

Tollesboro Lions Club Hosts Zone Meeting

By Craig Stanfield

The Tollesboro Lions Club hosted the Region 2, Zone 3, District 43Y Zone Meeting for Zone Chairman Angela Jett of the Orangeburg Lions Club on Monday, September 21, at 7 p.m. at the Tollesboro Lions Club Clubhouse. The meeting was attended by 35 people.

Four of the Zone's six clubs were represented, including the Orangeburg Lions Club, Maysville Lions Club, Vanceburg Lions Club, and the host Tollesboro Lions Club. The Lewisburg-Mill Creek Lions Club and Mays Lick Lions Club did not have representatives in attendance.

Representatives from other areas also attended, including the Flemingsburg Lions Club, though it is not part of Region 2, Zone 3, as well as dignitaries from the Lawrenceburg Lions Club, Florence Lions Club, and Erlanger Lions Club. Five additional guests were also present. One was the guest speaker, while the others attended to support the meeting activities.

Tollesboro Lions Club President John Redmond, as the presiding officer of the host club, opened the meeting. Prayer was offered by Bill Tom Stone of the Vanceburg Lions Club, followed by President Redmond leading the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Then, before the group was invited to partake of supper, the Tollesboro Lions Club's immediate past president briefly interrupted the meeting to invite two additional guests, who had been waiting out of sight, to appear and to invite the dignitaries to present an honor to a member of the Tollesboro Lions Club.

George Lonnerman of the Erlanger Lions Club, Chuck Carlson of the Florence Lions Club, and Guy and Carol Hollander of the Lawrenceburg Lions Club, along with Beverly Pedersen and Stephanie Thornton, who appeared from the back of the building, called Tollesboro Lions Club member Steven Pedersen to the front of the room and presented him with the Kentucky Lions Hall of Fame Award.

Steve was truly taken by surprise!

The Tollesboro Lions Club's immediate past president, a 2025 Hall of Fame honoree, had nominated Steve for the recognition. Steve was actually scheduled to be presented with the award at the Annual Convention earlier this year. However, just like last year, he was unable to attend and had not been notified of the honor.

The decision was made, in order to keep him unaware of the recognition, to present the honor to him at the Tollesboro Lions Club during a Zone Meeting. Such a meeting would allow the dignitaries to attend without sparking any suspicion about their appearance, as they would simply appear to be part of the Zone Meeting. Thus, the Tollesboro Lions Club offered to host the Zone Meeting, basically "hijacking" the Zone Chairman's meeting in order to make the presentation.

Following the presentation, photos, and congratulations, the entire group broke for dinner.

After dinner, guest speaker Jack Poczatek was introduced, along with his parents, Patti and Bill Poczatek. Jack addressed the assembled clubs about the Wreaths Across America program, an effort to place wreaths at veterans' graves, with particular consideration given to honoring veterans buried at Camp Nelson Cemetery. He also distributed a brochure about the program.

At the conclusion of his presentation, with the cost of each wreath indicated at \$17, the Tollesboro Lions Club voted to donate \$250 toward the program. Additional funds were donated by two other members—one donating \$250 and another \$180—to allow for the purchase of 40 wreaths.

Tollesboro Lions Club President Redmond then

turned the program over to Zone Chairman Angela Jett, who welcomed all the clubs and guests. She acknowledged the clubs in attendance and the number of attendees from each. The Tollesboro Lions Club had 11 members present; the Orangeburg Lions Club had 12 members in attendance; and the Maysville Lions Club and Vanceburg Lions Club each had one representative. These four clubs are members of the Zone.

She then asked the Tollesboro Lions Club to discuss its upcoming events and recent successes.

The Tollesboro Lions Club discussed its successful 2026 Lions Club Fair, the 69th annual fair. Lion John Redmond mentioned that he and Lion Craig Stanfield had attended the Kentucky State Fair to conduct free vision testing at the Lions Club booth. He also informed those in attendance that the Tollesboro Lions Club had recently acquired a vision-testing camera and that he and Craig had received training on the equipment at the State Fair. Vision testing will be a project at Tollesboro Elementary School.

He also mentioned that twice-monthly Garden Tractor Pull events had been taking place and would continue through October and that a once-a-month Mud Sling had been taking place since the fair.

Lion Stanfield added that the club was applying for a grant for the construction of additional bleachers and that the ballfield, playground, pickleball courts, and basketball courts were receiving significant use. Arrangements were also being made for several upcoming events, including the Christmas Parade, Easter Egg Hunt, Arbor Day Tree Giveaway, and Eastern Kentucky Walking and Racking Horse Celebration.

The club had also been approached by a local church about using the horse ring, grounds, and concession stand for a fundraiser to benefit a cancer patient.

In addition, Lion Steve Pedersen mentioned that the club had honored two longtime supporters and event chairpersons, Betty Hampton and Mary Shoemaker, with Melvin Jones Fellowships, the highest recognition a Lions Club can bestow on a member or non-member. The club had also supported Lions Clubs International to such an extent that it received recognition for donating \$100 per member to Lions Clubs International for 2026.

