



# The Lions Roar

News & Events from Lions of Virginia District 24-I

VOLUME 5

APRIL 2023

ISSUE 8

*Helen Person, District Governor*

## It's State Convention Time!

Late April in Bristol – what a great time and place to gather with fellow Lions for the 100th Lions of Virginia State Convention. Spring will be showing off in all its glory to welcome you to what promises to be an exciting weekend of Lions fellowship and learning while we take care of some of the business of being Lions.

**The 100th Annual State Convention** is being held at the **Delta by Marriott Hotel** located at 3135 Linden Drive just off I-81. The **\$25 convention registration is still open**. The \$99 hotel room block has closed, though the hotel still has available rooms (\$116 and up). Check at [www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com) or call 276-466-4100 for rates and availability. (Hint: If you are a Marriott Bonvoy member, you may be able to use points to help out the \$\$.) If you attended the District 24-C Fall Conference last fall, you know the food and service was excellent, so we know you'll not go hungry. We hope to see you there !

### *I'm a seasoned Lion. What can you possibly tell me that I don't already know?*

Dangerous statement! Lions Clubs International is constantly updating how we do things. That's why we need to update our supporting documents to reflect those changes. Approaching Lions with "That's not how we do things" has created more than its share of issues that have to be sorted out.

If you've been a Lion for more than a couple of years, you have the advantage of historical context that informs how changes have occurred over time. Changes are not made to inconvenience the Association. Changes are made to help the Association grow and thrive. It's the pushback because it disturbs our individual apple carts, so to speak, that creates the issues.

The learning sessions scheduled for Friday, April 27th and Saturday, April 28th begin at 8:45 am and run throughout the mornings. The sessions address many issues our clubs are facing:

- Wrapping our heads around change
- Finding new Lions hiding in plain sight
- Keeping our members engaged
- Letting others know who Lions are and how we serve
- And more!

We have the privilege of having International Director Lion Ken Ibarra and his Partner in Service Lion Amy Fink as our special guests, as well as having our own International Director Lion Jay Moughon (Clifton Lions Club, 24-L) to share Lions wisdom, ideas, and enjoy fellowship with our Virginia Lions.

***I'm not planning to move up into Lions leadership. Why should I go?***

Recently, I had a Lion make that comment to me – and I have to admit it took me aback. Lions gatherings are for much more than hobnobbing with those whose vote you hope to garner; it's about staying abreast of what is happening within our Association, strengthening relationships among Lions, and getting out of the same old same old that too often defines into what too many of our clubs have fallen. I call it Lions by Rote – and it can be fatal for your clubs – and the people in your community who depend on you.

I invite you to venture outside your comfort zone and head on over to Bristol the last weekend in April. Have some great conversations. Enjoy the drive. Support the Lions who stepped up this year to lead our District and those who are in the wings for 2023-2024. It's time to #FindYourGear as a Lion at your Lions of Virginia 100th State Convention. Let's ROAR !

*Lion Helen*

District Governor



**Poquoson Lions Club President Jessica Hartley presenting Lion Jeff Mungo with his Honorary Charter Member certificate during the Club's 75th Charter Night on March 16.**



**Poquoson's Lions gathered for a fabulous 75th Charter celebration at the Holiday Inn, Newport News.**

## ***Important Dates for April***

**Lion Homer Cook**  
**1st Vice District Governor**

Fellow Lions of 24-I. I hope all is well and the first few days of Spring are enjoyable. I want to mention a few dates for your consideration.

**4 April** is the Lions Quest Zoom brief with PID Jerome. The meeting is limited to 100 Lions so sign up early. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6482879607> (Meeting ID: 648 287 9607)

**27-30 April** is the State Convention in Bristol. This is where the proposed changes to the MD 24 and the 24-I C&BL Constitution and Bylaws, and policy manual will be voted on. The proposed changes are available at the following links:

Proposed MD24 C&BL <https://lionsdistrict24i.org/constitution-by-laws-proposed-changes/>

Proposed 24-I C&BL <https://lionsdistrict24i.org/d24-i-constitution-by-laws-proposed-changes/>

Become one of your clubs' delegates and be at the convention to vote.

**13 May** is the Build a Vision meeting in Providence Forge. It will start at 10 AM and end about 3 PM. We will have something for lunch. More information to follow soon.

The proposed changes to the C&BL's, along with the policy manuals, will help the district function more efficiently and with greater transparency.

In the District and Multiple District we have various policy and procedure manuals from the days of old. These keep popping up at times, because they never cancelled the previous version, and cause confusion because they often are outdated or conflict with each other. If we want to operate efficiently, we need to know what policies we are to follow. Also the COG or District Cabinet can change the policy manual without having to go through the process of having an amendment approved at the State Convention.

