

29C Lions Newsletter

August 2026 Edition

Send Newsletter Items to:

Email: lionsdistrict29c@gmail.com



WWW.WVLIONS.ORG

Great Website MD29- WV Lions

Newsletter Highlights

- Meet 29C DG Jo Ellen Browning
- Meet Paige Thewes- 29C 2nd Vice DG
- Message from DG Jo Ellen Browning
- Meet the 29C Cabinet
- 29C Conference Registration
- Parade of Checks
- SAVE the DATES
- Leadership Retreat Registration
- Meet International President
- SERVICE Reporting made EASY!
- Service Program Calendar
- Vision Screening Equipment
- Club Highlights



Introducing 29C DG Jo Ellen Browning



Jo Ellen Browning from Pineville, West Virginia is **District Governor 29C**. Jo Ellen is a retired Math and Science teacher and has been a Lion for 39 years.

Jo Ellen has served in various capacities with Lions including Club President, Zone Chair, Cabinet Secretary, and Conference Chair. In recognition of her service to Lions, she has received the Leadership Award and a President's Certificate of Appreciation. Jo is a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow.

In addition to Jo's District and club service, she is currently pianist and treasurer of the Pineville Presbyterian Church, director of the Wyoming County Food Pantry, and leader of the Pineville Lions Club Exercise group.

Jo Ellen is married to PID Robert Browning, Jr. and has two daughters and 6 grandchildren.

Jo's hobbies include traveling, cooking, and making Mama Jo's Hippy Dippy Salves.



Paige Thewes

Second Vice District Governor 29C

Paige Thewes of Alum Creek, West Virginia, is excited to serve as the 2026-2027 Second Vice District Governor for District 29C.

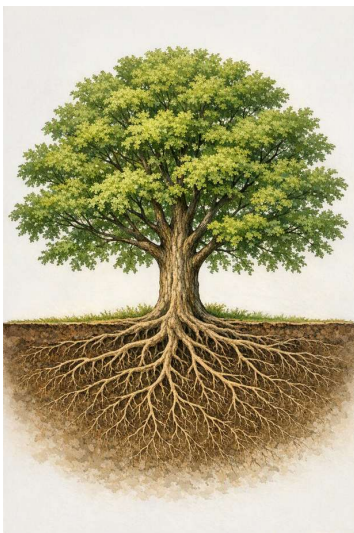
Professionally, Paige is a Senior Due Diligence Project Manager for American Water, where she travels across six states evaluating water and wastewater systems. She is a proud 2017 graduate of Marshall University, where she earned a degree in Civil Engineering.

A lifelong resident of Alum Creek, Paige joined the Alum Creek Lions Club in 2022 after years of witnessing the positive impact Lions made in her community. Growing up, she frequently visited the Alum Creek Lions Club Park and was inspired by the dedication of local Lions who consistently served and supported others in their small town.

Since becoming a Lion, Paige has held several leadership roles, including serving as Club President during the 2024-2025 Lions year. Alongside fellow club members, she helped establish the Alum Creek Lions Club Cub Club, a youth program designed to foster service and encourage community involvement among children. Paige also served as a Zone Chair for the district, a role she especially enjoyed because it allowed her to connect with and support fellow Lions clubs throughout her zone.

Outside of her Lions service, Paige volunteers with Make-A-Wish, helping grant wishes for critically ill children. She is also an active member of Cobbs Creek Missionary Baptist Church, where she is involved in various aspects of the church's ministry.

Paige enjoys spending time outdoors. Her favorite hobbies include fishing, gardening, and anything involving the water. She also enjoys spending time with her beloved dog, Gus, and her potbelly pig, Pigsley. Paige is passionate about serving others and is honored to continue making a difference through Lions Club and District 29C.



A message from DG Jo Browning

“Planting Seeds to Grow”

We are [Rooted in Service](#). Our International President Mark Lyon reminds us to stay grounded in the values set forth in our mission. But sometimes, we need a boost to get our clubs to grow and get stronger. **“Every time we serve, our roots grow stronger and deeper.”**

Lions Clubs International has recognized 8 Global causes: Vision, Youth, Environment, Hunger, Disaster Relief, Pediatric Cancer, Humanitarian, and Diabetes. Using these causes, start planning and get your club excited about a service project, either a project that your club has done many times or an innovative project you have never done before.

Weeks of Service have been returned this year, and we have 3 opportunities to participate.

