



The Lions Roar

News & Events from Lions of Virginia District 24-I

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Helen Person, District Governor

I Don't Care What Anybody Tells You . . .

This time last year over 700 of my fellow District Governors-Elect and I were getting ready to start a 12-month period that would see miraculous excitement and change in our Districts. We all expected slow-but-steady:

- Membership growth.
- Clubs launching revamped service projects.
- Lions ponying up dollars for LCIF to help support projects at home and abroad.
- Club Secretaries and Administrators tackling MyLCI and MyLion to ensure their clubs' member activity and club projects were reported.

For a District Governor, these are the measurables our parent organization loves to see.

For this District Governor, however, the greatest measure of success is whether Lions have rekindled the flame that drew them to Lions in the first place. The heart for service and the value of fellowship have to balance each other. If not, Lions can burn out doing too much "stuff" every waking minute. Without emotional attachment to the Lions mission, the rest has little meaning.

We also know what happens when a formerly service-rich Lions Club becomes little more than a dinner group in vests: Last one out, be sure to lock up.

I have been excited to realize positive responses to some new training methods that engage and encourage our Lions rather than simply deliver information. If we can continue that trend, we will gradually see Lions who not only know about Lions, they'll believe in what we all have been doing for over 100 years. They will hold the Lions mission close. And that, dear Lions, is the key.

It has been invigorating to visit with clubs celebrating milestone Charter anniversaries and hearing the stories about traditions, Lions whose legacies have far outlived their earthly presence, and enjoying the laughter that should always permeate a Lions' gathering.

It has been encouraging to witness renewed enthusiasm as Lions reconnect with their clubs and communities. As I move into the Past District Governor state of being, I take with me a lot of regret that I could not accomplish all of the measurable goals set for the 2022-2023 Lions year. Yet I take in my heart and mind new know-how, fresh wisdom, and renewed dedication to helping those coming behind me meet their goals. With prayer, we have traction for renewed engagement.

I invite you to join me as we continue rekindling community service through Lions. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support this year. I look forward to seeing you soon.

With warmest regards in Lions' service and friendship.

Lion Helen

. . . Community Groups Are Not Dead.

Sneak Peek at Next Year

**Lion Homer Cook
District Governor-Elect**

The new Lions year starts on 1 July and we will get to that shortly. But, first, we need to finish the year strong. Report your service, complete courses in the learning center for your position, complete a service project, show that you are having fun, and consider donating to LCIF if you have not done so already. Let's work together to finish the Lions year Strong.

You have selected me to be the District Governor for Lions year 23/24 and I feel honored for your trust. For those who have seen my pins I am all about planting seeds (ideas), tending them, enjoying what grows, and then back to planting more seeds. In my opinion Lions offer two main products: Fellowship and Service. If we are enjoying the fellowship, we will want to invite others to join us. If we are enjoying the service, we will want to invite others to join us. I hope we can come up with some interesting ways to celebrate Fellowship and Service.

What's new for 23/24?

- Have computer will travel. While visiting clubs, we have cell service, we can work together to get you into MyLCI/Lions Portal so you can **report service & update your member rolls**.
- We are asking each club to complete **one additional service project** in Lions year 23/24.
- At the Zone and Club level **look into the Global Membership Approach** program. It causes you to look at where your club currently stands, where you want to be in the future. Then you decide how you want to get there. Training available for Zones and Clubs.
- What is the **24-I challenge coin**? Bring in a new member, help them complete the Proud Lion signoff and you can find out. Details to follow.
- Our **first Cabinet meeting** is from **10-noon July 22** at Burkeville Lodge, 341 Oak Street, Burkeville. Our district social runs from 12:01 pm until about 4 PM. Fun, fellowship and sharing how your clubs are moving forward. **Is a pot luck a good idea?**

Our **second Cabinet Meeting** will be at our **Fall Conference** on **13/14 October** at the Clarion Hotel (Williamsburg) in conjunction with our Fall Conference. We already have several items planned for the conference. We will have a presentation from PDG Wendy Cain of Tennessee. PDG Wendy is a Past General Chair of the USA Canada Forum, instructor at ALLI and DG Elect school, and a dynamic presenter! Watch for more information soon.

