

YOST NAMED PRESIDENT OF LIONS CLUB

Mexican 4's Advance Under Reports of U. S. Negotiations

Dr. Herschel R. Yost was elected president of the newly formed local branch of the Lions International. The other officers are: Vice president, Floyd J. Patton; secretary, Lawrence G. Boggs; treasurer, Phil S. Bentel; lion tamer, G. C. Smith; tail twister, George E. Martch; directors, Harry L. Walsh, Arch Brownfield, Albert M. Rowe, C. B. Glasscock.

The club will meet weekly on Fridays at the Y. M. C. A. Char-

ter night will be observed probably within the next month. The charter members are: Phil S. Bentel, Ira A. Akins, J. V. Blair, Jr., M. L. Hamilton, Fred L. Morris, Max D. Wilson, Harry S. Price, Harry L. Walsh, E. Dietz, G. C. Smith, John W. Martin, Dr. Herschel R. Yost, Albert M. Rowe, Willis Hawley, Maurice E. Miller, C. B. Glasscock, Arch Brownfield, Paul Amos, S. L. Johnson, W. H. Hess, Floyd J. Patton, Bert Linn, Benton Mitchell, George E. Martch, B. Cousins, Lawrence G. Boggs.

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1923

2008



The Fairmont Lions Club Celebrates its 85th Anniversary

Saturday, May 10th, 2008

Backwoods Grill

Fairmont, West Virginia



Welcome

Welcome members of the Fairmont Lions Club, fellow Lions and honored guests to the 85th Anniversary Celebration of the Fairmont Lions Club. We are glad you are sharing this anniversary with us.

In 1923, the Fairmont Lions Club was formed under the motto, "We Serve." For the past 85 years the Club has done well to live up to that motto. We have followed the Association's mission of "empowering volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding through Lions clubs."

The Fairmont Lions Club has been active in sight conservation and blindness prevention, diabetes awareness and cancer awareness programs. For the past 72 years, we have held a Christmas party for the underprivileged youth of Fairmont. We continue to work with the youth through the Peace Poster Contest, HOBY and scholarship opportunities. We are striving to be a more visible entity within the Fairmont community and look forward to continuing growth in membership and service.

We are honored to have International Director Larry Johnson as our speaker this evening. ID Larry represents our district and West Virginia with service on the international scene.

In closing, I would like us to remember the personal code of our founder, Melvin Jones: *"You can't get very far until you start doing something for somebody else."*

It is our goal to continue towards this end for many years to come.

Thank you again for joining us in celebrating the 85 years of service of the Fairmont Lions Club.

John Marsicano, President

Looking Back to 1923

It was 1923 and the United States of America had only recently come out of a "war to end all wars." Warren G. Harding was president and Calvin Coolidge was his vice president.

The World War that had raged in Europe only a few years earlier had forced the country from a period of relative isolationism into a growing leadership role the nation was perhaps not ready to assume.

In Egypt, the inner tomb of Tutankhomen had been opened just two months before. Reports still enthralled the world with stories of undreamed splendor still untouched after 3400 years.

The winds of change were everywhere. Vladimir Ulianov, or Nikolai Lenin, as he was known to his Bolshevik compatriots who assisted him in seizing control of Russia, was solidifying his powers and building a new political and geographic nation – the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. In India, still firmly under British colonial rule, Mohandas K. Gandhi sat in prison, arrested on charges of sedition.

Amid labor unrest, West Virginia—still less than 60 years old—was becoming increasingly important to an industrially-developing nation, with its vast oil, gas and coal reserves. A West Virginian, John W. Davis, was being considered as a viable candidate for president on the Democratic ticket for the following year.

Fairmont, in the heart of West Virginia's growing bituminous coal industry, was a thriving community with over 18,000 people and a county population of 55,000. Downtown Fairmont, with a modern streetcar system that brought residents of nearby communities to the business district, was bustling. Several new commercial buildings had been recently constructed or were under construction. The Fairmont State Normal School had only a few years earlier moved to its new location on Locust Avenue and was seeking permission to grant a degree in education.

It was in this atmosphere that the Fairmont Lions Club was born with the granting of a charter by the International Association of Lions Clubs on April 20, 1923, becoming West Virginia's sixth Lions Club and the first club in north central West Virginia. Lionism was on the move throughout the United States and Canada, with clubs in 42 states and four provinces.

