 11:45 a.m. WVLSCF Meeting

Steven Middlemiss, Second-Year International Director



Steven Middlemiss from Hudson, New Hampshire, USA, was elected to serve a two-year term as an international director of Lions Clubs International at the association's 105th international convention in Boston, Massachusetts, USA, July 7 through July 11, 2023. Director Middlemiss has more than 30 years of experience in land development. He is a commercial and industrial property owner and manager, and co-owner of a land development company. Inspired by seeing his father-in-law serve throughout their community, Director Middlemiss joined the Hudson Lions Club in 1990, with his father-in-law as his sponsor.

Since then, he has held a number of offices within the association including multiple district council chairperson and past president of the Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation of New Hampshire. In recognition of his service to the association, he has received numerous awards including an International President's Leadership Medal as well as the International President's Presidential Medal. He has been recognized as a progressive Granite State Fellow, which is a recognition from the Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation of New Hampshire. He is also a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow.

In addition to his Lion activities, Director Middlemiss is active in numerous professional and community organizations. He has served on the Hudson Budget Committee and has been a trustee for the George H. and Ella M. Rodgers Memorial Library.

Director Middlemiss and his wife, LeeAnn, also a Lion and a Granite State Fellow and Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, have three children who are also Lions, and three grandchildren.

Director Steve serves as the Vice Chairperson of the Marketing Committee of the International Board.

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 6:00 P.M. on the 16th day of May 2025, in the Balsam/Spruce Rooms at Canaan Valley Resort Lodge.

MD 29 Council of Governors
Rhonda Smith, Chairperson
David Roberts, 29-L
Jeffrey Finch, 29-C
Kim Mason, 29-I
Signed electronically

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 18, 2025, at 9:00 A.M. at 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, trustees 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 14th day of March 2025.

David Roberts
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 18, 2025, at 9:00 A.M. at 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, trustees 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 14th day of March 2025.

Jeffrey Finch
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 18, 2025, at 9:00 A.M. at 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, trustees 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 14th day of March 2025.

Kim Mason
District Governor, 29-I
Signed electronically

The Weekend's Musical Entertainers



Byron "Six Six" Cooper

"One thing I know about music it's just like a smile, it's universal" says Byron, who hails from Fairmont, West Virginia. Byron received an early start singing in church and in choir. In the early days of the COVID 19 pandemic, he started signing one day to his neighbors from his porch in Fairmont. The videos instantly went viral all over the U.S. and in Europe. He has performed all over the tri-state area in recent years. Most of the music Byron sings is from versatile genres like Country, R&B, Soft Rock, oldies and some 80's music. He feels that singing allows him to make a positive impact.



The Flashbacks

Hailing from Berkeley Springs, West Virginia, the Flashbacks consist of a five-piece dance/show band and female vocalist, Angela Petry. They perform a wide variety of eclectic music from the Oldies, Classics, and vintage Rock'n Roll, drawing from legends such as CCR, Patsy Cline, Chuck Berry, Blondie, Linda Ronstadt, Elvis, and many more! They have performed in countless venues in WV, PA, MD, and VA. *"We're a great big slice of dance friendly, toe tapping fun"* says lead vocalist Angela Petry. They are a crowd pleaser wherever they go so get ready to put your dancing shoes on!

DAVID ROBERTS
District Governor, 29-L



As you know my theme for this year has been together, we make a difference for That one. However, as I reflect on my life in Lions, I find that we have been doing that all along. Since 1925 when Helen Keller spoke at the Lions Club International Convention in Cedar Point Ohio, Lions Club members have been doing just that. We have become knights for the blind, defenders of those with diabetes, champions of children fighting cancer, hunger helpers and so much to our communities and those individual people that we have helped.

Think for a moment about the times you have volunteered. What was it like to see a project completed in the community, the relief in the eyes of someone who could get glasses that they needed but could not afford, or a child's smile when they got food for the holiday? That is what we do as Lions.

Lions across the world have been "Roaring" in times of need from the 1920's to the 2020's. We will continue to do so in big and small projects. We may not see the ripple effect of what we do but we know that together we make a difference for that one!

ROAR LIONS!

