

THE LIONS ROAR

Special Edition

News & Events from Lions of Virginia District 24-I

Jun 2026



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Fellow Lions,

As the 2025 - 2026 Lions year closed, I am returning back to VA from my seven day road trip to Pensacola, FL and want to share my thoughts. I am truly filled with gratitude and pride for what we accomplished together!

To our District GAT Leaders, Cabinet members, Zone Chairs, committee leaders, club officers, and every Lion throughout District 24-I - Thank You for your dedication, teamwork, and commitment to service.

Because of your passion and perseverance, District 24-I exceeded many of our goals and benchmarks (Leadership: Zone Chairs Trained 92%, Clubs Reporting Service 94%, New Clubs 1, District Fundraising \$54K, Membership Net Gain +10) Most significantly, together we achieved positive net membership growth - a milestone our district had not experienced in many years. This success represents more than membership numbers; it represents more caring hearts, helping hands, and stronger communities.

Our theme, "Diversity in Service," reminded us that the strength of Lions comes from bringing together people with different talents, backgrounds, ideas, and experiences - united by one mission; WE SERVE.

As we welcome DG Shelia for 2026-2027 and the GAT leaders, Cabinet members, and club officers, I encourage you to continue this momentum. Protect the progress we made, strengthen our clubs, develop new leaders, and reach even higher. Growth is not just a goal - it is our commitment to the future of our district and to Lionism.

Thank you for allowing me the honor and privilege of serving as your District Governor. This year's success belongs to all of you! Together we proved what can happen when Lions lead with purpose, serve with compassion, and believe in each other. TEAM: Together Everyone Achieves More

With heartfelt appreciation and Lion Pride,

PDG Vince Medina, Lions International
District Governor, 2025-2026
Lions of Virginia, 24-I



PDG Vince Medina CONGRATS ON A GREAT YEAR!



JUNE 27

On June 27th, PDG Vince held a final lunch meeting to thank his team members and all who helped with his Lion's Year as the District Governor and also to celebrate a good year and job well done by everyone! Recognition was given out and new members were welcomed while all shared a meal in Grafton, VA.

*Thank you to everyone
who attended!*



District Governor Elect **NEEDS YOUR HELP**



24 - I Lions WE NEED YOU!

District Governor Elect
Shelia Chewning is looking for
a few Great Leaders

COULD YOU SERVE OUR DISTRICT

You have served your club well, you have been to the Regional Lions Leadership Institute so maybe it's time to consider serving the district!

**We are seeking people to serve as a
District Chair for one of these committees?**



Chaplain
Diabetes Awareness
Hearing Protection Education
Hunger Relief/Food Pantries
Leader Dogs/Canine
Companions
Special Needs Equipment
Veterans Affairs
Vision Education
White Cane

Call Shelia Chewning would love to talk to you about serving in one of these positions call or text her at 540-847-6206 or email sgchewning@yahoo.com

BMW Lions Club PANCAKE BREAKFAST



The BMW Lions held their very first Pancake Breakfast on 9 May. The location was the Main Pavilion in Sunday Park, which overlooks the Swift Creek Reservoir in Midlothian, Va. We were able to raise over \$1,000 for our Charity Fund.

Lion Bob Lee coordinated this fundraiser. Lion Bob has assisted his Lions Club in Maine conduct this type of event for many years during his summer visits.

The menu included pancakes (plain, blueberry, and chocolate chip), french toast, bacon, and sausage. The people, including our own Lions, gobbled them down!

Our Chief Grill Cook was Lion Alan Manden. He used his own professional pancake batter dispenser to insure uniformity of the pancakes. Seventeen of our dedicated Lions assisted in making this event a success!

Based on the reception of the community we plan to hold another Breakfast in the near future. **Lion Jim Stewart**



Join us next time!

WHEN Saturday July 18, 2026 - 8 AM to 12 PM

WHERE Sunday Park Pavilion
(overlooking the Swift Creek Reservoir)
4602 Millridge Pkwy
Midlothian, VA 23112

Pancakes: Plain, Blueberry,
and Chocolate Chip
Other: French Toast, Bacon,
Sausages
Beverages: Orange Juice,
Coffee, Tea

MENU

DONATION

The net revenue is used by the Brandermill-Midlothian-Woodlake Lions Club locally, to help sight and hearing impaired and those with Juvenile Diabetes.

