

"Beyond the Horizon"



Lions Roar

The official newsletter of Lions of Virginia District 24-I

Vol. 2, No. 4

Spring 2020

*Connecting the clubs, communities & needs
for the Lions of Central and Southeastern Virginia. We Serve!*

Serving in the midst of pandemic

In late March, the world as we know it changed.

Events were indefinitely cancelled. Schools were dismissed for the year. The definition of "essential businesses" became front of mind as work places were temporarily shuttered - or permanently closed - and workers were rescheduled, sent home, or laid off entirely.

Likewise, Lions Clubs were left wondering how to provide the services our communities have come to expect. Vision and hearing clinics were postponed, club meetings moved online or put "on hold." Spring events were first moved to summer and then fall before being cancelled until 2021.

As most of the world seemed paralyzed due to the first global pandemic in over 100 years, Lions Clubs rose to meet a new set of community needs. One example is that of school and daycare center closings that sent children home where some newly unemployed parents were transitioning to the role of homeschool teachers.

Compounding the dilemma for families with parents and caregivers out of work was the absence of the meal programs many schools offer to students.

Without breakfast, lunch, and snacks, many children were faced with not having enough healthy foods to eat.

The Varina Lions Club became aware of the need in Henrico County and rose to the challenge of serving a need for local schoolchildren. With residual funds from the Anthem grant received in September 2019 to benefit the club's work with Baker Elementary School, the club purchased assorted breakfast, lunch, and snacks for Henrico County Public School's "Grab and Go" distribution.

"The program provided food items including breakfast bars, cereal, oatmeal, tuna pouches, fruit, almonds, and snacks," Varina President PDG Lion Ann Ragland said. "Lion Hank and I completely loaded the bed of his truck with the food that will serve about 400 children and delivered it to the Newbridge Learning Center on May 12th. We were so glad we learned about that opportunity and the club wanted to help."

Kudos to the Varina Club and other Lions Clubs finding alternative methods for delivering needed services in your communities. As we navigate the current reality, innovation will be the norm and Lions will rise to the challenge.



Lions PDG Ann Ragland, left, and Hank Ragland, center, representing the Varina Club, are shown with Terry Talbott of Newbridge Learning Center.

We are Lions. We Serve.

Leadership

Election News

Lions around the world are feeling the effects of COVID-19 as events, celebrations, and conventions fell victim to the COVID-19 novel coronavirus global pandemic.

With the cancellation of the LCI International Convention scheduled for July in Singapore, LCI leadership voted to dispense with elections for officers and directors until 2021. All incumbents at the International level will continue to serve in their 2019-2020 positions for the coming year.

In Virginia, Multiple District 24 scrapped the State Convention to be held May 14-17 in Chesapeake. Elections for District leadership positions were facilitated by USPS ballot.

For 24-I, ballots indicated a choice of one candidate each for District Governor and 1st Vice District Governor with there being no candidate choice listed for 2nd Vice District Governor. No candidates previously announced as write-in candidates. The ballots contained no options for write-in or NONE votes.

Elected to serve Lions year 2020-2021 for District 24-I by majority vote of registered District 24-I delegates are:

District Governor *Scott Durbin*
Virginia Beach Town Center Blind

1st Vice District Governor
Greg Cole
Farmville

2nd Vice District Governor
TBD

Clubs are urged to be engaged with future Cabinet meetings for updates.

24-I District Governor Elect

Scott Durbin

Fellow Lions,

This has been an extremely difficult year for the Lions of District 24-I. We have faced a significant loss both Lions and Lions Clubs. Due to an international pandemic, we have lost several opportunities to meet and discuss our future. We have lost a District Governor to illness and had a Vice-District Governor step in to fill the void and lead us.

While some of these things have been faced in the past, we have never had to face them all at once. It has been difficult. But in this difficulty we have found opportunities and possibilities. We have learned new ways to hold meetings and conferences. We can learn and we can accept change, but we have to continue to be willing to try and accept the change.