Lion Stanfield then pulled a Lions Club sign from an envelope and informed each club in attendance that they had been offered an opportunity to apply, at no cost, for one of the 18-inch highway signs for placement at their facilities or along an adjacent highway. All that was required was to read the email sent to club presidents and apply.

The Orangeburg Lions Club indicated that it had applied and had been selected to receive an identical sign, but its sign had not yet been delivered.

Next, Bill Tom Stone of the Vanceburg Lions Club was asked to discuss his club's upcoming events and recent successes. He stated that the Vanceburg Lions Club had recently hosted the E.V. Holder Memorial Golf Scramble, with proceeds used to support the Kentucky Lions Eye Foundation (KLEF).

The club will sponsor the 2026 Heritage Festival on October 17 in Vanceburg, featuring music by Hunter Jordan, Nate Stone, and others, along with a host of additional events.

Next, Dennis Truesdell, president of the Orangeburg Lions Club, discussed the club's upcoming Fall Festival and mentioned that the Orangeburg Volunteer Fire Department, with which the club shares its building/clubhouse, was also planning a Fall Festival.

The Orangeburg Volunteer Fire Department was providing the Orangeburg Lions

Club with an AED unit for its clubhouse. The Orangeburg Lions Club also hosted an Ice Cream Social that successfully raised \$3,250 for the family of Raylen Poe, a cancer patient.

The Orangeburg Lions Club Fall Festival will be October 17, with a soup supper beginning at 4 p.m. and an auction at 6:30 p.m. The club will also host a Pancake Breakfast on November 17 at 6 a.m. The Orangeburg Lions Club is still working through logistics for a proposed park situated between the AA Highway and Stonelick Road.

Dallas Doyle, representing the Maysville Lions Club, discussed the club's recent projects and successes. Following a resoundingly successful Lions Club Radio Auction, the Maysville Lions Club recently held a banquet where seven club members were recognized for 28 or more years of service and three members were recognized for their participation in the Lions Club Radio Auction.

Four additional groups were added to the club's list of annual donations, bringing the total number of organizations receiving donations to 29.

The Maysville Lions Club, while not the owner of Beechwood Park, is a grant recipient responsible for undertaking maintenance and improvements at the park. As such, the club is investing in improvements, including painting and repairing significant damage caused by a recent tornado that wreaked havoc on bleachers and fencing. The club is also hoping, with assistance from the City of Maysville, to add a splash pad.

The club is also involved in the Maysville Pig-Out and a Chili Cookoff event, as well as a Trunk or Treat event with the Tom Browning Boys and Girls Club.

Zone Chairman Angela Jett then invited Flemingsburg Lions Club member Rob Applegate to address the group, even though his club is not part of her Zone. He first stated that he had no intention of missing Steve's recognition as a Hall of Fame member and appreciated the invitation.

The Flemingsburg Lions Club recently raised approximately \$21,000 through a fish fry and auction event, provides five scholarships annually, and works with Tourism on multiple festivals.

The "guys in the back," the dignitaries, were then asked to speak. Chuck Carlson of the Florence Lions Club



mentioned a Zoom meeting for Tuesday, September 22, designed to assist presidents and vice presidents. He indicated that Carol Hollander would be teaching part of the course.

Guy Hollander, an LCIF (Lions Clubs International Foundation) director, discussed recognition by the International President and had pins available to recognize contributions at the international level. This resulted in at least one \$375 donation by a Tollesboro Lions Club member.

Carol Hollander, Second Vice District Governor and administrator of the District 43Y Facebook page, advised all clubs to report their service online through the Lions Club Portal and to keep dues payments timely.

George Lonnerman of the Erlanger Lions Club did not address the group.

The meeting then adjourned.

Tollesboro Lions Club Member Honored With Hall of Fame Award

On Monday, Sept. 21, 2026, Tollesboro Lions Club member Steve Pedersen was presented with the 2026

Kentucky Lions Hall of Fame recognition.

Steve is a recipient of the Melvin Jones Fellowship, named for Lions Clubs founder Melvin Jones and the highest honor a club can bestow on a member through Lions Clubs International. He is also a recipient of the Finis Davis Fellowship, named for Finis Davis, Kentucky's only Lions Clubs International President, who served in 1960-61. The fellowship is the highest award a club can bestow on a member through the Kentucky Lions Clubs.

Steve is also a recipient of the Hall of Fame Award, the highest honor the Kentucky Lions Clubs may present to a Lions Club member, as well as President's Awards from the Kentucky Lions Eye Foundation and the International President.

Steve has been actively involved in Lionism, serving as Past Council Chair, District Governor, Zone Chairman, Third Vice President of the Kentucky Lions Eye Foundation, and spearheading the District 43Y Disaster Relief Program. He has also served as Past President of the

Tollesboro Lions Club, longtime treasurer, member of the Tollesboro Lions Club Board of Directors, member of the Tollesboro Lions Club Fair Committee, and Past Fair Chairman.

