



DISTRICT 29-L (WV/USA) FEBRUARY 2025 Newsletter

David Roberts



Greetings Fellow Lions!

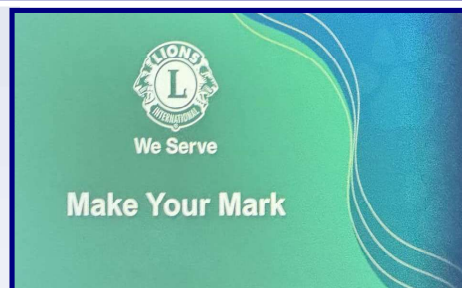
As we enter into the month of February, my term as your District Governor is half over. However, there is still a lot of time to promote Lionism and the great work your club and our organization provides to your communities.

Now is the time to register for our **District 29L Conference** to be held in **Parkersburg March 14th and 15th at the Historic Blennerhassett Hotel**. Lion Lori and her committee are working hard to make it one you don't want to miss. Complete your registration soon and send it to Lion Lori Roberts at: PO Box 1372, Parkersburg WV 26102-1372. We need to receive your information **by March 5th**. The conference registration form is included in this newsletter. In addition to learning opportunities, we are planning other activities and entertainment for your enjoyment.

We are excited to see Lion friends from our district clubs as well as Lions from other districts in West Virginia. PID Ron Keller and his wife, Lion Kitty, has accepted our invitation to celebrate with us and be the International Keynote Speaker for this event. (Read the bio included in this newsletter to learn more about PID Ron and Lion Kitty).

We are asking clubs to bring an item for the silent auction. The proceeds from this, and the 50/50 drawings, will help offset some of the costs that would otherwise have to be included in the registration and increasing the fee. Also, clubs and/or individuals are invited to help with a sponsorship of \$50 and be listed in the conference program. This also helps off set conference costs. Thank you in advance for your contributions.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)



2024—2025 29-L CABINET

David Roberts, Governor
Kim Ebert, 1st VDG
Tony Vandenberg, 2nd VDG &
LCI F Chair
Bill Syphers, Secy / Treas
Bernice Pitcock, GLT Chair
Linda Leasure, GST Chair
Gary Pitcock, GMT / GET Chair
Dan Heintzman, IPDG

ZONE CHAIRS:

John Porco, Zone 1
Kristine Quinn, Zone 2 / 3
Scott Beaver, Zone 4
Vincent Post, Zone 5
Robert Brummage, Zone 6
VACANCY, Zone 7
Virginia, Dickens, Zone 8

Ramona Sago, Administrator
Phyllis Amrhein, Newsletter Editor
Kathy Syphers, IT
Amy Houser, Environmental
Eva Dague, LEO
Paul Amrhein, Sight & Hearing /
WVU Liaison
Patty Nutter, Youth Exchange (E)
Michelle Harshbarger, Youth Ex (A)
Lori Roberts, District Conference
Dave Shelton, Reading Action Prog.
Jay Houser, Marketing



MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT GOVERNOR DAVE (Continued)

As is tradition, we will be holding the “**PARADE OF CHECKS**” at the banquet on Saturday. Clubs participate by making contributions to one or more of the many Lions initiatives and charities. Remember, your contribution, no matter what amount, helps continue the Lions work throughout the state and worldwide. Please consider what your club may be able and willing to contribute.

The form for the “Parade of Checks” is included below. If a member of your club is attending the conference, please bring the completed form and your individual checks made payable to the charity of your choice, and give them to PDG Bill Syphers. If you are not able to attend and prefer to send them in advance, please send the form with the completed checks to: PDG Bill Syphers, 77 Raven Avenue, Wheeling WV 26003. **Your generosity is greatly appreciated.**

Clubs may bring their used eyeglasses to the conference. We will see that they are collected and sent to the eyeglass recycling center.

Clubs who have not scheduled a Governor’s visit please give me a call, text 304 482-2410 or email parkersburgbenefits@cascable.net

Remember, together we made a difference for “That One”!