Some of these attempts have not been as successful as we expected. But cannot simply dismiss the failures; they must be examined, discussed, evaluated, and reviewed. These actions in debriefing and critiquing the results will lead us to new and better ways to be successful. The knowledge we gain will lead us to even more new and different ways to continue to meet and achieve success.

From these efforts and struggles, look at our current projects, activities, and meetings:

- How can we make them better? More effective? More useful?
- Are there better ways to conduct our meetings?
- Are we doing the right projects in the right ways?
- Are our activities relating to our communities as they should?
- Can we attract new people, ideas, and projects to better serve our communities for the future?

The answer to all of these questions is a simple one: YES! WE can attract new members, ideas, and projects. We can grow and be stronger. To reach those "yes" answers, we must accept, learn, understand, and embrace these new members, ideas, patterns, and methods.

Fellow Lions, let's lead the way in volunteering, helping our communities, and inspiring them to do the same for the generations to come. To all of you, I have this to say: I believe in you. I have faith in you. I want to join you, not lead you, in the growth and strength of Lionism today, tomorrow, and into the future.

Stay safe, Lions, and know other Lions are there to help you and join you in moving forward.

Yours in Lionism,

Scott Durbin
IDG/DGE 24-I

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Training: *Preparing to lead*

The Global Leadership Team planned numerous learning opportunities for our Lions this year. Unfortunately, we've been forced to cancel over 25 classes due to Hurricane Dorian in September and the Covid-19 outbreak this spring.

The world-wide pandemic is changing the way we live, work and serve. Lions clubs around the world are responding to their communities' needs in innovative ways.

Lion leaders are learning how to connect and socialize digitally to keep members active and engaged in their clubs. Lions Clubs International has responded to our needs by creating the Virtual Events Center where you can access live training topics that matter to you and your club. The site contains upcoming events where you can easily register for future webinars. If you've missed an event, recordings of previous webinars are posted for your convenience. There are a wide variety of topics available making it easy to find a topic of interest. **A few recommendations include: Membership Mondays, North American Membership Initiative, Your Club Your Way, and Basics of Hosting a virtual Zoom Meeting.** Leos have the opportunity to participate in the **Leo Leadership Forum May 30 – 31.** Check out the website to register at Virtual Events Center | Lions Clubs International . **The district Zone and region chair training has been rescheduled for July 25, at the Burkeville Lodge for the Blind.** Hopefully, we will be allowed to meet in-person by then. We are working on hosting our Leadership Days for incoming officers virtually so stand -by for details. In the meantime, **incoming club officers** can access job specific courses in the new Lions Learning Center available in the Learn module accessed through your Lion Account. The course catalogue has four main categories: club and District Officers, LCI Programs and Services, Interpersonal Skills, and Managing Your Team. Please review the Accessing the Lions Learning center document at accessing LLeCmd_Uyu5dfsGg0D8.jpg.pdf for step-by-step instructions. For additional questions, please contact PDG Beth Stevens, District GLT coordinator at lionstevens@cox.net.

Looking for District 24-I information and LCI links? Check out our website:
www.lionsdistrict24i.org

Diabetes Awareness

In April, Lions assisted patients unable to pay for their diabetes supplies and medications at the Diabetes Center at Sentara Virginia Beach General Hospital. Lions from Oceanside, Town Center Blind, Thalia, and Woodstock Clubs donated \$1,172. District 24-I provided an additional \$1,000.

Thanks to Zone O Chairperson Lion Homer Cook and Jerry Phelps of the Lions Charity Foundation of Southeastern Virginia for organizing the project. It is particularly important during the Coronavirus outbreak that diabetic patients receive the supplies and medicines they need to avoid hospitalization.

In God we trust,

Lion Don Butts
 Diabetes Awareness Chairperson
 donwbutts@gmail.com 757-603-2674

In Memory

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers these Lions, their families, friends, and Clubs.

