



The Lions Roar

News & Events from Lions of Virginia District 24-I

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Lion Homer Cook, District Governor

Sowing the Seeds of Lionism: January 19-20

Registered yet? [Download the conference packet here.](#)

As the New Year kicks off, can your club's Admin account use a \$200 infusion?

It's a video competition! Use your cell phone to take photos or videos of your club doing the things we do as Lions: serving, enjoying fellowship, getting out in our communities. Stitch them together into a 15-second - to - 3-minute video and be ready for a Shark Tank-type viewing!

Here are the rules:

\$200 for your Lions Club service video!

1. 1 entry per club.
2. Photos made into a video /or/ a video of your club members in action: Who we are as Lions, a service project in process - whatever you believe best shows your club's culture.
3. It must be between 15 seconds and three minutes in length.
4. Be sure to include contact information for your club: When and where do you meet? When is your next service projects? Who can they call to learn more?
5. Post it on your club's Facebook page, send to PDG Ann Ragland for the District's Facebook page, or send it to me (lionhomercook@gmail.com). Watch what happens!

Nobody in my club knows how to make a video; what do we do? Ask someone to assist you in putting it together. People of all ages are making short videos all the time; ask them for help. Give it a try, you might be surprised. They could say yes, and then want to get involved. Too proud to ask for help? Look it up online or go to U-Tube.

ID Marie Cunning will be stuffing Beach Bags! Can you help? ID Marie will be attending the Beach Bag project on Thursday evening, **18 Jan. 2024, at Corporate Landing Middle School. We will start arriving at 5:30 PM and start packing at 6 PM.** Afterward, we will head to a local seafood restaurant for a Dutch Treat dinner. What a great time to get to know Lion Marie and fellowship with your fellow Lions! Let us know if you plan to attend.

Club Presidents' Reception with ID Marie. Plan to join us for a snack reception at 5:30 pm on Friday at the Greenwich Road Holiday Inn for a chance to meet Lion Marie before the conference starts. This meeting with the ID is open - at no cost - to any club president in MD24. Please let us know no later than Tuesday, January 16, 2024, if you will be attending. We don't want the goodies to run out!

Our Conference hosts- the SEVA Fil-Am Lions Club - has a great time on tap for Saturday evening. Bring your dancing shoes and be ready for a good time! See you there!

Lion Homer

lionhomercook@gmail.com

Lion Mack Stevens, GST
757-621-9074

Expect More in '24

We just went through the Holiday season and I'm sure you were involved with some baking – cookies, cakes, turkeys, hams or candies. A pound of ham, a pinch of salt, a cup of milk – on and on, all measurements to follow a recipe to make a set amount of product. Feeds five, three dozen cookies, makes two quarts. When we follow a recipe, we expect to get a defined outcome. You may have followed a recipe for 25 years with excellent results. This year however, we will have three times as many people coming. You may not be able to find the key ingredient, or they don't make it anymore. Or the ingredient has changed and now it doesn't taste the same. You may be sick of making it; no one wants to learn how to do it or even help! Sound familiar?

Our Lions Clubs are facing the same problems and, unfortunately, **it may be time to abandon the fruitcake recipe and move on to what everyone wants to participate in making and eating.**

Sometimes we get so caught up in tradition that we don't involve everyone, so they let us do everything by ourselves! Our limited expectations can limit our outcomes. The leadership needs to recognize that there are hundreds of people in your area who can and will help if they are invited, and feel needed and worthwhile in contributing to the task at hand. The outcome may be a lot more than expected when we are not limited in our thinking and involve everyone in the process.

In previous years we always provided three students a \$100 scholarship to college. Most years we had 15 applications but last year we had 75. One of the applicants reminded us that a single book usually costs more than \$100, and most moderately priced colleges charge more than \$1,500 for a 3-credit course. How much impact are we making? How can we make more impact?



How can we get new people to invest time and money into our service projects?