Lion Dave Roberts, District Governor

29-L District Conference March 14-15, 2025

PARADE OF CHECKS

When planning for the District Conference, consider Club donations to the various Lions Charities that District 29L supports for 2024-2025:

LCIF (MJF – yes/no)	\$ _____
WVLSHF (LJF – yes/no)	\$ _____
Camp Kno-Koma	\$ _____
Deaf & Blind Rec	\$ _____
Diabetes Awareness/LEHP	\$ _____
Romney Work Program	\$ _____
Leader Dog	\$ _____
Pilot Dog	\$ _____
Leo Program	\$ _____
Youth Exchange	\$ _____
WVU Children's Hospital	\$ _____
TOTAL	\$ _____

**SEND TO: PDG Bill Syphers, 77 Raven Avenue, Wheeling WV 26003.
Your generosity is greatly appreciated.**



PID Ron and Lion Kitty Keller

2718 Blacklick-Eastern Road
Millersport, Ohio 43046

E-mail: [rkel-
ler14@columbus.rr.com](mailto:rkel-ler14@columbus.rr.com)

Home: MD-13 – Ohio,
Sub-District OH-7, Zone 5

OUR MISSION: Spread kindness as Lions

OUR VISION: To inspire and motivate fellow Lions so they achieve success while serving others

OUR CORE VALUES: Compassion, Motivation, Optimism, Perseverance, Reliability, & Respect



OUR BACKGROUND: Lions Ron and Kitty are both members of the Millersport Lions Club and the Thurston Methodist Church. PID Ron was elected as an International Director in Montreal in 2022 and served as Chairman of the LCI Membership Development Committee during 2023-2024.

Lion Ron is a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, OLERF W.R. Dick Bryan Fellow, OLERF Knight for Sight, Life Member, has served as Council Chair, District Governor, Cabinet Secretary-Treasurer, District Parliamentarian, State Convention Chair and District Convention Chair. He has been club President, served 10 years as club Secretary-Treasurer, 34 years as General Chairman of the Millersport Lions' Sweet Corn Festival, 8 years as Festival Treasurer, and 37 years as the Festival's Parade & Queens Chairman. He has been a Lion since 1979.

Lion Ron served 12 years as President of the Walnut Township Board of Education, Past President of the Ohio Festivals & Events Association, Past President of the Volunteer Administrators' Network of Central Ohio, is a founding member of the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Amusement Ride Safety Board, served 5 years on the Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank Operating Board, served 6 years on the MD-13 Finance & Planning State Committee, served 4 years as MD-13 Lions Centennial Celebration Coordinator, served 3 years as the first MD-13 Global Service Team Coordinator and was the 2018 USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum Host Chair.

Lion Ron has received the Ambassador of Goodwill Medallion, four International President's Awards, six International President's Certificates of Appreciation, an International Leadership Award, numerous Council of Governors' awards, and been inducted into the OH-7 District Hall of Fame, the Ohio Festivals & Events Legion of Merit and the Millersport High School Alumni Hall of Fame.

Lion Kitty has served 2 years as Cabinet Secretary-Treasurer, 4 years as the District Newsletter Editor and District Convention Co-Chair 2 times. She is a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, Life Member, has served as the club's President, 6 years as the club's Secretary-Treasurer, 27 years as Concession Chair for the Sweet Corn Festival and 9 years as the Festival's Secretary. Lion Kitty has received the International Leadership Medal, MD-13 Council of Governors Award of Merit and has been inducted into the Ohio Festivals & Events Association Legion of Merit. She is the Webmaster and Facilities Booking Coordinator for the Sweet Corn Festival and has been a Lion since 1989. She currently holds the position of Assistant Treasurer of the Sweet Corn Festival and is Co-Chair of the Easter and Christmas Breakfasts for the club.