He is also a recipient of the Linda and Henry Smith President's Award and is a Life Patron of the Kentucky Lions Eye Foundation.

In addition to his Lions Club activities, Steve is a member of the Buffalo Trace Area Development District Board of Directors and the Mason County Men's Club. He is actively involved with Tollesboro Christian Church, where he has served as an elder, deacon, treasurer, and Missions Committee leader.

Steve is also a 22-year member of the U.S. Army, where he attained the rank of First Sergeant (E-8) and served as a drill sergeant.

Steve is the second member of the Tollesboro Lions Club to be inducted into the Kentucky Lions Hall of Fame. Fellow Tollesboro Lions Club member Craig Stanfield was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2025, giving the Tollesboro Lions Club back-to-back inductees.

Buffalo Trace Area Development District Board of Directors Special Annual Meeting

Herald Report

The Buffalo Trace Area Development District Board of Directors held their Special Annual Meeting on Monday, September 14, 2026 at The Social 606 in Maysville, Kentucky. The Area Development District celebrated 57 years of service to the counties of Bracken, Fleming, Lewis, Mason, and Robertson.

Chairman Sparks welcomed board members, staff, and other guests. After some regular business items, Chairman Sparks introduced Circuit Court Judge Jeff Schumacher who administered the Oath of Office to newly elected officers. Sworn in were Chair – Rebecca McGinnis, Fleming County Citizen Member; Vice-Chair – Owen McNeill, Mason County Judge Executive; Secretary – Louie King, Bracken County Citizen Member and Treasurer – Ann Stoker, Robertson County Citizen Member. Judge Schumacher thanked the Board for offering him the honor and privilege to administer the oath and for what they do for the citizens of their counties. The assistance and support provided is instrumental and he thanked them for their service on the Board.

Newly installed Chair Rebecca McGinnis thanked Judge Schumacher for participating in the installation of officers for the upcoming year. She expressed appreciation for his time and willingness to offer the oath to the new offi-

cers. Chair McGinnis has worked with BTADD ten years and appreciated the confidence that the Board has in installing her as Chair for the upcoming year. She looks forward to working with the Board, Executive Director and staff and is excited about the future of the region.

Rebecca McGinnis, incoming Chair presented George Sparks, outgoing Chairman with a gift for his service and dedication to Buffalo Trace Board of Directors.

Chairman Sparks commented it had been an honor to represent Buffalo Trace ADD and Staff in the five-county region as Chairman of the Buffalo Trace Board of Directors. He commented he looks forward to contributing to future efforts in this district through the Buffalo Trace Board. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as Chair of the Buffalo Trace ADD Board of Directors.

Chairman Sparks recognized Rebecca McGinnis for 10 years of service on the BTADD Board. Tenure awards were presented to staff members -

- 5 Years -Katie Burns
- Courtney Manley
- Amber Todd
- 10 Years
- Stephen Culp -Carla Padgett -Leah Clark -Ashley Robinson
- 15 Years -Amanda Grooms
- Kevin Cornette
- 20 Years -Kevin Wells
- 25 Years -Missy Hardy

Community Leadership Awards were presented to citizens who contribute to the development and well-being of their community. Nominees meet specific criteria by being active in civic and community affairs, having outstanding overall citizenship, portraying outstanding community leadership, and contributing to positive change in their community. Recipients of the Award were in honor of Roger King – Bracken County; Bob and Margaret McGinnis – Fleming County; Ben Harrison – Lewis County; Jerry Lundergan – Mason County; and Kristy Allison - Robertson County.

Executive Director Kevin Cornette presented the Heart of the Team Staff Award. Staff voted on a fellow member who they believe are the heart of our team. This year's recipient is Michelle Hesler.

The recipient of the 2026 Regionalism Award, which is presented to a Buffalo Trace ADD Board member who has made exceptional contributions to the region, was presented to Vaughn Kelsch, Bracken County Citizen Member. Vaughn has served on the Board since January 2012.

Executive Director Kevin Cornette introduced guest speaker Senator Shelly Frommeyer. She represents Kenton, Campbell, Pendleton and Bracken Counties. Her focus is on issues that need resolved and how the region can work

together to tackle these initiatives. The river connects the region and is our life blood; that is our water and that is our source.

Senator Frommeyer is working on the Nuclear Energy Development Authority. She is making sure that when big businesses come in they come in with a substantial amount to pay their own energy or come in with some small modular nuclear new energy that can be shared. She explained that these are policy issues that need to be worked on together to unwind some of the issues that might be causing a loss of freedom. There are a lot of farms that need their water and there are side effects to economic development. This needs to be done with care. We need to love one another and serve one another. This is a team effort. She thanked the leaders who work hard to make the Buffalo Trace Region a better place to live.

Comments were made by Chair McGinnis. She acknowledged the Buffalo Trace Board of Directors and thanked them for serving our communities.

Executive Director Cornette thanked everyone for their attendance and asked them to take a look at the 2026 BTADD Annual Report. He thanked Crystal Ruark, Public Information Officer for gathering the information and to Staff for their hard work during the year.