

DISTRICT 29-C NEWS



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Projects, Activities and Sustainability

By DG Tom Crouser

Last week I visited three clubs who might have been born before you were. White Sulphur Lions was celebrating their 61st anniversary; Marlinton Lions was celebrating their 65th; and the South Charleston Lions will be celebrating their 82nd later this year. During those visits, it occurred to me that Melvin Jones might have missed something.

As you know, Melvin was a member and secretary of the Business Circle in 1917, which was a businessman's luncheon group solely devoted to promoting the financial interests of their members. And you remember, he wondered what would happen if these men "put their talents to work improving their communities?" And that's when he invited delegates from other men's clubs to meet on June 7, 1917, which gave birth to Lions Clubs International.

One of the principles he espoused was that each club would raise money from the community to provide services in the community. This is especially evident in our work providing the needy in our communities with sight screening and eyeglasses. Here's what he might have missed.

Melvin Jones passed in 1961 at 82 years of age. He spent his life building Lions Clubs International to the height of the golden age of service club membership on the two pillars of Projects and Service Activities.

Today, as we have passed the golden age of building, we should add a third pillar to the work of Lions Clubs everywhere: Sustainability.

For as much time as we put into raising money and then using it in our service activities; we must today spend that much time in sustaining our existence through learning about the benefits of our Lions Club to our community; sharing that word with our local community through one-on-one discussions; and recruiting other community leaders to join us.

At 100 years of age, Lionism has transcended our first hurdle of first to second and sometimes third generation of Lions. But since the 1950s,

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membership in service organizations such as our has decreased while population has increased. So, let's spend significant club time on sustainability as it is as important to us today as projects and

service. Without sustainability, sometime in the future, there will be no project nor services. Remember, we can only coast going downhill.

We serve!

DG Tom Crouser

Mark Your Calendars

February 5 – DG Visit Athens Lions Club

February 20 – Bluewell Lions Club

March 1 – Ronceverte Lions Club

March 13 – Lewisburg Lions Club

March 28 – Marlinton Lions Club

April 9 – Pineville Lions Club

May 4-6, 2018 - WV Lions Convention, Lakeview Resort, Morgantown

If you haven't, contact DG Tom to schedule his visit to your Club!

DISTRICT CABINET MEETING

District 29-C will hold a Cabinet Meeting on **Saturday, February 17, 2018** at the Alum Creek Lions Community Building located at 4452 Coal River Road in Alum Creek. The meeting will begin at 10:00am. If you need any additional directions to the meeting facility, feel free to give me a call.

Please forward any reports prior to the meeting to the following email address: pwhee71827@aol.com

Please let me know if you plan to attend the meeting so lunch can be prepared for the attendees. We look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting, as we continue our work as Lions in District 29-C.

Lion Paul Wheeler, Cabinet Secretary

304-541 4286

or 304-746-4415

Editor's Note: Please have submissions for the 29-C newsletters in by the 1st day of the month. Issues will be posted soon thereafter. Send submissions by e-mail to: rdnorrod@gmail.com or call (941)662-6770.

Editor Lion Roger Norrod



Lions District 29-C
on the web at <http://e-district.org/sites/29c/>



1st VDG Message

By VDG Charolette Henson



Time to think about working on membership and service projects. Spring will soon be here and it's time to plan a spring round-up for membership. LCI has all types of pamphlets you can use for this - just contact them, order, and pass them out in your communities.

Several good service projects to think about: spring clean up, WV Federation for the Blind is working on a project for Blind Youth Camp - let me know if you'd like more information on this project.

Time to start preparing for State Convention May 4-6 at Lakeview in Morgantown. Would like to see ever club send one or more members. Lots of exciting things are planned for the convention. Good time to met and exchange ideals with other club members from throughout the state. A Registration Form for the State Convention is

attached to this newsletter.

As first vice am working on cabinet for next year and would like anyone interested in serving on the cabinet to contact me. Time that we add new members to the cabinet.

Also if you have ideas of thngs you'd like to see happening in the next year contact me. Want to do trainings, service projects. Hoping the clubs will work together to add membership etc.

