

Please find my COG update below.

1. 2026 LCIF State fundraiser - Duck Race:
 - In support of the MD24 LCIF goals, approximately \$4800 has been raised for MD fund raiser, across all three districts, with roughly \$700 yet to be recorded.
 - The district representatives know which clubs have contributed and should reaching out to the non-participating clubs through their District Governors, Zone Chairs , by direct connection.
 - A cash/check donation flyer is being inserted into the registration packages.
 - Our Vertical banner has been funded by LCIF, created by Lion Sally Cooney Anderson, produced by Ace Dispalys, received by me. It provides a QR code for charge card purchases. The banner was designed to be cost effective and will support the 2026 and 2027 convention Duck Races. The banner will shared by the district coordinators for use at the 2026/2027 District Fall & Winter Conferences and perhaps Zone meetings.
 - The district coordinators have a staffing schedule to man the LCIF table during the convention leading up to the close of sales, cash and online, at 1PM on Saturday. We need to have all of the purchases loaded into Google notes by 2PM. At that time we will know exactly how much money was raised.
 - The district and state race will be conducted during the social hour leading to the Saturday night banquet.
 - PID Jay Moughon, the AREA LCIF coordinator is the escort for Incoming LCIF President Mark Lyons. PID Jay will help bring 1st VP Mark to kick of the races and be there for the check presentation and picture opportunity.
 - It is our belief that we can grow our 2026-2027 donations based upon the 2026-2026 publicity and enthusiast reception of the 3 minute races at the 2026 convention.

2027 Convention: I had three goals for the 2027 convention.

Goal 1. Find a good location West of the Blueridge Mountains
Success 1. The Madison Hotel and Shenandoah Convention Center.
Located in Harrisonburg Virginia (oif I 81 on the James MADISON

University campus) meets and exceeds any needs the VA Lions could come up with. The hotel and conference facilities are spacious and well appointed. Park in WIFI are free, there are no resort fee's.

Goal 2. Engage and energize Lions clubs that have not participated in the state convention in recent history.

Success 2. The Harrisonburg Lions Club, with support from the Broadway Lions will be our host club.

Goal 3. Complete the contracting process before the 2026 convention so that we use the 2026 event to promote the 2026 convention and begin booking rooms, especially for those needing ADA compliant rooms.

Success 3. The contract, the detailed planning for events and room assignment, has been approved and signed by me. Discounted breakfast coupons for the hotel restaurant will be provided to the conference for sales. Lions will avoid sales tax, and we will avoid the 20% setup and gratuity fee. The convention will redeem used coupons and receive credit against our food and beverage min of \$20K.

Note: Treasurer Tammie has provided invaluable assistance and will, in her bond role, handle all monies collected and expended starting with the expected deposit.

Work to be done:

1. PID Jay will be identifying an International Director as the conference key-note speaker.
2. The incoming COG will identify how they want to utilize the rooms and times set aside for training/presentations.
3. The PDG Association need to reserve **and pay** for the "Presidential Suite" provided for their hospitality room.
4. The Bland needs to contract for a baby grand and coordinate the rental, deliver, set up, tuning and removal, directly with the Hotel Madison. Additionally, the Bland Foundation needs to ensure the 12 rooms booked, at their request, **are utilized** because they count in our attrition factor. If the Foundation gives vouchers and the families chose to not stay or stay at a cheaper hotel the COG will need to bill the Bland for the hotel lost revenue.

5. A convention committee will meet to lay out detailed roles and responsibilities. The committee will be made up of myself (as chair and single POC with the Madison for contract execution), PDG Scott McMurrain (dep chair and volunteer coordinator), DGe Chuck Schwab (as the host district and COG representative), Lion Tammie Brightwell (Treasurer), Vicki Davies (Registrar), Lion Sally Cooney Anderson (Publicity chair), and representatives of the Harrisonburg and Broadway Lions Clubs.

Note: Once the chair for the 2028 State Convention is identified and confirmed by the COG that person will be more than welcome to join us to gain insight from our planning and execution. Their role and the responsibilities of the COG and staff will have changed considerably, for the good, since the Williamsburg convention.

6. Meal selections need to be finalized prior to determine final budget opening registrations. Support from LOVF and the PTCV leadership are expected to help with the success of their luncheons.

Respectfully submitted,
James V Cech, IPDG

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