Starting at the YMCA in Fairmont, the Fairmont Lions Club soon moved its meetings to the prestigious Fairmont Hotel, where it held Friday noon meetings until 1935, when it switched to Friday evening meetings to accommodate members from outlying businesses and industries. Then, in 1980, the Fairmont Lions Club said "farewell" for good to the Fairmont Hotel and Friday evening meetings.

Today, looking back on our first 85 years, we can only speculate or report from news clippings and hearsay what that first meeting at the Fairmont YMCA must have been like. There are no surviving charter members of 1923. The last surviving charter member, Dr. H. R. Yost, the first president, was ill during our fiftieth anniversary program in 1973 and died shortly after that date.

Since 1923, our world has grown much smaller as the result of so many products never dreamed of then. As Lionism has become global in its scope, the purpose to which Lionism was born—fellowship and service—remains as important today as it was on April 20, 1923. Today, a new generation of Lions still are dedicated to these same principles. We number among our membership several who may well still be here fifteen years hence, in 2023 when Lions come together on a Saturday evening to celebrate 100 years of Lionism in Fairmont and Marion County.

Our Speaker

International Director Larry Johnson



International Director Larry Johnson is a member of the Parkersburg Lions Club and was a 100% District Governor in 1994-95. Elected to a two-year term on the Board of Directors of the International Association of Lions Clubs at the 2007 international convention in Chicago, Illinois, he has been a delegate to 12 International conventions, attended seven USA/ Canada Leadership Forums and was a member of Lions International Nominating Committee in 1996. Johnson is a recipient of the International President's Award, Lions International Leadership Award, two International President's Certificates of Appreciation and is a Melvin Jones Fellow. He is married to Lion Rachael and is Regional President, WesBanco Bank.

85th Anniversary Committee

Jacob Brumage
Aletta Moffett

John Marsicano
Robert Moffett

Martha Warren

85th Anniversary Pin Design by Lion Martha Warren

Program

Call to Order and Welcome.....Lion John Marsicano
President
Pledge of Allegiance.....Led by Lion Wayne Dodd
Lion Tamer
Invocation.....Lion Jacob Brumage
2nd Vice President

Dinner

Introduction of Honored Guests.....Lion Bob Moffett
Secretary
Introduction of Speaker.....Lion President Marsicano
Address.....Lion Larry Johnson
International Director
Response.....Lion President Marsicano
Closing Remarks and Announcements.....Lion President Marsicano



www.fairmontlions.org

Looking Back to 1923

During its eight and a-half decades of existence, The Fairmont Lions Club has faithfully served the people of Fairmont and Marion County, with particular emphasis on those less fortunate individuals and those with sight and hearing impairments.

Since its organization in 1923, over 800 men and women members have put forth maximum effort to render true service to their community.

The Fairmont Lions Club has purchased thousands of pairs of eyeglasses for school children, as well as hundreds more for needy adults. In their glaucoma and amblyopia clinics begun in 1971, the Fairmont Lions Club has helped to check over 10,000 adults for glaucoma and over 3,000 children for amblyopia and other eye diseases and problems. Recently, the Fairmont Lions Club began a program of diabetic eye disease education in the hope of preventing blindness in diabetics.

In 1935, the Fairmont Lions Club began a program that continues to this day and has become an annual Christmas tradition. For more than 65 years, the Fairmont Lions Club Christmas Party for underprivileged children is held each year in conjunction with the Union Mission of Fairmont. Approximately 5,000 children have received Christmas gifts, clothes, candy and fruit provided by the Fairmont Lions Club.

Lions of Fairmont in 1936 conceived the idea of a "blackout warden unit" that was later to become the Civil Defense Police and today the Marion County Auxiliary Police. The Fairmont Lions Club has also been active in promoting many other civic and cultural enterprises which we take for granted today.

Beginning in 1951, the Fairmont Lions Club members took to the streets selling brooms and mops, manufactured by Industrious Blind Enterprises of Stonewood, in order to assist that organization while raising funds for the club's civic and charitable projects. Although that manufacturer is no longer in business, the club still sells brooms and mops as a part of its fundraising program.