Remember, if you need anything or I can help any way contact me.

1VDG Charolette Henson
304-951-9022
charlions29o@yahoo.com

The Multiple District Deaf and Blind Recreation Program will be sponsoring our annual ski trips in February. On Tuesday February 20, blind and visually impaired students will ski at no cost to them. These students will come from the Romney School for the Blind and also include visually impaired students from surrounding counties in our state. On Thursday February 22, deaf students from the Romney School for the Deaf will ski.

We will be skiing at the Timberline Resort in Canaan Valley. The students will be arriving around 8:30 a.m. and plans are to have them outfitted and out on the slopes by 9:30 a.m. Lunch money will be provided to each student and snacks for when they come in for breaks. Students will come in off the slopes at 4:00 p.m. Everyone will meet at Big John's Restaurant in Canaan Valley for a pizza party beginning at 4:30. This schedule is the same for both dates.

Lions are encouraged to come out and watch the students as they master their skills on the slopes. This program cannot continue without the financial support of the Lions Clubs in West Virginia. We want to thank the Lions clubs that have contributed generously to this program. If your club has not supported this program, please consider sending a donation. Checks can be made out to: **MD Deaf and Blind Recreation Program**

Please send donations to:
PCC Barbara Fishel
Multiple District Chairperson
P. O. Box 41
Mount Storm, WV 26739

Thank you for supporting the Deaf and Blind Recreation Program.



LCI Items

Important Date

June 29 – July 3, 2018 – Lions International Convention – Las Vegas

<http://lcicon.lionsclubs.org/EN/attendees/registration-information.php>

History of the White Cane

In 1921, James Biggs, a photographer from Bristol, England, became blind following an accident. Because he was feeling uncomfortable with the amount of traffic around his home, he painted his walking stick white to be more easily visible. In 1930, Lion George A. Bonham, President of the Peoria Lions Club (Illinois) introduced the idea of using the white cane with a red band as a means of assisting the blind in independent mobility. The Peoria Lions approved the idea, white canes were made and distributed, and the Peoria City Council adopted an ordinance giving the bearers the right-of-way to cross the street. News of the club's activity spread quickly to other Lions clubs throughout the United States, and their visually handicapped friends experimented with the white canes. Overwhelming acceptance of the white cane idea by the blind and sighted alike quickly gave cane users a unique method of identifying their special need for travel consideration among their sighted counterparts.

In 1931, in France, Guilly d'Herbement recognized the danger to blind people in traffic and launched a national "white stick movement" for blind people. She donated 5,000 white canes to people in Paris.

Today white cane laws are on the books of every state in the US and in a few other countries, providing persons who are blind a legal status in traffic. The white cane universally acknowledges that the bearer is blind. For specific information contact your local government office for motor vehicles.

Lions and International White Cane Safety Day

International White Cane Safety Day is an opportunity to increase awareness about the white cane, which:

- Signifies that the pedestrian using it is blind or visually impaired;
- Alerts motorists of the need to exercise special caution and provide the user the right of way;
- Symbolizes the independence, confidence and skills of the person who is using it.

1964: the U.S. Congress approved a resolution authorizing the President of the US to annually issue a proclamation designating October 15th* as "National White Cane Safety Day."

1969: the International Federation of the Blind adopted October 15th* as "International White Cane Safety Day."

* The above referenced date is a suggested date. Lions clubs are free to hold awareness events according to the schedule of the club and the community it serves.



Youth Camps & Exchange Program



By Chair Henry Krautwurst

Hello everyone, I hope you enjoy Corey Crowder's adventures in Peru. It is your contributions to the youth Camps & Exchange program that make the

opportunity to travel possible. Lions clubs around the world send us their youth just as we send out ours. While the contributions provide the opportunity to travel, nothing can happen without a host family.

Have you considered sharing your home with a student from another country? You don't need to have kids in the house or kids the age of the incoming student. All you need is an adult who is at home during the day that would like to share experiences and opportunities with their guest. Host families include their guest in everything they do and take them everywhere they go. You are exposing them to the American culture and lifestyle of your family. They will meet many people as you do things with them.

