



Lions International
District 29-I
MAY 2010

Inspiring Words from Your District Governor

Asking members to join Lions is a difficult task. We are afraid of being rejected or sometimes we are not sure of what to say about the benefits of membership.

Lions are a special people who are dedicated to helping other in the time of need. My membership in Lions got a boost from a story that I read from Peter Prengaman, a multimedia editor with Associated Press from Atlanta, Georgia, who was covering the West Virginia Coal Mine Disaster. (See Page 8.) He was so humbled by the hospitality he received in West Virginia. The outpouring of food and other kindness to the journalist from the residences in the that devastated community was so overwhelming.

How could folks be so giving at a time like this? Many felt it was soothing to help others. This situation made them feel helpless, and helping others was doing something. They said it gave people a

chance to show the world what West Virginians are "really like." .

Many of the Lions will never face such a horrible circumstance, but I believe that serving others in need is soothing and can aid us in our troubled times. I remember the comment the PIP Jimmy Ross said at Leadership school: that membership in Lions gives the opportunity to make a difference in your community. Assisting others in their worst of times can help us through our worst of times by knowing that we have made a difference in our communities.

So the next time someone tells you they don't have time let them in on our greatest secret, that are reward of being a lion is knowing that someone is a little better off because of the time WE SERVE.

Yours in Lionism
DG Lion Rob Silvester



Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. During your week end festivities, please take time to pause to remember those who lost their lives and those now putting their lives in danger to keep us free. May God Bless America!

According to District custom, June's newsletter will be dedicated to the upcoming Lions Year.

During recent weeks, I felt privileged to be part of four wonderful Lions occasions: the Clarksburg Lions Club's 86th anniversary celebration, the 30th anniversary of the Junior Lions Club, and new member recruitment nights for both the Thomas-Davis and Philippi Lions Clubs. All events were lively and well attended and demonstrate that Lionism is alive and well in District 29I. I am really looking forward to being part of many more such special occasions during my term as District Governor. Please let me know if your club has an anniversary or other upcoming event so I can put it on my calendar. And, of course, please let me know a preferred date for your club's District Governor's meeting.

My vision for our upcoming year is for Lions Clubs across District 29-I to be the premier providers of community and humanitarian services – the “go to” organization in every community that the public acknowledges as the organization that can get the job done. My theme for the year will be “Reach Out” ... to serve the local community, to serve the world community, to extend the gift of Lionism to new members, to extend the gift of Lionism to unserved communities, to strengthen clubs through effective leadership and retention strategies and to deepen the personal commitment of current members.

The cabinet is shaping up nicely, with only a gap or two to fill in. The complete roster will be announced next month, but the MERL team will consist of:

- PCC Gary VanHorn – Membership
- PCC Trish Glennon – Extension
- PDG Marshall Reed – Retention
- PCC Steve Glass – Leadership

These four experienced Lions will work with our First and Second Vice District Governors to assist any club as needed and reach our common goal of making Lionism grow and prosper in our District.

Officer training will be conducted in several locations during the month of May and in early June. Unfortunately, not all locations and times are firm as the newsletter goes to print so rather than announce that now; I will put the information on the district website and also make sure that each club is contacted about the training. I hope that club officers will make every effort to take advantage of training and the “tool box” of materials.

Cabinet training will be held on Saturday, June 19 in the Morgantown area, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The location and further details will be announced in the June newsletter. We will be holding a joint training session with the incoming cabinet from District L this year, and Morgantown is an accessible location for most everyone in both Districts. Our first cabinet meeting is tentatively set for July 31 in Charles Town. Again, more details will be available soon.

The Fall Conference will be held this year at the Bridgeport Conference Center in the fast growing Charles Pointe development just north of Bridgeport on I-79 during the weekend of October 22-24. This is a great facility, and I am sure that we can work together to have a great conference.

I hope everyone is enjoying this lovely spring, and that all of us will do our best to help Governor Rob achieve a good membership growth as we move toward the end of our Lions year.

Yours in Lionism, FVDG Cindy Glass

REMEMBER TO SUBMIT A COPY A COPY OF YOUR PU-101 TO:

VDG Cindy Glass • 191 Ridgeway Drive • Bridgeport, WV 26330

MEMBERSHIP:

Fellow Lion members, we have a membership problem.

