



# The Lions Roar

News & Events from Lions of Virginia District 24-I

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*Helen Person, District Governor*

## A Strategy for Our Future

Last weekend your District Governor team joined teams from around Virginia for our regular Council of Governors meeting in Roanoke, Virginia. The agenda was packed to overflowing as we discussed details for:

- **Lions of Virginia State Convention April 27-30 in Bristol, VA** (where two states converge on the downtown!)
- **Lions International Convention (LCICON) July 7-11 in Boston, MA** (did you know Amtrak has a great rate for travel between Richmond and Boston?)
- **And the future of our Multiple District and the State Office operations** that support us all

**The State Convention** is shaping up to be a great event with sessions you may never before have seen – and some surprises! International Director Ken Ibarra, an architect from California, and his lovely bride Cindy, will join us for the festivities. Plan to join us at the Delta by Marriott – Bristol, Virginia. You don't want to miss this one! Stay tuned for details coming soon.

**LCICON Boston** is so close you can just about hitchhike, but I'd suggest taking Amtrak or, perhaps, a bus trip that looks like it is forming. Details are firming up like Jell-O pudding after you pour in the milk. More to come!

And then there's the future of our Multiple District (MD). After five years of forming, storming, and norming, our six-into-three merged Districts that compose MD24 are finally performing. The only monkey in the works is that changes from LCI, with processes we use (or should be using), have been gummed up in a document that has to wait for an annual amendment process before a simple process like online registration for State Convention can be offered. The updated document must wait until the next State Convention before it can be adopted to be enacted the following year.

What was that again? Let's break it down:

1. The current documents can only be amended at an annual State Convention. Unless otherwise stated, the amendments do not go into effect until the new Lions fiscal year.
2. Some provisions contained in the documents are better suited for Policy and Procedures – or Operations – documents that can be revised with a vote of Officers as needed to facilitate tasks.
3. The Constitution is supposed to establish the organization and provide an operational framework to include meeting frequency, organizational structure, and other necessary elements.
4. The By-Laws are the "how the organization functions" with qualifications, election procedures, terms of office, what to do in case a position is vacant, for example.

5. A policy document lists job tasks that may need occasional revision to allow for more productivity without having to wait for a full Cabinet vote. (For example, it allows the Officers to vote on whether a meeting can be conducted remotely rather than in person, whether documents can be electronically transmitted, whether payments can be made electronically rather than on paper.)

6. Finally, LCI publishes annual updates to the Standard Constitutions, By-Laws, and Board Policy documents. Being compatible and compliant with LCI is a much simpler process if our District documents are already functioning that way. Adding a lot of local color can create a lot of angst when the time comes that compatibility with LCI is not an option.

### **Multiple District Documents**

Our MD Constitution and By-Laws Committee took a long, hard look at the MD documents and compared them with the LCI Constitution and By-Laws and Board Policy document that are, ultimately, what must be followed. Long story short: we needed to change a lot to operate as our parent organization does. In the event of a dispute, LCI's documents take precedence over the Multiple District's documents – and our District 24-I documents.

Last month the Committee composed of Chair Lion Wally Burrus (24-L), PID Richard Chaffin (24-C), and 24-I's Lion Tricia Hutcheson issued a proposed Constitution and By-Laws that provides for our State Office. They removed the day-to-day operations to a proposed Board Policy document that can be amended by a Council of Governors' vote rather than having to hold up modernizing a simple, yet necessary, task until a Constitutional amendment can be passed and enacted the following Lions' year.

The documents will be posted on our district website after Winterfest. A Winterfest session dedicated to answering your questions will be held. It will focus on the need for keeping these organizational documents updated. It will also address the importance of having a separate operations manual to guide day-to-day Operations, as well as help manage expectations.

One of the goals for this year's Council of Governors has been to undergird the mission and vision of Lions Clubs International by de-cluttering the organization and process that distracts our Lions from the work in their communities. In coming weeks, you will see a draft proposal for an updated District 24-I Constitution & By-Laws to put our documents and operations more in alignment with the Multiple District and LCI. This will add definition beyond what one district or the other once utilized. Your District Governor team hopes you will agree that streamlining processes will go far toward paving the way for an exciting path forward.

I invite your questions and comments and look forward to seeing you at Winterfest or one of the upcoming events I will be attending this winter. To better serve you is why I wanted to be your District Governor. Please let me know how I can be helpful to you and our District.

With warmest Lions' wishes,

*Lion Helen*

District Governor

## ***The Only Constant in Life Is Change***

**Lion Homer Cook**  
**1st Vice District Governor**

You have gotten used to doing things a certain way. You are happy and can get things done. Then somebody changes the way you do things. You think the world is coming to an end (change is generally scary) and then you find out you just must learn a few new things for the new system. Yes, I am talking about the Lions reporting systems.