- [Vision service week is October 8-18](#)
- [Youth service week is February 13-21](#)
- [Environment service week is May 29-June 6.](#)

I challenge every club to complete and report at least 4 service projects this year. That is one project every 3 months or so. It can be as big or as small as you like. When others observe our work in our communities, we build bonds. These bonds can lead to connections, friendships, and new members in our clubs. Active service helps build membership!

I also challenge every club to support both the Lions Clubs International Foundation and the West Virginia Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation. Although we donate to these organizations, we receive much more in return. Consider the LCIF funds distributed by West Virginia Lions to flood victims in recent years and the many cataract surgeries funded by WVLSHF. Our donations make a meaningful difference in our communities.

We can become a stronger district that is [“Rooted in Service.”](#) We just have to start **“Planting Seeds to Grow.”**



Meet your 29C Cabinet

Position	Name	Phone	Email
District Governor	Jo Browning	304-545-2270	iesbrowning@yahoo.com
1st Vice Governor	Vacant		
2nd Vice Governor	Paige Thewes	304-941-7001	Paige.Thewes@amwater.com
Secretary/Treasurer	PCC Paul Wheeler	304-746-4415	pwhee71827@aol.com
Administrator	PCC Rhonda Smith	304-989-5595	smithklrs@aol.com
GMT	PID Robert Browning, Jr.	304-546-1876	rbrowningjr@yahoo.com
GLT	PDG Gary Boyd	304-594-2489	garyboyd@ucwv.edu
GST	PDG Lisa Keffer	304-228-7615	goherdlisa@netscape.net
GET	PDG Amanda Ross	304-549-5777	mandyross82@gmail.com
LCIF	PDG Dennis Keffer	304-228-0025	mastertekjim@netscape.net
Webmaster	Kelton Boblits	304-719-0878	kegbo@gmail.com
Marketing/Service Dog/Leaderdog	Clark Clay	304-667-1727	Mclarkclay77@gmail.com
Hunger	Rachel Cook	304-389-5392	rachelbrowningcook@yahoo.com
Vision/Eyeglass Recycling	PCC Pete Johnson	304-574-2836	petewvlions@aol.com
Childhood Cancer	Paige Thewes	304-941-7001	Paige.Thewes@amwater.com
Diabetes/Camp Kno Koma	David Lyons	304-222-4075	bop42501@gmail.com
Environment	Abigail Lilly	304-308-0929	Abbylilly1@gmail.com
International Relations	PID Robert Browning, Jr.	304-546-1876	rbrowningjr@yahoo.com
Peace Poster	Jim Slamick	304-539-4200	jeslamick@frontier.com
Disaster Relief	Jason Smith	304-779-2025	Jason.p.smith81@live.com
Conference Co-Chair	PDG Dennis Keffer	304-228-0025	mastertekjim@netscape.net
Conference Co-Chair	PDG Lisa Keffer	304-228-7615	goherdlisa@netscape.net
Zone 1 Chair	Jessica Varney	304-946-1908	shauniessvarney@yahoo.com
Zone 2&3 Chair	Jim Slamick	304-539-4200	jeslamick@frontier.com
Zone 4 Chair	James Blankenship	304-308-2066	Jamesblankenship11@gmail.com
Zone 5 Chair	Bruce Cassis	304-237-4024	blcassis@gmail.com
Zone 6 Chair	David Holiday	304-673-1299	beckleyvision@gmail.com
Zone 7 Chair	Randy Foster	304-364-5989	fosrockcamp@gmail.com
Zone 8 Chair	Jacob Taylor	304-704-6045	Jacobtaylorrhtransport@outlook.com
VISION RELATED			
WVSF Trustee	Jim Miller	304-536-3301	lioniimmiller@yahoo.com
WVSF Trustee	Alan Simpson	304-673-1276	alansimpson517@gmail.com
WVSF Service Coordinators	PCC Pete Johnson	304-574-2836	petewvlions@aol.com
WVSF Service Coordinators	2nd VG Paige Thewes	304-941-7001	Paige.Thewes@amwater.com
WVSF Portable Equip Coordinator	PCC Pete Johnson	304-574-2836	petewvlions@aol.com
WVSF Portable Equip Coordinator	PCC Carla Finch	304-552-5534	cjgraleyfinch@gmail.com
Youth Camps & Exchange (elected)	PCC Ed Via	304-772-5273	Bobbyvia7@gmail.com
Youth Camps & Exchange	Melinda Vance	304-673-6739	melindajovance@outlook.com
Long Range Planning Chair	PCC Gary Boyd	304-594-2489	garyboyd@ucwv.edu
Newsletter Chair	PCC Carla Finch	304-552-5534	lionsdistrict29c@gmail.com