- At some point we will be transitioning to Lions Portal from MyLion and MyLCI. Supposedly it will happen in the summer or fall, but who knows for sure. It is in Beta testing and there are a few of us who have signed up to be involved. Hopefully this will get us up to speed so we can answer questions that come up during the transition.

With the number of clubs we have, and your meeting days/times, I'm pretty sure I won't be able to meet with each individual club, though I want to visit as many clubs as possible. I want to hear from you how things are going and how the district can help. Please send me and the incoming District Secretary (soon-to-be) PDG Helen Person (lionhelenperson@gmail.com) an email letting her know when you would like me to visit.

Looking forward to a great year, let me know what I can do to help you.

Lion Homer

Lions in Action!

James City Lions Club

Williamsburg, VA — May 18, 2023
 Lion Bob Gordon



James City Lions supported the Health and Wellness Fair held at D. J. Montague School on 18 May by providing screenings for sight and hearing for 79 children. Lions listed below provided the screenings.

(From left) Lions Rachel Williams, Len Taubman, Merv Frantz, Jan Hendricks, Annette Simlin, Joe Moore, Jerry Phelps, Johanna Theloosen and Shari Hendricks, Not pictured is Bob Gordon.

Williamsburg, VA — May 2023
 Lion Ted Cors

The James City Lions Club recently inducted Shari Abelow and Jan Hendricks as new members. Sponsored by Lion Johanna Theloosen, the new Lions bring the total James City Lions Club membership to 77.

(from left) Lions Johanna Theloosen (sponsor), Patti Ralabate (President), Shari Abelow (new member), Jan Hendricks (new member) and Rachel Williams (membership chair)



Coming '23-'24: Proud Lion, Proud Sponsor

Good sponsorship is a key to Lion retention. Proud Lion, Proud Sponsor encourages a new Lions sponsor to assist the new Lion in completing some tasks within 6 Months. Most of these are enrichment items such as **visiting a club**, **participating in a service project**, and **learning about Lions**. When these tasks are completed, the paperwork can be submitted (to your Zone Chair) and the new Lion and Sponsor will get a Proud Lion and Proud Sponsor Pin. Let's give out a lot of these next year!

Celebrating 100 years of Service

Farmville Lions Club



Farmville Lions Park, a project of the Club, the Town of Farmville, and LOVF.



Lion Brian inducted eight - count 'em - eight new Lions into the Farmville Lions Club!

Always!



*Lion Brian to Lion Scott :
"For some reason, when a club celebrates a hundred years, the office thinks they need a picture of the President..."*



Lion Brian with Lion Hauser & a friend at Lions Park



It's big news when the Lions International President comes to Farmville!



A tribute to Lion Brian's hometown of Bird Island, Minnesota (Pop. 1,005)

Amelia Lions Club

Amelia Court House – April-May 2023 Lion Sam Davis

April 29 – The Club cooked for those attending a local car show. Attendance was low due to the rain, but we raised \$200.

May 6 – "Amelia Day" (festival for Amelia County) brought a huge crowd for the celebration.

So much food was served that we raised \$3,500! Wow!!

May 19 – We serve food at our monthly bingo event, which averages about \$540.

Thanks to everyone who came out today and supported our annual Amelia Day Car Show.



Save the Date!

- 22 July First Cabinet meeting at Burkeville Lodge (341 Oak Street, Burkeville) followed by a district social.
- 29 July Zoom training for Club Presidents, Secretaries, and Treasurers followed by Zone and region chair training. Zoom links to follow.
- 15-6 Sept. 24-C Fall Conference in Wytheville
- 21-23 Sept. USA Canada Forum in Reno
- 13-14 Oct. 24-I Fall Conference at the Clarion Hotel in Williamsburg. Host club is James City Lions Club.
- 17-18 Nov. 24-L Fall Conference in Fredericksburg
- 23-24 Feb. 24-I Winter Conference with ID Marie Cuning. Will be in the Chesapeake area. Stay tuned on our host club!

