

DISTRICT 29-C NEWS

Community Action

By Ed Rabel

Because I write about difficult subjects such as poverty, hunger, and homelessness some people accuse me of being too negative, of leaving no room for hope. I'm not trying to depress anyone. Still, things are really bad in West Virginia, and what we need to do is act even if it means joining in something as prosaic, you might say, as putting in a new public park for your kids in your neighborhood.

I don't traffic in hope. Realism is more my ministry than unbridled optimism. Hope allows us to leave what is possible in the hands of others. And now, more than ever, as we consider the state of our state, we don't need to leave possibility to others. So much of what is possible is, in fact, in our hands.

If you want me to offer assurances that though we are facing many challenges, everything will be O.K., you have come to the wrong person. And I'm not the only one. Some passionate people in my local community, sick and tired of seeing young people succumb to illicit drugs and hopelessness and watching their youth surrender to teen pregnancy and joblessness, are acting.

To the cynics, the action by the Alum Creek Lions Club to simply build a park for pre-teens in the backyard of the club's community center may seem naïve and insufficient to combat the daunting problems that afflict us. But they would be wrong.

Funded by a generous \$35,000 grant from The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation, the Lions Discovery Park is expected to attract thousands of kids in Lincoln and Kanawha Counties who may be idle and faced with the danger to which such idleness may expose them.

A mission statement authored by the park's creators stresses the promotion of a child's health and education in a natural setting. To fulfill the mission, scores of citizens from the local community are volunteering their time, talent, and resources. For example, Lions Club member Tim Bell has donated \$20,000 in playground equipment. Retired Alum Creek physician, Loren Smith, is spearheading the project using his long experience in caring for and healing tens-of-thousands of folks in our area. And through the Carpenter's Union Apprentice Program of Charleston, young people in the program's master carpentry coterie are assembling a part of the park.

Designed by David Hill, President of Three Trees Design of Charleston, the park, now under construction, will be composed of an Open Play Area, a Climbing Wall, a Relax and Read area, a so-called Music/Movement sector with a lighted stage for lyrical performances, educational presentations and many other productions.

More than anything else, the Lions Discovery Park is a choice. It is a choice by local people not to simply hope things will get better. For them, hope is too ineffable and far too elusive. For better or for worse, they have chosen to act.



Ed Rabel is an Emmy Award-winning television journalist and a resident of Charleston.



DISTRICT 29-C NEWS

District Governor's Update



(DG Charolette Henson)

Where has the year gone?!?

We have one month to go, and there's still plenty of work to be done!

June 30th is the deadline for the Service Grant program (for new members). I hope every club will try to add at least one member this month. Encourage members who have dropped out to return.

All clubs that are at least plus one in membership at the end of this term will receive special recognition from LCI.

There is one club that owes dues to the district for the year, and several clubs that still owe LCI dues for second half. Please try to get those turned in as soon as possible.

It has been a good year for the district. All clubs have helped.

If you need training, then please contact me and let me know what training is needed.

I am looking forward to visiting your clubs again next term and helping DGE Gary Boyd to continue the good work in the district.

Let me know if there is anything that I can do to help you.

Thanks to all the wonderful members for a good year. Remember, WE SERVE!

DG Charolette Henson
304-951-9022
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DISTRICT 29-C NEWS

Vice-District Governor's Note



(DGE Gary Boyd)

Pending the official induction into office as District Governor of LCI District 29-C, I would like to thank each of you for your support and encouragement.

It has been a great year! I've enjoyed meeting folks that are doing spectacular services in their communities, throughout southern West Virginia. Without your selfless service, many people would go without meals, neighbors wouldn't have glasses, flood victims would not have received much-needed supplies, children would miss out on Christmas presents, and some community health programs would simply cease to exist. Your efforts are important! Without your kindness and generosity, the needs that your services fulfill would not be met! I am looking forward to the upcoming year, meeting more of my fellow Lions, and learning about the quality services that you perform in your areas.

I had the pleasure of inducting the new officers, and a new member, for the Kanawha City Lions Club last Tuesday evening. They are a great, active group! I look forward to seeing their accomplishments in the upcoming year.

We have three Zone Chairperson positions that need to be filled. These positions are for zones 1, 8, and 10. We also need to find a leader, within District 29C, to fill the role of Second Vice-District Governor for 2019-2020. Please contact me if you are interested in filling any of these vacancies.