SAVE the DATES

District 29I Conference - October 17, 2027 -
Bridgeport Civic Center, Bridgeport, WV

District 29C Fall Conference - October 30 - November 1, 2026
Pipestem Resort State Park, WV

WV Lions Leadership Retreat - January 29-30, 2027
Days Inn Conference Center, Flatwoods, WV

District 29L Conference - March 12-13, 2027
Blennerhassett Hotel, Parkersburg, WV

WV Lions Multiple District Convention - April 30 - May 2,
2027 Canaan Valley Resort, Davis, WV

109th Lions International Convention - July 2-6, 2027
Washington, D.C.



“Planting Seeds to Grow”

District 29C Lions Conference

When: Fri, Oct 30 – Nov 1st, 2026

Where: Pipestem Resort

3405 Pipestem Drive

Pipestem WV 25979



Registration Information:

Name (s) _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

District Number _____ Club Name: _____

Years as Lion? _____ First Conference: Yes or No

Registration Fee of \$80

Includes: Saturday Lunch & Dinner + Entertainment

Dress is Business Casual |

Make checks payable to: Lions District 29C Conference

Mail by Oct 20th, 2026 to:

PDG Dennis Keffer

PO Box 33, Pax WV 25904

Lodging:

Pipestem Resort Lodge or Cabins (Advised Lions Conference)

For Reservations, please call **304-466-1800**

****Please email: Lionsdistrict29C@gmail.com for conference related questions.**

Updates and full schedule will also be sent via the email above.

PARADE OF CHECKS DISTRICT

29-C CONFERENCE

Oct 30-Nov 1, 2026



Thank-You so much for your donations and attention to the following Lions Programs. The Parade of Checks is not possible without the generous hearts and donations from our local Lions Clubs. Each club will be recognized at dinner.

Checks may also be presented to the Registration desk, which will be located at the Pipestem Resort Lobby on Friday, Oct 30th- Nov 1st

Clubs not attending the conference can email your donation amounts to:

Email :PDG/29C Tres Paul Wheeler (pwhee71827@aol.com)

Mailing Address for donations only:

PDG/29C Tres Paul Wheeler
46 Ranger Lane
So Chas WV 25309

PROGRAMS - Individual checks should be made out to each program as listed.

Club Name _____

LCIF – Lions Club Intl Foundation	\$
WVLSCF – WV Lions Sight Conservation Foundation	\$
Diabetes Awareness	\$
Youth Exchange Program	\$
Leader Dog	\$
Pilot Dogs	\$
WV Disaster Relief Fund	\$
Skiing for the Blind	\$
Student Work Program	\$

If more information is needed about the programs above (LCIF, Diabetes Awareness)

<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/service-programs>

Leader Dog Program: <https://www.leaderdog.org/about/>

WVLSCF - <http://www.wvsight.org>

Pilot Dog - <https://www.pilotdogs.org>

LIONS OF WEST VIRGINIA LEADERSHIP RETREAT

January 29-31, 2027

Flatwoods Days Inn & Suites and Conference Center

Registration Deadline: **January 15, 2027**

Enjoy a weekend filled with seminars that elevate your Lions experience, dynamic motivational speakers, informative displays, Lions merchandise, a Silent Auction, a welcoming hospitality room, exciting door prizes, excellent meals, and plenty of fun and fellowship. Specific seminar details will be provided in District newsletters.

Registration Fee:

\$105.00 Friday, Saturday, Sunday – Three banquet meals, seminars & materials

Early Bird Discount Save \$15.00 IF you book your Days Inn room **by October 15, 2026**

Hotel Reservation Confirmation No.		Date Reserved:	
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Rooms: Contact Days Inn at 866-700-7284 (*mention you are with the WV Lions Retreat*)

Rates: \$128 King \$133 Queen (2 beds) \$123 Double (2 beds)

Breakfast is included for individuals staying at the hotel.

