

"Beyond the Horizon"



Lions Roar

The official newsletter of Lions of Virginia District 24-I

Vol. 3, No. 6

February 2021

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

Meet The Candidates and Prepare for Elections

Fellow Lions it is that time of year again and we must acquaint ourselves with the Lions who will be our leaders in the coming year. In this issue you will get an opportunity to read their biographies and understand why they have chosen to step forward and lead our District and State. These men and women have strong feelings about being a Lion and Lionism and how we can help those in our communities that Lions are there to help and support in their times of difficulty and need.

Unfortunately again this year we will not be meeting in person and will be submitting our ballots by mail. The presidents and secretaries need to have prepared their rosters to know which lions will be the delegates for their clubs and be prepared to submit a list of names for ballots to our State Secretary-Treasurer Tammie Blackwell in time to get the ballots received and returned. The information on the ballot and process will be the same as last year and the information needed to fulfill the obligations of the vote will be forthcoming when all items are finalized.

In addition this year we will be voting on an international Director Candidate and that bio and information on the addition to the ballot will also be forthcoming in the instructions for casting your ballot for your club.

Fellow Lions we must also consider what we need to do in the future. There are options we must consider and evaluate. I expect them to take a while to figure out but we must begin that work. How are our State conventions and conferences going to be held? Are we going to do physical only, virtual only or a combination of both? Are we going to allow online electronic voting to happen for both those that can attend and those that cannot attend? This is no simple or easy answer, but we must consider it not only in terms of our past but also our future. How will younger generations of lions feel about the process and the conventions and conferences? Will the ability to share the physical conventions and conference online encourage others to join us rather than stay home?

I do not expect an answer to this to come quickly or easily but we must decide on how we are to change it is the future that we must look to and to help us answer those questions.

Until later fellow lions stay strong and good health.

District Governor Candidate – Greg Cole

Personal Life - Growing up in Big Stone Gap VA, Greg attended Powell Valley HS where he was scholar athlete, a member of the marching band, and a member of the Key Club. He attended the University of Virginia at Wise from 1980-1984. Greg has been married for 37 years, to wife Roberta. They have two grown children, Robert 34 and Marissa 32.

Education

BS Business Administration 1984
Masters Healthcare Administration 2005

Professional

Licensed Nursing Facility Administrator 1994
Southside School of Practical Nursing
Advisory Board 1998-2005
Southside Virginia Alzheimer's Association
Board 1996-1998
Employed at The Woodland in Farmville since 1995 ,
Administrator 1995-2006
President/CEO 2006-Present
Board of Directors 2000 - Present

Church and Civic

New Life Assembly of God
Deacon Board 2000-2002; 2006-2013
Trustee Board 1998-2000; 2004-2006
Building Committee Chair 1998-2000
Royal Ranger Senior Commander 1997-2000
Rotary Club of Farmville 1995 - Present
Director 1996/97; 2004/05
Treasurer 1997/98; 1998/99; 1999/2000
President 2005/06
Foundation Chair 2017/2018
Rotarian of the Year 2018
Farmville Area Chamber of Commerce Member
2002-Present
Director 2005-2009
Chairman 2007/2008
Farmville Town Council Member
2014-Present
Kiwanis Club Member 1985-1987

Lions Club International

Lion Greg was sponsored by Lion Jim Gussett in 2007. He has been a member of the Farmville Lions Club for 14 years and has served in the following positions

Director 2009/2010
Treasurer 2015/2016
Membership Chair 2015/2016
President 2016/2017, 2017/2018, 2018/2019
Lion of the Year 2016

Lion Greg received the LCI Presidential Leadership Award 2018 from IP Naresh Agarwal and LCI Leadership Award in 2020. He represents the Farmville Lions well and has been instrumental in recruiting, coaching and mentoring his new members. Lion Greg also supported District 24B by providing use of the Woodland community center for local Lions Meetings, Zone and Cabinet meetings and by providing a low cost meal for attendees. He has worked with the Central VA Lions Recycling Center recruiting members from the Woodland community as volunteers to clean and score glasses. Under his leadership the Farmville club reached record years in Broom Sales and their Golf Tournament fundraisers, the Farmville Lions Club also holds the record in LOVF ticket Sales which led to reach the goal of \$100,000 to build a Children's Playground partnering with the Town of Farmville that is equipped to serve disabled children as well as a Legacy Project assisted by a grant from the Lions of VA Foundation. While President, the club worked to build strong partnerships with Faculty and Students at Longwood University to support their efforts to preserve hearing in school age children and this year they have recently chartered the Longwood University Lions Club a Campus Club.