The breakfast is provided based on customers donating to our Lions cause. **Donations of \$15 over 10, and \$5 for guests under 10 are suggested.**

BMW Lions Club **RECOGNIZING MEMBERS**



On 25 June the Brandermill - Midlothian -Woodlake (BMW) Lions Club presented Lion Hank Nebel with the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award during our Charter Night program. Present at the meeting were our soon to be new District Governor Lion Shelia Chewning and Zone D Chairman Lion Winston Garnett. Our President Lion Robin Hoerber presented Lion Hank with the award.

This is an International Award and is the highest honor a Lions Clubs can bestow on any member. It is very special indeed. To put the significance of this award in perspective a different way, only five other BMW Lions have been selected for this honor in the 48 years that our club has been in existence.

Lion Hank was raised on Long Island in New York State and was educated at Universities in Rochester and Buffalo, New York. He spent many years as a physics professor at various universities, most recently at the University of Richmond. In the mid 1970s he spent two years as a Peace Corps volunteer teaching physics at the National University of El Salvador in Central America. Lion Hank retired from teaching in 2017. He served one term as Club President and was Club Treasurer for 8 years.

He has been an active and dedicated Lion for 20 years. His peers selected Lion Hank for this honor based on his exceptional dedication and tireless service to our club.

Lion Hank was very appreciative as was his wife Katherine.

Well done, Lion Hank!

Submitted: Jim Stewart

James City Lions Club SERVICE PROJECTS

On June 2, 55 cars drove through the JCC Recreation Center parking lot to drop off 193 pounds plastic that will go to Trex for recycling rather than to area landfills. A number of glasses for the Lions eye program and sneakers for the "Got Sneakers" program were also donated. The James City Lions Club collects soft plastic on the first Tuesday of the month at the Rec Center and on the third Wednesday of the month at the Colonial Towne Plaza on the third Wednesday of the month from 9:00-10:00 am.

Pictured from left: Lions Bob Mahr, Doug Bennett, Dennis Branden, Wayne Glass, and Ben Avery.

Submitted: Colleen Woodard



JUNE 2

One of the global causes of Lions Clubs International is to protect the environment and create healthier communities. To support that mission, the James City Lions Club collects soft plastic, which keeps this product out of landfills and the environment. On June 17, Lions collected nearly 200 pounds of recyclable soft plastic from 60 residents. These monthly recycling events take place on the first Tuesdays at the James City County Recreation Center and third Wednesdays at Colonial Towne Plaza, 9:00-10:00 am. In addition to soft plastics, the collections include used sneakers for the "Got Sneakers" recycling and recirculation program, eyeglasses for the Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center, and food for FISH.

Below pictured from left: Lions Wayne Glass, Kandy Daley, Bob Mahr, Trish Murawski, Bob Meter, Dennis Branden, and Ben Avery. (not pictured: Doug Bennett).

Submitted: Phil Giles



JUNE 17

JUNE 16



On June 16, the James City Lions Club joined the effort to provide lunches to children who receive free/reduced-price meals during the school year. The Williamsburg Meals on Wheels organizes local faith-based congregations to prepare the meals, and the James City Lions Club delivers the Summer Meals for Kids to 280 children in eight locations Monday through Friday for 10 weeks.

Above pictured from left getting ready to deliver the lunches are volunteer, Bob Bott, and Lions Gary Boxeth, Tom Cahill, and Ruth Bott.

Submitted: Colleen Woodard

James City Lions Club SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



The James City Lions Club recently awarded a total of \$14,000 in college scholarships to graduates of the three local public high schools. Five students received awards and attended June Lions Club meetings to be recognized, thank the club members and describe their college plans and future aspirations.

Receiving scholarships were from the left: Ashley Feng/Jamestown High School, James P. Alexander /Lafayette High School, Josiah Walston/Jamestown High School, Ryan M. Kline/ Warhill High School, and Neema Shivani/Warhill High School.

