

"Beyond the Horizon"



Lions Roar

The official newsletter of Lions of Virginia District 24-I

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

Reemerging to the New Normal

Fellow Lions it is time to consider how we are going to reemerge and let our Lions and our community see us as we begin to emerge from this pandemic. We need to consider what we can do to let the community and our lions know we are there for them and how to revive and reenergize them. There are many things we can do and we need to reconsider what we can do now that the weather is improving the status of our situation is changing and things are beginning to look better.

Starting thinking about how we can do some community get togethers to meet and greet people to show them how well we can begin to socialize in more face to face settings and enjoy the sense of community and togetherness. We need to encourage people to come out and become more active as Spring arrives and we start to come out of the shadows and into the light. Let's have some picnics, community fairs and other activities that draw people together. At these events let's combine things and have a good meal and share some conversation face to face. We can gather some things that our neighbors need like food and clothing and we can cheer them up with the decorating of scarves and caps and pillow cases are sheets and things and enjoy just working together and greeting each other and our neighbors.

This also gives us a chance to talk to them as they come out and greet us and ask them what help they need and what they can do that will help us meet the needs that are being discussed. Its time to enjoy their conversations and take into account how things have changed and how we as lions and adjust and work toward meeting those new needs.

We have missed you lions. We have missed working with you, talking with you in person and working together to problem solve and help our communities. Let's get back out there and return to what we do best be an active energetic force in our communities improving lives, and helping those in need. Let's go Lions! Let's lead the way and serve our communities, our clubs, our lions and get the neighborhood and community moving forward and growing again.

MEMBERSHIP

This are certainly interesting times we live in. None of us could have predicted these extraordinary circumstances brought on by the COVID 19 virus. Lions clubs everywhere are wrestling with the question, How do we maintain membership engagement during the pandemic?

Well, we are Lions and I am sure that these challenges will bring out our considerable strengths – ingenuity, decisiveness, flexibility, and integrity. Replacing In-Person meetings with Virtual meetings is an important aspect in dealing with this pandemic. We do strongly advise having a strong online presence in the absence of in person meetings.

Please ensure that you maintain regular communication with your members about your Club's plans, including sending out club announcements and the latest guidance on health/safety advise. Weekly communication in addition to any virtual meeting is essential.

Given the community concerns about the virus, let us not forget about our own Lions family. We should be mindful of the needs of vulnerable Lions in our own club, zone and district.

We are currently getting ready for our District training sessions for next Lions year's officers. PDG Beth Stevens will be sending out more information regarding the dates and times of the meetings. While mentioning training, I would like to highlight the exceptional resource officered by Lions Club's International Website at the learning center. The catalog of available courses is extensive, coving all aspects of Lions positions, disciplines, projects and initiatives. You can learn by subject, job or even develop your own life skills in an easy to connect format, that you regulate on your own timescale.

Lions Clubs, as with every other service organization has faced challenges this year. However, some clubs are still maintaining regular meetings and providing valuable service projects. One club has helped with food distribution to those in need. Other projects include collecting plastic bags and recycling them to Trex to receive a free bench. The benches are then given to the community, schools or to the park service for placement. Golf tournaments are still underway for some Lions Clubs this spring.

The keys to keeping a club vital during this crisis is: to hold regular meetings, remain vital to your community, (go out and do something and don't forget to publicize your projects), and strong communication with your club members and your community.

PDG Donna Weiler
GMT District 24 I



LEADERSHIP

We have an extensive training schedule over the next couple of months. We've expanded our traditional officer training to include courses beneficial to all board or general members and new marketing/communications chairs. Next year, a new program will be introduced, called Club of Distinction. First Vice District Governor Greg Cole will be introducing the program during the Club President training on Friday, April 16, at 7:00 PM. Lion Greg recommends that all club members join this session to learn about the program so your club can decide if they want to participate in the initiative. If you're not a Club President it's okay to drop off the training once the program is outlined. The courses listed below with the asterisk by the title will be helpful to the participating clubs.

March Course Descriptions:

Coaching in Lions *Lion Mack Stevens* 3/5/2021

Does your Lions Club struggle to make important decisions or take action because every member has their own opinion? Have you tried to be a leader in your club but only a few members listen or respond to your call to action? Maybe your club needs a great coach and maybe it's YOU! This course will describe: the coaching process, types of coaches, qualities of a good coach, the need for communication, the necessity of working as a team, the need to practice daily skills to thrive and move toward community service and club goals.

Membership chairs *PDG Donna Weiler* 3/12/2021

This course will begin with goal setting - I'm the New Club Membership Chair...what's next? We'll discuss the logistics of how to attract new members through Email and Phone Calls. We will provide sample emails, phone tracks and answers to objections that you may encounter. Do you have an Elevator Speech? Samples of effective speeches will be provided with final Recruiting talking points. We'll discuss the Induction Ceremony and how to make it meaningful for your new members. We will show you how to locate and use your LCI Membership tool box and online training materials. This is an interactive workshop where sharing your ideas is encouraged.