The cumulative membership report as of March 31, 2010, shows a loss of 30 members since July 1, 2009.

Three clubs have surrendered their charter and 125 individuals have dropped their membership. (not all of the 125 dropped members belonged to the cancelled clubs). Total members added during the last nine months including transfer and reinstated members were 95.

There are 62 clubs in District I with a membership of 1,682. If each club would recruit one new member in the next sixty days, the District could end the year with a plus membership for the year. I challenge each club to recruit at least one new member over the next 60 days.

The net Lions membership growth throughout the Lions world through February 2010 was a plus 22,879. Why can't we raise our District membership by 30 in the next sixty days?

Sight Foundation Trustee position open

District I will be having a Sight Foundation Trustee position opening July 1, 2010. Elected Trustees shall serve a four-year term which begins on July 1 following the election. The election will take place at our District breakfast at State Convention on May 23, 2010.

According to the bylaws and constitution of the WV Lions Sight Foundation, anyone running for the Trustee position must be an active member in good standing of a Lions Club in good standing in the District from which he or she is elected. Election must be by secret ballot and the candidate(s) must receive a majority of the votes cast by the delegates present.

The duties and responsibilities of the Trustee, according to the Bylaws and constitution, shall be as follows:

- ✓ Direct the fund-raising activities of the Foundation, including grant applications.
- ✓ Approve the annual budget
- ✓ Prepare and execute the annual marketing program to assist in raising funds and identifying recipients
- ✓ Individually promote the Foundation within their respective districts.
- ✓ Supervise and coordinate the program and efforts of the foundation in the best interests of Lions Club International and the Lions of West Virginia
- ✓ Provide for an annual audit to be conducted by a qualified auditor at the end of each fiscal year and distribute copies of such audit upon request to interested parties and Lions Clubs of West Virginia.
- ✓ Prescribe the amount of bond that shall be required by the Secretary-Treasurer
- ✓ Designate the bank or banks to be used as depositories of Foundation Funds
- ✓ Appoint District Service Coordinators, in accordance with article 11, section 1
- ✓ Establish the policies under which the Foundation operates and
- ✓ Individually promote the Foundation within their respective districts

If you are interested in your name being placed on the ballot please notify DG Rob as soon as possible. We have held up the printing of the ballots until May 10, so that candidates can have their name on the actual ballot.

ON THE LION'S TRAIL with Your District Governor

MAY

22-23	West Virginia 88th State Lions Convention, District Breakfast-Elections, Snowshoe Mountain Resort, PDG Tina Canon 783-5381
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JUNE

6	District 29-I Awards Picnic, North Buckhannon Park Pavilion, Buckhannon, 2pm. George Smith 472-2787
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28	Valley District Lions 60th Anniversary Dinner, Arthurdale Presbyterian Church, 6:30pm, Lydia Main 864-5711
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District 29-I Lions in Action

Easter Came Early to Delighted Dozen: Lion Carol McGhee; photos by Lion Roy Knight

Those pictured here do not at all resemble Easter bunnies but that's exactly what they were to twelve of Romney's senior citizens on the evening of March 30. These students from the West Virginia School for the Blind comprise the Romney Leos which are sponsored by the Romney Lions Club.

The members of the Romney Leo Club, along with their Lion advisors and chaperones, packed baskets with fruit and snacks which they then delivered to some nearby individuals who may not otherwise have been remembered at this special time of the year.

As each student delivered a basket to a surprised and pleased adult, the heartfelt smiles and sometimes tears, from both inside and out of the opened doorways could be felt as well as seen.

The students remarked, "This is great," and "This feels good!." Comments from the recipients ranged from "God bless you" to "How wonderful" and "I don't know how long it has been since I got an Easter basket!"

As the group walked back to the school they talked among themselves about how good it felt to give as well as to receive and some marveled at what an interesting thing that could be.



The Wilsonburg Lions Club recently received a generous donation from the class of Mrs. Olivio's at the Wilsonburg Elementary School. The donation effort was organized by the interns from WVU Benedum Education Program. The interns understood that the Wilsonburg Lions Club is a valued asset for the community. Pictured making the donation presentation to Lion President Jim Canon are students Seth Shook and Megan Allen along with WVU intern Amanda Sherrell.