"These recipients distinguished themselves academically, were leaders in school sports, honor societies, clubs and musical performances while volunteering in the community throughout their high school years," said Club President Rachel Williams. "We are thrilled to recognize this outstanding cohort and offer our best wishes as they pursue their academic studies and career goals."

For more than 27 years the James City Lions Club's mission has been to serve the community by volunteering time and resources to vision, hearing, childhood cancer, diabetes, the environment, hunger relief and youth programs.

Submitted: Carl Kropf

James City Lions Club RECOGNIZING MEMBERS

James City Lions President Rachel Williams Recognized
The James City Lions Club recently recognized Lion Rachel Williams for her outstanding, dedicated service and exceptional leadership as President of the Club for the 2025-2026 year. She was presented with the Lions Past President plaque and pin, accompanied by a warm round of applause. Expressing her gratitude, she acknowledged the Club members for their many hours of service during the last year concluding: "I am filled with gratitude for all the wonderful people who make our club such a special part of our community. Because of your efforts, our James City Lions Club continues making a positive impact."



James City Lions honored three Lions with the Ted Cors Exceptional Service Award for exceeding expectations in service and Club activities. These awards recognize outstanding service and contributions to Club initiatives, meeting the expectations set by the late Lions Club member, Ted Cors. Pictured from left are Lions Marianna Dudley, Carl Kropf, and George Richmond. Marianna Dudley was recognized for her multifaceted contributions, including her role as Director-at-Large on the Board, Club Historian, Holiday Party Chair, and Co-Lead for the Summer Meals for Kids Program. Carl Kropf was acknowledged for his leadership and expansion of the High School Scholarship program as well as his role as Co-Lead of the Club's Charity Golf Tournament. George Richmond was celebrated for his excellent technical skills and efforts to optimize the Club's website, as well as for managing the digital sign-up process for the Club's many service projects.



James City Lions Kandy Daley and Earl Kleiser were recently honored with the prestigious 2025-2026 Melvin Jones Fellowship. This recognition acknowledges their remarkable contributions to the James City Lions Club (JCLC) and their unwavering commitment to the values of Lionism. Lion Kandy Daley, Third Vice President, was celebrated for her tireless efforts in driving significant growth in fundraising. Her initiatives, including the Charity Golf Tournament, Spring Festival, and White Cane Days, have allowed the Club to expand its support of numerous local charitable initiatives. She was also recognized for launching the "Got Sneakers?" project, which aims to keep used sneakers out of landfills and promotes sustainability. Lion Earl Kleiser, a dedicated member of the JCLC for over two decades, was honored for his extensive service. He previously served as Club President and has been instrumental in managing various programs, including the Lions Safari visitation program, the Officer Nomination Committee, and the member attire program. Each recipient of the Melvin Jones Fellowship was honored with a special lapel pin, a plaque, and a congratulatory letter, further solidifying their achievements and contributions to the Club.



Submitted: Phil Giles



DISTRICT 24-I FIRST DISTRICT MEETING

LEARNING
— AND —
GROWING
THROUGH
SERVICE

AUGUST 1, 2026



THE AMELIA COUNTY VETERANS CENTER

16440 Five Forks Rd,
Amelia Court House, VA 23002



9:30 AM

Registration, Pastries,
Juice, and Coffee



10:00 AM

Welcome



10:15 AM

Quick Portal Review
and Update



10:30 AM

4 - SESSIONS:
Zone Chairs, Club Leadership,
Marketing, and Planning
New Service Projects



11:30 AM

Lions Helping Teachers
Service Project



12:00 PM

Lunch, Sharing, Distribution
of LOVF Tickets and
District Directory



1:00 PM

Listen Up Presentation



1:45 PM

District Meeting and
Installation of Cabinet Members



BE PART OF A GREAT DAY
of Service, Fellowship, and Leadership!

