

"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!*

## END OF A YEAR OF TRIALS AND DIFFICULTY

Fellow Lions,

It has been a difficult year for all of us in many ways – the passing of loved ones unexpectedly from the COVID -19, the isolation for months, the fear of the virus and its effects on us, the reemerging and all of the unknowns associated with coming together again in a new environment. While all of this is true remember that our Founder, Melvin Jones, faced all of these issues as well when he first started the Lions. It was during that year, 1981, when the world was hit with the previous viral pandemic in the Spanish Flu that killed more than 600,000 in the United States during its time. He still built the Lions handed out kindness and help to his neighbors and encouraged other businessmen and friends to join him and help their community.

Now it is our turn to emerge from a pandemic and extend comforting and helping hands to our neighbors and encourage people around us friends and new friends and newly met people to join us and extend our hands, our hearts and our comfort to those in need around us. They need our help more than ever because they need to be encouraged to reemerge and that they will be safe and able to live happy fulfilling lives filled with contentment. For many of them they need a way to offer that life of fulfillment and the Lions are right here ready to grant them that opportunity.

Let's help them Fellow Lions to find the ways and paths to fulfillment through helping others. That gift of aid and love should be remembered for what it is not simply a handout but a hand out to help a friend or neighbor to rise up and step forward with a newer and brighter future.

It's a hand out to help them move forward by giving them the support and encouragement they need to know it is alright and it will continue to get better. Help them to reach for more because it is there and when they get it to share more to those who follow them and are also reaching out to get a hand up and a pat on the back that the way a head is good and they can move forward with confidence and purpose and feel a new hope for the future and their families and friends and loved ones.

To do that Fellow Lions, we must look for new opportunities to help in new ways. Changing from the past methods and strategies- not to stop them but to adapt them to the new needs in these changing times. Our communities need to see us out in the public eye, leading and showing the way to help others reach for tomorrow and strive to improve their lives. I know we can do it Lions because it is what we do.

Where there's a need there's a Lion and if that one Lion cannot achieve he roars and other lions appear and provide the assistance and help and to encourage other Lions to join them. While that first roar may be little and small it grows as each Lion joins to help more, offer more and grow and strengthen their communities.

Roar Lions Roar! We are here! We Serve! And We will Help any and allow who ask for our aid.  
For WE ARE LIONS! WE SERVE! Our Communities, Our Neighborhoods and Each Other.  
ROAR LLLLIIIOOOONNNSSSS!

## LEADERSHIP

### Officer Training:

To date, 55% of our clubs have attended training classes. Make sure to join us soon if your club isn't on the participating list shown below. If you can't attend the webinars, officers can access training through the Lions Learning Center to receive credit for officer training. Remember, all incoming club officers need to attend their respective class to meet the leadership requirement for the Club Excellence Award. More importantly, it's essential for club officers to receive officer training to effectively do their jobs well.

### Clubs Participating in Training

Amhurst County	Newport News Warrick
Bon Air - Manchester - Midlothian	Norfolk Little Creek
Brandermill, Midlothian, Woodlake	Norfolk Ocean View
Brookville – Timberlake	Oceana - Lynnhaven - Golden
Chaddum	Poquoson
Charlotte	Portsmouth Host
Chesapeake Southside	Powhatan
Chesapeake Western Branch	Richmond James River
Chester	Richmond West Breakfast
Chesterfield Prevent Blindness	SEVA Filipino – American
Churchland	Smithfield
Clarksville	South Hill
Colonial Heights	Sussex County
Cradock	Tappahannock
Dinwiddie	Varina
Farmville	Virginia Beach Aragona - Woodstock
Gloucester	Virginia Beach Bayside
Hampton Mercury	Virginia Beach Host
Hampton Northampton	Virginia Beach Kempsville
Hampton Phoebus	Virginia Beach Oceanside
James City	Virginia Beach Thalia
Lancaster County	Virginia Beach Town Center-Blind
New Kent County	Williamsburg Host
Newport News Host	Windsor
Northumberland County	York

Please if you liked this program of training and would like to see it continue with followup postings on the District Webpage for others to see please let DG Greg know and he will forward it to his GLT and continue to assist clubs with obtaining leadership skills or other skills clubs feel they need. If there are any additional topics you would like to see in the future please let the district leadership know and we will include them in the districts future.



## SERVICE



The photograph shows Lion Patricia Morrell representing Lions Charity Foundation of Southeast Virginia and Lion Alan Morrell representing Lions District 24I presenting two checks totaling \$4500.00 to the Peninsula FoodBank's portion of the \$25,000.00 donated to the five Virginia FoodBanks in amounts apportionate to the population served by each FoodBank. FoodBank personnel representatives accepting are Moriah Meulenberg, Tracy Hansbrough and Rich Vargas



**Virtual Vision Walk** will be held on June 12, 2021 at 12:00 noon. We aren't allowed to all get together in one place but your group can have an outside walk, bike ride, or anything else you would like to do.

**How can you help? Let's serve our community from home!**

- Go to the Hampton Roads [VisionWalk website](#) and join Lions Pride of 24-I or make your own.
- Send out emails, texts, make phone calls, or try a video like this one from last year by Lion [Debra Laughlin!](#)
- Put your team page on social media using the hashtag #VisionWalkStrong
- Think outside the local area! Remember VisionWalk is virtual and will take place from afar.