Lions Ron and Kitty reside in Millersport and have been married 45 years and are the parents of three successful young adults. Oldest son Adam is a farmer and is married to Kristin and they have two daughters, Kenlea and Kaitlyn; daughter Katie is a Corporate Vice President for New York Life and is married to Brent Laugesen and have three sons, Luke, Landon and Grant; and youngest son Jordan serves in the U.S. Navy and is married to Emily and they have a son, Hawkins, and two daughters, Henley and Rowan. Lion Ron retired in 2023 as a cultural arts and events manager for the City of Columbus and Lion Kitty retired as a project manager for State Auto Insurance Company. When not involved in Lions' activities, they help their son Adam on their family farm with his beef, grain and hay operations.



WELCOME TO THE ROARING 20'S

DISTRICT 29L CONFERENCE

P.O. Box 1372
Parkersburg, WV 26102

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

District 29 L Conference will be held at the Historic Blennerhassett Hotel
March 14 and 15, 2025

We look forward to welcoming you all with a special evening on Friday aboard the Major Riviera for dinner and musical 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, some entertainment and fellowship!

Cost: Boat Ride aboard the Major Riviera (Dinner and Entertainment) \$45.00

Conference registration: ___ \$85.00 Full Day (Lunch and Dinner Saturday)
___ \$45.00 Lunch (Saturday)
___ \$55.00 Dinner (Saturday)

A block of rooms has been reserved for conference attendees to stay one or both nights at the Blennerhassett Hotel and Spa. A special rate of \$125.00 for a double and \$135.00 for a king is available by calling 304-422-3131, just tell them that you are reserving a room for the Lions District 29 L Conference. This rate is available through February 14, 2025.

There is opportunity for special activities for children during the conference and a special dinner rate of \$20.00 is available for a limited childrens offering.

Please make checks to District 29 L Lions Conference.

If you have questions please call Lion Dave at 304-482-2410 or Lion Lori at 304-481-4159.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Full Name _____
District and Club _____ Gender ☐ Male ☐ Female
Home Address _____
City _____ Zip Code _____
Phone Number _____ Email _____
Emergency Contact Name _____ Emergency Phone _____
Relationship _____ Alternate Phone _____

MEDICAL INFORMATION

Do you have any medical issues or dietary restrictions we should know about? ☐ Yes ☐ No
If yes, please explain _____

Number of Children attending and any dietary restrictions we should know about? _____

Signature _____

SEND COMPLETED CHECK WITH THIS FORM BY MARCH 5TH TO: LION LORI ROBERTS, PO BOX 1372, PARKERSBURG WV 26102

**KIM EBERT,
1st Vice District Governor**



Hello Fellow Lions,

I hope all of you are safe from all this snow. Around my house, we got about 12 inches of snow. I finally broke down and bought a snow blower; I figured that was one way not to get it to snow again!

My prayers go out to the California residents whose houses are destroyed by the fires. It is frightening to see all the destruction. Just know that Lions Clubs International has quickly mobilized funds to assist those in need, from the devastating fires and the flooding in NC. Your donations are working! Thank you!



Another way your donations are working is through the Sight Foundation. We have assisted several low-vision patients with purchasing devices that will improve their quality of life. Recently, we have assisted a family whose child has significant eye problems and medical issues. Through vision therapy sessions, they hope to improve her eyesight so that she can live a productive life.

The Sight Foundation has also purchased our District with two spot machines and printers, as well as a tonometer and visual acuity machine. If you would like to provide an eye screening to Head Start, schools, or even a health fair event and need a screening device, please get in touch with Lion Tony Vandenburg at ajv26170@yahoo.com.

Welcome to the New Year! May it be a happy and healthy one for all. It takes a village.....

Kim - FVDG



**New
Members!**

WEIRTON LIONS CLUB

Donna Perkins-Olexick

Teresa Strohmeier



BARBOURSVILLE LIONS CLUB

Judy Kay Deer

* * * * *

WHEELING LIONS CLUB

**Edwin B Van Lynn
Past District Governor
(2000-2001)
District 29-L**

LION TONY VANDENBERG, 2nd Vice District Governor

Some of our Clubs invite guests to their meetings to present ideas, information, and opportunities to serve. Our District Cabinet members, including me, are available to come to your Clubs – just ask, and see if a visit can be scheduled.