With the district C&BL we currently have a potential of having about 74 individual positions that count as voting members of the DG Cabinet. Most are single person committee chairs. LCI does not allow club presidents to have a vote, by virtue of being the club president. LCI recommends that the Cabinet be the district Officers, Zone and Region chairs for a total of about 28 Lions. Trying to get 38 of the 74 specific Lions to an event can be challenging. Going the way that LCI suggests we would only need 15 of the 28 specific Lions. If we do not have a quorum, we do not get to pass a budget. We are not allowed to spend money on District projects until we have an approved budget.

The Multiple District 24 C&BL has not been revised since 2020 according to what is posted on the MD24 Website. Since that time LCI has changed the Individual and Multiple District MD Standard / Model C&BL, so we have a number of items that are in conflict with LCI. Some items in the MD C&BL interfere with the DG's ability to manage individual districts.

A number of items should be included in the Policy manual so they can be changed as the need arises.

The bottom line is: these changes are needed to make the management of the MD and District easier and more transparent.

If you have a question, you can submit it on the site or you can email it to me. One questioner wanted to know why changing the voting members of the DG Cabinet was not being done by a vote of the entire district membership. Per our C&BL, changes to the C&BL must be approved by the voting delegates at a Convention. This state convention is where the voting will take place.

Thanks,

1st VDG Lion Homer Cook

Chair 24-I C&BL committee

lionhomercook@gmail.com



New Kent County President PDG Debbie Ivey and Roary present Lion Wanda Campbell with her Lion of the Year Award during the Club's Mardi Gras-themed Charter Night celebration on March 18th.



Lions from Region 4 are great sports for the obligatory selfie with DG Helen.

## Lions Club Projects

### Norfolk Ocean View Lions Club

Norfolk, VA — March 25, 2023

Lion Gary Coldren

The Norfolk Ocean View Lions Club attended the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Scout Christian Dunbar on March 25. The Ocean View Lions were the sponsors for Scout Christian's Eagle Project. Scout Christian received letters of congratulations from our State Senators and Representatives, our State Governor, the Lions Club International, and many others.



Norfolk Mayor Kenny Alexander with Lions Nancy and Meredith



Our eight Lions who attended this celebration

Norfolk, VA — March 18, 2023

Lion Gary Coldren

The Norfolk Ocean View Lions Club took part in the 57th Ocean View St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 18. There were an estimated 15,000 people in the audience along the route.



## James City Lions Club

**Williamsburg, VA — March 2023**  
**Lion Ted Cors**

James City Lions Club members are shown preparing entrees for elderly physically disabled or shut in individuals in support of the Greater Williamsburg “Meals on Wheels” food delivery program. This is the second year that Club members have been meeting at the MOW facility every Monday morning to prepare 200 entrees for this program. Hunger relief is one of the Club’s seven focus areas and global cause of Lions International.



**(From left) Lions Armen Melikian  
(project leader) Melissa Blane  
and Dennis Branden**

**Williamsburg, VA – March 23, 2023**  
**Lion Bob Gordon**

Members of the James City Lions Club supported a Science, Math, and Wellness Program at Stonehouse Elementary School on March 23rd by offering vision and hearing screening for attending students and parents. Total screened for vision was 30, and 32 were screened for hearing.



**(From left) Kandy Daley, Colleen Woodward, Bob  
Gordon (project organizer), Steve Mamikonian,  
Jerry Phelps, Len Taubman, Joe Moore, Mary  
Lynn Billitteri and Kate Richman**

## Williamsburg Host Lions Club

**Williamsburg, VA — March 15, 2023**

**Lion Pat Kerr**

The Williamsburg Host Lions Club donated their 4th Trex bench to the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library – Colonial Williamsburg located at 313 First Street. We would like to thank our club members, friends, neighbors and merchants who donate their plastic to make this worthwhile project a success! We are so happy to help remove a huge amount of plastic from our environment and have it turned into beautiful, very usable benches. When you visit this fabulous library, mosey to the outdoor patio area and check out this great bench!

(Front row) Mary Ann Goode, Library Administrative Specialist; Lion Dennis Branden, Library Volunteer; Lions Leslie Stockman; Lynda Kleiwerda; Pat Kerr. (Back row) Lions Leo Morrissette, Club President; Paul Kerr; and Library Director, Carl Childs (Photo courtesy of Brendan Sostak)



**Williamsburg, VA — March 21, 2023**

**Lion Pat Kerr**

The Williamsburg Host Lions Club President, Lion Leo Morrissette, was proud to present PCC Lion Chet Kramer with a Builder Key award from Lions Club International for sponsoring ten new members into the Old Dominion University Branch Club. The ODU Branch Club is sponsored by the Williamsburg Host Lions Club. Lion Chet was instrumental in starting this new club and they are very active with youth programs. We are proud of Lion Chet and our ODU Branch Club!