When Lion Lorrie and I host a student the first thing we tell them is that we are their parents for the duration of their stay. We tell them that our home is their home so they should do at your home as they do in their home. Our guest goes with us to Lions meetings, District cabinet meetings, Leadership Retreats, Ruritan meetings, church and church activities, family events and sightseeing; they are a part of our family. We try to do things that involve other kids so they at least get some contact with American youth. We have been truly blessed having these students come to live with us and to be able to get to know them and ultimately their families. As we have learned, we are making life long friends.

I would like to invite you to contact me about becoming a host family. Don't be afraid to encounter an experience that will forever change your life.

My Trip to Peru

By Corey Crowder

It really is quite the thought: A boy from West Virginia, never having been on a plane before, finds himself on his way to Lima, Peru sitting next to a trilingual girl from the Bahamas and a tarot card reader from Boston. This was when I realized that this trip would be like nothing I had experienced before. As in my original essay for this



program, I must quote the French humanist François Rabelais in saying, "I go to seek a great perhaps," however this phrase must now be mended to say "I went to seek a great perhaps." My "perhaps" was what awaited me in Peru. The idea of leaving my family, my friends, and the comfort of even my native language was daunting to say the least. I had to ask myself how this program would benefit me, if I was ready for a shock of cultural diversity, and most importantly, if I was ready to spend a month away from home. The only problem was that the answers to these questions were not here in the mountain state, but in the streets of Surco, the beaches of Miraflores and with the artists of Callao. For all those who have not yet travelled, I'll let you in on a secret: the answer to those questions is that this world has so many opportunities and experiences to offer, and if you take them, you'll truly see the beauty of our world and the compassion of others to the point that it feels like you never left home.

At around 10 pm my plane landed at the airport in Lima, Peru. Excitement quickly rushed through me, as it was time to finally meet my host family, which I shared with a girl named Madison from West Virginia. They greeted us

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"My Trip to Peru" continued

holding signs with our names on them, and in return, I greeted them speaking the most proper form of Spanish I could muster after such a long plane ride. That is until Kelly, the mom told me it was completely unnecessary. Eventually after a 40 minute car ride, a first look at the touch-and-go nature of Peruvian drivers, we made it to the bright purple house that we would call "home" for the next month.

The family who welcomed me into their home was without a doubt some of the nicest people I've ever met. The mother was named Kellyta, Kelly for short, and was the operator of an organic eco market. She double as a complete encyclopedia, as she could discuss anything from current politics to the Spanish conquest of the Inca empire. Kelly's son, Ítalo, whom is shared a room with, was always up for an energetic discussion of biology. Admittedly, we bond over our favorite scientists throughout history. His sister, Paz, is arguably one of the better artists I've met. Paz was always ready to have fun and had colored pencils in her hand for a majority of the day. At 11, she didn't hesitate to stand in front of a room full of people at a literature expo and ask her favorite illustrators about their work. This would be an inaccurate representation of my experience if I failed to mention Benjamín. Without a doubt, he is the funniest 8 year old I've ever met, matching that with his extensive knowledge/obsession of dinosaurs, I always loved when he would come to visit. Benjamín was Ítalo's and Paz's half brother and he lived with his father, Alfredo. To say I was lucky in being match with this family would be an understatement.

On the first day of our trip we went to the eco market that our host family owned. At this market we met an array of people both from Lima and the surrounding provinces, as the would come to the market to sell their organic products. At this market we would spend every Sunday buying groceries for the week.

If I had to choose one clear representation of my trip, it would be the bus ride from el óvalo in Surco to Larco in Miraflores, as we frequently utilized the Lima bus system, getting lost only a few times. Miraflores was home to one of the nicest malls I've ever seen, named Larcomar. This mall was cut into the cliff overlooking the ocean. Many times we would go buy frozen yogurt and sit in the outside food court watching the activity down in the beach. Larcomar also has two of the best restaurants in Peru: La Lucha, and China Wok. La Lucha is traditionally Peruvian food in a fast food style, so it is easily one of the most popular restaurants in Lima.