The recent passing of US President Jimmy Carter provided an opportunity to think about and review the work of an amazing humanitarian. Jimmy Carter joined the Plains, Georgia Lions Club in 1953, after his service in the Navy. He has said that he never would have dreamed of becoming President of the United States, had it not been for the Lions. He served as Lions District Governor before his political career.

See this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HDcgJY9MSnw> or search "Jimmy Carter Thanks Lions, LCIF".

Cooperation among people, and among organizations can provide Service. The Carter Center, LCIF, and other organizations have partnered to nearly eradicate river blindness. I found figures at 2019, that LCIF had provided \$67 million in support, providing 191 million trachoma (a bacterial infection that causes river blindness) treatments, and 257 million river blindness treatments. See <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/blog/Rising-to-the-Challenge%3A-The-Fight-against-River-Blindness>.

Many of our Lions Clubs in 29 L practice this same type of cooperation in serving our communities. The efforts and projects come in all sizes. Remember DG Dave's theme: "Together we can make a difference For That One."



Peace and Love,

Lion Tony Vandenberg

Second Vice District Governor, 29 L LCIF Coordinator 2024-25, 29 L WV Lions Sight Conservation Foundation Trustee, Vice President, Secretary, Pleasants Area Lions Club

ajv26170@yahoo.com

Home (304) 684-9248

Cell (808) 557-1113



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION

**LION TONY VANDENBERG,
2nd Vice District Governor &
District 29-L LCIF Coordinator 2024-25**



THANK YOU and VISION GRANT PROGRAM

As I write this, total 29 L Lions and Clubs' donations are over 57% of our yearly goal, which comes to just over \$30 per Lion. Thank you!

Three percent of our Lions have made individual donations to LCIF -- already a nice increase from last year. I hope some more Lions can find the ability to make a donation no matter the size. Four Clubs have made donations as the whole club. We anticipate more Club donations with the Parade of Checks.

Thanks to everyone's support of LCIF, during the week of Jan. 12, International President Fabricio Oliveira and LCIF Chairperson Dr. Patti Hill awarded a Major Catastrophe grant for \$100,000 for Multiple District 4 in response to the wildfires in California. Lions of the Districts of California are coordinating efforts to provide monetary and direct service to those affected.

The LCIF Vision Grant Program has been updated in 2024, to include the objectives of SightFirst, and to make even larger grants available, between US\$10,000 and US\$300,000. 50% local matching funds are required in developed countries. The text below comes from the LCIF webpages [Link](#)

Celebrating success and embracing the future SightFirst: A legacy of saving vision

For over 30 years, SightFirst empowered Lions, healthcare providers and partners worldwide to combat preventable blindness and assist those with vision impairments. Through this program, more than 544 million lives were impacted. As we celebrate these milestones, we are excited to continue this vital work through the new LCIF Vision Grant program, ensuring a brighter future for millions more.

Our mission continues

The mission of the LCIF Vision Grant is to support Lions-led initiatives that combat blindness, prevent vision loss, and assist those who are visually impaired in underserved communities. Building on the legacy of SightFirst, this program focuses on:

- Strengthening comprehensive eye care systems.
- Training and workforce development in eye health.
- Major equipment and infrastructure enhancements.
- Rehabilitation services for irreversible blindness and low vision.

We remain committed to delivering high-quality, equitable eye care to those most in need. Visit the Vision Grant page to [learn more](#).

**Lion Tony Vandenberg, 2nd VDG ,LCIF 29L COORDINATOR
(E-mail) ajv26170@yahoo.com
Phone: Home (304) 684-9248, (Cell) 808-557-1113**

West Virginia Lions Sight Conservation Foundation



The WVLS CF has purchased for each District in West Virginia new sight screening equipment available to our Clubs. We plan to have the equipment available at the 29 L Conference for you to see, and touch, and become familiar with. Before conducting screenings for the public, it is wise to practice with the equipment; maybe at a Lions Club meeting, where you have time for more than one Lion to become confident and proficient at using the equipment. The equipment includes:

Children eye screening

Website: <https://www.hillrom.com/en/products/spot-vision-screener/>

Videos: At the above page, scroll down to "Education & Documentation", then scroll to "How To Videos". Start with "Screen a Subject".



