The Lions of District 24-I received an infusion of youthfulness on Tuesday, April 16th with the official Charter Night for the Longwood University Lions Club. Sponsored by the Farmville Lions Club, the club’s faculty advisor and Guiding Lion is Caitlin Franks, a member of the Farmville Club. Farmville Lions Club President Greg Cole presided over the meeting held at The Woodland Community Center in Farmville.

District Governor Jeffrey Gaddis was joined by Longwood University President Taylor Reveley and Farmville Mayor David Whitus, an Honorary Member of the Farmville Club in welcoming and congratulating the 22 students who compose this newest Lions Club led by Lion Lucy Wallace, President.

Past District Governor Donna Weiler, 1st Vice District Governor Pat Jones, 2nd Vice District Governor Scott Durbin, GMT Lion Donna Gaddis, Region 2 Chair Lion Helen Person, and Region 2 Zone C Chair Lion Darrell Person were all in attendance to celebrate with the Farmville Lions Club.

According to Lion Lucy, the club is excited to begin working with the student body at Longwood, as well as the Lions of their zone, region, and district, in providing service to the community.
Leadership Training

A key to building stronger Lions clubs is developing future leaders. Lions membership includes opportunities for professional development to build your club’s succession plan. Won’t you take advantage of one of these soon?

Lions Leadership Center
Available online
Free courses available to Lions at all levels of the organization. You will need your member number to setup an account.

Certified Guiding Lion
Available online
We are seeking Lions interested in serving as a Guiding Lion in Central Virginia for a new club or a club undergoing the rebuilding process. Candidates must have served as a Club President.

MD24 Convention Saturday Morning Classes
May 18, 2019

8:30 – 9:30 AM
Club Presidents
Club Secretaries/Treasurers
Tail Twister School
Grant Writing – LOVF/LCIF

9:45 – 10:45 AM
Membership
Zone/Region Chair School
My Lion (LCI)
Campaign 100

It’s Convention Time, Lions!

Has a year flown by? Our Lions of Virginia State Convention is right on top of us and I hope to see you all in Chesapeake next weekend. If you’ve been looking for a way to connect with Lions from all over the District, as well as the State, your MD24 Lions Convention is the perfect time.

Classes in MyLCI and MyLion will be led by LCI representatives who have the answers you need for how to navigate this new all-in-one online system you can access from your Smartphone or computer. You won’t want to miss this! No more paper forms!

On this page, you’ll see a list of classes for Club Officers, special Lions programs, and other topics that can help put that shot of adrenaline into your club meetings and activities.

The highlight for Sunday morning is the election for our 2019-2020 District Officers, as well as voting on two candidates for International Director. Sunday will also be our Cabinet meetings, along with the District Meeting on Friday morning at 9 am.

If you haven’t registered for the convention, there is still time. To vote, you will need to be registered no later than Saturday afternoon, so make sure you get to the Delta Marriott Hotel in time to be counted.

In other news, you couldn’t have missed our front page story about our newest Lions Club: the Longwood University Lions Club. It was my honor to induct this group of 22 college students who are bright-eyed and excited to become Lions. If you see them during Convention, be sure to give them a warm welcome to Lionism.

Recently, we held two Leadership training days for Club, Zone, and Region Officers. If you haven’t had a chance to attend and plan to serve, there is another opportunity on Saturday morning during Convention.

On another note, please be aware of a computer scam we’re hearing about. Clubs have received requests for $500 that are supposed to be from me. The e-mail asks for the money to be deposited into an iTunes account. A word to the wise: Do not send money to anyone unless you contact them by phone or in person and confirm they made the request.

I want to congratulate our Lions for the cooperation you’ve shown this year as we transitioned from two districts to one. It is really easy to just go with what you’ve known instead of looking to a new Lions partner to be a part of your activity. Let’s keep working on being collaborators instead of competitors. We’ll be stronger Lions Clubs!

Yours in Lionism,
Jeff Gaddis
DG 24-I

Jeffrey Gaddis
District Governor 24-I

Cell  804-854-9638
Home  804-684-5787
May 17th is Lions of Virginia Appreciation Day

Virginia Governor Ralph Northam recently signed a proclamation recognizing May 17, 2019 as MD24 Lions of Virginia Appreciation Day, highlighting the service that Lions Clubs throughout Virginia do to make a difference in people’s lives.

