



InSights

Volume 86 | Issue 1

Upcoming Events

Please check the Calendar before scheduling any DG or 1VDG official visits

District Calendar:

https://www.lions22a.org/lions22a_calendar.html

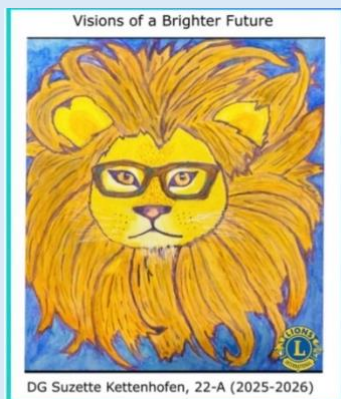
UPCOMING TRAINING:

September 18-20, 2025

USA Canada Leadership Forum

Atlantic City, NJ

<https://members.lionsforum.org/event-5804241>



From the District Governor

Dear Lions,

Over 10,000 Lions from around the globe gathered in Orlando for the annual Lions Clubs International Convention July 14-17, 2025.

International President A P Singh's motto is "Lead to Serve, Serve to Lead." He has asked that his pin not be used in any publication or on any website. So, we will keep it off our website, letterhead and newsletter.



A highlight was marching proudly in the International Parade of Nations with 35 Multiple District 22 Lions. We District Governor-Elects were honored to carry the MD-22 banners as the rest of the marchers followed our lead and chanted promoting the Lions Clubs International Convention

in Washington, D.C., set for 2027. The spirited chants drew cheers from spectators and fellow Lions alike, putting the nation's capital firmly on the global Lions map.

The convention also featured a powerful keynote from Olympic legend Michael Phelps, who inspired the crowd with his message of perseverance, mental health advocacy and community service. His words resonated deeply with the Lions' mission of service and compassion.

One of the most moving moments came during the International Flag Ceremony, where the flags of all nations represented in Lions Clubs were presented with pride and pageantry, underscoring the global unity of the organization.

District Governor's Message (Continued)

Camaraderie continued into the evening as only invited members attended a lively celebration hosted by the German Lions. With music, German Food and beer, and international fellowship, the party was a testament to the friendships that flourish across borders in the Lions community.

For me, the convention was made even more special when my mother, who was attending her first Lions Convention, pulled the ribbon to officially signify my installation as District Governor — a moment filled with pride, joy and family love.

From parade chants to international celebrations, my time in Orlando was more than just a convention — it was a celebration of service, leadership and global friendship, setting the stage for an exciting year ahead.

Then on Saturday, July 26th we held the Multiple District turnover at the Maryland School for the Blind. This year's council — made up of four women and one man — is going with the theme "Four Roses and a Thorn." Districts A-D are the Roses and District W is the Thorn. Each member was given a pin that has either a Rose with their district letter or a Thorn bush on their letter. Staying with the Garden theme of Growing our Multiple District, our Council Chair was made the Gardener and was presented with a pair of gardening gloves with roses on them and a gardening tools pin. Our Administrative Assistant was designated as a Carnation and presented with a pin of a bunch of carnations in the shape of an A.



On Aug. 9th we had our first Cabinet meeting of the year at the Maryland School of the Blind. IPDG Jim presented end-of-the-year awards to the clubs, I explained my motto "Vision of a Brighter Future" and introduced my cabinet members, giving the jacket emblem badges to my Cabinet Secretary and Treasurer.

The International President's special services initiatives were also discussed (see below). We also talked about Service Reporting on the Portal, this year's Peace Poster Theme "Together as One," and that Posters need to be brought to the Oct. 25 meeting as judging will be at my Social on Nov. 1. I announced the special training incentive for attending the USA/Canada Leadership forum in Atlantic City on Sept. 18-20. Lion members could receive a portion of their registration fees back if they agreed to do one of three things:

- Write a news article for InSights talking about what they learned by attending the forum and how they are going to use it in their club.
- Take lots of photos and write about their experiences for websites and Social Media pages.
- Do up to a five-minute presentation at our Oct. 25 cabinet meeting of what our district can do.