Coming back in '23-'24: Lions Safari!

Lions Safari is a fun program where your club visits a different club for fellowship and an exchange of ideas. They may be doing a project that would be great for your club. Your club may be able to offer some advice based on your experiences. Be like Mikey in the Life cereal commercial: try it. You might like it.

Lion Kristina Ramsey FVDG-E

The Mating Habits of Lions

When I became a Lion, I had been married for a year. Although I grew up in a household that valued community service, this was the first time in Virginia that I had joined a service organization. My husband of one year was not thrilled because he had heard negative things about Lions clubs in the past and their attitude toward diverse members. But that did not deter me from serving my community. We divorced a few years later (nothing to do with Lions, of course.)

Flash forward 7 years, as I am now divorced, single and on the dating scene. I've been on all the websites, Facebook, match.com, e-harmony, hinge, etc. I finally met this one guy, and we hit it off. But he didn't like that I was so active in Lions. He wanted me to be totally available for him. He said he didn't want to be "scheduled." For example, he wanted to go out on a Saturday night, I told him I had a Charter Night to attend, but that we could do Friday night instead. He was upset. My future guy should understand my devotion to community service. Am I wrong?

So, I have shifted my focus in the apps. Instead of looking for superficial qualities, like 6-pack abs and a 401(k), I am looking for someone who has the heart for service and will devote his extra time to helping our community. In summary, you and your significant other need to be equally yoked (2 Corinthians 6:14.) Even if you work in different service organizations, each partner should understand that all this work is for good. Individuals should be compatible, and their values aligned. So far...I am still happily single.

Lion Kristina

Before this Lions year is done

Awards Though Lions don't do service for the purpose of receiving awards, there may be some Lions or community supporters (think: significant others, businesses, and others) who have provided valuable support this year. Check out The Lions Store (www.lionsclubs.org/shop) this week for ways to say "thank you."

Member Rosters LCI will drop the dues statements for the first half of 2023-2024 on June 30th. Please check your club account on MyLCI. Don't wait for a paper statement! Make sure you've updated any member information prior to the middle of June!

Training Even seasoned Lions need a refresher. Don't let that important tidbit pass you by! Visit the Lions Learning Center (www.lionsclubs.org/learn) for the most up-to-date training for your position. In-person training for officer training will also be available throughout the Lions year.

Step up to the Plate! Lions Leaders needed

Lion Homer is looking for a few good Lions to support our clubs for the coming Lions year. Training is available online or in person:

Global Extension Team (GET) Coordinator

Where do we need new clubs? Where can we revive flagging clubs to provide support to communities in need? The Global Extension Team (GET) Coordinator is a new position established by LCI to work with community leaders, clubs, and the GAT Coordinators to identify and plant new Lions seeds.

Region 1 Chair

The Region 1 Chairperson supports Zones A & B to facilitate GAT activities throughout the Lions year.

Zone A Chair

Zone A includes the clubs in Amherst, Appomattox, Buckingham County, Lynchburg, and Rustburg.

Zone B Chair

Zone B includes the clubs in Brookneal, Danville, Gretna, and South Boston. With the GET, looking to start a new Chatham club.

Region 5 Chair

The Region 5 Chairperson supports Zones L, M, and N to facilitate GAT activities throughout the Lions year. With the three Zone Chairs, coordinates Region gatherings throughout the Lions year.

Lions Quest

Lions Quest is an LCI initiative designed to help at-risk children and youth learn interpersonal relationship skills, good citizenship, and responsibility to help prevent the poor choices that can lead to disciplinary action up to and including incarceration. LCI support available.

To learn more, contact DG-E Homer Cook at lionhomercook@gmail.com or call (757) 705-5207.

James City Lions Club

Williamsburg, VA – May 17, 2023

Lion Colleen Woodard

The James City Lions Club hosted Mike Stupar, retired Drug Enforcement Administration supervisory special agent, as the speaker for the May meeting at Colonial Heritage. Mr. Stupar chronicled the history of opioid drug addiction in the U.S. He mentioned the fact that, until the 20th century, drug use was largely and traditionally legal. He emphasized the current problems and statistics related primarily to heroin and fentanyl use. Pictured with Mike Stupar (from left) are Lion Patti Ralabate (Club president) and Lion Colleen Woodard (program co-chair).