Chesapeake Host
Lion Kenneth Darling

Goochland
Lion John Stillwell

Chesapeake Western Branch
Lion Barbara Gabriele

Newport News Warwick
Lion Frank Wiggs

Churchland
Lion Manuel Wyron

Powhatan County
Lion Shirley Reynolds

Colonial Heights
PDG Lion Lottie House

Virginia Beach Town Center - Blind
Lion Susanna Perron



Membership: Are you ready for this?

COVID-19 is changing the way we live, work and serve. Lions and Leos around the world have found new ways to connect with one another in their communities.

District 24-I, are we ready to join them? 24-I Clubs and Lions Members now have weekly access to live training on topics that matter to you and your club! District 24-I's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/MD24I) features these webinars, but you can access them yourself - even after their initial broadcast!

Check it out on LCI's Virtual Events Center : <https://lionsclubs.org/en/virtual-events-center>
You can register for upcoming events and access a library of valuable seminars conducted since April 15, 2020, on every topic from conducting online meetings to training for your new Lions position.

Got questions? I'm here to help! Where there's a need, there's a Lion in 24-I.

- Ann Ragland, PDG
24-I Global Membership Team Chair

Upcoming virtual events

LION-LED EVENT June 6, 2020: **The Next Generation:** Keynote: 3IVP Dr. Patti Hill. Guest Speakers: Tom Gordon, PDG Chris Lewis, Kyle Boutilier, Nikhil, and members of the NAMI Young Lions Taskforce. Register Now: https://causetheworld.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_m00v8Vz1TECp8cuyvq-aOA

Samples from the LCI Virtual Events Center Library

May 8, 2020: Managing your Club through MyLCI: Join us for a virtual tour of MyLCI where you will learn how to manage your clubs using MyLCI, maintain/update officer and member information pull rosters, review statements, and much more!

Recording <https://vimeo.com/419022124>

Presentation https://cdn2.webdamdb.com/md_UUW1smJpCRB7.jpg.pdf?v=1

May 7, 2020: Sheltered in- Reaching out: Members of the Hawaii Cyber Club will discuss virtual clubs best practices and lessons learned on hosting online meetings.

Recording <https://vimeo.com/417293261>

Presentation https://cdn2.webdamdb.com/md_olbtC2UvOT51.jpg.pdf?v=1

May 4, 2020: Virtual Team Building for Clubs: Third Vice President Patti Hill presents ways for clubs to engage and socialize virtually.

Recording <https://vimeo.com/415538331>

Presentation https://cdn2.webdamdb.com/md_AsBvHleF0Ly9.jpg.pdf?v=1



Membership: Welcome, New Lions!

Chesapeake Southside

Lion Robert Winn
Sponsor - Lion William Perkins



Chester

Lion Laurence Parker
Sponsor - Lion Pat Rende

Colonial Heights

Lion Wayne Darlington

Farmville

Lion Hugh Haskins
Sponsor - Lion Lisa Tharpe

Lion Danielle Chernault
Sponsor - Lion Lisa Tharpe



Lion Caryn Kayton
Sponsor - Lion Vellie Dietrich-Hall

Newport News Denbigh

Lion Samuel Everett
Sponsor - Lion Barbara Brown



Newport News Host

Lion Cameron McLaughlin
Sponsor - Lion Katelynn Phillips

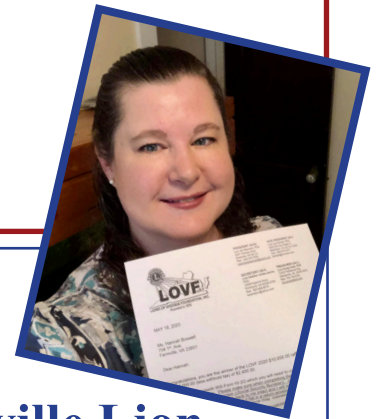


Virginia Beach - Kempsville

Lion Daphne Sturniolo
Sponsor - Lion Monica Sturniolo

Windsor

Lion Rebecca Griffin
Sponsor - Lion Donna VanEck



NEWS from around 24-1

Zoom into the new Lions Year!

Lions Clubs around the world - and District 24-I - are exploring how technology can help their clubs stay connected and find new ways to serve.