Best,

Gary Boyd

DGE, District 29-C



DISTRICT 29-C NEWS

Local Club News



DG Henson took the Dudley Simms Trophy to the Charleston Lions Club (*left picture*), which will be celebrating 100 years of service in 2021. PID Dudley Simms was a member of this club. His grandson, Brent Sears (*pictured on the right with DG Henson*), will be the 2019-2020 club president.



(South Charleston Lions Club President Nadir Mirza welcoming new member Gary Holstein to the club.)



(Tony, Debbie, and Morgan Amos; Lewisburg Lions Club President Chuck Lewis; Madisyn and Jennifer Fox)

Morgan Amos and Madisyn Fox are **Lewisburg Lions Club Scholarship** recipients. Morgan will attend WVU to begin pursuing a civil engineering degree. Madisyn also hopes to become an engineer, but she will begin her studies at WV Wesleyan, majoring in physics.

(more Local Club News on next page)



DISTRICT 29-C NEWS

(Local Club News continues)



(South Charleston Lions Club awards PDG Eddie Queen with Citizen of the Year Award)



(Ryan Casebolt, of Nitro, hit a hole-in-one at the South Charleston Lions Golf Tournament on Saturday, June 8th, and was awarded \$10,000.00)



(Construction of Alum Creek's Lions Discovery Park)



(Construction of Alum Creek's Lions Discovery Park)

(more Local Club News on next page)



DISTRICT 29-C NEWS

(Local Club News continues)



Durbin Lions Club, at their meeting on June 11, 2019, had their installation of officers for the coming year. Lion President Suzanne Stewart presided and conducted the installation.

Left picture from L to R:

Bill Hevener, Membership; Lucas Prisco, Tail Twister; Rick Wooddell, Treasurer; Harold Crist, Tail Twister; Paul Vosteen, 1st VP; Susan Streisel, 2nd VP; Kay Wiley Blackshire, President; and Suzanne Stewart, presiding president. Un-Photographed were Merl Mullenax and Thomas Brown, Lion Tamers; Rev. David Fuller, Chaplain; Terry Gett, IT; Program coordinators, Linda Stewart & Elizabeth Lockman; Service Chair, Charles Sheets.

Right Picture:

Lion Bill Hevener received his 15-year membership pin, presented by President Suzanne Stewart.

Editor's Note

Thanks to everyone that contributed to, subscribed to, and supported the 2018-2019 WV Lions District 29-C Newsletter.

Lion Mandy Ross has taken up the responsibility of the District 29C Newsletter. Email your submissions to: asross@mail.kana.k12.wv.us



PAST DISTRICT GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION

The West Virginia Past District Governors Association will sponsor the Fred D. Cole Appreciation Banquet on Saturday, July 27, 2019 at the historic Mount Hope Lions Club House located on Lions Way, Mount Hope, WV. The appreciation dinner will begin at 2:00 PM. PDG Chris Homer from Gallipolis, Ohio, will be our guest speaker. Following our speaker, we will recognize and honor our out-going Council of Governors, DG Charolette Henson, Rob Bright, Gary Pitcock, CC Ken Shahan and our Multiple District chairpersons, for their year of service.

The newly elected Council of Governors (COG) will begin their meeting at 12:00 noon. Allowing travel time. The banquet will follow at 2:00 PM.

Please RSVP Chairperson Charlie Biggs, with a check made out to "Mount Hope Lions" in the amount of \$15.00 per person. Mail to:

1509 Main St. East
Oak Hill, WV, 25901

You may contact Charlie by e-mail at charlie@biggsinsurance.net, or by phone at 304-575-2144.

At the last PDGA meeting 5-3-2019, it was decided to mail out letters to all PDG's inviting them to invite lions in their clubs to attend in remembrance of the late PID Fred D. Cole. Many of us had the pleasure to meet and get to know Fred who was an inspirational lion's leader. It is the hope of the PDGA that you will come along with lions from your club to renew friendships and meet our incoming District Governors. If your schedule does not permit attending the COG meeting, please come to the 2:00 PM appreciation dinner.

Yours in Lions Service,
Charles Sheets, PDGA President, 2018-2019