Equipping Lions Leaders!

Emerging Lions Leadership Institute (ELLI) provides an in-depth introduction to the Lions organization as participants learn leadership concepts and practices otherwise available in professional settings. Designed for less-experienced Lions, ELLI helps a newer Lion discover the many elements of Lions one would never have dreamed available from a community service organization. Participants emerge ready to serve in club leadership positions, as well as better equipped to implement newfound skills in other life areas.

For 2023-2024, Lion Homer would like to sponsor two ELLI sessions in different locations to make them more convenient for participants. Interested? Two possibilities include offering one session on a Friday-Sunday or one Saturday monthly for three months. Let us know what you want and we will figure out how to provide it.

Regional Lions Learning Institute (RLLI) equips experienced Lions with skills needed to effectively lead your clubs and move into beyond-the-club roles. Scheduled for March 1-3, 2024, this leadership development session also prepares Lions to make engaging public presentations about Lions service and our association. GLT (Global Leadership Team) Coordinator PDG Debbie Ivey will soon have information. Be among the first 24 Lions to attend this dynamic session!

Advanced Lions Learning Institute (ALLI). This institute is designed to get Lions ready for the district leadership track, specifically District Governor. ALLI will be available for two more Lions years until it is reformatted as a Second Vice-District Governor training track.

Want to know more about these professional-level leadership learning opportunities? Visit the [Leadership Development pages](http://www.lionsclubs.org) at www.lionsclubs.org for options and opportunities!

Ocean View Lions Club

Norfolk, VA – Spring 2023
Lion Gary Coldren



homeless people to care for, one for the Lions, and one for the youth of Miles Memorial Methodist Church, where the beds are located.

Norfolk Ocean View Lions have taken on a new project this Spring by building three raised beds to plant vegetables to use for the Wednesday morning breakfast for homeless people in our community. There is an average of 30 people who attend this breakfast. There are three raised beds, one for the



Richmond West Breakfast Lions Club

Henrico, VA – 2023
Lion Lu Roberts

For the past several years our Club has manned the concession stand at the University of Richmond’s ball games. This adventure has benefited U of R as well as RWBLC. As Lion Carol Sharp states, “With three or four of you there, it’s the easiest way to socialize with your fellow Lions and get to know them better.”



Lions Kay Smith,
Matt and Nancy
Costello



Lions Carol Sharp
and Pete

Henrico, VA – May 20, 2023
Lion Lu Roberts

Lions choose a date to invite the public to assist them in funding the free eyeglasses donated to those who cannot afford the expense. This public project also helps to inform others of the Lions’ main goal to help the blind and vision impaired. RWBLC chose May 20 to encourage donations for the eyeglass provisions.



Lions Carol Sharp, Joe McVey and Bruce Watson
are greeted by a donor adding to the funds.

Why should I go to a Zone meeting?

Hearing from other clubs nearby and letting your Zone and Region Chairs know what is important to you helps the District leadership be informed of what is happening where you are. Zone/Region meetings are for all Lions, not just your Club President and Secretary. Your Zone/Region Chairs vote on your club’s behalf at Cabinet meetings. Lion Homer plans to attend Zone and Region meetings as invited and workable with his schedule. See you there!

Williamsburg Host Lions Club

Williamsburg, VA – May 2023

Lion Pat Kerr

Lion Doug Brown, member of the Williamsburg Host Lions Club, delivered 250 pounds of farm fresh Georgia Vidalia onions to both FISH (Families and Individuals Sharing Hope) and House of Mercy. These onions will be offered to their clients. This is the Williamsburg Host Lions Club’s annual fundraiser and onions are donated to the food pantries each year for a special treat for their clients.



Doug Brown ready to donate Vidalias at FISH in Williamsburg.



Doug is with a House of Mercy rep accepting the onions to assist those in need.

