

Greetings from the Board of Directors at Beacon Lodge!

The office staff and Board have been extremely busy since camp has ended. We are diligently preparing for the 2025 Camping Season and considering opening the camp to other groups who want to camp, aside from Special Needs Campers.

We have hired 3 Directors to work together in our office as a team. The Director of Operations (all things maintenance and certifications) is Joe Hicks, the Director of Programs (oversees all campers, nurses & runs the camping season) is Kelly McMullen and the Director of Marketing/Fundraising (handles fundraising and grant writing) is Alison Burian. These 3 employees are instrumental in the success of Beacon Lodge. They are doing an excellent job!

Special thanks to all of the clubs who supported the BL Golf Outing by purchasing a \$100 hole sign. Our District purchased 19 signs and contributed to the \$42,000 that was raised with our biggest fundraiser of the year. Just to make you aware, our proposed operating budget for the year is \$900,000.

November is the time of year to support the Beacon Lodge 500 Club - a \$5 donation for every Lion member of every club. Many clubs have budgeted for this but for those who have not, your Lion's Camp depends on you to make your donation. The 500 club helps with maintenance at the camp - and with over 500 acres there is a LOT of maintenance. Just electricity, heating and air conditioning account for a huge part of the budget. Please see the support letter that accompanies this packet. Last year we had donations of \$2,140 from 11 Lions Clubs and 1 Leo Club in District 14-K. This year's goal is \$2,600. If every club donated we would reach \$3,600. That would be sensational.

We appreciate all that you do for PA Lions Beacon Lodge Camp. It does not go unnoticed. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Best regards,
PDG Kathy Duelley
PDG Debbie Lillegard

PA LIONS BEACON LODGE CAMP

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2024



New Structure New Leadership

Beacon Lodge is moving forward! The Board of Directors, in collaboration with the Personnel Committee, has revamped the organizational and leadership structure of the camp, we have chosen to go with a different model of leadership based more on the structure of a business.

Our new leadership module is a team approach, with a Director of Programs, Director of Facilities and Operations and Director of Marketing and Fundraising.

The Director of Programs, Kelly McMullen, oversees the camping program and is responsible for increasing camper attendance. She creates and develops year-round program opportunities and growth of our facility rental program.

Director of Facilities and Operations is Joe Hicks, formerly Maintenance Supervisor. He is responsible for the physical maintenance of the camp property, improvements to the property, and directing the overall operations of the camp.

The Director of Marketing and Fundraising is a vital role to generate income from multiple sources. We have not yet located a candidate with the experience needed for this full-time role. We have however, contracted a part-time Consultant Alison Burian, an experienced and successful grant writer. Alison has begun compiling documentation to apply for grants and has developed a local "end of the year" fundraising campaign.

Our IT Specialist, Danny Coons will work with Allison to update our website and media presence Danny will be maintaining and supporting the wi-fi and all technology at BLC. He will also be assisting the Office Manager with administration duties as needed.

The Office Manager, Katlin McVey, will continue to manage the office as she has for the past five years and will support all the directors. Katlin maintains our donation databases, tracking sponsorships for campers and sends donation letters of acknowledgement, in addition to other responsibilities requested by Board members.

This group of staff has worked together since last summer's camp season. We are confident they will continue to work collaboratively and cooperatively together to move PA Lions Beacon Lodge Camp forward in a new direction. This model of shared responsibility and accountability has been working well to make the changes necessary to achieve results.

IPDG Barbara Cassel,
Personnel Committee Chair

Get To Know the Staff

Kelly McMullen, Director of Program

Kelly has worked at the Pa Lions Beacon Lodge Camp for many years as on our Nurses and help the Nursing Supervisor position prior to becoming the Director of Program in 2024. She is a great asset to the camp as all our campers love her.

Outside of Camp Kelly is a Lion with the

Wayne Township Beacon Lodge Lions Club.



