



DISTRICT 29-L
(WV-USA)



Club Visits Are the Heart of the Journey

By District Governor Kim Ebert

December reminds us of the true reason for the season—hope, generosity, and love. It's a time when we gather close to family, cherish old traditions, and celebrate the blessings in our lives. As Lions, we're fortunate to have an extended family with one another, bound by service and friendship that shine even brighter this time of year. May this season fill your homes with warmth, your heart with gratitude, and your days with the joy of giving. **Wishing all our Lions and their families a peaceful, meaningful, and beautiful December!**

IMPORTANT DATES

12/1/2025 - Wheeling Island Lions

As your District Governor, I'm looking forward to an exciting year of service and connection! I would love the opportunity to visit your club, get to know your members, and learn more about the amazing work you're doing in your communities. Please email me at kimwvlsf@gmail.com with an invitation or to schedule a visit. I'm truly excited to meet everyone and celebrate the impact we make together!

2025-2026 29-L CABINET

Kim Ebert, Governor
Tony Vandenberg, 1st Vice Governor
Lori Roberts, 2nd Vice Governor
Jay Houser, LCIF Chairman
Bill Syphers, Sec/Treas
Bernice Pitcock, GLT
Gary Pitcock, GMT/GET
Ramona Sago, GST
Dave Roberts, IPDG
Ramona Sago, Administrator
Kristine Quinn, Newsletter Editor
Kathy Syphers, IT
Amy Houser, Environmental
Eva Dague, Leo
Paul Amhrein, Sight/Hearing & WVU Eye Institute
Michelle Harshbarger, Youth EX (A)
Patty Nutter, Youth Ex (E)
Lori Roberts, District Conference
Dave Sheltn, Reading Action Program
Richard McMillan, Guide Dogs
Dave Sago, Peace Poster
Amy Houser, Sight Equipment Coordinator
Paul Amhrein, Sight Foundation Trustee

ZONE CHAIRS

Zone 1 - Vacancy

Zone 2 & 3 - Kristine Quinn

Zone 4 - Scott Beaver

Zone 5 - Lori Roberts

Zone 6 – Lori Roberts

Zone 7 - Vacancy

Zone 8 - Karen Dudas-Hall



Lion Tony Vandenberg

First Vice District Governor

Ajv26170@yahoo.com **Mobile: (808) 557-1113**

Servant Leadership

At a recent Lions Leadership training class, I learned more about *servant leadership*. Lions International views servant leadership as a core principle that guides its members. The Robert K. Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership states (see <https://greenleaf.org/what-is-servant-leadership/>):

“A servant-leader focuses primarily on the growth and well-being of people and the communities to which they belong. While traditional leadership generally involves the accumulation and exercise of power by one at the ‘top of the pyramid,’ servant leadership is different. The servant-leader shares power, puts the needs of others first and helps people develop and perform as highly as possible.”

By practicing servant leadership in our Lions Clubs, we involve our members and value their input, regardless of their role in the Club. We can encourage members to develop their own talents and leadership skills. This helps develop strong loyalty to the Club and its service, producing high morale and productivity. And, importantly, we can foster the growth of new leaders, who can guide our Clubs and other community organizations.

As we head into December, let us strive to consciously practice Servant Leadership – which will allow us to better serve our communities. Keep in mind International President A. P. Singh’s motto “Lead to Serve, Serve to Lead.” Both are needed, especially in this Season of Compassion.

Hey Lions!

When members feel valued, connected & proud of what their club does, they don't leave. **Retention isn't about keeping numbers — it's about keeping hearts engaged in service.**

December & June drops are often the result of clubs purging their rosters before the semi-annual billing deadlines. But that behavior is symptomatic, not the root cause. Let's stop the drops by addressing both prevention & perception.

