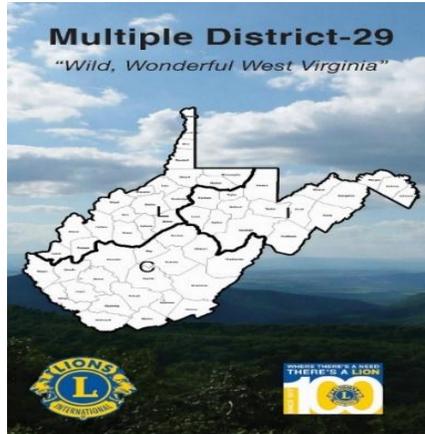


# ***The West Virginia Lion***

Official Publication of the 2026 MD 29 Convention  
Canaan Valley Resort, Davis, West Virginia  
May 15-17, 2026  
104<sup>th</sup> 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. 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. Please also share this information with your club members and invite them to come along too! – Convention Chairperson Second Vice District Governor Lori Roberts.*



**Program and Agenda  
For MD 29 Convention  
May 15-17, 2026**

**Friday, May 15, 2026:**

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)

**Saturday, May 16, 2026:**

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 6:00 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 Debbie Dawson and Lion Don  
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Banquet

**Sunday, May 17, 2026:**

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

**Debbie Dawson**  
**First-Year International Director**



Debbie Dawson from Oshawa, Ontario, Canada, was elected to serve a two-year term as an international director of Lions Clubs International at the association's 107th international convention in Orlando, Florida, USA, July 13 through July 17, 2025. Director Dawson owned and operated a successful real estate brokerage for 28 years. Currently, she works for Hearth Place Cancer Support Centre where she is responsible for fundraising and community engagement. She has a diploma in not-for-profit leadership from the University of Ontario and a diploma from Shaw Business College. Director Dawson has been a Lion since 1984 and has held several offices within the association: Global Service Team (GST), Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) Chairperson for her district and LCIF area leader. In recognition of her service to the association she has received two International President's Awards, an International President's Leadership Award, the International President's Certificate of Appreciation and an LCIF Leadership Award. Director Dawson is also a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow and a LCIF Legacy Society member. In addition to her Lions activities, she is active with the Oshawa Chamber of Commerce and is a past president of the Durham Region Association of Realtors. She has received several civic awards for her work within the community including the Realtor Care Foundation Fellow, Lions Clubs Camp Kirk Foundation Fellowship and the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Medal. Director Dawson is the proud mother of a son, a daughter and two granddaughters. She enjoys spending time with them and her partner Lion Don Bridge who is a Progressive Mevin Jones Fellow. They spend their spare time travelling and entertaining.

### **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 15<sup>th</sup> day of May 2026, at Canaan Valley Resort Lodge.

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

### **District Convention Calls**

In compliance with Article VI, Section 2 of the Standard Form District Constitution By-Laws, The District 29-L Convention will be held on Sunday morning, May 17, 2026, 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 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 By-Laws, The District 29-C Convention will be held on Sunday morning, May 17, 2026, 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 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 By-Laws, The District 29-I Convention will be held on Sunday morning, May 17, 2026, 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 14<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.

Greg Greenwalt  
District Governor, 29-I  
Signed electronically

KIM EBERT  
District Governor, 29-L



Lionism calls each of us to step forward—to see a need and have the courage to act. Courage in Lionism is not loud or boastful. It is the quiet decision to lead, to take responsibility, and to stand up for service when others may hesitate.

But courage alone is not enough. What makes a Lion truly remarkable is the heart behind the service. It is the compassion that moves us to help a neighbor, support a community, and bring hope where it is needed most.

When we lead with courage, we open doors for others to serve. When we serve with heart, we remind the world what it truly means to be a Lion.

May we continue to live these words in all we do—because when courage guides our leadership and heart guides our service, Lionism becomes more than an organization... it becomes a calling. 🐘

LISA KEFFER  
District Governor, 29-C



Dear Lions of 29C,

It has been a great honor and pleasure to serve the Lions of 29C. My visits have reminded me of what great Lions we have. I am also reminded that most Lions don't usually get the opportunity to meet with other Lions in our District. I can't tell you how proud it makes me to be a Lion.

We still have a long road ahead of us and still do not have anyone to "Step Up and Lead". It is my hope that our District will not lag behind with a lack of leadership. I look for leaders at every club I visit. We have many but no one who has committed. I ask that our Lions will look within themselves and realize your potential. Being District Governor is very rewarding and fulfilling. I am invigorated every time I visit a club.

I am thankful to all individuals who stepped up to assist me. My Cabinet is small but powerful. I am so appreciative of all their service to me and our District. I will forever be indebted to you and cannot thank you enough.

Let's raise a cup and toast our Lions. Not above you, nor below you, but with you. Stay united.