Note: First-time attendees to the USA/Canada leadership forum will receive back more of their registration fees, while returning Lions will receive a smaller payout. We will be limiting the reimbursement to the first five who submit their request and how they are going to share their experience. If enough money is left from what we put aside, then we will do the next five members, and continue until the money allotted is used. All reimbursement will be issued at the Oct. 25 Cabinet Meeting. The form for reimbursement will be on the District's website shortly, but you can always email me at lions22a@gmail.com to let me know your intent.

District Governor's Message (Continued)



Mark calendars for International President's Singh's Service Initiative weeks:

Oct. 4-12 - Mental Health Awareness

Jan. 3-11 - Hunger

April 18-26 - Environmental

We have a busy and exciting year ahead of us! I am accepting all DG visits requests through the Lions22a@gmail.com address. My calendar is https://www.lions22a.org/lions22a_calendar.html. See if a date is open that you wish for me to attend. If you have any upcoming Service Projects or Fundraisers, please let me know.

Yours in service,
Lion Suzette Kettenhofen
 District Governor, 22-A

First Vice District Governor's Message

Dear Lions,

Life is a journey, and we've got to get ready for the ride when we meet so many people, and are involved in many activities. We may not remember everything we went through, but some of the events become life-long memories. Here is one of my recent remembrances to share with the world.

When I joined as a member of Lions Club of Baltimore Nepalese in 2020, I dreamed of attending and experiencing the Lions Clubs International Convention. It took me five years to make the dream come true.

Finally, I witnessed one of the most valuable events of my life at this year's 107th LCI Convention in Orlando. That helped me to gain insights from the seminars, speeches and interactions with other Lions from around the world. So many engaging highlights made the convention truly memorable for more than 10,000 participants. I am proud to share the positive and enthusiastic stories to many Lions and others after the Convention.

It was an amazing opportunity to learn about service projects, leadership development, international fellowship, inspiring conversations and understanding Lionism within the local clubs, community and global level.



First Vice District Governor's Message (continued)

Watching and listening the powerful speeches from influential leaders in service was my best part of the convention. The other great thing was every participant taking part in the celebration recognizing outstanding members and clubs from the work they do with a motto, "We Serve."

I highly recommend and encourage Lions to consider attending future conventions. I am going to Hong Kong in 2026 and excited to learn more at the convention so I can be a part of the inspiration to better serve our community or make a difference in the lives of others.

Come and join me and thousands of other Lions representing the whole world rising together in one place.

Remember again, life is a journey, and we've got to get ready for the ride. If you are a Lion, you are touching the lives of people during the journey. Are you ready? Let the excitement begin.

Yours in service,

Lion Nara Khakurel

First Vice District Governor, 22-A

More Highlights From the Lions International 2025 Convention

Representatives from Lions Clubs International Multiple District 22 promoted the 2027 LCI Convention in Washington, D.C., during the parade in Orlando. MD22 will host the upcoming convention and seeks volunteers to support the event. DG Suzette Kettenhofen and First Vice District Governor Nara Khakurel led the District 22-A delegation at the Florida convention. DG Suzette had fun with the Lions Photo Booth.



Upcoming Local Training Opportunities

Two upcoming Lions training opportunities are available—one via Zoom in November and the other one in person in May.

For in-person training, District 22-A will reimburse (after member attends) up to the first 15 Lions or Leos who do early registration (or \$100 if doing late registration) to attend Ignite ELLI in May.

1. Virtual Regional Lions Leadership Institute—Nov. 14-16, starting at 6 p.m. Eastern Nov. 14

- Register: <https://lionsvirtual-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/-73gaMYdSJSonuJp91hMzg> After registering, attendees will receive a confirmation email with joining details.
- RLLI is a flexible, locally organized leadership institute designed to grow Lions and Leos ready to take on leadership roles at club, zone, district or multiple-district levels. RLLI blends a standardized core curriculum with elective sessions tailored to regional needs.
- The core sessions will include topics such as:
 - Fast and Effective Teams
 - Keeping Members Engaged
 - International Priorities
 - Overcoming Resistance
- Electives may include communication in a fast-paced world, time management, personal mission statements, public speaking and more—all shaped by local leadership needs.