Conducting a Successful Membership Growth Event *PID Cindy Greg* 3/19/2021

PID Cindy Greg will discuss all the components necessary for planning a successful membership growth event. Topics will include how to engage your members in the process, utilizing the membership recruiting wheel, managing and following-up on your event invitations, developing a meaningful presentation, and setting the stage for the perfect evening. It takes a team effort to host a successful event, so we hope you encourage all your club team members to join us for the training.

Troubleshooting MyLion *LCI Staff* 3/26/2021

Club Secretaries we've heard your cries of frustration about trying to report your club's service projects in MyLion. That's why we've reached out to Lions Clubs International Leadership Department to provide us with a trainer for Troubleshooting MyLion. Hopefully, this will be your opportunity to have your questions answered by the experts that designed the app. We'll let you know as soon as the trainers are confirmed.



Leadership Fridays:

3/5/2021	Coaching	Lion Mack Stevens
3/12/2021	Membership Chair*	PDG Donna Weiler
3/19/2021	Conducting a Club Membership Growth Event*	PID Cindy Gregg
3/26/2021 (confirmed)	Troubleshooting MyLion*	LCI Staff (to be confirmed)
4/1/2021 (Thursday)	Marketing / Communications Chair*	Lion Helen Person
4/9/2021	Club Secretary	Lion Homer Cook
4/16/2021	Club President*	1 st VDG Greg Cole
4/23/2021	New Member Orientation*	Lion Dr. Joy Richardson
And -		
	Directly following: Worldwide Induction Ceremony	DG Scott Durbin
4/30/2021	Club Treasurer*	Lion Mike Petty
5/7/2021	Club GLT*	PDG Heather Jones Lancto
5/14/2021	Effective Teams	PDG Ann Ragland

All sessions will be held from 7 – 8 PM via Zoom. The Zoom link will be e-mailed out through Constant Contact the Monday preceding the training. Please login at 6:45 PM to participate in roll call.

If you have any questions, please contact PDG Beth Stevens at lionstevens@cox.net

Welcome to our New Lions!

Brandermill & Midlothian (Woodlake)

Christopher A. Jones
Sponsor: Lion Alan Manden

James City

Fred Meier
Sponsor: Lion David Rand

William R. Punch
Sponsor: Lion Wayne Glass

Smithfield

Cheryl A. Gontarz
Sponsor: Lion Jon May

In Memory

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

Chester

Lion E. Linwood Gettings

Dinwiddie

Lion Willis M. Madden

Lancaster County

Lion Richard Russell

Mathews

*Lion Paul E. Casey
Lion William R. French
Lion William Gerald Jones*

Poquoson

Lion Ernest D. Crack

Richmond West Breakfast

*Lion Keith M. Bradford
Lion Lydia B. Wilson*

Virginia Beach Oceanside

Lion Sylvia E. Stockdill

Williamsburg Host

Lion Ross Whitehead

DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Again this year we are going without a state convention. Our Fall and Winter Conferences are much easier to organize and plan. Working with three districts requires additional planning when you are trying to create a program that works for the state convention for all the members of the district. There has to be an agreement on what needs to be presented and how it needs to be presented. When we are working on new ideas, new methods and new technology it takes a lot more work to make it work together well. Hopefully this effort will be applied in the next state conventions that will enable to us to work together and make the program come together successfully and encourage more people to attend. Part of the problem is the knowledge required to introduce and advise the change and to be able to provide the knowledge and expertise so that our members can join and enjoy the experience and become better lions through the effort.

To all our club Presidents and secretaries, please create your list of delegates and include at least one additional delegate so that we can have all of the proper delegates for our voting for the election of our district governors. To our Region and Zone chairs encourage your clubs to get their lists to MD State Secretary Tammie Brightwell and have it done before the postmark deadline of March 25th. This will give her time to get the ballots out to everyone and get them all counted.

I regret we could not have a state convention this year. However we learned a lot about how to conduct virtual conventions and conferences and we need to apply that to our future events and see how we can bring Lions in that may not be able to attend in person but can be part of the event virtually. IT will require planning, organization and cooperation but it is something that we as lions need to add to our future and prepare to bring in other lions from even more diverse backgrounds and perspectives.

Respectfully Yours,
Lion Scott Durbin
District Governor

Hey fellow Lions,

The District Governor is looking for a place to hold an end of the year picnic/ award ceremony and to get lots of Lions together to let communities know we are still alive and out there working hard. Do we have some choices of location and can we get some people helping with a virtual connection for those will not be able to attend. He really wants to get people together and start talking to each other face to face. Any ideas? If you got any just ol' Clarence a line and maybe we can figure out how to pull this off and get the lions out where we can do some yelling and cheering and even a little singing to bring us out of the dark and into the light of a new and exciting lion year.

Take care My Lion Friends,, Clarence TCEL