With a membership of almost 1.5 million volunteers, Lions Clubs is the largest humanitarian organization in the world. Lions aid the blind and visually impaired, support youth initiatives to build strong character and end bullying, feed the hungry, address global epidemics like diabetes, come the aid of communities when disaster strikes, and are committed to filling other community needs throughout the world.

Because we're local, we can serve the unique needs of our communities and because we're global, we can address challenges that go beyond our borders, and because of our numbers we can help to influence positive change around the globe. When it comes to meeting challenges, our response is simple: "We Serve." It's something that unites Lions around the world. We help wherever, whenever and however we can.

"It's exciting to have the governor sign this proclamation recognizing the importance of the Lions Clubs in Virginia communities" said Virginia Lions State Convention Chairperson, Donna Weiler. As we begin our 96th Annual Lions of Virginia State Convention in Chesapeake, VA on May 17, 2019 we are encouraging all our Lions Clubs to participate in celebrating 98 years of humanitarian service in our communities.
Elections: International Director

Two MD24 candidates are asking for your support toward their endorsement for election to the position of International Director. For this issue of Lions Roar, each candidate was invited to respond to three questions about their candidacy. PDG Harry Parker did not respond to our request. PDG Donna Weiler’s responses appear in their entirety.

**Lions Roar:** Why do you want to serve in this capacity?

**PDG Donna Weiler:** I decided to seek the office of International Director because I want to bring positive change to our organization. Realizing that in order to change, to grow, we must do things differently. The Lions of today are both male and female, young and old, multi-cultural individuals coming together for a specific purpose. While I am proud of our great Lion history, it is time to embrace a new future. A future that represents all voices. It is time for a generational change where all people are accepted, embraced for their talents. Our organization needs the feminine touch. It needs innovative and creative ideas. As Lions, we need to become more tolerant of diversity, more open and accepting to different ideas. As a International Director I can make a difference by not accepting the Status Quo, the “we have always done it this way” mentality. To make a positive impact on our organization, we must listen to our members and act on their behalf.

**Lions Roar:** If you had one aspect of Lionism you could directly influence to help the organization’s future, what would it be and why?

**PDG Donna Weiler:** Hands on Service and Membership go hand in hand. Both areas are dependent upon the other. During my Lion’s career I have been identified with both service and membership. As a member of the Service Activities Committee I would champion new service projects and expand on the services that work. As the District Governor that brought childhood vision screening using PediaVision/Spot screeners to the Lions Clubs in MD24, I would work to expand KidSight USA to bring to the program to the International forum. Childhood Eye Screenings using the Welch Allyn Spot or the Plusoptix vision screeners has revitalized our clubs and attracted new and younger members of the community to join our clubs.

**Lions Roar:** Identify and briefly describe three talents or skills you believe make you uniquely qualified to serve as an International Director for Lions Clubs International.

**PDG Donna Weiler:** Membership. In my 21 years as a Lion, I have sponsored twenty-three (23) Lions and started seven (7) Lions Clubs throughout MD24. As the district membership chairperson for 24-D, our District grew from 1939 members to 2010 in three years. As Membership, Retention and Extension chairperson, our district started six new Lions Clubs and one Leo Club under my leadership. Growth is vital to our organization. Knowing how to grow our membership and retain our membership is the key to revitalizing our clubs, engaging our community and increasing humanitarian service to our communities. I have the skills, experience and the talent to bring to the International Board.

Public Relations. A club, just like a business, needs good public relations to foster growth and success. The simplest ideas can become effective PR practices that can be integrated into your club processes and annual goals. As members interested in improving the club’s public relations, you have to ask yourselves what your ultimate goal is and then develop strategies to attain it. Be involved, be seen and be recognized in the community. Majoring in Business Management has given to me the skills of promoting my business and my Lions Club. The new branding of Lions by Lions Clubs International is a way for me to showcase my talents and expand on programs of service to our communities.