2. Lions USA Ignite Emerging Lions Leadership Institute (ELLI) – Camp Merrick, May 1-3

- Interactive three-day retreat offering foundational leadership growth for Lions and Leos.
- Registration link: <https://secure.givelively.org/event/lions-camp-merrick-inc/lions-usa-ignite-emerging-lions-leadership-institute-2026>
- Event Highlights:
 - Learn the Legacy: Dive into the history and mission of Lions Clubs International and LCIF.
 - Develop Leadership Skills: Build strategies to become a dynamic club leader.
 - Collaborate and Connect: Network with a diverse group of passionate Lions and Young Lions.
 - Make Community Impact: Discover innovative service approaches to amplify your club's influence.
 - Prepare for Future Leadership: Equip yourself for upcoming roles and responsibilities.
- Eligibility: Open to Lions and Leos who've served on a club committee and are eager for club-level leadership—especially club first vice presidents.
- Cost: EARLY REGISTRATION \$100 (ends Dec. 31)
- REGULAR REGISTRATION: \$125
- Costs cover: Friday's supper; Saturday's breakfast, lunch, dinner; and Sunday's breakfast; and lodging at Lions Camp Merrick.

Save-the-Date Lion Events

- Sept. 11 – LASH General Membership Meeting
- Sept. 18-20 – USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum, Atlantic City, NJ
- Sept. 27 – Aim for Sight, Lions Vision Research Foundation (LVRF) Fundraiser, Westminster
- Sept. 27 – Lions Vision Research Foundation (LVRF) Trustee Meeting (1 p.m.)
- Sept. 29 – Lions Youth Foundation Trustee Meeting
- Oct. 4 – District 22-W Social, Dutch's Daughter, Frederick
- Oct. 4-12 – **IP Singh's Service Initiative week - Mental Health Awareness**
- Oct. 5 – MD22 Council of Governors Meeting
- Oct. 11 – LASH Eyeglass Sorting, Maryland School for the Blind
- Oct. 18 – District 22-A Honorary Committee Meeting, Italia's Corner Cafe
- Oct. 23 – LASH Executive Committee Meeting
- Oct. 25 – Second Full District 22-A Cabinet Meeting
- Nov. 1 – District 22-A Social, Annapolis Elks Club
- Nov. 2 – MD22 Council of Governors Meeting
- Nov. 13 – LASH General Membership Meeting
- Nov. 14-16 – Regional Lions Leadership (Zoom)
- Nov. 18 – Lions Youth Foundation Executive Meeting
- Nov. 22 – Lions Vision Research Foundation (LVRF) Rally, Wilmer Eye Institute, John Hopkins, Baltimore
- Dec. 6. – District 22-D Social, Harrington Raceways – Convention Photos taken at this time
- Dec. 7 – MD22 Council of Governors Meeting
- Jan. 3-11 – **IP Singh's Service Initiative week – Hunger**
- Jan. 17 – District 22-A Honorary Committee Meeting, Double T, Rt 40
- Jan. 20 – Lions Youth Foundation Executive Meeting
- Jan. 22 – LASH Executive Committee Meeting
- Jan. 24 – Lions Vision Research Foundation (LVRF) Trustee Meeting
- Jan 31 – MD22 Mid-Winter Conference Meeting, Annapolis Elks
- Feb. 12 – LASH General Meeting
- Mar. 6-7 – MD22 DGE School, Fruitland, MD
- Mar. 8.– MD22 Council of Governors Meeting
- Mar. 14 – Third Full District 22-A Cabinet Meeting
- Apr. 11 – LASH Eyeglass Sorting, Maryland School for the Blind
- Apr. 11 – District 22-C Social, Waldorf, MD
- Apr. 12 – MD22 Council of Governors Meeting
- Apr. 18 – Leader Dog, "Bark, Brew and Wine", Klausmeier Farm
- **Apr. 18-26 – IP Singh's Service Initiative week - Environmental**
- Apr. 23 – LASH Executive Committee Meeting
- Apr. 25 – District 22-A Honorary Committee Meeting, Ship's Cafe
- May 1-3 – Lions USA Ignite Emerging Lions Leadership Institute (ELLI), Lions Camp Merrick
- May. 7 – LASH General Meeting
- May 14-17 – 103rd MD-22 Convention, Ashore Resort & Beach Club, Ocean City, MD
- May 16 – Fourth Full Cabinet Meeting, MD-22 Convention, Ashore Resort & Beach Club, Ocean City, MD
- May 25 – National Memorial Day Parade, Washington, DC
- June 27 – Club Officer Training and District Turnover, Maryland School for the Blind
- July 3-7 – Lions International Convention, Hong Kong