We have gotten used to MyLion and MyLCI and now you are going to change it? The answer is, yes. In mid-2023 we will be transitioning to Lion Portal; MyLion / MyLCI will go away. This is not the end of the world, but you will need to do a few things.

- You will have to set up new account information in Lion Portal. Your current information is encrypted and they are not able to migrate it to the new system.
- You will need an individual email address for each account, no shared accounts .
- You will not be able to use your phone number for your account like I do, so I will have to change to email.

You will have access to all of the information from MyLion, MyLCI and Insights but you will be able to access all of it from the home page of Lion Portal.

LCI will let us know when it has the portal up and running so we can sign up and get reports. Remain upbeat--this may make things easier.

On a different note. I wanted to hold the 2023 Fall Conference on 20/21 October, but was not able to find a suitable location at a reasonable price. Now it will be held the evening of 13 October and continuing 14 October at the Clarion Hotel, 3032 Richmond Rd. in Williamsburg. I know that it is Friday the 13th but we should have a good time. I will put out more information as we get closer to the event.

If you have a topic you would like for a presentation, let me know: [lionhomercook@gmail.com](mailto:lionhomercook@gmail.com)

### **“Copy That!”**

Upcoming Lion Portal [www.LionsClubs.org](http://www.LionsClubs.org). Though it isn't scheduled to launch until July, Lions will need to update their information in MyLCI before mid-May so everything transfers over. They'll need to:

- \*Create a separate e-mail for each Lion who currently uses someone else's
- \*Update all contact information
- \*Correct birthdays and missing information (The last time they did this, a bunch of birthdays were not listed. They all defaulted to 01/01/1917. We now have a bunch of 106-year-old Lions.)

If they don't know how to do it, it's a great chance to connect with a local high school technology department – or their kids/grandkids – who aren't afraid of the computer, and get up-to-speed.

*Lion Helen*



## Lions Club Projects

### Ocean View Lions Club

Norfolk, VA — January 16, 2023  
Lion Gary Coldren

Lion President Nancy Grochowski of the Ocean View Lions Club stands with Boy Scout Christian Dunbar. Behind them are five bags of food items that the Lions collected to support Scout Christian's Eagle project, "The Little Free Pantry". Those in need can go by the site and pick up groceries to sustain them. Hunger is increasing all over the country, and the team of OVLC Lions and Scout Christian have helped with the problem in their community.



### Phoebus Lions Club

Hampton, VA – January 2023  
Lion Pete Krantz

In partnership with St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Hampton, the Phoebus Lions Club supplied 60 breakfast bags to "A Night's Welcome", a program that supplies shelter and food to the homeless on the Peninsula. In all, 10 Lions and 1 prospective member loaded the bags to be given out. In addition, the food pantry at St. Mark's was one of the \$500 grant recipients from the Charity Foundation of Southeastern Virginia's grant program.



(From left) Lions Mary Parker, Jackie Crowe, Ginny Whitesel, Essie Greer, Pat Parker, Frank Huff, Joe Poslik, Holly Krantz, Pete Krantz, Kyle Williams, Lou Morris

## Thalia Lions Club

**Virginia Beach, VA — January 26, 2023**  
**Lion Nancy Watters**

Thalia Lions Club donated 54 bags of food items to Thalia United Methodist Church Food Pantry on Thursday, Jan. 26th. At least 22 members and friends participated in our Lions Bag Hunger project. The Pantry provided a list of most needed items and we shopped to fill each bag with non-perishable foods. The value of our donations was \$2,555.00 as reported from the food pantry. The following day, the Pantry gave out 18 bags of our donated foods.

Lions are always serving the community. Our motto "We Serve!"



(From left) Lions Stanley Furman and Dick Kreassig



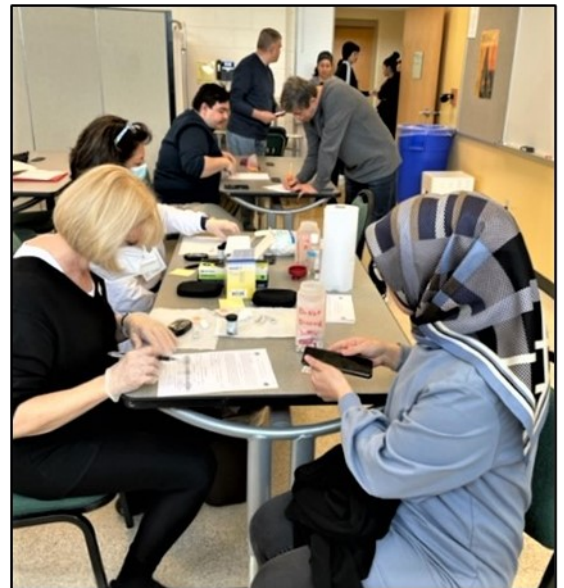
(From left) Lions Bradley Furman, John Watters, Rhonda Skaggs, Dir. of TUMC Food Pantry Gail Von Marsh, and Lion Stanley Furman