Service. During my Lions career, I have been part of a Lions team that bought Eyeglass Recycling to District 24-D. When the first RAM Wise County was developed, my husband, PID Hauser and I took on the task of organizing the vision services unit, by attracting doctors, arranging for the equipment and working the mission. This continued until UVA Wise Campus took over. The service I am most proud of is Spot childhood vision screening. We have come along way in this area since 2010 when it was first introduced. Â In the area of service activities, I have experience in Leo Club development, transitioning Omega Leos (18-32 year olds) to active Lions Clubs, Eyeglass Recycling, Sight, Diabetes and medical programs, and creating partnerships. My thirty years as a Medical Administrator and as the Chief Operations Officer for Chesapeake Medical Group has given me the knowledge to take to the LCI Board of Directors.
2019 Virginia Lions MD 24 State Convention

Thursday, May 16, 2019
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
2:00 pm - 6:00 pm
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Registration and Credentials open
Pin Trading and Exhibits open
Cinco de Mayo Party

Friday, May 17, 2019
7:30 am - 5:00 pm
9:00 am - 5:00 pm
9:00 am - 10:00 am
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
10:00 am - 11:00 am
11:00 am - 12:00 pm
12:30 pm - 2:00 pm
2:30 pm - 4:30 pm
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
7:30 pm - 9:30 pm
9:30 pm -
Registration and Credentials open
Pin Trading and Exhibits open
District Meetings
Hands of Service Project - packaging meals
LOVF Board of Directors Meeting
VLERI Board of Directors Meeting
Pin Trader's Luncheon
Opening General Session
Dinner on your own
James A Bland Music Scholarship Contest
Hospitality Rooms

Saturday May 18, 2019
7:00 am - 8:30 am
7:30 am - 5:00 pm
9:00 am - 5:00 pm
8:30 am - 9:30 am
9:45 am - 10:45 am
11:00 am - 12:00 pm
12:30 pm - 2:00 pm
2:30 pm - 4:30 pm
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
9:30 pm -
PDG Breakfast
Registration and Credentials open
Pin Trading and Exhibits open
Schools - First Session
Schools - Second Session
Lions Memorial Service
LOVF Luncheon
Second General Session
PDG Reception
VIP Reception
Convention Banquet
Hospitality Rooms

Sunday, May 19, 2018
7:00 am - 7:30 am
7:00 am - 8:30 am
8:45 am - 10:45 am
11:00 am - 12:00 pm
12:30 pm -
Worship Service - Non Denominational
Fellowship Breakfast
District Meetings - VOTING
Final General Session - LOVF Drawing
Joint Luncheon (District Governors & DGE's)
Each month, District 24-I Lions Clubs give of their time, talents, and resources to support vision conservation, diabetes awareness, and providing food for the elderly and disadvantaged in their communities and around the world. Here’s a sample:

**Amherst County** – made $3,750 in donations to local fire and rescue squad organizations, as well as Flood Relief for the Mid-West; provided four eye exams and eyeglasses; collected 254 pairs of eyeglasses; processed 314 pairs of donated eyeglasses; provided four $500 scholarships to Amherst County HS seniors; volunteered with Meals on Wheels.

**Bon Air-Manchester-Midlothian** – Provided 38 eye exams and 63 pairs of eyeglasses; coordinated 14 eyeglass vouchers with the local Lenscrafters.

**Buckingham County** – Donated non-perishable food donations to local food bank; litter pick-up on public road; provided one pair of eyeglasses; volunteered for Earth Day at local school.

**Chesapeake Great Bridge** - Volunteered at local food pantry packing/delivering food for 22 families; sold brooms; 5 Lions volunteered at and provided 3 scholarships for diabetes camp; donated $95 to help mail veteran care packages.

**Craddock** – Eye screening at local school.

**Hampton-Mercury** - volunteered for road clean-up project.

**Lancaster County** – volunteered for eyeglass recycling; screened vision at local YMCA; volunteered for road clean-up project.

**Lynchburg 7 Hills** - collected (in a rain storm) for White Cane.

**Middlesex** - processed 104 pairs of eyeglasses; turned in 35 pairs for recycling; distributed meals to the elderly.

**New Kent** - sold brooms, Roary the Lion, and handmade microwave dish holders by one of the club members at Providence Forge Hardware Appreciation event.

**Newport News Host** – diabetes awareness and vision screening at local school.

**Norfolk-Norview** - eye screening with Ocean View Lion to screen 38 children (4 referrals) at local elementary school.

**Norfolk Ocean View** - tree-planting project for city project; fundraiser for Catholic Knights of Columbus project to benefit mentally challenged; spot vision screening for 40; volunteer with youth job training; breakfast and dinner for homeless and other disadvantaged community members; training for local high school rowing team.

