



# District 29-L Newsletter

August 2017

## Putting the Pieces Together

by District Governor Lee Ann Welch

Have you ever done a 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzle? When the pieces all come together, they make a beautiful picture.

That's sort of the way we look at District 29-L, like a jigsaw puzzle. We are more than 1,000 members strong, each one a piece of the District Puzzle. Other pieces are service projects and fun activities.

If you lose one piece, the puzzle is not complete. In fact, it cannot be complete. Losing a Lions Club member is tough. Some go by death, some by upward mobility, others, well, we just don't know why.

It's the ones we aren't quite certain why they chose to leave our ranks we have to be concerned about. We need to know the answer to why they leave. Exit interviews, or follow-up calls, can give us a better understanding.

Is it lack of activity (boredom)? Do they not feel welcome (part of the group)? And, make no bones about it, those are reasons we have all heard – “we don't DO anything” and, “nobody talks to me, I feel ignored.” Or have you heard this one, “I'm just too busy right now with my grandchildren”?

Every time you drop a member for whatever reason, find out why. Have they lost interest, and why is that? Are they having financial difficulties? Some clubs have a “benevolence fund” to help pay dues for those in a bind.

Find the answer to the why, and you may complete your club puzzle.

Every person has a piece of the puzzle. Understanding how they all work together, and why some get lost, will help put it all together.

We don't just serve our communities, we serve each other. We serve.



# Beef Raffle Ticket Deadline Approaching

by Lion Paul Amrhein, Beef Raffle Chair

I hope every effort is being made to sell or buy all the Beef Raffle tickets before the November 1 deadline! Four happy recipients will receive a quarter of a beef through this raffle while helping fellow West Virginians with their sight and hearing needs. If you have not received your tickets or if you would like additional books of tickets, contact me at [pamrhein25@comcast.net](mailto:pamrhein25@comcast.net) or 304-242-0911.

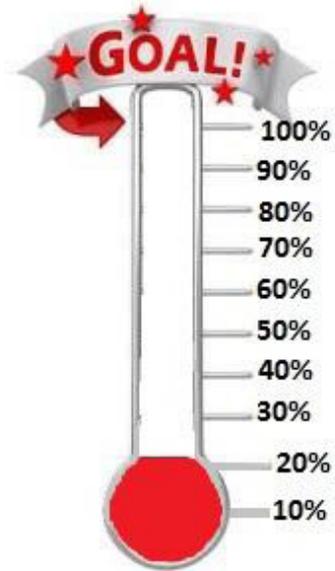
Clubs have been sending in their sold ticket stubs and checks, however there are many that have not been returned. I encourage you to send in your ticket stubs early. I will be attending several functions between now and the District C conference, so if you don't want to mail your contribution, you can give it to me there. I plan to be at the Lions Car Show on Labor Day at Cabela's, and District L's Conference in Huntington in September, just to mention a few.

The drawing will be held on November 5th at the Sight Foundation Meeting held during the District C conference. Keep in mind that every ticket sold has four chances to win. If your club sells \$200 or more in tickets it will receive credit toward a Leonard Jarrett Award for the amount raised.

PLEASE SEND CHECKS – WRITTEN TO THE “WV LIONS BEEF RAFFLE” – BEFORE NOVEMBER 1, 2017.

Because the Sight Foundation is your Foundation, I hope that every club in our state will participate in this project. THANK YOU in advance for your participation in making this raffle a success and helping our fellow West Virginians with their sight and hearing needs.

Thanks for all you do!



Warwood Lions Community Festival

Garden Park

Friday & Saturday evenings  
August 11<sup>th</sup> & August 12<sup>th</sup>

5:00 pm–10:00 pm

**Food & Drink**

HOP SHOT Live Music 50/50 Raffle

FUN & GAMES

face painting INRATABLES baked goods roulette game

**BINGO**

## International Adds Focus on Diabetes

by First Vice District Governor Gary Pitcock

Here we are, into our second month, time does fly.

We have taken care of the blind for nearly 100 years and have done a fantastic job. Now, Lions Clubs International has added a focus on diabetes.

Diabetes can also take someone's sight, especially children. In 2015, 303 million Americans, or 9.4% of the population had diabetes. Approximately 1.25 million American children and adults have Type 1 diabetes and 1.5 million Americans are diagnosed with diabetes every year.

Diabetes was the 7th leading cause of death in the US in 2015 and in addition to blindness, diabetes can cause the loss of limbs.

If you are planning a club project, I suggest you partner with your local hospital to see if they have a diabetes educator and work with them to get the word out about this major U.S. health problem.

A wealth of information is available through the American Diabetes Association website.

We can do so much if we work together. Remember, we are the largest service and humanitarian organization in the world. Please let me know if I can help you in any way to accomplish your goals for this year. Teamwork makes the dream work!!

## Pitcock Issues Call to Lead

by Leadership Chair Bernice Pitcock

District 29-L is looking for more than a few good leaders to take our district into the second 100 years of service. As Leadership Chair, I am asking all members to take a look around at your membership and identify those individuals who have expressed or who appear to be interested in honing their leadership skills as leaders within the organization.

We are in need of new leaders at all levels of the organization. Assuming a leadership role within the Lions offers you the opportunity to learn much about all aspects of leadership that can be applied to different areas of your lives – not just Lions. Be on the lookout for more information from me regarding some of the new programs we will initiate this Lions year.

If you or members of your club are interested in leadership, please contact me at 304-797-8374 or [bpit@comcast.net](mailto:bpit@comcast.net).



*Warwood Lions Club President Tom Dailer presents a recognition plaque to the 2017 Lion of the Year Kathy Simpson Oswald.*