Lion Greg attended the Lions of Virginia Regional Leadership Institute in March 2019, Advanced Leadership Institute in November 2019 and FDI in January 2020. He was appointed Zone Chair in March 2019 by PDG Jeff Gaddis and appointed Zone Chair July 2019 by DG Pat Jones. IN October 2019 he was appointed to the 2VDG position with MD24 I and assumed those duties on January 2, 2020. In May 2020, he was elected to serve as the FVDG for MD24 I.



First Vice District Governor

Lion Helen A. Person

Lions of Virginia * District 24-I

Lion Helen Person has been a member of the Lions Club since 2007 when she joined the Winder Lions Club in her Georgia hometown. Upon moving to Farmville, VA, in 2012, Lion Helen and her husband Lion Darrell affiliated with the Farmville Lions Club. Lion Helen moved her membership to the evening Charlotte Lions Club after accepting her position as Vice President/Director of Marketing for Benchmark Community Bank in Kenbridge.

Lion Helen is currently serving as President of the Charlotte Lions Club. During her Lions years, she has served in many club level capacities, including, though not limited to: 1ST & 2ND Vice President; Director; and Secretary. On the District level, Lion Helen is currently serving as Region 2 Chair, a position she previously held in 2018-2019. For the former District 24-B, and is a Certified Guiding Lion. Lion Helen served as Cabinet Secretary (2017-2018), Region III Chair (2017-2018), and Zone I Chair (2016-2017). Lion Helen is Chair of the Lions Eyeglass Remote Mobile Unit (LERMU) and a member of the Lions of Central Virginia Mobile Health Unit Committee (MHU).

Lion Helen incorporates her personal and professional knowledge and experience to create innovative methodologies founded in solid Lions policy and practice. Putting into practice ideas designed to be club- and community-specific, she works to help clubs deliver Lions service that allows them to achieve membership and service successes great and small. A certified Master Trainer (1999) in the former Girl Scout Council of Northwest Georgia and certified Instructor of Trainers through the Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA), Lion Helen completed LCI's Faculty Development Institute (FDI) and Regional Lions Leadership Institute (RLLI), both in early 2020.

Lion Helen is Troop Leader for her granddaughter Cassidy's Daisy-Brownie Troop, as well as an active member of the Judith Randolph-Longwood Chapter, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR). Lion Helen and her husband Lion Darrell are the parents of a blended family with three children, four grandchildren, and one geriatric feline. The Persons are involved members of Riverside Community Church in Prospect.



Second Vice District Governor

Lion Homer C. Cook

Lion Homer grew up in Apopka, Florida. In 1978, he graduated from Florida Technological University (now University of Central Florida) with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History and Sociology. His first job after college was as a welder and soon after, he decided to join the Navy. Homer Retired from the Navy as a Surface Warfare Officer. He went into Financial Planning with Lincoln Financial Group and obtained a License as a Certified Financial Planner. Cold calling was not a lot of fun so he went back to sea with Tidewater Marine Inc. and became a Chief Engineer. After 10 years, Homer moved to Hornbeck Offshore Services until he retired in 2018.

Lion Homer joined the Virginia Beach Oceanside Lions Club in October 1995. During his twenty-five years, Lion Homer has served as a club director for six years, Treasurer, Vice President for two years, and President for two years. He has served the District as Zone O Chair in 2019 and Cabinet Secretary in 2020. Currently, Lion Homer is the Zone O representative on the Lions Charity Foundation of Southeastern Virginia Board of Directors. He also supports the Lions Clubs International Foundation as a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow.

Lion Homer is enjoying his retirement and taking advantage of the time to expand his organizational knowledge and service to the community. He has been extremely busy in the past couple of years. He attended Lions Day at the United Nations in 2019, Regional Lions Leadership Institute in 2020, Faculty Development Institute in 2020 and the Online USA Canada Leadership Forum in 2020. He earned his Bachelor's certification from Lions University and is currently taking the required courses to earn the Masters Certification at the 2021 Forum. Lion Homer obtained his FDI Certification and is qualified to instruct classes at the club, district and multiple district levels. He is willing to train at your club if you call on him.