LIONS CLUBS HIGHLIGHTS

Bel Air Lions Raise the Flag, March and Play



Bel Air Lions had a great turnout to support the Bel Air Independence Day activities on July 4. Beginning with flag raising early in the morning at Shamrock Park, all the way through the fireworks at night, club members were involved. Almost 20 Lions participated in the day's events. Several served as parade marshals along with Lions Amy Biondi and Don Stewart, who are on the Independence Day Committee.

Water Balloon Contest

Dozens of kids of all ages participated in the annual water balloon contest at Shamrock Park. Lions Mike New, Chris New, Ken Waldner and Nick Moline helped town volunteer Tim O'Dell run the competition.

Watermelon Eating Contest

Several Bel Air Lions also assisted with the annual watermelon eating contest. Lions Mike New, Chris New and Ken Waldner led the team. Big thanks to Robyn Barnett for helping as well. Winners were declared for four different groups.



Award-Winning Parade Float

Bel Air Lions also placed a float in the Fourth of July parade to celebrate the Bel Air Town Derby race winner—Bel Air Volunteer Fire Company and their driver, Sammie Caldwell (see Page 1). The Derby float came in second place among all floats in the parade.



LIONS CLUBS HIGHLIGHTS

Opening Up a World of Possibilities

Newest Bel Air Lion Deleila Alloui jumped in to help close up Camp Possibilities along with Lions Ken Waldner, Rick Sharesky and Dave Guzewich and frequent volunteer, Joan Sharesky. About 100 children with Type 1 diabetes participated in the weeklong camp located at Camp Ramblewood in Darlington.

The club directly sponsored one camper, Donovan Botteon, in addition to donations Bel Air Lions provided. Donovan said he had a great week of camp and looks forward to attending next year as a counselor.

Darlington Lights Up Fourth of July Celebration



Darlington Lions Club has organized the annual Darlington Independence Celebration since 2014. Festivities start with a parade down Main Street, followed with activities and food vendors in the community park. A fabulous fireworks display caps the night.

This year's event was chaired by the club's two newest Lions, Jennifer Johnson and Jimmy Smith. They were assisted by Lions Sherry Gentry, Jane and Rick Howe, and PCC Larry Burton, as well as several community volunteers.

Nearly \$14,000—the most ever—was raised to cover the cost of the event.

The group is already thinking about making next year's activities bigger and better when the nation commemorates the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.