Visual Acuity Screening

The Titmus V4 Vision Screener can screen for: muscle balance, color perception, acuity at near and far, color deficiency, depth perception and more.

Website: <https://titmusvision.com/titmus-v4-vision-screener/>

A very helpful video guide is at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_dONVkp6qs. This video describes several screening tests available. If your Club holds a vision screening event, you will need to practice some and then decide how many types of tests you want to run. It will take a little practice to be smooth and time-efficient in screening.



Glaucoma Screening ic200 Handheld Tonometer

In lay-Lion terms, too-high pressure within the eyeball is a risk factor for contracting glaucoma, which can cause blindness.

iCare Tonometers use a patented rebound technology for quick and reliable intraocular pressure (IOP) measurements. The ergonomic design and intuitive user interface ensure safe, accurate and easy operation.

This device also will take a little practice to become confident in its use.

Website: <https://www.icare-world.com/us/product/icare-ic200-tonometer/>
From that webpage there is a helpful video is at this link [IC200 Link](#)



Lion Tony Vandenberg
WVLS CF Trustee
Email: ajv21670@yahoo.com
Cell: (808) 557-1113

PDG BERNICE PITCOCK, District Leadership Chair

As Lion Leaders, it's already time to prepare for the upcoming new Lions' year. One of our most important club activities is to elect your new club officers. If you are interested in moving up in leadership, there are many opportunities available to you at the club, zone, district and multiple district levels. Lions International provides many resources for you to utilize as you begin or continue your leadership journey. Please know that new and excited leaders are much needed at every level of Lionism.



The LI website offers you great online learning opportunities. The Lions Learning Center provides online interactive courses to learn and sharpen your knowledge of Lions fundamentals and leadership skills. Local training is offered to you on the Zone, District and Multiple District levels. "My Learning Record" provides a current record of your completed trainings as either a participant or as faculty.

I highly encourage you to take advantage of all the learning opportunities that Lions International offers – the knowledge you gain will be helpful to you, not only as a Lion Leader, but in your personal and work related pursuits as well.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Facebook has been up to their tricks again and has cancelled the District 29L 2024-25 Facebook page. Again - no real reason given.

The **GROUP PAGE** ([District 29L Lions 2024-25 Group](#)) **IS STILL ALIVE**, so I will use that site for announcements, etc. Thanks for your understanding.



Lions International



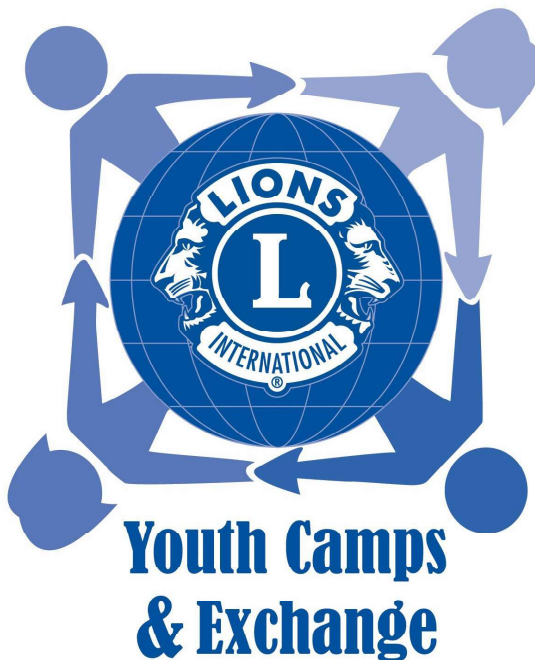
What does it mean to Make Your Mark? It means stepping up in our clubs and our communities and changing lives. It means amplifying the voices that may go unheard. It means showing the world that **Lions care and we are here to stay.**

Fabrício Oliveira

2024-2025
Lions International
President



District 29 L Youth Exchange Report



On December 7, 2024, interviews were conducted in Nutter Fort and selected six students to travel abroad next summer. Four students want to go to Italy, one to France and one to Germany. Fifteen applications were received, but only six students attended the interviews.