Joe Hicks, Director of Facilities & Operations

Joe started at the Pa Lions Bacon Lodge Camp as the Maintenance Supervisor in Early 2024. He worked alongside Dave McMullen our Maintenance Worker to have the camp opened up for 2024 season and lead our work weekends with our lions completing multiple projects here at Camp. Joe was Recently Promoted to the Director of Facilities & Operations for his hard work and dedication to the camp. He is very hands on with the work that needs done and enjoys working with the campers. He is certified to operate our Zip Line and Climbing Wall for the campers and rentals.

Katlin McVey, Office Manager

Katlin has been with Pa Lions Camp in February of 2020 as the Office Manager. She is very hard working and dedicated to the Camp. She is very knowledgeable in the camps operations, policies, and procedures. Outside of camp Katlin is a new mother to a baby boy. She is also a Lion with Allenport Lions Club and holds the position as their secretary and was recently presented with a Melvin Jones Fellowship by 14-L District Governor Gary Shetter.



Daniel Coons, IT Specialist

Daniel started at Pa Lions Beacon Lodge at the start of the 2024 camping season as our Adult Village Unit Director. Working along side Kelly our Program Director he helped oversee and run our summer program. After the summer session Daniel was given the opportunity to stay on staff as our IT Specialist/ Office Assistance. Outside of camp Daniel is a Lion with the Wayne Township Beacon Lodge Lions Club.





2024 Camping Season

As a parent of a camper I want to share with you the success I observed at the three sessions of Camp Felicity this year. Chessi has been attending camp for over 20 years and I have never observed anything other than a happy, family-oriented atmosphere. The camper's well-being is always at the forefront.

The staff was outstanding. All pitched in where needed even if it wasn't in their job description and the counselors whom I had the pleasure of speaking with, were truly amazing with the campers.

We, as a board, are very lucky to have the staff we have at Beacon Lodge. To say they go above and beyond is an understatement. They are a remarkable group of people working together for a common goal.

My gratitude and thanks to the staff at Beacon Lodge. Another camping year has been a huge success.

Jackie Slogan

This Letter was sent to President PDG Jan Adams from a fellow Board Member Jackie Slogan Mother of one of our Camper Chessi Slogan. In this letter she spoke Highly of our 2024 Season and the staff that made it Happen.

Preparing for the 2025 Season

With the 2024 season finished our staff is currently working to prepare for 2025. At this time we have our 2025 Season Calendar in the works and will be ready for open enrollment by February 1st for our adult, children and Project New Hope sessions

Our Program Director Kelly McMullen is working on promoting our camp to increase our campers numbers. The goal is to increase our campers by 75%. She is also working on the 2025 program and activities. We want to increase the available activities that we offer our campers and bring back some that we were unable to offer the last few years. We want to open the rifle and archery range back up, the Director of Operation and Facilities Joe Hicks and our Maintenance Assistant Dave McMullen will have our new inground trampoline installed in the

spring in our children village. We have plans for restoring and relocating our train station and track here at camp. These projects will be completed during our work weekends with lions in spring of 2025.

The beauty of the fall season is alive at Beacon Lodge with the changing of the trees colors and cool days. The fall is also the time of year when we begin to plan for the 2025 camping season. The staff are working on researching, building contacts for increasing camper attendance, locating counselors, and promoting rental possibilities. Remember our beautiful facility when planning business meeting, conferences, lions meeting and events. We have so much to offer, take advantage of using our facility. Especially during off season months fall to spring.

Our chef held a Soup Sale and Dinner Fundraiser to begin the fall season at Beacon Lodge. He is available to provide meals for rental events as well. Contact the office for more information and reserve a date for your event 814-542-2511 Ext 2.

Please remember Beacon Lodge when Budgets are prepared and give consideration to how you can help support the camp and services offered to our campers with special needs and visual Impairments

In service,

PDG Jan Adams

Board President