Zoom (www.zoom.us) is a website with mobile app that provides free online sessions for organizations to conduct classes, meetings, and events. As the pandemic continues limited attendance at meetings and Virginians are required to wear masks at indoor venues, Zoom is proving to be a great way to stay connected, conduct business, invite speakers who have to go no further than their living room to meet your club. Download on the App Store or Google Play and get your club Zooming into the new year!

Pin Traders elect 2020-21 Officers

The Pin Traders Club of Virginia (PTCV) recently announced officer election results for a two-year term commencing July 1, 2020. Past President PDG Lion Arlen Eidson supervised the vote tally announced by PCC Lion Chet Kramer, PTCV Nominations/Elections Chair.

New officers are:
Secretary *Lion Mary Lou Newman*
Treasurer *Lion Phil Sharpe*
Two-year Directors
Lion Gay Rudis
PCC Lion Phil Schrack
PDG Lion Barbara Senecal

Congratulations to these new officers.
- PDG Lion Richard Evans

Farmville Lion wins LOVF Raffle

Lion Hannah Boswell, Farmville, is the \$10,000 winner of the Lions of Virginia Foundation's (LOVF) annual raffle.

Announced on May 17th, Boswell is the first grand prize winner from the Farmville Lions Club. The Farmville Club typically sells more LOVF tickets than any MD24 club.

Carl Lindstrom of the Dublin Lions Club and David Hartsough of the James City Lions Club were the \$500 2nd and 3rd place winners. Congratulations to all!

The annual raffle raises funds LOVF grants to clubs and District committees to support club and committee service efforts. The raffle is LOVF's major fundraiser.

National Virtual VisionWalk

Saturday, June 6, 2020

WE SERVE – But, lately, it's been hard and how do we get friends and family involved?

COVID-19 Has us all in quarantine – don't go out, don't have get togethers, don't get within 6 feet of each other. How do we invite people to come to our projects?

So, here's an easy way to get together while staying apart. It's a great cause and you can invite people to help your lions club raise more money for retinal research.

Start a Lions Club team webpage like the 4 other clubs or just join the Lions Pride of 24-I page (Mack Stevens Captain 757-621-9074). Send emails and ask people to donate – on June 6 Hold your virtual walk and maybe hold a zoom meeting

What exactly is the National Virtual VisionWalk?

On June 6, people from 19 Spring VisionWalks across the USA show our united, unwavering commitment to the Foundation's mission. Their mission sounds a lot like the Lion's mission.

The Foundation Fighting Blindness is dedicated to funding innovative research to find preventions, treatments, and cures for inherited retinal degenerative diseases that lead to blindness and affect more than 10 million people in the United States.

How can you help? Let's serve our community from home!

- Go to the Hampton Roads [VisionWalk website](#) and join Lions Pride of 24-I or make your own.
- Send out emails, texts, make phone calls, or try a video like this one by Lion [Debra Laughlin!](#)
- Put your team page on social media using the hashtag #VisionWalkStrong
- Think outside your local area! Remember VisionWalk is virtual and will take place from afar.

What will National Virtual VisionWalk Day look like?

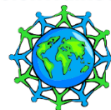
This is our chance to be creative!

- Walk where you are! On a treadmill, exercise equipment or just around your house.
- Host a group FaceTime call or a team Zoom meeting to connect and celebrate
- Complete an indoor exercise with your family and send a photo!
- Wear a past VisionWalk shirt and post a selfie on social media using the hashtag #VisionWalkStrong. (or just email your photos to KMiller@FightingBlindness.org and we'll be happy to post them online for you!)

Whatever you are doing and wherever you are on June 6th, our National Virtual VisionWalk will be a celebration of our community. We are all, collectively, facing a truly unprecedented situation. While we may not be physically all in the same place, we are joining together across the nation to show the world what it means to be #VisionWalkStrong! Thank you for your continued support of the Foundation. We will come through this, stronger than ever, stronger together.

Kelsey Miller
Events Director
KMiller@FightingBlindness.org

National Virtual VisionWalk
#VisionWalkStrong



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