

YOST NAMED PRESIDENT OF LIONS CLUB

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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.

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-

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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 John Marsicano
Aletta Moffett 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