WILSONBURG LIONS SPRING BAKE STEAK DINNER May 2, 11–2pm
Wilsonburg School. \$8/person. Eat in or take out.

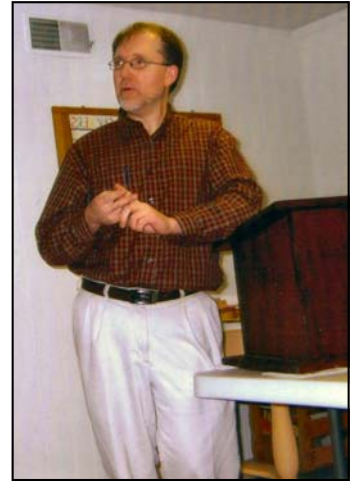
CENTRAL UPSHUR LIONS "SOUP AND SANDWICH" MEAL May 5 5–6:30
pm before the Southern Upshur Business Association's meeting starts at 7pm.
Meet your Candidate Night. Banks District Fire Hall.

The Rev. Chris Mullett, Executive Director of the Clarksburg Mission, spoke to Arlington/Glen Falls Lions Club on March 25. He gave the Lions club a brief history of how the Mission was created forty some years ago by volunteers concerned over the plight of the homeless. A building was purchased, cleaned, repaired, and a kitchen was opened plus the Thrift Store. The Mission now houses around 40 people per night and has 3 family apartments.

Rev. Mullett explained that some of the homeless suffer mental disorders and are not capable of self-sustainment. The Mission was not created to judge people but to help them with a hand up. We are here to love in the name of our Lord Jesus. Many former residents have completed drug programs, met educational goals and now have gainful employment.

Funding is accomplished through donations, Thrift Store and recycling old clothes. Donations are up 20% from last year. Four Transitional apartments are in the works for women. There are future plans for Transitional apartments for men.

Residents are also engaged in local street clean-up. During the floods, residents volunteered to go to flooded areas to assist with clean-up. Arlington/ Glen Falls Lions Club demonstrated our thanks for this presentation by donating some needed items to Rev. Mullett for the Mission. Then Rev. Mullett surprised us with a gift of used cell phones and eye ware.



To each and every Lion, Lioness and Leo, our West Virginia State Convention is coming real soon. May 22- 23. Snowshoe Mountain Resort is a beautiful facility. There are still some rooms left and I can still take you registration. We would like all clubs to bring and display Their banners. The resort will have some restaurants and shops open, plus they will have the lift open to take you down to the lake. Good Food, Fellowship and Fun with your fellow LIONS. -CC Trish Glennon, Co-Chair St. Convention

It's Never Too Late to Donate -By LCIF District Coordinator PCC Steve Glass

So far this year, between July 1, 2009 and March 31, 2010, forty Lions Clubs in District 29I have contributed to LCIF in the total amount of \$17,225.00. To all of those clubs I express my gratitude for your support on behalf of LCIF and the thousands of people your donations will help. Several clubs have made substantial donations leaving balances toward a Melvin Jones Fellowship.

To those clubs who have yet to make a contribution, I would encourage you to do so before June 30, 2010. In my travels to visit with clubs and zones this year, I have emphasized repeatedly that West Virginia is nearing the point where we have received as much in benefits as we have contributed since 1970. You have read about the efforts of thousands of Lions across the world to assist Haitians victimized by the devastating earthquake. You have seen the other disaster relief efforts being made by Lions through LCIF's coordination. Your dollars will make a difference in the lives of those victimized by these disasters.

For a contribution of \$20, every Lion can become a Contributing Member. Please consider becoming a Contributing Member today. If any Lion has a question about how much your club has on deposit toward a Melvin Jones Fellowship, please call or email me.

FVDG Cindy Glass, Candidate for District Governor

Lion Cindy Glass, a member of the Clarksburg Lions Club since 1998, and currently serving District 29-I as First Vice District Governor, is the district's candidate for District Governor for 2010-11. On a club level, she has chaired several committees, including Ways & Means, Membership and Public Relations. She was elected as 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President and finally as club President in 2005-06, receiving the President's Excellence Award. She served as Zone 8 Chairperson in 2008-09. In 2006, Cindy was elected to a four year term on the MD Youth Camps & Exchange Committee and served for two years as Multiple District Chairperson. She and her family have hosted several youth exchange students in the past nine years. She has received Certificates of Appreciation from Governors Gary VanHorn and Trish Glennon and also a Presidential Award from IP Al Brandel in 2009. She is a Melvin Jones Fellow and Leonard Jarrett recipient.