From left: PCC Lion Chet Kramer and Club President Lion Leo Morrissette



## James City Lions Club

**Williamsburg, VA — February 2023**

**Lion Colleen Woodard**

The James City Lions Club focused its February program meeting on the environment with Cassie Cordoba, the James City County Sustainability Coordinator, as the speaker. Ms. Cordoba shared information on more than a dozen of the County's programs in the areas of recycling, litter control, and clean business awards. The environment is one of our Lions' Club's core missions, with the current programs in soft plastic bag collection and the Monticello Avenue clean-up.

(From left, with a Trex bench earned through the soft plastic collection) Patti Ralabate (President), Cassie Cordoba (speaker), Linda Benner (Program Chair), and Jack Reitz (Soft Plastic Program Chair)



**Williamsburg, VA – March 2023**

**Lion Jack Reitz**

It was a cold and windy morning when nine members of the James City Lions Club gathered at Colonial Towne Plaza Shopping Center to collect 227 pounds of soft plastic from 63 local residents. Despite the cold, spirits remained high as the Club continued their quest to protect the environment by sending the plastic to Trex in Winchester, VA where it is recycled into decking material.



(From left) Lions Dennis Branden, Peter Brusman, Mary Lynn Billitteri, Ruth Bott, Merv Frantz, Joe Moore, and Bill Magowan.  
Not pictured are Lions Warren Wright and Jack Reitz (project lead).



## Thalia Lions Club

*By Kurt Williams for SouthernBank Posted Mar. 21, 2023*

### Virginia Beach Lions Club Helps Students Facing Hunger Issues Through Beach Bags Drive

(Excerpts)

It's that time of the year—the Beach Bags drive, an opportunity for the community to drop off food. Thanks to those donations, that food helps families struggling to put food on the table.

One person who helps out in a huge way with the program is Nancy Watters with Virginia Beach Thalia Lions Club. She helps raise money and rounds up volunteers to pack the Beach Bags. News 3 learned she would be attending a Lions Club meeting at Ynot Pizza off Great Neck Road, and that's where News 3 surprised her with an Everyday Hero award.

We told her we've been hearing what she means to the Beach Bags program. Watters is a leading force with the Virginia Beach Thalia Lions Club and while she's not seeking the spotlight. Debbie Hughes, the head of the Beach Bags program is quick to share Nancy's impact. "She corraled over 60 volunteers this past year from the local Lions clubs and they packed in two hours 22-hundred bags," Hughes said.

In addition to the volunteers she coordinates, Nancy also submits an application every year to the Lions charity foundation for thousands of dollars to buy the food for this program.

Watters also helps coordinate a Lions Club vision program to provide free eye screenings for Beach students at the Back to School Care Fair.

For all those reasons News 3 presented Nancy with an Everyday Hero award. Not surprisingly, she didn't want all the credit, "And actually this recognition should go to the entire Lions Club and not just to me." She also received a \$300 Visa gift card from our community partner Southern Bank. "It's amazing! But what's good is, we have money to do a project," she said.



DG Helen, 1VDG Homer Cook, and Lion Darrell visiting with Clarksville Lions Club President Jane Lloyd and Clarksville Lion Bob Rietzke, the Region 2 Bland Chairman



100<sup>th</sup> Lions of Virginia State Convention  
 April 26 - 30, 2023  
 Delta Hotel by Marriott Bristol  
 3135 Linden Drive, Bristol, VA 24202 276-466-4100

Please fill out one form per attendee

- Host Lions Club**  
Bristol Twin Cities Lions Club
- Convention Chairperson**  
John Seaborn, DPG
- Registration Chairperson**  
Lion Tammie Brightwell
- Booths and Exhibits**  
Jean Cook, FVDG
- Treasurer**  
Lion Lisa Seaborn
- International Guest**  
ID Ken Ibarra  
Lion Amy Fink  
San Bruno, California
- Escorts**  
ID Jay and Lion Nancy  
Moughon

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Email or Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

District 24- \_\_\_\_\_ Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle all that apply: Lion Lioness Leo PDG PCC PID

**Guest Hotel reservations must be made by April 5, 2023 to get the room rate of \$99.00 + tax. Reservations can be made directly by calling (276) 466-4100. Online please use GROUP codes LV2LV2A for King Bed and LV2LV2C for double queen room. If calling hotel ask for group block 2023 Lions Club State Convention.**

Registration: before 3/31/23 - \$25 includes pin \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$30 after 4/1/23

Thursday Night- Beach Party - \$30.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 DG Tom Street - Shag/Line Dancing - Cash Bar