Deadline to Reserve Rooms at above rates: **December 29, 2026**

Check In Date:		Check Out Date:	
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NAME:	
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NAME:	
-------	--

ADDRESS:	
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PHONE:		EMAIL:	
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CLUB NAME:		DISTRICT:	
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FIRST-TIME ATTENDEE:	
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SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS:	
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\$105 per person (X 2 = \$210)	\$90 per person (x 2 = \$180) (<i>only if you qualify for Early Bird Special</i>)	AMOUNT ENCLOSED:	
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Make checks payable to: **Lions of West Virginia Leadership Retreat or LWVLR**

Mail check and form to: **PCC Cindy Glass, 922 East Avenue, Shinnston, WV 26431**

Email: cinwa130@gmail.com; Phone: 304-203-2006

“LEADERSHIP and LEARNING are INDISPENSABLE to each other”



“Be the Ripple” How Service Makes Waves



Check out this Youtube Video from
Lions International President Mark Lyon

<https://www.lionsclubs.org/video>

Also, check out Lions International President. Mark Lyon's Biography

<https://youtu.be/hgxmHxmYhnl>

Mark S. Lyon, from Brookfield, Connecticut, USA, was elected to serve as first vice president of Lions Clubs International at the association's 107th international convention held in Orlando, Florida from July 13 through July 17, 2025.

Prior to his retirement in March 2024, Vice President Lyon has worked in corporate legal administration and financial services with several major corporations and banks for over 40 years.

As a long-time resident of Brookfield and an active volunteer in his community, church and local government, his connection with Lions was already well established before he became a member of the Brookfield Lions Club in 1996. Since then, he has held a number of offices within the association, including international director, multiple district council chairperson and multiple district GLT coordinator.

He was also appointed as a member of the LCI Forward project team, a Global Action Team area leader, a District Governor-Elect Seminar group leader and board liaison to the 2019 USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum Executive Committee. Vice President Lyon has also served as presenter, faculty and participant at countless training events and leadership forums throughout the years.

In recognition of his service, he has received multiple International President's Awards and International President's Certificates of Appreciation, as well as an International President's Leadership Award. Vice President Lyon is also a recipient of the Ambassador of Good Will Award, the highest honor the association bestows upon its members. Additionally, he has been recognized as a Connecticut Knight of the Blind and a Connecticut Ambassador of Sight, and is the recipient of a number of project and service-related certificates.

In addition to his Lion activities, President-Elect Lyon has been active in numerous professional and community organizations. He has served on the board of directors for the Silver Lake Conference Center and Wide Horizons for Children. He was an associate member of the American Bar Association and a past member of the Association of Legal Administrators, the Society of Corporate Secretaries and Governance Professionals and the Shareholder Services Association.

Vice President Lyon is a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow. His wife, Lyn Lyon, is also a longtime Lion and Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow. They are the proud parents of three incredible daughters.

Suggested Service Calendar Below

Lions Club Service Calendar



You are invited to use this calendar to help plan and share service activities with your club. Edit the inspirational ideas below to make this tool work for you, your club and your community.

July	August	September
July 1 begins a new Lions Year! Start your Service Journey and share the resources in the Service Toolkit with your club.	August 12 is <i>International Youth Day</i> . Visit our Youth webpage for service ideas, including the LCIF Lions Quest program.	The second week in September is time to <i>#CelebrateCommunity</i> and serve with a Kiwanis, Optimist or Rotary club in your area.
October	November	December
The second Thursday in October is <i>World Sight Day</i> . Start on our Vision webpage to find service ideas, planning tools and LCIF grant opportunities.	November 14 is <i>World Diabetes Day</i> . Visit our Diabetes webpage to learn how your club can help fight this global epidemic.	December 5 is <i>International Volunteer Day</i> . Our humanitarian efforts have been celebrated for over 100 years. How will your club celebrate?
January	February	March
Sponsor a Peace Poster and Peace Essay contest inspire youths' visions of peace. Kits go on sale January 15.	February 15 is <i>Childhood Cancer Day</i> . Our Childhood Cancer webpage includes service ideas and LCIF grant opportunities to help affected families.	Lions Day with the United Nations was first held in March 1978. Plan an advocacy activity to help make positive change.
April	May	June
April 22 is <i>Earth Day</i> . Find service ideas and LCIF grant opportunities to protect and restore the environment on our Environment webpage .	May 28 is <i>World Hunger Day</i> . Our Hunger webpage provides ideas on how your club can help and LCIF grant opportunities to magnify your service.	LCIF's first Disaster Relief grant was awarded in June 1972. Hold an LCIF fundraiser or check the LCIF Grants Toolkit to extend this legacy of service.

Is your club doing a vision screening?

Need the up to date equipment?

**Contact PCC Pete Johnson Cell 304 574-2836
or PCC Carla Finch 304 552-5534**

What are the 8 Pillars of Service ?