JEFFREY FINCH
District Governor, 29-C



As we near the final quarter of this Lion year, I have had time to reflect on both the high moments and the disappointing moments that accompanied my journey as your district governor. What a wonderful, exciting time we enjoyed in Melbourne, Australia as we experienced Day Four of the District Governor Elect Seminar and a wonderful international convention! Lasting memories were made for sure. My fellow district governors and I bonded and made plans for our multiple district that we felt would be helpful to the long term growth of our state.

As this Lion year progressed, I continued to be so impressed with all of the many service projects that clubs in District 29-C were completing, especially our two newest clubs. My heart continues to be full with pride as I reflect on all the good deeds that you do and continue to do in the name of service for those in need. As of late, when parts of our district have been ravaged by storms and flooding, Lions have been at the forefront of providing the much-needed help that our communities need.

As I reflect on all that is good and rewarding, I must say that the area where our district is most lacking is in willing leaders who will step out in faith and accept leadership positions that will ensure the longevity and viability of our district. At the time of this writing, we are still in need of candidates for each district leadership office. We have many, many talented Lions who have the ability to fulfill these roles. Are you who I am talking about? We need you!

I want to thank all of you who have helped make this year a wonderful memory for me, my mentors, my home club, my fellow Council members and most especially to my wonderful wife Carla. Thanks for the memories!

KIMBERLY MASON
District Governor, 29-I



I would like to thank all of the Lions of 29I for allowing me to serve as your District Governor for this year. It has been an honor to serve and I appreciate all of the support I have received during this journey. I would also like to thank my husband Past Council Chair John for all of his help this year. I would not be able to do all I do without him. When I volunteered for this position a year and a half ago, I did not know everything it would involve. We got to go to Australia, Louisville Ky, and all the wonderful clubs around the district. We have been truly blessed.

I would also like to thank all of the Lions that stepped up to take a position in the district and their club. I am very thankful to have what I consider a wonderful and fun cabinet. They were willing to meet every month over zoom to help get things done. It is a year we will all never forget. I give thanks to all who helped me on this journey. It has been a pleasure working with First VDG Greg and the entire district cabinet-thank you so much for your hard work. I would like to thank all the Past District Governors who have helped me this year, Gray, Glenn, Rob, and Kermit to just name a few. I would also like to thank my club, Berkeley Springs for being so supportive and putting up with all my crazy ideas. I would like to thank Steve and Cindy Glass for their support and help. And last but not least, my other partners in crime, District Governors Dave and Jeff. Thank you for everything you do and all the fun we have had this year!!

I was very pleased with how hard the district has worked this year. In September, at the district conference, we did a group project. We made 50 Christmas shoeboxes to send overseas. Our boxes ended up in Ghanan and South Africa. It was a joy to help children around the world. We are now working on a fundraising campaign called Raise the Flag. Lion Jim Mullen is going around the district to

talk about this fundraising campaign. I think the entire district will benefit from this idea. Plus, all the wonderful service projects our district has done this year.

We have had some challenges with the new Lion portal. But thanks to my husband John, my zone chairs and some zoom training, I think we have worked out some of the kinks. We are still working with clubs and individuals to make sure everyone can use the portal.

We have done a lot of good work, but the year is not over yet. We need to keep sponsoring new Lions, keep helping out communities and keep Serving! Being married to Santa, my motto is Believe. Because what else would it be!!

“Believe you can, and you’re halfway there” - Theodore Roosevelt

Candidates for 2025-2026

For DG 29-L



Kim Ebert
Morgantown Area Lions Club

For DG 29-I



Greg Greenwalt
Moorefield Lions Club

For FVDG 29-L



Tony Vandenberg
Pleasants Area Lions Club



Dear Fellow Lions,

In 1959, a group of dedicated Lions, led by Leonard Jarrett, came together with a shared vision—to ensure that every West Virginian, regardless of their financial situation, had access to the vision care they needed. That vision became the West Virginia Lions Sight Conservation Foundation (WVLS CF).

Over the years, we have made incredible strides, partnering with the West Virginia Eye Bank and WVU Eye Institute to bring life-changing support to those struggling with vision loss. Through our efforts, we have been able to bring eye care directly to communities across the state. Our mobile screening units have traveled far and wide, allowing us to reach individuals who may not have access to routine eye care. Today, our capabilities have expanded even further. We now have screening equipment that allows us to assess vision in infants as young as three months old.