DECEMBER & JUNE DROPS HAPPEN BECAUSE:

- Clubs don't want to pay for inactive members.
- Members feel disconnected or unengaged or unheard or unappreciated.
- There's a "clean-up culture" rather than a renewal mindset.

service + fun = happy Lions



Engage Now
Before the Drop

IDENTIFY AT-RISK MEMBERS

- Who hasn't attended meetings?
- Who hasn't participated in service?
- Who might drop?
- Check in personally with every member now.
- Ask why they have become distant or might be considering leaving & listen without judgment.
- Offer flexible dues payment options (installments, sponsorships, or club-level assistance funds).
- Use this as a chance to re-sell the value of being a Lion: friendship, purpose, impact & connection.

REACTIVATE THROUGH SERVICE

Promote a December service project where EVERY member has a role, even if it's small.



LET'S GROW Growth Workshop Series

Starts January 6th
Every other Week Until February 17th
4 sessions total
8 pm EDT / 7 pm CDT / 6 pm MDT / 5 pm PDT
Register @ <https://bit.ly/GrowthWkshp26>

Target Audience:
GAT Coordinators & Team Members
Lions & Leos hungry for growth

Let's spark some serious momentum! This Workshop Series is your go-to spot to learn how to start new clubs or rebuild existing clubs. Hear what's working from others & build the confidence to make it happen. Whether you're brand new or already a pro—if you're ready to grow, this is your space. Let's make it happen together!

Has your Club or Lion leader demonstrated outstanding leadership, membership, growth, impactful service and/or humanitarian contributions?

2025-2026 Excellence Awards updates

These prestigious awards are available at four levels—**club, zone, region and district**. Clubs must earn a **Club Excellence Award** as a prerequisite for Excellence Awards at the zone, region and district level.

Applications will not be necessary for the 2025-2026 award cycle. Awards will be distributed by Lions International to clubs that meet the updated criteria and eligibility requirements. You will find these listed below.

Club Excellence Award criteria

The Club Excellence Award acknowledges the dedication and legacy of service within individual clubs and is the foundation for excellence awards presented to Zone Chairpersons, Region Chairpersons and District Governors.

Membership

- Induct a minimum of two or 20% new members, whichever is greater (not including transfer, reinstated or charter members). Eligibility is determined based on the club's membership count on June 30th of the previous Lion year.
- Or sponsor a new Lions club.

Service

- Report a minimum of four service activities to Lions International. Three of these activities must show participation in each of the three International [Weeks of Service](#).

Leadership

- Report newly elected club officers in Lion Portal by May 15 of the current Lion year.
- A minimum of 10% of the club's members complete any three courses in the [Lions Learning Center](#).
- The club president for the current Lion year must not have served more than two consecutive terms.
- A minimum of two or more club officers (president, vice president, secretary or treasurer. Of which, one must be the club president) complete Club Officer Training (online with the Lions Learning Center or in-person as reported by a GLT coordinator in Learn) between May 1 – December 31.

Donations

- [Contributed to LCIF](#) a minimum of the club's membership total on June 30th of the previous Lion year, multiplied by US\$20.

GST/PDG Ramona Sago at rsago1959@gmail.com

Benefits of Service Reporting

Lions and Leos served 410 million people in the 2024-25 Lion year. Our district can take pride in helping with that achievement thanks to each club that reported their service activities last year.

For every club, service reporting benefits include:

- Enabling stronger club communications
- Demonstrating your club's effectiveness
- Providing insight into current and future club leaders

Clubs that report service also become eligible for awards and recognition, including the [Kindness Matters Service Award and the Excellence Awards](#). Your help to ensure service reporting is underway this year is especially appreciated. You can see who is and is not reporting through the [insights](#) reports in the [Lion Portal](#).

Each month I will be reaching out to clubs to see if you need any additional help with reporting.

GST PDG Ramona Sago
rsago1959@gmail.com

Sight Equipment

Currently there are no reservations for the District sight equipment. Please email me at WilliamstownLionsClub@yahoo.com if you would like to reserve the equipment for your next vision event.

Below is a summary of the West Virginia Dept of Health and Human Resources Bureau for Medical Resources' guidelines for coverage of vision services. Hopefully this will give your clubs a better idea of what is covered under Medicaid and what is not.