The application material was mailed during September to the schools across our district, outlining the application deadline of November 15, 2024, and the date and location of the interviews.

Locating host families is the most challenging part of the committee. Please consider being a host family and talk to your club members, your families, friends, co-workers, and church families about the opportunity to host a foreign exchange student for 4 weeks during the summer. It is an incredible experience for both the host family and the student guest. Students visiting the United States are generally proficient in speaking English.

Without host families, the Youth Exchange Program cannot function. If you would like to host a student from another country, please contact Henry Krautwurst, MD 29 Youth Camps and Exchange Chairman at henryk248@gmail.com.

Special thanks to clubs who donate to the Youth Exchange Program. Your support is greatly appreciated.

PCC Patricia J. Nutter, Elected
Email: pnutter7@zoominternet.net
Phone: 304-628-3748

Lion Michelle Harshbarger, Appointed
Email: JasonHarsh@aol.com

May 16-18, 2025 **Multiple District 29 State Convention** **Canaan Valley Resort, Davis, WV**

You may make room reservations now by calling 304-866-4121 and choosing Option 1. Refer to Group Code 1058MS.

All rooms are \$139.00 per night plus applicable state and local sales taxes and fees. Cabins are also available for rent.

There will be live musical entertainment on both Friday and Saturday night after the banquets, and other fun activities are being planned throughout the weekend.

Registration information will be forthcoming next month as well as the full agenda of activities for the weekend, so look for more information in the coming weeks.



CONGRATULATIONS

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL
PEACE POSTER
CONTEST WINNER