The 8 Lions Global Causes

Westbury Lions are part of the worldwide "Lions Clubs International", and as part of that organisation, we focus directly and indirectly on 8 Global causes in our service. These are: **Childhood Cancer, Diabetes, Disaster Relief, Environment, Humanitarian Efforts, Hunger, Vision and Youth.**



**CHILDHOOD
CANCER**



DIABETES



**DISASTER
RELIEF**



ENVIRONMENT



**HUMANITARIAN
EFFORTS**



HUNGER



VISION



YOUTH



Supporting Juvenile Diabetics in Southern West Virginia

A Message from Lion David Lyons

I am writing to encourage every Lions Club in southern West Virginia to support juvenile diabetics in your communities—especially by helping them attend Camp KNO KOMA, a place where young people with diabetes can find safety, confidence, and true belonging.

A Family's Journey

There is comfort in belonging, but for juvenile diabetics in southern West Virginia, finding such a place can be difficult. My own daughter and fellow Lion, Emily Lyons, was diagnosed at the end of her fourth-grade year. As we sat in the emergency room at WVU Women's and Children's Hospital, we knew life was about to change drastically when she received her first dose of insulin.

Although the medical staff praised us for seeking treatment early enough to avoid full diabetic ketoacidosis, we still felt like we had missed something important. We had spent weeks worrying about her bed wetting and her fading concentration. We were blessed with ten years without diabetes—without sensors, carb counting, insulin pumps, or needles. Many families in southern West Virginia face these challenges from the time their children are toddlers.

Discovering Camp KNO KOMA

When Emily entered Pineville Middle School, we were welcomed by a wonderful school nurse and encouraged by fellow Lion—and current district president—Jo Browning to consider sending her to Camp KNO KOMA. It took a year before we felt ready to let her go for a week with no contact and no way to monitor her condition. Dropping her off at Camp Greenbrier with a suitcase and instructions to return in a week was one of the hardest moments we've faced as parents.

We spent that week anxiously scanning the few daily pictures posted on Facebook, searching for Emily as if we were playing the most important game of "Where's Waldo" in our lives.

The Power of Belonging

Emily returned home tired but immeasurably strengthened by the experience. While her A1C improved, the true impact was on her mental health and confidence. She had found a community where everyone understood her challenges, a place that helped her see her strength and her place in the world.

Our family found this community because of the Pineville Lions Club. Fellow Lion Jo Browning and the club welcomed us with open arms and sponsored her camp tuition, giving Emily an opportunity that changed her life.

A Call to Action

I encourage every Lions Club in southern West Virginia to look around your communities and offer this same opportunity for belonging to juvenile diabetics near your chapters. Your support can give a child not only better health outcomes but a sense of community they may not find anywhere else.

Thank you for your continued service and dedication to our communities.

David Lyons

President of the Pineville Lions Club

NEED Help reporting SERVICE or changes for your CLUB?

HELP IS HERE!!!!

If Secretary or Club Administrator needs help putting this information into the Lions Portal, then complete this form each month, take a picture of it and text it to District Administrator, PDG Rhonda Smith, 304-989-5595. She will enter the information for you.

Lions 2026-2027 Membership and Activities Report

Club _____ Month _____

Secretary _____ Phone _____

Club Administrator _____ Phone _____

Meetings

Date _____ Members present _____ Guests _____

Program _____

Date _____ Members present _____ Guests _____

Program _____

Service

Eight pillars of service: Vision, Hunger, Diabetes, Environment, Childhood Cancer, Youth, Disaster Relief, and Humanitarian Efforts.

Service project _____ Date _____

Service pillar _____ Number of members _____

Number of community members helped _____ (approximately) Total number of service hours _____

Service project _____ Date _____

Service pillar _____ Number of members _____

Number of community members helped _____ (approximately) Total number of service hours _____

Fundraising

Project _____ Purpose _____ Date _____

Number of members _____ Amount raised _____

Membership

New member _____ Date _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____

Upcoming Club Events:

SAVE the DATES



Clendenin Lions Club
Fall Festival • Sept. 26, 2026.



Kanawha City Lions Club
Capital City Art & Craft Show • Nov. 21, 2026.

Local Club Events posted on Facebook



Athens WV Lions Club

Vision screening at the Mercer County Fair.