**Oceana-Lynnhaven Golden** - collected 463 lens pairs and broken eyeglasses for recycling through ReSpecs.

**Onancock** - screened 55 (11 referrals) at Onley Virginia YMCA during Healthy Kids Day.

**Richmond James River** - monthly Bingo night for veterans at Veterans Hospital.

**Tappahannock** - provided hearing aid assistance; collected 50 pounds of plastic during March and April.

**Varina** – hosted District 24-I Bland Contest.

**Virginia Beach-Bayside** – donated $640 for two scholarships to Lions Diabetes Camp; donated $500 to American University to support local student.

**Virginia Beach Host** – volunteered at recycling center; sold brooms and raised $645.15.

**Virginia Beach-Princess Anne**– collected non-perishable food items for local food banks; provided meals for local shelters.

**Virginia Beach-Thalia** – donations totaling $200 to local groups; volunteered packing food items for children at risk; volunteered purchasing and packing food items for special education class of 20 children; volunteered at local food bank.

**Williamsburg Host**– data entry for local food bank; delivered 649 pairs of donated eyeglasses and eight hearing aids to Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center of SE Virginia; volunteered with collecting, sorting, and delivering; conducted roadside trash collection; volunteered with Multiple Sclerosis Walk; provided vision screenings for preschoolers at local YMCA.

**York** – volunteered at a Health Fair at the Yorktown Senior Center.
In Memory

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

Altavista
Lion Robert Humphreys

Norfolk Little Creek
Lion Norman Krell

Virginia Beach Thalia
Lion Dallas Divelbliss

Richmond West Breakfast
Lion Earl Watson

Welcome to our New Lions!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Club Name</th>
<th>Lion Name</th>
<th>Sponsor Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brandermill-Midlothian-Woodlake</td>
<td>Lion Meredyth Tyree</td>
<td>Lion Meredyth Sauter</td>
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<td>Brookville Timberlake</td>
<td>Lion Barbara Slocum</td>
<td>Sponsor - Edward Reilly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chatham</td>
<td>Lion Florence Kendrick</td>
<td>Sponsor - Lion Richard Easley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chesapeake Great Bridge</td>
<td>Lion Sara Forbes</td>
<td>Sponsor - Lion Michael Barber</td>
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<td>Chesapeake Southside</td>
<td>Lion Steven Hedrick</td>
<td>Sponsor - Lion Connie Hedrick</td>
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<td>Eastern Virginia Medical</td>
<td>Lion Cassandra Dao</td>
<td>Sponsor - Lion Jody He</td>
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<td>Farmville</td>
<td>Lion Brandon Clark</td>
<td>Sponsor - Lion Zachary Preston</td>
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<td>Lion Erik Davis</td>
<td>Sponsor - Lion Steven Lindsay</td>
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<td>Lion Roy D. Farmer</td>
<td>Sponsor - Lion Steven Lindsay</td>
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<td>Lion Carlton Lafoon, Jr.</td>
<td>Sponsor - Lion Lisa Tharpe</td>
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<td>Lion Lisa Meadows</td>
<td>Sponsor - Lion Anthony Ellington</td>
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<td>Lion Bryan Vasal</td>
<td>Sponsor - Lion Greg Cole</td>
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<td>Longwood University (22 New)</td>
<td>Lion Jessi Behren</td>
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<td>Lion Rebecca Biersak</td>
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<td>Lion Layota Butler</td>
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<td>Lion Summer Chenault</td>
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<td>Lion Mallory Gallagher</td>
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<td>Lion Aemelia Lunardi</td>
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<td>Lion Brookelyn Moore</td>
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<td>Lion Jaclyn Owens</td>
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<td>Lion Lyndsey Payne</td>
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<td>Lion Madison Pinchback</td>
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<td>Lion Victoria Shirey</td>
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<td>Lion Leiz Villanueva</td>
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<td>Lion Jamie Wagner</td>
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<td>Lion Lucy Wallace</td>
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<td>Lion Brooklynn Weissenfluh</td>
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<td>Lion Kristen Wilcox</td>
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<td>Lion Sarah Wright</td>
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<td>Norfolk-Ocean View</td>
<td>Lion David Claflin</td>
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<td>Sponsor - Lion Meredith Coldrin</td>
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<td>Poquoson</td>
<td>Lion Stacie Beasley</td>
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<td>Sponsor - Lion Kathy Feigh</td>
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<td>Powhatan</td>
<td>Lion George Robinson</td>
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<td>Sponsor - Lion Mary Ignacio</td>
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<td>SEVa. FilipinoAmerican</td>
<td>Lion Norrie Hoff</td>
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<td>Sponsor - Lion Hi-Lo Laxa</td>
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<td>Lion Eleodora Ignacio</td>
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<td>Lion Edmundo Rodriguez</td>
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<td>Sponsor - Lion Remer Collera</td>
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<td>Lion Daniel Ruiz</td>
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<td>Lion Joseph J. Solinpa</td>
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<td>Sponsor - Lion Guia Caliwagan</td>
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<td>Lion Gracie D Vergara</td>
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<td>Lion Manny Vergara</td>
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<td>VA Beach Town Center-Blind</td>
<td>Lion Paul Denton</td>
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<td>Sponsor - Lion Cecil Smithson</td>
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<td>Lion Mark Williams</td>
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<td>Sponsor - Lion Mack Stevens</td>
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<td>Virginia Beach Oceanside</td>
<td>Lion Andrew Dack</td>
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<td>Sponsor - Lion James Palacio</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Virginia Beach-Thalia</td>
<td>Lion Marsha Montgomery</td>
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<td>Sponsor - Lion Nancy Nelson</td>
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You’re Invited: James A. Bland Scholarship Contest