Outside of her Lions Club activities, Cindy is an active member of the Bridgeport United Methodist Church, the United Methodist Women, and Beta Sigma Phi Women's Sorority. She and PCC Steve have been married for 34 years and have one daughter, Jordan, a junior at WVU and the youngest member of the Clarksburg Lions Club. Cindy is a graduate of Shinnston High School and Fairmont State College with an AB Degree in Education. She is currently employed full-time at KCI Aviation at the North Central West Virginia Airport.

SVDG David Nicholson, Candidate for First Vice District Governor

Candidate David Nicholson grew up on a farm near Salem in Harrison County. After graduation from Salem High School, he attended West Virginia University and received a BS Degree in Animal Science in 1961. He was employed by Farmer's Home Administration, an agency of USDA and retired with 32 years of service in March, 1994.

A member of the West Milford Lions Club since January 1995, he has served many offices at the Club and District level. Currently he is serving as Second Vice District Governor. He has been Club President, two years; Peace Poster Chair, eight years; Sight Co-Chair, ten years, Zone Chair, seven years, Cabinet Secretary/Treasurer, one year; Sight First II Coordinator, three years; Long range Planning Committee, two years. He has attended numerous cabinet officers training seminars, 12 annual Leadership schools, 12 Fall Conferences and 12 State Conventions.

In recognition of his service to the association he has received two-100 per cent President awards, a Leonard Jarrett Award and is a Melvin Jones Fellow; and received Lions International District 29-I Certificates of Appreciation; Two International Presidents Certificates of Appreciation and a CSF II Group coordinator Top 5 Award.

Lion Nicholson and wife, Lion Janice, also a Leonard Jarrett recipient and Melvin Jones Fellow, have one daughter and one grandson.

ZC Barbara Fishel, Candidate for Second Vice District Governor

Lion Barbara Fishel of the Mt. Storm Lions Club is announcing her candidacy for Second Vice District Governor for District 29 I.

Lion Barb joined the Mt. Storm Lions Club in October 1997. She has served her club in many elected positions. She has served as Treasurer twice, five years as Secretary, Vice President, twice as President, tail twister and Board of Director.

She has also been active on the District Cabinet level. She has served as Ski Program Chairperson for three years. Barb was the Newsletter Editor under PDG John Vallelonga. Along with husband Jack, she served as Fall Conference Co-Chairmen under PDG John Vallelonga in October 2000 at Blackwater Falls State Park. Barb has also served as Zone 4 Chairperson for (continued on next page)

(continued from previous page) 5 years. She has attended 11 Fall Conferences, 11 State Conventions and 2 Leadership Schools.

Barb has been awarded the Melvin Jones and Leonard Jarrett plaques. Her club presented her with a Lion of the Year Award in 2005-06.

Barb recently retired as Postmaster of the Mt. Storm, WV Post Office. She retired on Jan. 1, 2010 with thirty-five years of Federal Service.

Barb and her husband Jack have lived in Mt. Storm since 1974. They attend the Locust Grove Church of the Brethren. They have one son, Chad, who is making a career in the United States Air Force. They are also the proud grandparents of a grandson Zane, and a granddaughter Jayda.

Barb is asking for your support in her candidacy as Second Vice District Governor. She is anxious and ready to serve the clubs in District 29 I and serving Lions and Lionism state and worldwide.

PDG Bill Nichols, Candidate for Trustee, WV Lions Sight Conservation Foundation

Fellow Lions, After much deliberation and deep thought, I have decided to seek another 4 year term as Trustee on the W V Lions Sight Conservation Foundation. Although I am a strong supporter of new, fresh and younger leadership, I have a personal passion for the Foundation continuing its climb to greater heights

I believe that our current Trustee board is one of the best teams we have had in the 51 year history of the Foundation, and I am proud to have been a part of our growth and expansion into the 21st century technology. I am proud also to have been a part of the team that has introduced and developed the WVSight.org web page, where you can download forms or watch video presentations of training sessions and or other valuable information about the functions of the Foundation. I invite you to visit the web and to review our Foundation letter in the current West Virginia Lion convention issue in hopes it will give you a better understanding of our accomplishments

My mission, if re-elected will be the same as it has been for the last 4 years: To continue looking for the best way's to handle current responsibilities, and to keep preparing for and providing team work wisdom to handle the new challenges each day brings.