LISTEN!! It's that simple, but one more step, help them do what they tell you they want to do! Our club held a Holiday Party for homeless and troubled kids. They wanted Christmas candy. I was thinking candy canes, star mints, and the endless list of sticky hard stuff I got as a kid. Thank goodness something made me ask for some examples: Reese's Trees with brown and white chocolate, red and green M&Ms, red and white Hershey's kisses, red and green lifesavers. If I had not asked, they would have politely collected what we gave them and deposited it in the trash. How many of you ate fruitcake?

Are we offering projects that new people, or even our current members, want to get involved in, or just saying here's the candy tin and chisel–take what you want?

Service News. I know that most clubs held service projects over the holiday. Please report that service in MyLion and, if you are watching for the new platform to roll out, it may be a long wait. They aren't even guessing when it will come out. If you need help, we have a District admin person, PDG Rich Evans, who can help you report. Please also help recycle plastic; weigh it, turn it in at Food Lion and report it as "VA Plastics 23-24". The average person creates five pounds of plastic waste daily and recycles less than one pound! Do the math. If you need some ideas for service projects, follow these links.

[Hunger Service Ideas](#)

[Environment Service Ideas](#)

[Diabetes Project Ideas](#)

[Childhood Cancer Service Ideas](#)

I hope you'll join us at the upcoming 24-I Winter Conference on January 19 & 20. I'm doing a training on Saturday afternoon at 3 pm: *Meaningful Service Projects.*

As always, if you need my help please call me. I have a traveling show.

Lion Mack



Fellow Lions of 24-I: I have more clubs to visit, but one thing that has come up is that Lions are evaluating their clubs.

Some are discussing going from two meetings to one. Some are trying to figure out how to move forward. Some are sitting on their thumbs waiting for someone else to solve the issue for them. In Lions, it is **your club your way**. If you want assistance with an issue, you need to ask. We have Lions who can come facilitate a session to help **your club set your goals** so your club moves forward. Would you believe this can be a part of the Global Membership approach session? You need to decide where you are and what is the compelling reason why someone would want to join your club. Then you get to envision what you want your club to look like in five years.

Some clubs are looking into reducing expenses. Years ago my club went from dues including a meal to paying reduced dues and also paying for your own food. This may be an option for consideration.

What would you do if you had five or more people who have declined to join citing the cost? Times have changed and some people are looking to get the most value. Would it be out of line to suggest that the club set up a two-tier system of dues? Dues only; dues + meals; dues + meals + LCIF. A club might consider sponsoring a club branch of members who need another meeting time, no meals, potluck meals, etc. Lions are about service and fellowship. If we can encourage more people to become Lions by providing a more economical way to be a Lion, should we consider it?

Has your club paid your **State Lions dues**? The bill was sent out in early November and should have been paid by 1 January. If you are not set up to pay your LCI bill online you should consider doing so. The most recent **LCI bill** should have been posted on **1 January 2024**. You can look it up online and easily pay for it. This saves you the cost of postage and the check will not get lost in the mail.

Changes to the Constitution and Bylaws. When we changed the C&BL last year, we followed the requirements of LCI and did not allow the GAT (Global Action Team) to be voting members of the cabinet. LCI has changed the wording and now allows the GAT team to be voting members. I feel that we should change our Constitution and Bylaws to allow the GST, GLT, GMT and GET to be voting members of the cabinet. I anticipate this being presented to the membership at our cabinet meeting at the State Convention. For your information, some positions have shifted and have new names in them:

GET (Global Extension Team)	Lion Cossie Crosswhite
GLT (Global Leadership Team)	Lion Patti Ralabate
GMT (Global Membership Team)	PDG Debbie Ivey
GST (Global Service Team)	Lion Mack Stevens

What's growing in YOUR club's garden?

Where do we stand?

Worldwide, Lions are up 38,750 Lions. Looks like GMA is working for those who are using it.

We anticipate chartering a new club in January. The name of the new club will be the **SEVA Peninsula Asian-American Lions Club**. The name has been approved by LCI; they have nine new Lions joining the two members who will transfer to the club.

Service is what we do so here is what we have done so far.

1,013 service activities

103,962 people served

18,066 Lion hours expended

Only 51% of clubs are reporting. Realistically , **we have served almost twice what we have reported**. If you are having a problem reporting please let me, the District Administrator PDG Rich Evans, or Lion Mack Stevens know so we can help you get your service reported.