Yours in Lionism,

DG Lisa Keffer

GREG GREENWALT  
District Governor, 29-I



I wish to thank all the Lions of District 29I for the honor of serving as your District Governor for the 25-26 year term. As we near the end of this term we must remember all of us are Lions with a mission to serve. Some wear different hats from time to time and may have different titles but the purpose is the same for each of us, to serve the communities we proudly live in, our state and our country.

What an experience this has been. I visited communities I had not had the opportunity to visit before, met wonderful members and learned many interesting things about their club and their communities. Lasting memories will always warm my heart as I reflect on the discussions with such wonderful members and their families.

None of this would be possible without the help and great advice given by many of you. The Cabinet deserves a lot of credit for the effort put forth in supporting myself and our clubs. I wish to thank PDG Kermit, Gray, Kim, Rob, Sue, Doug and all the others for having patience with my many questions. On the humor side, I suspect PID Steve and wife PCC Cindy may smile when my term has ended so I will stop calling so often. I also thank our District Secretary/Treasurer Daryl See for everything he has done.

We have had some challenges this year, and some remain. We need to work together to find new members, and members who are willing to step up to fill positions on the Cabinet and committees. It's a great way to meet new members, make new friends and learn new things. Please try to attend the annual Convention this year being held at Canaan Resort on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup>.

Always remember who we are and what we stand for. WE ARE LIONS and our mission is to serve.

Thank you and have a wonderful life

**Candidates for 2026-2027**

**For DG 29-L**



Tony Vandenberg  
Pleasants Area Lions Club

**For FVDG 29-L**



Lori Roberts  
Parkersburg Lions Club

**For FVDG 29-I**



Diana Bedell  
Bridgeport Lions Club



*Dear Fellow Lions,*

*It's been a good year for the West Virginia Lions Sight Conservation Foundation. We have had very good meetings as a result of great participation of our trustees. I had hoped to have an in-person meeting in January but weather didn't permit it. As a result, our meetings have been by zoom. The year has brought the foundation good news about our assistance to Hayden Roberts, the young girl from Martinsburg. The results of her treatments have been a success. We have continued to purchase devices, hearing aids and surgeries to those in need. We closed our annuity and with the interest made by the investment, I would venture to say financially the Foundation has never been stronger. Although the annuity showed a very good profit, it also proved annuities are not very compatible for a charitable organization. We have a committee investigating better ways to invest our funds. Being sound financially, the Board of Trustees are considering other ways to expand our aid to citizens or possibly clubs. This may be accomplished by some type of grant program. Most lions I have heard from are excited about the possibility. The Trustees are on board, and we have a committee working on this also. Depending on what is decided a change in the constitution may be required. That will take some time. Speaking of the constitution, we are still working with LCI to adapt our constitution to align with LCI requirements. This brings me to the conclusion that our Foundation is on solid ground with a group of excellent trustees. But what about the future? Our trustees are doing a great job but like me, they aren't getting any younger. We need our younger Lions to step up and take an interest in the Foundation. We have been having a difficult time for the past several years getting our Lions throughout the state to volunteer to do the hands-on work of the Foundation i.e. Service Coordinators, and Portable Equipment Coordinators. We need Lions to come forward and volunteer or accept your District Governor's request to do these jobs as well as to sit on the Board of Trustees to ensure the continued success of the Foundation. This is a great Foundation, and the centerpiece of Lions work in our state. Lions, please step up and help us with the Foundation's work, the reward of this work is what being a Lion and Lionism is all about!!*

Pete Johnson,  
President,  
West Virginia Lions Sight Conservation Foundation

West Virginia Past District Governor's Association

*It is my honor to invite all Lions of West Virginia to attend our 104th Annual Multiple District 29 Convention at the Canaan Valley Resort in Davis on May 15-17. 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 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 2026-2027.*

*The PDGA Luncheon will be on Friday at 12pm with a cost of \$25.00/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.*

Jay Houser  
Chairperson, WV PDG Association

**The West Virginia Lions Past District Governors Association  
Invites All West Virginia Lions To Attend and Enjoy the 108<sup>th</sup>  
Lions Clubs International Convention in Hong Kong**

You are invited to visit the LCI web site at [www.lionsclubs.org](http://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.

**Deadlines to Note**

**The deadline for securing a room in the Lions block is April 15, 2026, and the deadline for registering for the Convention is May 1, 2026, as set out in the registration form, which is on the last page of this publication so please note them well.**

## 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 has not been set at this time 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 Lorrie Roberts, convention chairperson is serving as our auction coordinator. Please contact her with the item being donated, the item's value, club name, and who to contact with their email address and phone number.

### 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.

### Delegate Cards

Each district secretary will soon be receiving delegate and alternate delegate cards from Multiple District Secretary-Treasurer Ken Shahan 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 business dress suits to the meetings and banquets fits your liking, do that. We want everyone to feel comfortable and relaxed throughout the weekend.