Further to retain our outstanding "Partnership In Vision" with WVU Eye Institute Research Center, in support of services to W V clients, and in supporting their research programs knowing that each discovery brings us one step closer to preventing blindness, and restoring vision.

My vision is that we will continue running the Foundation with a cooperative spirit, with a common goal of professionalism and with the highest level of effectiveness in providing quality assistance to our state residents with vision problems. I believe that my long term experiences and proven ability to lead will make me deserving of your support. Thank you.

Lion Katie Heckman Candidate for 29-I Youth Camp & Exchange Committee Member

As parents of three children, my husband, Troy, and I felt that it was important for them to learn about people from different cultures all over the world. We were approached by a couple of wonderful Clarksburg Lions and asked if we would like to host a Lion's Youth. That was several years and several children ago.

It has been an honor welcoming these children into our home and family. We have learned many things from the exchange program. We have learned that you may not speak the same language, we may misinterpret a word or two, but we come together when we take a little time to get to know one another, and we find we are not so very different. The rest is history. We joined the Clarksburg Lions as members in December 2006 and continue to be active in the Youth Exchange program.

On the Ground: Humbled by hospitality in WV mine country

by Peter Prengaman, multimedia editor, AP's Atlanta South Desk while in West Virginia to help cover the coal mine disaster. Submitted by DG Rob

A Massey Energy coal silo towers over Marsh Fork Elementary on April 6, 2010, near the Upper Big Branch Coal Mine in Naoma, W.Va. It would be embarrassing if it were not so humbling.

Hours after the West Virginia mine explosion Monday, scores of journalists from all over the country started arriving — in a very rural area with no communications or places to sleep closer than an hour's drive away.

When the governor began giving press briefings at Marsh Fork Elementary School (this week happens to be spring break, so the children are out), journalists began getting comfortable at the site a few miles from the mine entrance, and we never left. By Tuesday, a couple dozen satellite trucks filled the parking lot, and classrooms with tiny chairs and paintings on the walls were turned into newsrooms and bedrooms.

And all of a sudden there was food — a lot of food. Pepperoni Pizza. Pulled pork and beans. Fried chicken, potatoes and green beans. Cookies. Crackers.

Usually I lose a few pounds while covering stories like this. The deadlines are too tight, the access to food often limited. This time, I'll be going home a little rounder, and with a touched heart. The food was cooked by residents and donated by businesses in this community. Some of it came by way of a local Red Cross, a Wal-Mart and a United Way, but even more was the home cooking of kind West Virginians who just wanted to take care of us.

Imagine, here we are, an aggressive and hard-charging bunch of journalists in the middle of this devastated community, and it's **THEY** who are taking care of **US!**

The kindness hasn't been lost on any of us. By Thursday, two plastic jars — "school collection" and "community collection" — were put out, and by Friday both had a few hundred dollars. I feel like we owe this school and these people so much more.

When I asked interim principal Shelly Prince how folks could be so giving at a time like this, she said that many felt it was soothing to help others. This situation made them feel helpless, and helping others was doing something. She also said it gave people a chance to show the world what West Virginians are "really like."

"Often on TV, we are not portrayed in such a good manner. We often are portrayed as ignorant and backward," she said. "But we are just ordinary people who live ordinary lives."

I have to disagree. These people are extraordinary.



Camp Kno-Koma Coming Soon

-PDG Diane Kimble

At the last District Cabinet meeting, the scholarships for Camp Kno-Koma were discussed. We currently have 4 applicants and they will have their registration fees fully paid by the District 291 Diabetes Funds.

There is still money in this account, so if any club gets applicants now it would be best for clubs to pay the fees required and then get reimbursed from the District Funds when we have our next Cabinet meeting. This would be to the benefit of the camper as well as the club.



MAY 2010

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District Governor Rob Silvester
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Mother,
You've given me two things
One is roots
The other's wings



Photo Courtesy of Michel Denis-Hout
Available for sale on bigcats.com

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