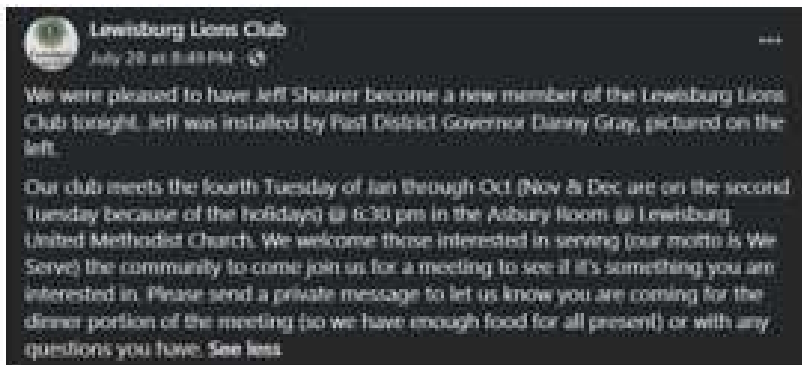


Athens WV Lions Club

Mercer County Fair • Vision screening and community outreach.

Send newsletter
items to
[Lionsdistrict29c@
Gmail.com](mailto:Lionsdistrict29c@gmail.com)

Lewisburg has been busy!



Lewisburg Lions Club

Welcoming a new member and inviting the community to meetings.



Lewisburg Lions Club

Members gathered for club business and fellowship.



Lewisburg Lions Club

Scholarship recipients and supporters were recognized.



Logan Lions Club

A playful community moment from the club.



Mount Hope Lions Club

Members remembered and honored Gary Ray.

Logan Lions and their infamous Ducks!





Sissonville Lions Club

Member recognition celebrates achievement and service.

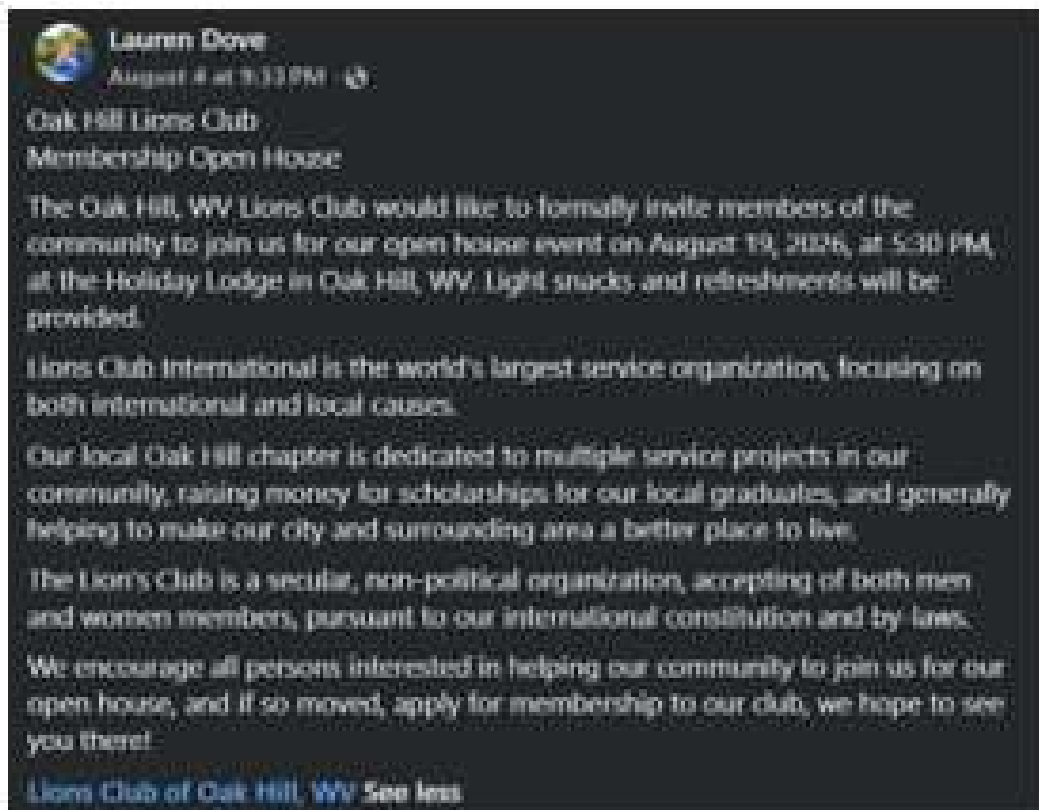
**Lion
Rod Canterbury
celebrates 25
years as a Lion!**

**UC Campus
Lions
return
to school**



University of Charleston

Oak Hill had an Open House for the Community



Oak Hill Lions Club

Community open house and a reminder of the Lions' service mission.

Alum Creek just celebrated 43 years of Car Show fun!