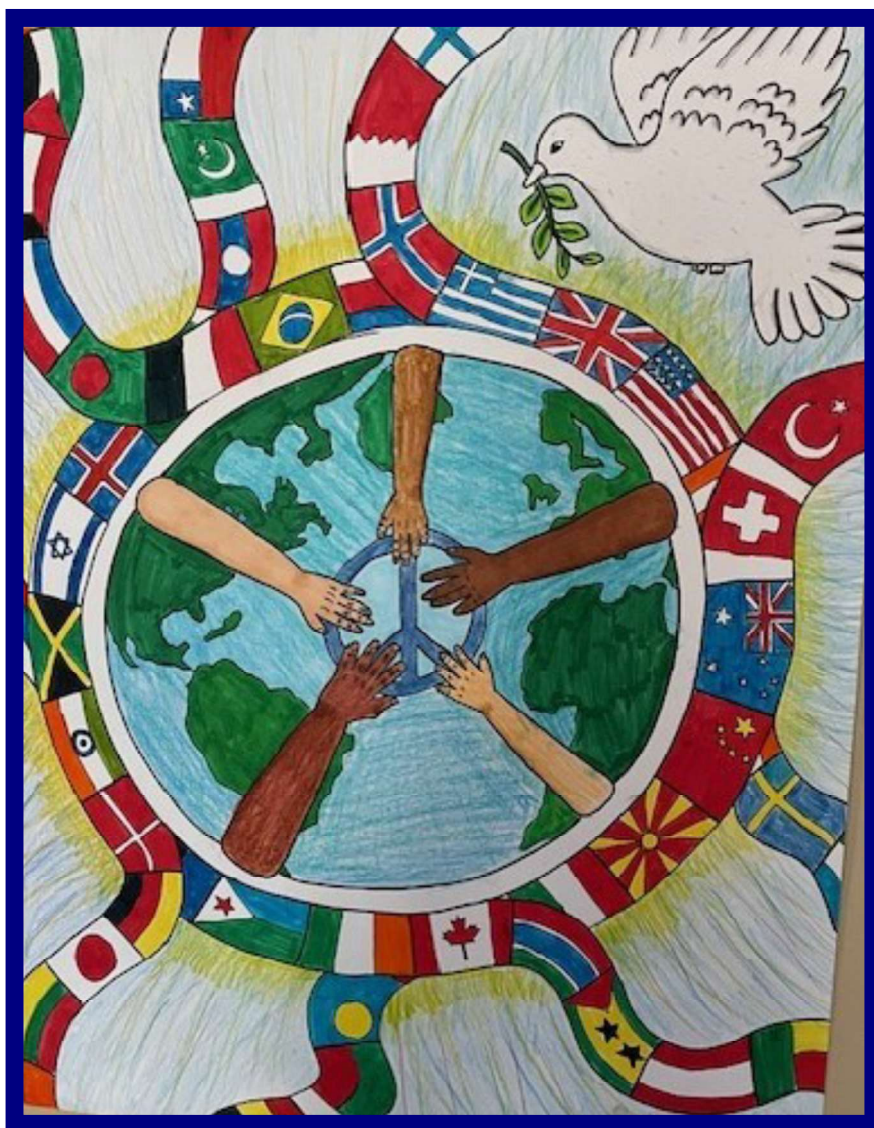
REESE WILLIAMS

Reese Williams, an 8th grade student at East Fairmont Middle School, has been selected as District 29-L's First Place Peace Poster Winner for 2024. She is sponsored by the Fairmont Lions Club.

Reese's quote about her poster is: "Spread Kindness Everywhere You Go!"

Reese was also selected as the Multiple District Winner!

**CONGRATULATIONS,
REESE!**



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Ramona Sago 304-662-6265 or rsago1959@gmail.com

Follow each month for a new tip



Reporting Club Officers

Current year

Upcoming year

Follow these steps

Sign into the Lion Portal with your assigned username and password

Click on “My Club”

Click on “Club Action”

Right side of screen click on “Member Activities”

Below click on “Manage Club Officers”

Next choose the assignment that applies:

Create New Assignment, End Assignment, Add Officer Address

Next choose year that you want to report:

Current year or Upcoming year

Next choose “Officer” – then choose “Official”

Next choose Lion position and then choose Lion for that position

NEW CUMBERLAND LIONS CLUB



Secretary and 1st VP Jeanne Cox with Lion Tamer Jim Gillespie provided a Diabetes Awareness Clinic at the Davis Pharmacy on the 18th. The Pharmacy is owned and operated by Lion Jeff Davis. Secretary/1st VP Jeanne is a Nurse Practitioner and provided finger sticks to anyone who **wished** to see their glucose reading. They also provided information on eating healthier and exercise as well as medication coupons and healthcare samples. Folks were entered into a drawing to win a portable glucometer.

PHOTO: Jim Gillespie, left, and Jeanne Cox, right, getting ready for their first customer.

ATTENTION ...

**The Follansbee Lions
are extending the
deadline for
reservations for their
85th Anniversary
celebration.**

**If you plan to attend,
but have not made
your reservation,
please contact
PDG Terry Snyder at
304-479-8067
OR
lionterry55@gmail.com
as soon as possible
to see if reservations
are still being
accepted.**

**HOPE TO SEE YOU
THERE!**



PLEASE JOIN US

Follansbee Lions Club
85th Anniversary
Thursday February 6, 2025 6:00 PM

Scafidi's Restaurant & Tavern
350 South Hollywood Blvd
Steubenville, Ohio 43952

MENU

Gnocchi (choice of Alfredo or Marinara Sauce)
Sausage With Peppers and Onions
Lasagna
Meatballs
Vegetable Medley
Coffee, Tea, Lemonade, or Pop
Rolls
Anniversary Cake

Cost: \$25 per person
Celebration Attire

PDG Terry Snyder
304-479-8067
lionterry55@gmail.com



DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S CALENDAR

February 14, 2025



Valentine's Day

March 14th-16th, 2025

District 29-L Conference
Parkersburg, WV
The Historic Blennerhassett Hotel

May 16-18, 2025

**Multiple District 29 State Convention
Canaan Valley Resort, Davis, WV**