Current Membership

Jacob Brumage
James Coleman
Wayne Dodd
Clyde Judy
Keith Long
Evelyn Martin
Jeffrey Miller
Patrick Patton
Elizabeth Swiger

Robert Brummage
William Criss
Milton Durbin
William Kime
John Manley
Edsel Michael
Aletta Moffett
Leola Robinson
Martha Warren

Marci Carroll
Jack Decker
Virginia Gallion
Thomas Koon
John Marsicano
Mary Jo Michael
Robert Moffett
Nancy Sickles

Presidents of the Fairmont Lions Club 1923 - 2007

Dr. Herschel R. Yost	April 20, 1923 - March 31, 1924
Floyd J. Patton	April 1, 1924 - June 30, 1926
Luke Ollis	July 1, 1925 - June 30, 1926
Harry S. Price	July 1, 1926 - January 1, 1927
Dr. Fred L. Morris	January 1, 1927 - June 30, 1927
Harvey Shain	July 1, 1927 - June 30, 1927
Paul E. Amos	1928 - 1929
Rev. W. P. Cline	1929 - 1930
Dr. J. H. Higginbotham	1930 - 1931
Linn V. Hall	1931 - 1932
Carl Turnley	1932 - 1933
Marshall M. Hamilton	1933 - 1934
Dr. Paul F. Opp	1934 - 1935
M. E. Miller	1935 - 1936
Glenn A. Keister	1936 - 1937
Charles S. Hoult	1937 - 1938
Dr. Morris E. Brown	1938 - 1939
J. Arthur Cunningham	1939 - 1940
Alfred E. Stewart	1940 - 1941
William Kirckman	1941 - 1942
R. M. Watkins	1942 - 1943
William T. Martin	1943 - 1944
H. G. Boyers	1944 - 1945
James D. Cain	1945 - 1946
A. L. Hamilton	1946 - 1947
Arthur Cassell	1947 - 1948
Woodford Moore	1948 - 1949
Hubert Boice	1949 - 1950
Earl Burchett	1950 - 1951
George Turley	1951 - 1952
Ralph M. Dunsmore, Sr.	1952 - 1953
Allison B. Frum	1953 - 1954
Clarence Wright	1954 - 1955
Donley T. Shultz	1955 - 1956
Charles B. Rawlings	1956 - 1957
E. R. Ressegger	1957 - 1958
C. E. Queen	1958 - 1959
Ralph Watts	1959 - 1960
Anker Olsen	1960 - 1961
Thomas L. Orgill	1961 - 1962
Charles W. Herron	1962 - 1963
Ronald A. Garlettts	1963 - 1964
Elmer L. Hatfield	1964 - 1965
Claude Springer	1965 - 1966
Donald Miller	1966 - 1967
Russell W. Knotts	1967 - 1968
William L. Beall	1968 - 1969
James L. Thornton	1969 - 1970
William W. Woodrum	1970 - 1971
Charles R. King	1971 - 1972
H. Gerald Warren	1972 - 1973
J. Burl McQuain	1973 - 1974
Clifford D. Stalnaker	1974 - 1975
Galen A. Fike	1975 - 1976
Jacob G. Brumage	1976 - 1977
Clyde S. Judy	1977 - 1988
Dominick J. Romino	1978 - 1979
Robert R. Moffett	1979 - 1980

Dr. Lewis H. Herring	1980 - 1981
A. L. Springston	1981 - 1982
Ralph J. Michael	1982 - 1983
H. Leland Meadows	1983 - 1984
Dr. James E. Coleman	1984 - 1985
George E. Corder	1985 - 1986
William H. Conrad	1986 - 1987
Ray J. Rutherford, Jr.	1987 - 1988
Walter L. Osborne	1988 - 1989
Thomas J. Koon	1989 - 1990
George P. Hummel	1990 - 1991
Robert E. Brummage	1991 - 1992
James E. Martin	1992 - 1993
H. Gerald Warren	1993 - 1994
Robert R. Moffett	1994 - 1995
James Elliott	1995 - 1996
James Elliott	1996 - 1997
William W. Woodrum	1997 - 1998
Thomas Spiker	1998 - 1999
Wayne Dodd	1999 - 2000
Robert R. Moffett	2000 - 2001
H. Gerald Warren	2001 - 2002
George Janice	2002 - 2003
Milton Durbin	2003 - 2004
Keith Long	2004 - 2005
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George Janice	2006 - 2007
John Marsicano	2007 - 2008