Recently, we have also invested in new tonometers, visual acuity screeners, and spot machines to enhance early detection and intervention, ensuring that more West Virginians receive the care they need before small problems become big ones. One of our proudest accomplishments has been assisting a child from New Martinsville with vision therapy. This crucial intervention has helped the child navigate daily life with greater ease and independence, proving just how transformative early vision care can be. By addressing these challenges at a young age, we are opening doors to a brighter future for those affected by vision impairments.

*In addition to providing individualized therapy, **your** Foundation has been instrumental in supplying low-vision devices to individuals who struggle with sight-related challenges. These devices, ranging from simple magnifiers to specialized electronic aids, give people the tools they need to maintain their independence and improve their overall quality of life. A small piece of technology can make an enormous difference in someone's ability to read, work, or complete everyday tasks that many of us take for granted.*

We are also proud to have played a role in the expansion of the WVU Eye Institute. Our Foundation has contributed essential resources to help equip the new facility, ensuring that advanced eye care remains accessible to those who need it most. By supporting institutions that share our mission, we are creating a lasting impact for generations to come.

The WV Lions Sight Conservation Foundation has a long and proud history of service. Many dedicated Lions have played a role in making it what it is today, and because of their efforts, the Foundation remains financially strong and capable of continuing its work. But what about the future?

We survived COVID and today have an excellent group of Trustees guiding the foundation, but the truth is, we cannot do this alone. The future of WVLSCF depends on more than just a handful of officers and trustees—it depends on individual Lions like you who are willing to step up and serve. If we are to continue this important work, we need Sight Coordinators, Liaison committee members, long-range planners, and portable equipment coordinators. These roles are crucial to the success of our mission, and we simply cannot move forward without Lions willing to take them on.

*If you have ever wanted to make a real impact, **this is your moment**. I invite you to join us at **2:00 PM on Friday at the State Convention** for our next meeting, followed by a training session for these important positions. **All Lions are welcome!** Whether you are just curious or ready to jump in, I would love to see you there! Together, we can ensure that WVLSCF continues its mission for generations to come.*

Yours in Lionism,

PCC Pete Johnson
President, WVLSC

West Virginia Past District Governor's Association
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It is my honor to invite all Lions of West Virginia to attend our 103rd Annual Multiple District 29 Convention at the Canaan Valley Resort in Davis on May 16-18. We hope that you will join us and bring another Lion with you as we gather from across our state. This is a time to renew friendships and enjoy fellowship with our fellow Lions as we meet.

Our weekend will be filled with activities as we conduct our business meetings. This is a time to support our current District Governors and Council Chairperson. Each district will meet for their breakfast and elections. We'll have time to congratulate our current governors and to greet our District Governor Elects as they prepare to lead us in 2025-2026.

The PDGA Luncheon will be on Friday at 12pm with a cost of \$22.00/person. All PDGs in attendance on Friday evening will be recognized during the banquet.

We hope to see you in Davis and wish you safe travels as you come to join us.

John Mason, Chairperson, WV PDG Association



**The West Virginia Lions Past District Governors Association
Invites All West Virginia Lions To Attend and Enjoy the 107th
Lions Clubs International Convention in Orlando, Florida**

Our convention Chairperson, PCC John Mason, will have a display and information available at the multiple district convention along with registration forms. In the meantime, visit the LCI web sight at www.lionsclubs.org and select the Convention button to take advantage of early registration and to get more information. Lion John will be giving an updated report on plans for the West Virginia delegation during the business session at the convention.



Greg Wilson, owner of Sew Simple Embroidery will be with us throughout convention weekend. Greg will have a full line of accessories to purchase plus he takes orders for Lions apparel for any clubs that want to order. Greg is normally a regular at our Leadership Retreats, but this is the first time in several years that he will be here on convention weekend so take advantage of the opportunity to stock up on your Lions attire!