**Virginia Beach, VA — January 18, 2023**  
**Lion Nancy Watters**

Thalia Lions sponsored the Sight and Hearing Van at the Adult Learning Center on 5100 Cleveland Street on Jan. 18th. Over 90 people were screened for vision and hearing in the van. Eighty-one people were tested for high blood sugar (diabetes), the number one cause of blindness. Thank you to all the Lion volunteers, spouses and friends who helped with this important service!



(From left) Lion Roger Snell with a client who went through the van



(From left) Mary Snell and Cindy Furman, both nurses who are wives of our members, doing blood sugar screenings



## Ocean View Lions Club

Norfolk, VA — January 29, 2023

Lion Nancy Kanaby Grochowski

On January 29 Ocean View Lions presented checks at a ribbon cutting at the Pertlow Library for the new program, Marston Peterson Maker Studio. One check was from the Lions Club for \$2,300 and a matching check was from the Lions Charity Foundation of Southeastern Virginia.

A makerspace is a collaborative work space inside a school or separate public/private facility for making, learning, and sharing that uses high tech to no tech tools. These spaces are open to kids and adults and have a variety of maker equipment including 3D printers, laser cutters, packaging machines, soldering irons and even sewing machines.

(See right) Lion Warren Stewart, who is also on the Library board; Lion President of Ocean View Lions, Nancy G.; and receiving the check is Sonol Rastogi, Director of the Libraries



Wren and Zoe, members of the Girl Scout Troop 396 in Norfolk, use the Maker Studio to produce a team shirt



(Front row) Lions Marlene, Nancy, Meredith

(Back row) Lions Cecil, Gary, Warren, Mick

## Denbigh Lions Club

Newport News, VA — October 29, 2022

Lion A. Diane Reed

The Denbigh Lions are selling birdhouses that are each made with natural material by the members of the Denbigh Lions Club of Newport News, Virginia. All proceeds from sales of the houses are used for charitable needs in the Newport News community. The services provided include free vision screening for preschool and elementary school children, plus free eyeglasses for needy children and adults as well as hearing assistance for adults in need. This year we have provided 25 eye exams and glasses.

In addition, the Denbigh Lions provide youth scholarships and other charity needs. Our focus for the past 25+ years also included diabetes prevention and education. It is a leading cause of blindness in the US.



Lions Marcellus Moore, Lewis Trench and Jim Merkt at the Hilton Village Community Fair

## Charlotte Lions Club

Keysville, VA — December 2022

Lions Bag Hunger

The Charlotte Lions Club conducted a Lions Bag Hunger project with the assistance of Food Lion's Hope Feeds program. Through Food Lion's manager, Charles Bocook, his wife Ann, and \$250 the Charlotte Lions Club collected, the 456 food boxes are estimated to have fed 1,800 people in need.

Lion President Butch Shook unloaded boxes at the Charlotte County Social Services Food Pantry. Lion Helen captured one of her group selfies at the Christmas Party where some of the boxes were around the tree prior to being taken to the food pantry the next morning.





## James City Lions Club

**Williamsburg, VA — January 26, 2023**  
**Colleen Woodard, Program Chair**  
**Lion Patti Ralabate, President**

Vision and hearing loss prevention are 2 of the James City Lions Club's core missions. At the January 26 program meeting in the Colonial Heritage Ballroom, the members heard from the Williamsburg—James City Public Schools staff on special education and assistive technology. Dr. Adam Brown, Director of Special Education, and Shannon Williams, Instructional Specialist for Special Education, provided an excellent presentation on programs and tools their school system offers for children with vision and hearing needs. They helped us to better understand the students they serve and the assistive technologies they can provide for student support.