The Annual Lions MD24 State Convention is the home for the James A. Bland Scholarship Contest showcasing vocal and instrumental youth performers vying for up to $2,500 in scholarships. The 2019 event begins at 7:30 pm on Friday, May 18th. Please see your Convention packet for location details.

The Bland Contest is one of the highlights of the annual convention. You won’t want to miss it! It isn’t too late to contribute to the scholarship fund. If you or your Club would like to contribute to the scholarship fund, please send your donations before June 30, 2019 earmarked “24-I Bland Contest” to: District 24-I Treasurer PDG Lion Lee Winder, 3830 Old Gun Road East, Midlothian, VA 23113.

James A. Bland (1854-1911)
Composer of over 700 songs, including Virginia State Song Emeritus and Namesake for James A. Bland Scholarship Contest.
Congratulations, Lion Richard!

Lion Richard Russel of the Lancaster County Lions Club recently received his 65-year service pin during ceremonies at the club’s meeting. Lion President Jim Schmidt, Zone Chair Lion Dale Griggs, and Lion Secretary Jim Ward made the presentation. (*photo submitted by the club*).

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**24-I DISTRICT STATISTICS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Starting Membership as of July 1, 2018</td>
<td>2,333</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Members Added</td>
<td>170</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transfer/Reinstate Members</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Members Dropped</td>
<td>167</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deceased Members</td>
<td>29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ending Membership as of April 30, 2019</td>
<td>2,329</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Gain/Loss</td>
<td>-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percentage of District Increase</td>
<td>-0.17%</td>
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**PCC Harry Parker**

is planning to seek Virginia's endorsement for **INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR**

At the State Convention in May, delegates will have the opportunity to vote to endorse PCC Harry Parker as a candidate for International Director. There will be competition. It is important that you study each candidate very carefully and then vote for the Lion who you think will best represent the Lions of Virginia on the LCI Board. I plan to earn your vote by standing on my past accomplishments as a Virginia Lion.

Your support for PCC Harry Parker will be deeply appreciated!

Contributions for PCC Harry Parker for ID may be mailed to: Lion Michael Younger, Campaign Treasurer, 13243 Pikes Court, Woodbridge, VA 22192-3281

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**What’s a LERMU?**

In 2017, the Lions of former District 24-B were looking for a way to make eyeglass recycling easier for Central Virginia clubs. Driving two hours each way to process eyeglasses when gas was at $3 per gallon just didn’t make a lot of sense. Not only was it expensive, it dramatically cut hands-on time.

After trying regular recycling days with limited success, the group has re-branded as Lions Eyeglass Recycling Mobile Unit (LERMU), a subsidiary of the Lions of Central Virginia Mobile Health Unit.

“The mobile model is working well,” the group says. “Clubs can schedule their recycling events and we provide the equipment and supplies.” Since the mobile model’s introduction last summer, clubs have put back to work over 5,000 pairs of donated eyeglasses. Clubs partner for event days, enjoy fellowship, and are recruiting new members.

To learn more, contact Lion Helen Person (434–315–5845 or haperson.va@gmail.com).

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Please feel free to put an address label here so you can mail a copy of this issue to your Lions who don’t “computer.”

We Serve!

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Find us on Facebook.