Now, my personal favorite was China Wok. This isn't necessarily Chinese food, but rather what they call Chifa. Chifa is a mix between Chinese and Peruvian dishes. I very soon became a regular at the Larcomar, always eating chaufa, a very delicious Chifa rice dish, and interacting with locals to improve my proficiency in Spanish. Larco, a vastly popular street in Miraflores, had quite the selection of stores where one could find a variety of hand-crafted art. Miraflores definitely was more of a tourist location; however, when you walk through Kennedy Park, where natives of the city spend their free time, you can absolutely feel that you are off the beaten path.

The district of Callao has to be one of the most beautiful locations in Lima. Every block has a new painting on it, each completely different than the last. Graffiti is a form of representing culture in Callao. The walls in this district of Lima, I can say with certainty, have some of the best art I've seen on them. These painting came not just from times of war or protest, but also from the strong cultural influence present in Peru. Everybody you meet is not afraid to tell you how much they love their country. During the patriotic festivals on the 28th of July I attended a concert by a Peruvian singer named Eva Ayllon. At this concert the whole crowd shouted the words to one of her songs, "Este es mi tierra, este es mi Perú." In English that would be "this is my land, this is my Peru."

My trip to Lima, made possible by the Lions Club, has changed my perspective of people and the world so much. I originally saw this as a chance to improve my Spanish speaking skills, but what I found in Lima was one of the nicest families in a city so rich with the familiarity of urban life but also the strong influence of native culture. Every day I spent in Peru brought me closer to its history, its people, and its culture to the point that saying goodbye felt like I was leaving home again. This trip has given me a second home in a city a continent away that will always hold a special place in my heart.

Corey Crowder



Club News

Special Announcement -->



Cheryl Jones, local wife and mother of 3, needs your help. Cheryl has AML, a kind of leukemia that can only be cured with a bone marrow transplant. So far, no matched donor has been found. You could be Cheryl's cure!

Join the Be The Match Registry

The first step to saving a life is quick and easy... Just fill out a consent form and give a cheek swab sample!

Join the Registry at:

**Layton Commons Park, North Bowery
Friday, October 10, 2014, 4:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

Make a tax-deductible donation at:

Join from your phone or computer at:

<http://join.bethematch.org/AlumCreekLions>



Ronceverte Lions Christmas Float

January 23 - South Charleston Lions meeting with DG Tom Crouser's official visit. Highlights included installation of three new members and presentation of the Club Excellence Award to the club.



Club News



In October 2017, the Durbin Lions Club and Friends hosted DG Tom Crouser for a visit.



DG Tom with Durbin Lions President Suzanne Stewart.



Durbin Lions Kenny Vance (left photo) and Rick Wooddell (right photo) are presented membership awards by DG Tom.





2018 Multiple District Convention Registration Form

May 4-6, 2018

Lakeview Golf Resort & Spa

Registration Fee: \$100.00 per person for full weekend
(Includes four meals, entertainment both nights, seminars, and more!)

For Friday night dinner and activities only: \$40.00

For Saturday Luncheon and activities only: \$30.00

For Saturday night dinner and activities only: \$50.00

Hotel Room: \$109 per night plus all applicable taxes for single or double
occupancy.

**Make room reservation directly with Lakeview at (304) 594-1111 by April 10, 2018.
Make sure that you tell them you are with the Lions MD Convention for the special rate.**

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

Club: _____ District: L C I First Timer: Y N

If any meal restrictions, please indicate here _____

Amount Enclosed _____ If you are not paying for full registration, please indicate
here which events that you are paying for _____

Make checks payable to 2018 MD 29 Convention. PayPal option is available by contacting
Steve Glass. **Please mail completed registration by April 20, 2018** to PID Steve Glass at
191 Ridgeway Drive, Bridgeport, WV 26330.

If you have any questions, please contact PID Steve Glass at 304-203-2988 or scjglass@aol.com.