Williamsburg, VA – May 16, 2023

Lion Pat Kerr

Carl Childs, Executive Director of the John D. Rockefeller Jr. Library at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and the foundation’s Director of Archives and Records, presented an informative and interesting program to the members of the Williamsburg Host Lions Club on the library and all it offers. The Library is dedicated to advancing knowledge of colonial British America, the American Revolution, the early United States, and the history of the Colonial Williamsburg Restoration. Unique to the library is the body of research on the buildings, people, trades, and the material culture of 18th-century Williamsburg. They have documents and rare books dating back to the 17th Century.



(From left) Carl Childs, Lion Lynda Kleiwerda, Program Chair, and Club President Lion Leo Morrissette

New Kent County Lions Club

Providence Forge, VA – May 2023 Lion Debbie Ivey

The New Kent County Lions Club donated their fourth bench from recycling plastic to the Charles City Library. The Lions Club would like to thank the communities for continuing to give us plastic so we can continue to donate benches in the areas.

Standing (from left) are Lions Jim Griffis, Keith Fuhrmeister, Library Director Jessey Kelley, Lions Karon Brickman-Hartsell, Wanda Campbell and Stuart Long. Seated (from left) are Lions Cindy Griffis and Debbie Ivey.



Providence Forge, VA – May 2023 Lion Debbie Ivey

New Kent County Lions Club made a donation to Quinton Elementary School's Cub Cupboard. The program was created to assist students and families who need assistance in food security.



(From left) Quinton Elementary School Principal Christine Pilger, New Kent County Lions John Johnson, Wanda Campbell, Debbie Ivey, Annette Coons, Jim Griffis, Cindy Griffis and Quinton Elementary teacher Karen Brown

Kenbridge-Victoria Lions Club

Victoria, VA – April 2023 Lion Bonnie Alston

The Kenbridge Victoria Lions Club stated that they appreciate the help given by Jimmy Glassock of Shoppers Value, Karen Phipps of Food Lion and Natasha Gill of Benchmark Community Bank in Victoria, along with all community residents that donated to the group's annual Hunger Bag Community Service Project. The collected non-perishable items were delivered to the Community Resource Services in Victoria.





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



Date	Time	MD 24 and District 24I Events	Location	Confirm
June 8, 2023	6:30 - 8:30 PM	York County Lions Club Installation & Induction	Joe & Mimma's Italian Restaurant 5742 G. Washington Mem'l Hwy. Yorktown, VA	✓
June 10, 2023	Noon - 3:00 PM	Lions of Virginia Foundation (LOVF) Annual Meeting	Burton's Grill & Bar Route 29 & Hydraulic Road Charlottesville, VA	✓
June 11, 2023	1:30 - 4:00 PM	American Red Cross District 24-I Pediatric Cancer Sleeves Up Summer Challenge	American Red Cross Donation Ctr. Timberlake Road Charlottesville, VA	✓
June 13, 2023	6:30 - 8:00 PM	Rustburg Lions Club	Long Mountain Grill 69 Barricks Lane Rustburg, VA	
June 22, 2023	6:30-8:30 PM	Charlotte County Lions Club Installation, Induction & Awards	Larry's Meeting Room 121 King Street Keysville, VA	✓
June 24, 2023	Noon - 3:00 PM	District 24-I Awards Cookout & Celebration	Burkeville Lodge for the Blind 341 Oak Street Burkeville, VA	✓
June 26, 2023	6:00 - 8:00 PM	Clarksville Lions Club Installation & Induction	St. Timothy's Episcopal Church Fellowship Hall 111 Sixth Street Clarksville, VA	✓
June 27, 2023	6:00 - 8:00 PM	Chase City Lions Club Installation & Induction	Bridgewater Restaurant 201 Virginia Avenue Clarksville, VA	✓
June 28, 2023	6:00 - 8:00 PM	Powhatan Lions Club Installation & Induction	County Seat Restaurant 3883 Old Buckingham Road Powhatan, VA	✓
June 29, 2023	6:00 - 8:00 PM	Bon Air Manchester-Midlothian Lions Club Installation and Induction	Brandermill Country Club 3700 Brandermill Parkway Midlothian, VA	✓