Important Convention Reminders

District Breakfasts

Each district will have a breakfast meeting on Sunday morning at which time district elections will be held. The cost of each breakfast will be \$18.30 inclusive and will consist of scrambled eggs, bacon, breakfast potatoes, biscuits, and coffee, orange juice, hot tea, or water. Each district will have the same meal. If you plan to eat breakfast, you will need to make arrangements for tickets through your district cabinet/secretary or district governor. **The cost of breakfast is not part of the multiple district convention registration fee.**

Silent Auction

We are requesting that each club donate one item for our silent auction so that we have a good variety of items to bid on when you come to the Convention. We will accept gift cards and packages as well as the usual hand-made and handcrafted items. Possible ideas include any of the following: a handmade craft item, specialty or theme baskets, special glassware or collections, trading pins, wearing apparel (ties, vests, scarves, etc.). We request that you bring items that are enticing enough that YOU will be willing to bid on it.

Lion Janice Nicholson of the West Milford Lions Club is serving as our auction coordinator. Please contact Lion Janice directly at 304-677-6213 or drn013038@gmail.com with the item being donated, the item's value, club name, and who to contact with their email address and phone number.

Items for Service Projects

Each person attending the Convention is requested to bring two or more non-perishable food items to be donated to a local food pantry in the Davis-Thomas-Parsons area, especially items that that can be used for the Backpack program. Even though school may be out soon after our Convention ends, the food insecurities continue throughout the summer months.

OR

We will also be collecting dog and cat food for the Tucker County Animal Shelter as well as cleaning supplies, used blankets, pet beds, etc. If you have any of these items, please bring them along and donate them.

Bring Your Club Banners

Remember to bring your club banners to display during Convention activities. The banner must have a banner pole in order to be displayed. We cannot tape, pin, or nail banners to any wall and the security of the banner will be the responsibility of the club at all times.

Child Care and Activities

We are trying to make the entire weekend family friendly and plan activities for youth and provide childcare if needed. Please let us know when you register if you plan on bringing minor children or grandchildren with you so we can plan accordingly.

Delegate Cards

Each district secretary will soon be receiving delegate and alternate delegate cards from Multiple District Secretary-Treasurer Cindy Glass for each club in the district. All voting at any multiple district convention or district convention must be by certified delegates. It is the responsibility of each Lion who is a delegate representing their club to have their delegate card validated by the district secretary or district governor prior to voting. If you are a club delegate, please remember to bring your delegate card with you AND make sure that you have it validated prior to the time of voting.

Attire for the Weekend

Attire for the weekend is casual or business casual. We want attendees to be relaxed and informal. Lions' shirts and vests are encouraged if that is what makes you feel comfortable. On the other hand, if wearing a shirt and tie or dress/business suits to the meetings and banquets fits your liking, do that. We want everyone to feel comfortable and relaxed throughout the weekend.

Deadlines to Note

The deadline for securing a room in the Lions block is **April 16, 2025**, and the deadline for registering for the Convention is **May 1, 2025**, as set out in the registration form, which is on the last page of this publication so please note them well.

2025 Multiple District 29 Lions Convention Registration
May 16 – 18, 2025
Canaan Valley Resort, Davis, West Virginia

Name/Names: _____

Address: _____
City/Zip Code _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____
District Number _____ Club Name: _____

Menu Choices (Friday Banquet and Saturday Banquet only)
Friday (select one only)
Caprese stuffed chicken _____ or Flank steak _____
Saturday (select one only)
Linguini primavera _____ or Pork loin _____

If there are two or more reservations on this form, please make sure that each person indicates his/her choices above.

Registration Fee: \$110.00 per person
Make check payable to: MD 29 LCI – Please write “2025 State Convention” on the memo line.

Please send this form and check **by May 1, 2025**, to: Steve Glass
922 East Avenue
Shinnston, WV 26431

For lodging, please call **304-866-4121** and choose Option 1 and refer to the Group Code 1058MS or tell them you are attending the Lions State Convention. All rooms in the Lodge are \$139.00 per night, plus applicable state and local taxes and fees. Cabins are also available for rent.

The cut-off date for booking a room in the Lions block and receiving this rate is **April 16, 2025**.

If you have any questions regarding the convention or using an alternative payment method, please contact convention chairperson Steve Glass at 304-203-2988 or MD 29 Secretary-Treasurer Cindy Glass at 304-203-2006.