**ALL LIONS AND LEOS
ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!**



Watch for a
Zeffy Invite
to Register and
Order Your Lunch
(Pay at the Door)

LUNCH MENU

★ CONSISTS OF 3 CHOICES ★



BBQ



Chicken Patty



Cheeseburger

*All meals served with fries
or chips and a dessert
plus all types of drinks.*

TOTAL IS \$15



FELLOWSHIP • LEADERSHIP • SERVICE



Submitted: Mack Stevens



LIONS Helping Teachers

*We Serve.
Teachers Inspire.
Our Community
Thrives.*



**BRING SUPPLIES TO OUR
FIRST DISTRICT MEETING**
TO SUPPORT TEACHERS IN YOUR SERVICE AREA!



DATE:
AUGUST 1, 2026



LOCATION:
**AMELIA
VETERAN'S CENTER**



**MORE
INFORMATION
TO FOLLOW!**



Bring some of the following items to the meeting to be packed into gift bags for teachers.

SUGGESTED ITEMS ARE FOR TEACHERS



EXPO Markers



Flair Pens



Pencils



Post It Notes



White Out Tape



Sharpie Markers



Color Copy Paper



Legal Pads



Good Mechanical Pencils



Gel Pens



White Board Cleaner



Microfiber Clothes



Anti-Bacterial Wipes



Good Tissues



Paper Towels



Hand Sanitizer



Binder Clips – Assorted Sizes



Painters Tape



Glue Tape



Glue Dots



*When we support teachers,
we build a stronger future for
our children and our communities.*

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

**WE
SERVE**

Service Opportunity

ANTHEM LEMON-AID



July 10th -
August 9th

Anthem
LemonAid
SQUEEZE

on childhood cancer for 

Lend a hand,
host a stand!



The King's Daughters
601 Children's Lane, 2nd Fl
Norfolk, VA 23507

Anthem
LemonAid
anthemlemonaidchkd.org



Sign up!

Register and automatically get your own online fundraising page, so anybody can donate anywhere!



Get Your Supplies

All participants receive lemonade mix, an official Anthem LemonAid pitcher, cups, and a bag of goodies!



Sell Your Lemonade

Choose any date, time and location that works for you!



Donate

Submit the money you collected by making an online gift through your personal fundraising page or bring a check to The King's Daughters office.

A project of The King's Daughters to benefit
CHKD's Child Advocacy Center



Submitted: Mack Stevens



IMPORTANT DATES

for the

2026 – 2027

LIONS YEAR

*Together
We Serve
Stronger
Communities!*



FIRST DISTRICT MEETING AND PROJECT

August 1, 2026 Amelia, VA

PROJECT: School Supplies for Teachers



FALL CONFERENCE

November 6 – 7, 2026 DoubleTree Hotel, Midlothian, VA

PROJECTS: Disaster Preparedness GO BAGS and Hygiene Bags for the Homeless



WINTER CONFERENCE

February 27, 2027 Williamsburg, VA

PROJECT: Activity Bags for Hospitalized Children



SPRING LEADERSHIP DAYS

May 1, 2027 Newport News Area

June 12, 2027 Farmville Area



STATE CONVENTION

May 27 – 30, 2027 Harrisonburg, VA



FINAL DISTRICT MEETING

June 26, 2027 (Tentative)

*Mark your calendars and plan to join us
as we Serve, Lead, and Make a Difference Together!*



We Serve. **We Lead.** We Make a Difference.

Submitted: Mack Stevens

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUL • AUG

DATE	TIME	MD 24 AND DISTRICT 24I EVENTS	LOCATION
Jul 4-8	-	Lions International Convention	Hong Kong
Jul 10 - Aug 9	-	Anthem Lemon-Aid Squeeze	-
Jul 18	8 AM - 12 PM	BMW Lions Club Pancake Breakfast (details on pg 4)	Midlothian, VA
Aug 1	-	First District Meeting and Project (details on pg 9 - 10)	Amelia, VA

THE LIONS ROAR

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Jun 2026

Deadline to submit: As this is my last issue please direct any new emails to DG Shelia Chewning sgchewning@yahoo.com for info on who to contact for the next issue of the Lion's Roar.

Thank you to everyone who helped me through this new experience of being a volunteer newsletter editor! I learned a lot and was touched by all of your service! I hope you have another great year!

- Kimarie

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