Having the tools and ideas you need to lead or support your club is the purpose for Lions Officer Training. Currently only 12% of the club officers in 24-I are listed as having taken training. The easiest way to get the training to count is to take it at the Lions Learning Center. If you complete the course, it will automatically be reported in the LCI system.

Regional Lions Leadership Institute is scheduled for 1-3 March in Charlottesville. I found this training useful when I attended the class and I encourage clubs to assist Lions who want to attend. I have signed the applications for 5 Lions from 24-I and we have 5 slots open. Get your applications in if you want to attend. Registration forms [here](#).

lionhomercook@gmail.com

757.705.5207



The banner features a split design. The left side shows a hand planting seeds in soil with small green seedlings growing, set against a bright sun background. The right side has a blue and purple gradient background with white and yellow text.

Plant seeds,
Grow Lions

**LIONS OF 24-I
WINTER CONFERENCE**

WELCOME INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR
MARIE CUNNING

January
19 -21, 2024
Virginia Beach, VA

Lions Club International

Lions in Action!

James City Lions Club

Williamsburg, VA – December 2023

Lion Colleen Woodard

The James City Lions Club supports the Williamsburg Meals on Wheels food program for the elderly and neighbors with disabilities by preparing a meal for 200 one day a week.

Pictured from the left preparing fresh fruit for delivery with one of the meals are Lions Armen Melikian (project lead), Phil Giles, Carl Devore and Cindy Devore



Williamsburg, VA – December 2023

Lion Colleen Woodard

The James City Lions presents Cathi Upton, Williamsburg Meals on Wheels President, a \$500 grant for the Summer Meals for Kids program. Williamsburg Meals on Wheels, in collaboration with a consortium of local volunteer organizations, provides bag lunches for over 250 school children each weekday for 10 weeks during the summer. The James City Lions deliver those lunches to the local motels and locations where the children are residing.

The Lions requested and received the grant from the Lions Charity Foundation of South-eastern Virginia to support its Hunger Awareness Program for 2023. The Summer Meals for Kids project is at the heart of what the Lions Charity Foundation grant program is all about.



From left: Lion Colleen Woodard, Cathi Upton (Meals on Wheels President), Lion Patti Ralabate (Lions Club President) and Lion Armen Melikian (James City Lions Hunger Relief Project lead)

Aragona-Woodstock Lions Club

Virginia Beach, VA – December 2, 2023

Lion Chris Johnson

The Aragona-Woodstock Lions Club conducted 35 glucose, vision and hearing screenings on December 2 for the residents at the Salvation Army Rehabilitation Center in Virginia Beach. This project has been an annual event for the past 10 years, using vision and hearing equipment on the LAMP trailer.



Richmond West Breakfast Lions Club

Richmond, VA
December 12, 2023

On December 12, 2023, RWBLC held their yearly luncheon for the vision and hearing impaired. They came to the First Baptist Church on Monument Avenue to enjoy the meal prepared by the church culinary staff. They also were entertained by a pianist for the entire luncheon, and participated in singing carols.

Lion Rob Blackmore (see right) has coordinated this event for many years and was the emcee. Several of our Club members served the meals and checked on the needs of all attendees. Afterward the Lions cleaned up the dining area. As they left, the participants were given little Christmas packets of goodies to take home with them.

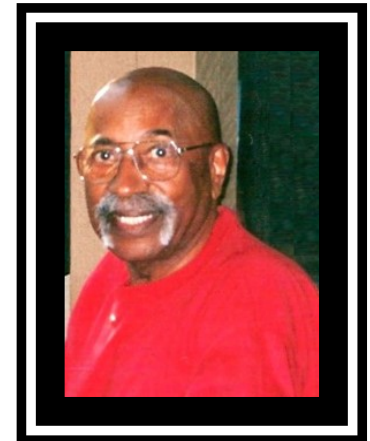


The coordinator for the hearing impaired uses sign language to communicate with attendees.

The participants are responding in kind as they engage in conversation.