- Eye Examinations: Up to 21 years of age of *enrolled participants* are covered. Over 21 years of age are not covered unless there is a medical necessity. Eye examinations to determine the need for eyeglasses are only covered for those under the age of 21.
- Glasses and Frames: Up to 21 years of age of *enrolled participants*, eyeglass frames are covered, replacement frames are covered if they can no longer be used (ie broken) and repair costs exceed replacement costs. Medicaid will not reimburse for both contact lenses and eyeglasses when eyeglasses can be worn.

Adults over 21 years of age, one pair of eyeglasses/frames is covered for members who had documented cataract extraction within the past 60 days.

For detailed information, please visit bms.wv.gov.

Thank you,
Amy Houser
Portable Sight Equipment Coordinator



Lions International Service Week for the Environment April 18-26, 2026

Now is the time to plan a new or additional Environmental project for the week of April 18-26, the international week of service for Lions! Some ideas include:

- Contacting your local Solid Waste Authority or recycler and sponsor a recycling event to collect old paint cans, tires, electronics, and other hazardous materials. Take away: good publicity, done within a few hours, minimal cost to the club and fun!
- Sponsor a tree planting event with your local schools. Take away: work with high schools as an segway to a Leos club, watch the project “grow” during the summer
- Organize a community cleanup: Focus on a park and invite the public and high school to participate. Take away: again, working with the high school.
- Sponsor a community (vegetable, flower or butterfly) garden or a composting program. Educational and fun! Take away: people love pollinators and the honeybee is the state insect.
- Begin a campaign to make your town a Bee City USA, a program run by the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. Currently, the only WV affiliates are Shepherdstown, Snowshoe, Westover and Williamstown. For more information visit beecityusa.org

There are many possible projects your club can do as we unite together to improve our environment. What will your club be planning for April 2026?

Environmental Chair,
Amy Houser

Ways to Give



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION

Donate online

lionsclubs.org/WaysToGive



Make a Pledge

lionsclubs.jotform.com/90524105483149

Mail

Mail USD checks drawn from a U.S. Bank
and payable to LCIF to:

Lions Clubs International Foundation
Department 4547
Carol Stream, IL 60122-4547 USA

Visit lionsclubs.org/WaysToGive for mailing checks in Canada and India

Wire transfer

JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.
ABA Routing Number: 021000021
10 S. Dearborn St.
Account Name: Lions Clubs International Foundation
Chicago, IL 60603 USA
Account Number: 754487312
Swift International Banking number: CHASUS33

Email a copy of your receipt or transfer form – along
with your name, Member ID, club name, and district
name – to donorassistance@lionsclubs.org.

If requesting recognition for someone else, please
include the recipient's name, Member ID, club name,
and district name.

Contact Donor Services

For assistance, contact Donor Services at +1.630.203.3836 or donorassistance@lionsclubs.org.

I have been in contact with 2 individuals - 1 who wants to rebuild a club, and the other wants to restart a club in an area where a club existed until around 2017. Due to the holidays, these projects will start in January. If anyone needs membership information, please contact me at. 304-797-8374.

Have a Merry Christmas and let's start the New Year off with positive growth.

PDG Gary Pitcock
Membership


I'll make this brief: Please join Lions USA for their "Wisdom Wednesdays" zoom series for help in Growing Future Leaders. These meetings are scheduled for the first Wednesdays of the month at 8 pm EDT. Register once for the series. Here's the link:

<https://bit.ly/LUSAWisdom>

I wish you all the Happiest of Holiday Seasons. May God bless you for your work to help your communities in this very difficult year. Be safe and SERVE!!


MISSION 1.5 NEWS

Ready to Start a New Club? We Can Help.


New clubs add new energy to our communities, extend our impact and help us reach our MISSION 1.5 goals! Visit our updated Start a New Club webpage for everything you need to start a new club. [GET STARTED](#) 

DISTRICT NEWS


Make Sure Your District Doesn't Miss Next Year's *MISSION* 1.5 Summits!