Thursday Night 50/50 - 10 for \$5.00 (Red) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Friday - Convention Breakfast - \$18.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Friday - Pin Traders Luncheon - \$25.00 includes pin \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday - PDG/Convention Breakfast - \$18.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday - LOVF Luncheon - \$25.00 includes pin \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Night Banquet - \$40.00 Cash Bar Available \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Night 50/50 tickets 10 for \$5.00 (Blue) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday Fellowship Breakfast - \$18.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Exhibit Tables: Check choice of table requested \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Commercial Table: \$100.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Commercial Tables (using electricity): \$120.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Lions Club Members: \$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Lions Club Members (using electricity): \$50.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Items to be sold or displayed \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Make check payable to: Lions of Virginia 2023 State Convention**

**Mail form and payment to: Lion Tammie Brightwell  
 501 Elm Ave SW, Roanoke, VA 24016**

## End Blindness?

Fighting to end Blindness in our lifetime.... Impossible you say? Everything that ever was impossible always had been impossible—until someone did it!

How did they know they could do it? They didn't! They dreamed it might be possible and now... People fly with the birds, dive with the whales, visit other planets, talk between continents, and perform delicate surgeries from their living room over the internet halfway around the world.

I ask ... Why did all that happen?

The person with a dream convinced others to make it a priority because someone found a shred of proof that it may be possible!

The Foundation Fighting Blindness partnered with Blueprint genetics and started My Retina Tracker. They registered and compared tens of thousands of people with degenerating Retinas, and in the past 10 years scientists have discovered over 200 genes that are causing blindness.

In 2017 the FDA approved the first gene therapy drug treatment in the United States to repair sight. All because of the work of the Foundation Fighting Blindness. When they say a cure is in sight, they aren't chasing windmills. BUT research is very expensive!

Again it will only happen if the American public makes it a priority—could you help with Visionwalk April 15th? Join the Team today, make a donation, bring your family, walk with us or just come eat food and dance!

Please consider joining The Lions Pride of 24 - I:

<https://give.fightingblindness.org/team/468439>

Thanks,

Mack Stevens

[Mack.Stevens@vbschools.com](mailto:Mack.Stevens@vbschools.com)





## DISTRICT 24-I DG CALENDAR of SCHEDULED EVENTS, MEETINGS and CLUB VISITATIONS



Date	Time	MD 24 and District 24I Events	Location	Confirm
April 15, 2023	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Virginia Beach-Town Center Blind Vision Walk at Mount Trashmore	Mount Trashmore Park 310 Edwin Drive Virginia Beach, VA	√
<b>Rescheduled</b> April 22, 2023	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Charlotte Lions Club Golf Tournament	Briery Country Club 395 Country Club Road Keysville, VA	√
April 22, 2023	5:00 p.m. Social 6:00 p.m. Dinner	Northumberland Lions Club 70th Charter Night	Unique Experience Eatery 8200 Northumberland Hwy Heathsville, VA	1VDG Homer Cook
April 22, 2023	8:00 p.m.	Chesapeake Southside Lions Club 75th Charter Night	Norfolk Yacht and Country Club 7001 Hampton Blvd. Norfolk, VA	√
April 27, 2023	2:00 PM	Council of Governors Meeting	Delta Hotel by Marriott 3135 Linden Drive Bristol, VA	√
April 27-30, 2023	4:00 PM (4/27) -3:00 PM (4/30)	Lions of Virginia 100th State Convention	Delta Hotel by Marriott 3135 Linden Drive Bristol, VA	√
May 13, 2023	10:00 AM-3:00 PM	District 24-I Build a Vision with Lunch	Providence Forge Rec Center 9900 Carriage Road Providence Forge, VA	√
May 15, 2023	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Lions Outdoor Classroom Dedication & STRIDES Walk	Randolph-Henry High School 755 David Bruce Avenue Charlotte Courthouse, VA	√
May 15, 2023	Noon - 2:30 PM	Lions in Service & Fellowship	Burkeville Lodge For The Blind 341 Oak Street Burkeville, VA	√
May 15, 2023	6:00 PM	Farmville Lions Club 100th Charter Night	The Fuqua School 605 Fuqua Drive Farmville, VA	√
May 20, 2023	6:00 PM-9:00 PM	Chesapeake Host Lions Club 75th Charter Night	Great Bridge Presbyterian Church 333 Cedar Road Chesapeake, VA	√
June 24, 2023	6:00 PM	District 24-I Awards & Celebration	Burkeville Lodge For The Blind 341 Oak Street Burkeville, VA	√
June 28, 2023	10:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Powhatan Lions Club Awards & Installation Dinner	County Seat Restaurant 3883 Old Buckingham Road Powhatan, VA	√