In Memoriam
Lion Earle Wilson, PDG
December 25, 2023



On December 25, 2023, Past District Governor Earle Wilson Sr. went Home. Lion Earle was a native of Yonkers, New York. Upon his 1943 graduation from high school, he joined the U.S. Navy where he built a successful career in the Medical Corps.

Lion Earle's military service saw him in World War II, the Korean and Vietnam Wars. In addition, he served at the Bay of Pigs, the Suez Canal, and in Lebanon. After 24 years of honorable service, Lion Earle retired from the United States Navy as a Commander, Medical Service Corps. Simultaneously with his military service, Lion Earle earned a Bachelor of Science, as well as a Master of Science degree, from New York University. Additionally, he completed his Master of Social Work degree from the Columbia University.

After his military service, Earle joined an anti-poverty program in Brooklyn. Later, he joined the staff at St. John's Episcopal Hospital, where he worked as a Hospital Administrator until his retirement in October 1988.

Serving was in Lion Earle's blood. His Lions membership began in the New York neighborhood where both he and his wife, Lydia, served and received Melvin Jones Fellowships. In 1997 our member, Willis Taylor, nudged his friends from NY, Earle and Lydia Wilson, to join the Richmond West Breakfast Lions Club. From 1997 to 2002 Earle served as Club Treasurer, Secretary, President, and he also held District positions, such as Chair of the Bland Music and the State Convention Credentials committees. In 2002-03 he became the District 24B Governor. Earle continued to hold positions with both the District and the Club. As he approached 90, Lion Earle's health required him to become a member-at-large in 2019.

Earle Wilson was not only a special Lion. He was a friend who will always be held close in our memories. We are forever indebted to him for his many contributions. Thank you, PDG Earle. You will be fondly remembered.



DISTRICT 24-I DISTRICT GOVERNOR
SCHEDULED EVENTS, MEETINGS and CLUB VISITATIONS
Military time is based on a 24-hour clock. (AM & PM not included)



Date	Time	MD 24 and District 24I Events	Location	Confirm
January 12-14	Varies	Advanced Lions Leadership Institute	Vancouver, British Columbia	Y
January 18	1730 (5:30 PM)	Winter Conference Beach Bag Project	Corporate Landing Middle School	Y
January 19-21	Varies	District 24-I 2024 Winter Conference with ID Marie Cuning	Holiday Inn Greenwich Rd, Virginia Beach	Y
January 22	1800 (6 PM)	VB Princess Anne-Oceanside	Crazy Buffet & Grill 1745 Parkview Dr., Chesapeake	Y
January 24	TBA	Zone J Meeting with New Kent County	Don Miguel's Mexican Restaurant Providence Forge	Y
March 1-3	Varies	MD24 Regional Lions Leadership Institute (RLLI)	Holiday Inn Monticello Charlottesville	Info Only
March 22	1400 (2 PM)	MD24 Council of Governors Meeting	TBA	Y
April 18-21	Varies	MD24 Lions of Virginia State Convention, Dulles Hyatt-Regency	Special Guests: PIP Brian & Lions Lori Sheehan	Y
June 21-25	Varies	LCICON Melbourne 2024	Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre	Y
September 5-7	Varies	USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum	Kentucky Int'l Convention Center Louisville, KY	Y

Lions: An Association Bigger Than We Are

We are Lions. We Serve. Most of our clubs live and breathe our slogan. We do good work for those in need in our communities. Isn't that what we're supposed to do? Why do we need to get involved beyond our clubs? Isn't serving at home our most important work?

Serving at home is certainly foremost in our minds, though global service is what helps people wherever you go say "thank you" for being a Lion:

You go on vacation and wear your Lions baseball cap. People walk up to you and say "thank you" for buying their first pair of eyeglasses.

You go to church and wear your Lions pin on your lapel or collar. Acquaintances & guests ask what it means - and you tell them about Lions. If you're on the ball, you invite them to come kick a few tires with your club!

The clubs near your community need help with a project bigger than they are. If you pitch in to help, you develop valuable relationships that will come back to help your club when you need help.

You and your club are part of something much larger than yourselves and your community. When you need it most, the global reach of Lions will come home to help you. What a privilege!