Report your 2026-2027 Global Action Team district coordinator appointments in the Lion Portal so your district can be informed of *MISSION* 1.5 summits and plans for next year early on. [GET STARTED](#) 


Mobilize Clubs for the Hunger Week of Service

Encourage your districts to lead the way during the Hunger Week of Service, January 3-11, 2026. Inspire clubs to make an impact in their communities and unite Lions worldwide in the fight against hunger. [LEARN MORE](#) 


FVDG/DGE Training Registration Milestones

Registration for the FVDG/DGE Virtual Seminar opens December 15, with sessions held throughout February 2026. Registration for the DGE Seminar and International Convention in Hong Kong opened October 1 and is due on January 23, 2026. [LEARN MORE](#) 


Access the Refreshed District Guide Today

If you're a district governor, this guide is for you. Understand how to effectively manage your district and succeed as a Lions International leader. Download your copy today! [DOWNLOAD NOW](#) 


Learn Has Been Refreshed!

Learn, housed within the Lion Portal, now has a new look, feel and faster performance. GLT coordinator reporting capabilities and report data access remains unchanged. Visit the Lion Portal Resources webpage for training videos, quick guides and other Learn resources. [LEARN MORE](#) 


Submit Reimbursements for Completed Institutes/Trainings

Were you approved to receive funds through the Leadership Development Institute or Multiple District or District Grant Programs? Be sure to submit your reimbursement documentation within three weeks of the conclusion of your institute or training to receive the grant amount. [SUBMIT NOW](#) 

Don't Miss the Leo-Lion FDI Scholarship Deadlines


Deadlines are rapidly approaching for the Leo-Lion Faculty Development Institute (FDI) scholarship for Constitutional Areas III and IV. Encourage your Leo-Lions to apply on the Leo-Lion webpage so they can expand their leadership skills. [LEARN MORE](#) 

Last Chance to Update Your District Goals


December 31 marks the final opportunity to revise your district goals. Collaborate with your district teams to assess and implement any necessary adjustments before the platform closes to ensure you achieve *MISSION* 1.5 targets and contribute to the growth of Lions International. [GET STARTED](#) 

Maximize Your Impact as a Leo/Leo-Lion Cabinet or Council Liaison

Plan Your Hunger Week of Service

Plan your project for the Hunger Week of Service, January 3-11, 2026. Make an impact through food collection, community feeding, agricultural support or nutrition education and advocacy. Explore our hunger resources for ideas to get started and join a global movement! [GET STARTED](#) 

Support Your Campus Club

Campus Lions club presidents, keep your Campus Lions clubs active and thriving! Use the Maintaining a Campus Lions Club resource to help build engagement, encourage student involvement and sustain club success year after year. [LEARN MORE](#) 

Do a Finance Check Up: Review Your Club's Balance

Log into the Lion Portal and visit My Club – Club Statements to review your club’s balance. Checking in on your club’s balance periodically helps keep your club in good standing. [LOG IN](#)

Be Inspired: Lions Are Fighting Hunger in Nepal

Lions in Nepal used an LCIF grant to build a kitchen and dining hall serving the elderly, homeless and people with disabilities. See how they did it. [READ MORE](#)

Has Your Club Considered Starting a Cub Club?

By working with Cubs, a Lions club can provide children ages 12 and younger a chance to volunteer with their club – helping people of all ages serve together and develop a lifelong dedication to helping those in need. [LEARN MORE](#)

Club Growing Strong? Tell Us About It!