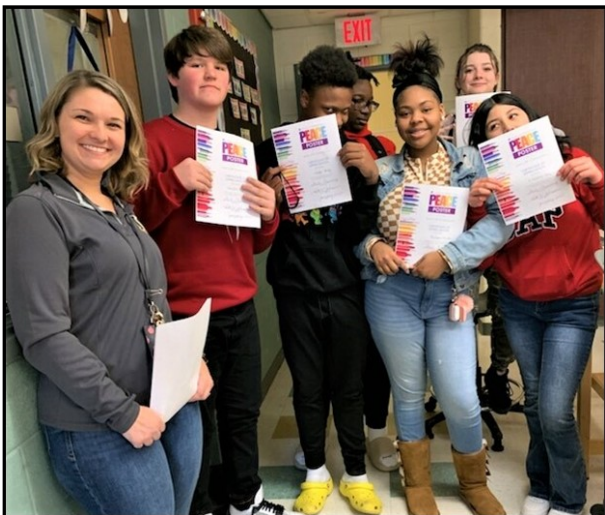


(From left) Lion Colleen Woodard, Program Chair, Lion Patti Ralabate, Club President, Shannon Williams and Dr. Adam Brown

## Northumberland Lions Club

**Reedville, VA — January 2023**  
**Shelia Chewning, Region IV Chairperson**

We just concluded our Claxton Fruitcake sale. Local businesses and banks take one or more cases and sell them to their customers for us. Local residents look forward to our cakes every year. Thanks to Lions Junior Fisher, Robert Pickett, Eddie Rittenhouse, and Al Hooker for their work on distributing the fruitcakes and collecting the money from all of the businesses.



We have just wrapped up our Annual Peace Poster Contest with a ceremony at Northumberland Middle School honoring all 35 participants. The first, second, and third place winners received \$100, \$75, and \$50 cash prizes. All of the student submissions were on display at the Northumberland Library during the month of January. Thanks Lion Rita Johnson for all of your work on this project.

(From left) Lion Rita Johnson at Northumberland Middle School with the Peace Poster Participants



## Oceanside Lions Club

### Virginia Beach, VA – January 21, 2023 Feed the Hungry Project

The Oceanside Lions worked their Feed the Hungry Project at the Judeo-Christian Center in Norfolk. Lion President and 1VDG Homer Cook, along with Lions Roy Stockdill and Helen Pryor, made chicken dinners with vegetables and dessert to warm a chilly Saturday afternoon. Their Lion efforts fed 65 members of the community.

Oceanside Lions prep the meals.  
(From left) Lions Mary Davis,  
Nanoka Kruger, Helen Prior,  
Roy Stockdill



Oceanside Lions on duty:  
(From left) Lions Mary  
Davis, Helen Prior, Nanoka  
Kruger, 1VDG Homer Cook,  
student, Roy Stockdill, DG  
Helen Person

## Portsmouth Host Lions Club

### Portsmouth, VA – January 21, 2023 Charter Night

Lions from Chesapeake Host, Churchland, Western Branch, and Chesapeake Southside were on hand at the Portsmouth Yacht Club on Saturday, January 21st, to celebrate 90 years of Lions' service to the Portsmouth community. 1st VDG Homer Cook, 2nd VDG Dr. Kristina Ramsey, and Lion Darrell joined Lion President Bill Sleasman and Portsmouth Host Lions for an evening of fun, fabulous food, and signature Lions fellowship.

Photos show Lion participants enjoying the event as Lion DG Helen Person played paparazzo for the Lion newsletters.





## DISTRICT 24-I DG CALENDAR of SCHEDULED EVENTS, MEETINGS and CLUB VISITATIONS



Date	Time	MD 24 and District 24I Events	Location	Confirm
February 24-25, 2023	Times to be announced	Multiple District Winter Conference	Doubletree Hotel Midlothian, VA 23235	v
March 1, 2023	6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Powhatan Lions Club Installation		v
<del>March 3-5, 2023</del>		<b>CANCELLED</b>	lo 902	<del>v</del>
March 16, 2023	6:00 p.m. Social 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Dinner	Poquoson Lions Club Charter Night	Holiday Inn 980 Omni Blvd. Newport News, VA 23606	v
March 18, 2023	5:00 p.m. Social 6:00 p.m. Dinner	New Kent County Lions Club 41st Charter Night	Providence Forge Recreation Cntr. 9900 Carriage Road Providence Forge, VA 23140	v
April 22, 2023	5:00 p.m. Social 6:00 p.m. Dinner	Northumberland Lions Club 70th Charter Night	TBD	
April 22, 2023	8:00 p.m.	Chesapeake Southside Lions Club 75th Charter Night	Norfolk Yacht and Country Club 7001 Hampton Blvd. Norfolk, VA 23505	v
April 28-30, 2023	Times to be announced	Multiple District State Convention	Delta Hotel by Marriott Bristol, VA 24202	v
June 6, 2023	6:00 p.m.	Farmville Lions Club 100th Charter Night	The Woodland Community Center 2003 Cobb Street Farmville, VA 23901	v

Who are these new Lions?  
What does Zone Chair Lion Joy  
have up her sleeve?  
Find the answers to these questions  
and more in the March issue of  
**The Lions Roar!**