LIONS CLUBS HIGHLIGHTS

Long Green Valley Lions

The Long Green Valley Lions Club continues to provide services to our community now for over 60+ years. Our membership is enough to be able to provide our annual fruit sale in which our customers basically see this event as a family reunion. Sometimes we also have an early Spring Fruit Sale. Another important community event is our Crab Feast for 10 delivered in which many people are anxious to win no matter how many times they have tried to do so. Of course Jeff Walsh and his wife continue to provide help with the annual mission to the Dominican Republic especially with the provision of eyeglasses. We have many doctors in the community that supply us with eyeglasses. We are very much involved with the Baltimore County Dept. of Aging, especially at the Jacksonville Senior Center. The Club has been a big sponsor of their fundraisers. The Senior Center collects glasses, phones, hearing aids on a routine basis for our club. Our club meets only when we have something to do in the community, i.e., helping with the Long Green Valley Fire Dept. during holiday events for families and children. Our membership remains stable and we are planning to continue as a club indefinitely.

Nepalese Lions Induct Officers and Members

Baltimore Nepalese Lions Club welcomed newly elected District Governor Lion Suzette Kettenhofen for installation of officers, including board members, and induction of eight new members.

The District Governor discussed the three new service initiatives for Lions year 2025-2026. Nepalese Lions plan to conduct all three activities in the given weeks of October, January and April as per our International President, A.P. Singh.

Noting her motto, "Vision of a brighter future," the District Governor also shared about the importance of other programs.



LIONS CLUBS HIGHLIGHTS



New Zone Chair

Lion Ganesh Lamichhane (left) of Baltimore Nepalese Lions is the new District 22-A Region 2, Zone 2 Chair. District Governor Kettenhofen said she loved the singing bowl she received during her club visit. She may use it instead of a gavel and bell at the Cabinet Meetings.

Severn River Kept Cool on a Hot Day

The Annual Severna Park Annual 4th of July Parade was a hot one, the Severn River Lions Club once again passed out almost 800 Popsicles at the Parade Route ends to Marchers who participated in the parade. This year they were able to work with Giant Food getting the Popsicles donated.



SRCL Lions Clem Kusiak, Chuck Horne, Chris Werth and Jackie Hetrick along with her Granddaughter Coco.

LIONS CLUBS HIGHLIGHTS

Severn River Goes Out for the Night

Severn River Lions Club once again participated in the National Night Out event at Kinder Park. This community event is held the first Tuesday of the month around the United States. Severn River had a booth of information plus a “Lions Photo Booth” where children had their photos taken and the polaroid image given to their parents with a sticker on the back giving the club’s name.

DG Suzette Kettenhofen walked around the compound in her Lion costume while talking to community members—potential guest speakers—and families—also potential new members.



LIONS CLUBS HIGHLIGHTS

Leader Dog Bark, Brew and Wine Fetches Funds



PERRY HALL / KINGSVILLE LIONS District 22-A's Leader Dog Bark, Brew and Wine in May raised almost \$14,000 for the organization that empowers people who are blind or visually impaired with lifelong skills for safe and independent daily travel. Upon receiving the donation, Leader Dog sent this letter to the district:

Thank you for being one of our strongest partners and helping us raise funds for Leader Dog. As we start the new fiscal year, I wanted to share an update that I hope you can celebrate and share with your district.

In fiscal year 2024-25, Leader Dogs for the Blind served 323 clients. Of those, two clients were from MD-22, and over the past 85 years Lions have helped us serve 207 people from MD-22 at zero cost to them! We received donations from 16 Lions Clubs from MD-22-A, amounting to \$18,209.25. Together, MD-22 had four Top Dog Clubs. All clubs helped us raise \$141,395.18.

In fiscal year 2024-25 Lions Clubs both nationally and internationally helped raise over \$2.2 million for Leader Dogs for the Blind, serving around 1,400 individuals. This new fiscal year we are hopeful to serve even more people who are blind or have low vision and have a goal to raise \$2.5 million.

With your continued support, we can help more clients. It is because of your unwavering support that, together, we can serve so many people. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out, and let me know how we can partner in this new year and work together to reach more clients and help them be unstoppable.

Appreciate it,

Lion Claudia Gregory

DISTRICT OFFICERS & EDITOR'S NOTE



Editor's Note:

Next Edition of Insights will be for Sept/Oct. Send your Articles and Photos to IPDG Jim Katzaman by Oct.5th

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