

Lions Project for Canine Companions

District 24 L Annual Report May 2026

Lion Jim Purton, Cabinet Chair

I have recruited 2 new Lions Project for Canine Companions (LPCC) representatives from my club, Lions Christine Frescas and Marie Garney. Both are LPCC Life members and have been active in supporting LPCC at both the USA/Canada Forum and International Conventions. They will be given training as to how to give presentations at meetings, etc. We will be attending the USA/Canada Forum together in Memphis. Both have graduated from RLLI.

Lion Christine Frescas will staff a table at the Virginia Lions Convention in Bristol for LPCC. She's prepared a continuously looping video for use at our table and will have brochures and other information.

The Williamsburg Lions Club has requested a presentation about Canine Companions. My friend and fellow puppy raiser, Leslie Neely, will provide a puppy and I'm planning to be at the meeting as well. It will be July 23rd.

For the Lions District 24 L Fall conference I have arranged to give a Hearing Dog presentation with one of our recent graduate teams. Her name is Irene Schmalz and her Canine Companions Hearing Dog is named Mari, after one of the outstanding Canine Companions hearing dog trainers.

Our DogFest DC team is preparing for this year's event, which will be Oct. 3 at Reston Town Center once again. Here's my team page:

<https://secure.qgiv.com/event/2026dogfestwashingtondc/team/1034890/>

We're all excited to meet puppy in training Natty, who is the Washington Nationals team dog, sponsored by Eukanuba. He made his nationwide debut on CNN and at the Nationals game Friday, May 15. Hopefully many of you saw him on the news. If you missed it, there are lots of YouTube videos available.

The annual Give a Dog a Job Richmond 5K event will be held Saturday, Oct. 10. We will have LPCC representatives, including the Lion Mascot, at the event.

I'm honored to receive the Hometown Hero award recently, sponsored by the Virginia law firm Allen, Allen, Allen and Allen. The citation mentions my work as a puppy raiser and as charter member of his Lions Club, the Greater Falls Run Lions Club. Here's the link.

<https://www.allenandallen.com/about/community-involvement/hometown-heroes/#>

Respectfully submitted,

Lion Jim Purton