Know a thriving club (maybe even yours)? Nominate them for a chance to be featured in our Mission Moments blog series so we can share their story of growth and community impact with Lions everywhere. [GET STARTED](#)

Inspire Others to Give

In recognition of Melvin Jones’ 147th birthday in January, visit LCIF: Stories of Pride and share why you support our global foundation to encourage others to follow your lead. [GET STARTED](#)

Attend the Leo-Lion Board Liaison Town Hall

Leo club advisors and district/multiple district Leo chairpersons, attend the Leo-Lion Town Hall to learn about methods and resources to support the Leo to Lion transition. [REGISTER NOW](#)

Easier Access to the Lions Learning Center

Learn, housed within the Lion Portal, now provides multiple options for accessing the Lions Learning Center (LLC). Simply access Learn and click on “LLC: Online Learning” or view your “My Available Trainings” and then click on the “Go” button to access the LLC. [LOG IN](#)

Plan Service for International Childhood Cancer Day on February 15

Now is the time to start planning a childhood cancer service activity to support patients and families, assist organizations and facilities and raise awareness in your community. Use our childhood cancer service area resources to get started. [GET STARTED](#)

Apply for the Faculty Development Institute (FDI) in Guatemala

Qualified Lions in Constitutional Area III should submit their applications by January 9, 2026, for the event in Guatemala City, Guatemala. [APPLY NOW](#)

Your Support Changes Lives

Your end-of-year gift, like your service, matters. With 100% of donations benefiting LCIF grants and programs, every contribution changes lives. [DONATE NOW](#)

Leo/Leo-Lion cabinet and council liaisons, check out the *Tips for Cabinet/Council Liaisons* guide to learn how to grow in your role and support your team. [LEARN MORE](#)

CLUB HAPPENINGS

Warwood Lions



Thank you 29L District Governor Lion Kim Ebert for visiting our club on November 10th. It was a great evening with you and Bill.

The Warwood Lions had the pleasure of DG Lion Kim Ebert inducting two new members into our club on her recent visit. From left new member Lion Mike Beever, his sponsor Lion Tom Stenger, DG Lion Kim Ebert, new member Lion Maureen Zambito, and her sponsor Lion Margaret Stenger.



The Warwood Lions Club decorated a tree for the Wheeling Health Right Festival of Trees that was held at Oglebay Resort. Trees were on display for a week in November and were for sale to the public. All proceeds were donated to the Health Right to help people without health insurance. Pictured are committee members Lions Al Holderman, Chuck Lee, Mary Stone, Don Niess, and Margaret Stenger.

Pleasants Area Lions Club



Our Veterans' Day display saw all sorts of weather this year, including this beautiful snowscape. We salute our community family, friends, and neighbors who have served our country.

Fairmont Lions Club



The Fairmont Lions Club provided vision screening for 96 preschool aged children this fall. The screenings took place at four childcare facilities in Fairmont and White Hall.



(Left to right) Club President Bob Brummage, Art Teacher Misty Skarzinski, Gianna Stemple holding her second place poster, Easton Ludolf, holding her winning poster, and Principal Debra Conover.

The Fairmont Lions Club sponsored the Lions Peace Poster Contest at East Fairmont Middle School. Eighty-five students participated. The winner was Easton Ludolff. Second place went to Gianna Stemple. Misty Skarzinski is the art teacher at the school, and the school principal is Debra Conover. Ludolff and Stemple were presented certificates and gift cards celebrating their artwork. Bob Brummage presented the awards and presented the school with a certificate for participating.

Williamstown Lions Club



Williamstown Lions participated in a local Trunk or Treat



Williamstown Lions had their 7th Annual Flags for Heroes honoring Veterans

Lesage Lions Club



The children of Cox Landing Elementary were treated and not tricked this spooky season.

Lesage Lions and the Cox Landing Library hosted a Pumpkin Carving Party for more than 40 children and their parents. With parental and staff supervision, kids could scoop out goopy pumpkin guts, design and carve their own pumpkin before heading indoors for hotdogs, chips, cupcakes, cookies and juice before a holiday themed craft.

REMEMBER THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ITEMS TO BE IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER IS THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH!! LET'S SHARE THE NEWS OF WHAT IS GOING ON AND WHAT OUR CLUB IS UP TO! PLEASE SUBMIT IT TO KRISTINE QUINN AT TRABBOLD769@COMCAST.NET.