

# Lions Club endorse national Rosie the Riveter movement in W.Va.

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Members of the Charleston Gold Dome Lions Club helped Thanks! Plain and Simple Inc. (or "Thanks!") inform people in the region about plans to launch a National Rosie the Riveter Movement from West Virginia recently.

In December, the CGDLC received an award from "Thanks!" as "The First Model Rosie the Riveter Civic Organization" in America. Two criteria must be met for an organization to be designated as a model by "Thanks!" First, it must show genuine respect for Rosies. Second, it must cooperate both within its organization and with the public to help Rosies shape their own, valid legacy.

Rosies are women who worked on the home front during World War II on jobs often called "men's work." "Thanks!" has worked for five years to show this region as the example for American to follow to "know a Rosie and



grow America's promise."

Founded by Anne Montague, the organization develops projects, educational methods and model groups to make it easier for Americans to know the Rosies in communities around America.

Past District Governor of West Virginia Lions Clubs in Lions District 29-O Jim McMillon helped with recent events.

"The Charleston Gold Dome Lions Club makes a point to know and learn from Rosie the Riveters," said McMillon. "Rosies motivate us. We're proud to work on proj-

ects with Rosies that people can see, touch and educate with, in the short time left for these women. I believe that the National Rosie the Riveter Movement will succeed because of Anne's unique skills to plan and do work that is important for all Americans. She wants to show America that important work is being done by West Virginians and that Americans have ways to honor Rosies before they die."

Public meetings were held on Jan. 27, Jan. 28 and Feb. 5 at the Marshall Graduate School in South Charleston and on Feb. 7 at the Pullman Plaza Hotel in Huntington.

In the Huntington meeting, "Thanks!" awarded the West Virginia American Legion the title of, "First Model Rosie the Riveter Veterans Organization in America." McMillon presented the award to Commander Frank Nicholson.

"Before we announce to the nation that we are launching a National Rosie the Riveter Movement from West Virginia, we want to be sure that West Virginians understand

the work, why is it important to our state and nation and how this region can help us show off the state and our Rosie who worked all around America.

"It's shameful that these living women have been so ignored in America's, not just for their contributions to history but for the contributions we help them make today that impact the future.

"Our highest goal is guide Americans to work together. We get Rosies and the public working together to educate about Rosies and leave things for the future that tell about Rosies.

"We are ready to show America the value of working with living Rosies, model Americans who are doing a great job with Rosies, and the 15 projects we have created that can be replicated around the country.

"It's a huge task, but I deeply believe that Americans are beginning to be inspired to catch up after ignoring our Rosies for 70 years."