Lion Homer's passion for service shone through when he Spearheaded the Oceanside Lions community garden at Twin Canals, Coordinated and conducted all of his club's children eye screenings for 2018 and 2019, Coordinated the Zone presence at the Williams Farm Health Fair in 2019 and arranged for 8 presenters at the Twin Canals Health Fair until it was unfortunately cancelled due to COVID-19. Lion Homer and Deirdre (Dee) have been happily married for thirty-four years. They have two parrots, George and Stanley. Just in case you're wondering- yes, the birds are in the will.

Lions International Director Candidate

Jay Moughon

Past District Governor, 24A

Lion Jay joined the Clifton Lions on March 1, 2001. Since that time, he has served the club in a myriad of leadership positions including president, secretary, treasurer, vice president, and director. Additionally, he was the zone chair for two years, and prior to serving as district governor, he served two years as a vice district governor. He is a graduate of the Regional Lions Leadership Institute, the Advanced Lions Leadership Institute, the Faculty Development Institute, and the Lions Certified Instructor Program.

In addition to his leadership positions, Lion Jay served as the chairperson for the club's annual Labor Day Car Show, Clifton Day, White Cane Day, and the Region Bland Contest.

Lion Jay is a retired Army colonel and continues to work as a government civil servant for the Department of the Army. While serving in the Army, his assignments included commanding a rocket and missile battalion of 500 soldiers and an assistant professor of Systems Engineering at the United States Military Academy, West Point, NY.

Lion Jay is a distinguished military graduate of the University of Georgia with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. He holds a Master of Science in Operations Research from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA, and a Master of Science in National Security Affairs from the National War College in Washington, DC. He is a graduate of the Army's Command and General Staff Officer Course and the National War College. Lion Jay is certified as a Project Management Professional (PMP).

Lion Jay and his wife, Nancy, are the proud parents of three wonderful children Erin (David), Will (Veronica), and Caroline, and the grandparents to the perfect grandsons, Liam and Rio.

Leadership Development Opportunities

Leadership Friday:

Please join us on Friday, February 19, 2021 at 7:00 PM online for another Leadership Friday webinar. This month will feature Project Management Led by Lion Mary Durbin, Global Service Team District Coordinator (GST). She will discuss tips and useful tools to run a successful service project. You'll discover project ideas that fit your club and the needs of your local community. Participants will learn about Lions Clubs International resources, effective record keeping, and outcome analysis techniques. All of these project components will ensure your projects will be more successful each year. Watch for the Constant Contact e-mail sent to you on Monday, February 15, for the Zoom link.

Meet the Candidates:

We'll also be sponsoring "Meet the Candidates" on Friday, February 26, 2021, online from 7:00 – 8:00 PM. This will be an opportunity for all members to meet the announced candidates running for District 24-I offices of District Governor, 1st Vice District Governor, and 2nd Vice District Governor. Yes, we have a full slate this year! Pour yourself a glass of your favorite beverage and settle in, to socialize with your fellow Lions after hearing messages from our candidates. This Zoom link will be e-mailed to you on Monday, February 22nd.

The Learn Module and Club Officer Training:

There is exciting news regarding the Learn Module. The Global Leadership Team District Coordinator (GLT) now has access to generate a report showing members who have participated in training classes on the district level and in the Lions Learning Center (LLC). This new report can benefit your club in two ways. First, you can request club member training information from the GLT in order to celebrate member achievements at a club meeting. Second, club officers are encouraged to take the learning path classes for their respective positions in LLC. This information can be used to verify club eligibility for the Club Excellence Award. If you are interested in more localized information, officers can download club officer trainings offered earlier this year on the District 24-I website under the leadership tab. This should help make officer training more accessible for members who have limited internet access or who are uncomfortable using Zoom. In April we'll be offering alternative course options for members to expand our district training portfolio. March and April will ramp-up our training calendar so check out the training schedule listed in the Roar March edition.

Together in Service,
PDG Beth Stevens lionstevens@cox.net