The Foundation Fighting Blindness was established in 1971 by a passionate group of individuals driven to find treatments and cures for blinding retinal diseases that were affecting themselves or loved ones.

At the time, very little was known about these devastating retinal degenerative diseases that lead to blindness.

The Foundation's goal was clear: To drive the research that would lead to preventions, treatments and vision restoration for the degenerative retinal diseases – including macular degeneration, retinitis pigmentosa, and Usher syndrome – that together affect more than 10 million Americans and millions more throughout the world.

Today, the Foundation is the world's leading private source for inherited retinal disease research funding. The Foundation is committed to driving research until the entire spectrum of retinal degenerative diseases is eradicated.

**Key Facts about the Foundation**

During its now 50-year history, the Foundation has raised over \$816 million in support of its effort to reverse blindness and restore vision.

The Foundation has over 40 volunteer-led chapters across the U.S. These dedicated volunteers raise funds, increase public awareness, and provide support to families affected by retinal diseases in their communities.

In 2014, the Foundation kicked off *Envision 20/20*, a campaign to end blindness and raise the funds necessary to advance current and future research.

To accelerate funding, then Foundation Chairman, Gordon Gund and his wife, Llura, created *The Gordon and Llura Gund Family Challenge*. The Gund Family Challenge closed in June of 2016 having raised over \$111 million for retinal disease research.

**Gene Therapy Restores Vision**

The Foundation is funding translational research and clinical trials of gene therapy that have restored vision in patients who were virtually blind from a childhood form of retinitis pigmentosa. Thanks to the treatment, they can now enjoy some of life's simple joys, like reading and playing baseball.

**Developing Drugs to Preserve Vision**

The Foundation is funding research on potential drug therapies that work by slowing or preventing the loss of retinal cells, thereby saving vision. Many of these treatments are cross-cutting, meaning they're designed to work for a wide range of retinal conditions, regardless of the genetic defect.

**Harnessing the Power of Stem Cells**

Foundation-funded researchers are using stem cells derived from a variety of sources, including a person's own skin, to create healthy retinal cells that can potentially restore vision. Stem cell treatments hold great promise for people with advanced vision loss.

**Funding the Best in Retinal Research**

The Foundation has funded studies at hundreds of prominent institutions throughout the world including:

- Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
- Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Harvard Medical School
- Institut de la Vision in Paris, France
- Moorfields Eye Hospital, University College London
- Scheie Eye Institute, University of Pennsylvania

The Foundation has given hope to people who didn't previously have hope, and supported the most important retinal research being carried out anywhere in the world. Thanks to the Foundation, I am confident that we will be able to treat many retinal diseases in the near future.

Morton F. Goldberg, MD, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

**Driving Research, Saving Vision**

Foundation-funded researchers are achieving remarkable success with a wide range of promising therapies for saving and restoring sight.

Whatever you are doing and wherever you are on June 12<sup>th</sup>, our National Virtual VisionWalk will be a celebration of our community. We are all, collectively, facing a truly unprecedented situation. While we may not be physically all in the same place, we are joining together across the nation to show the world what it means to be #VisionWalkStrong! Thank you for your continued support of the Foundation. We will come through this, stronger than ever, stronger together.

**National Virtual VisionWalk**

**#VisionWalkStrong**



# Welcome to our New Lions!

Unfortunately no New lions were added in April, but the word is out that many more lions have joined us in the month of May and our numbers will change greatly.

**GO LIONS!**

## *In Memory*

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

**Colonial Heights**  
*Lion Patricia Kennedy*

## DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Fellow Lions,

I have great news! The vote has been taken and the ballots counted and we have new district leadership for next year. And those great lions have also been working hard during this year of difficulty and transition. Those new electees are:

District Governor Elect Greg Cole – Farmville

1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor Elect Helen Person – Charlotte

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor Elect Homer Cook – Virginia Beach Oceanside

I am here to tell you that they are seeing the future and are working in not just a one year plan but a multi-year plan. They are looking at how my year can be an addition and a launch pad or continuation in their years. Please join us. Lions please come and join us in the various district, region and zone events and help all clubs and all lions work together to get bigger, stronger and more effective in our new normal and new emergence as Lions. Help each other, help your communities, Help your neighborhoods and help your clubs.

It has been a great pleasure to visit clubs and here from lions and I will continue to visit clubs as they request me to just continue to spread the message of Lions and Lionism to the district in whatever capacity that you have asked me to be part of.

Respectfully Yours,

Lion Scott Durbin

District Governor

Hey fellow Lions,

It has been a great pleasure to work on your newsletter and I hope that I can continue to work in this capacity and to offer words and joy and excitement and encouragement in the years ahead. If you found these articles and these words of value please let the DGs know. I seek only to help my fellow lions do more and see more. And if this humble servant can avoid falling asleep and signing out after a difficult and trying year, I will be available to help any and all write, rewrite or mis-write (if that can be said) an article to put a smile on a face, a tear in the eye or a warmth come to a heart. Then I have succeeded above my own expectations. Good luck and God Speed My Friends and from an old salt: Fair Winds and Following seas to aid you in your way!

Take care My Lion Friends,  
Clarence TCEL