



District 31-I News

*United in Kindness and Diversity
International President,
Dr. Jung-Yul Choi*



District 31-I Newsletter

February 2021

Issue 8

Member News

In Loving Memory

Of Lions who have passed this past month:

Member	Club
Jack Frank	Davis Townsend
Ed Davis Jr	Derita
David Joseph Myers	Hasty
Fred Plummer	Pilot

NEW MEMBERS!!!!

Member	Club
Natalia Anatoliivna Davydenko	Charlotte Southern
Robert A. Ashworth, Jr.	King

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*"Life's most persistent
and urgent question is:*

"What are you doing for others?"

-Martin Luther King, Jr.



Volunteers Creating a Future — DG Donald Cobb

District Happenings

One of the things I like about living outside of Sparta is getting to enjoy the snow we have during the winter months. When it snows in the mountains it often seems that the world comes to a standstill; at least for a short while, as the snow comes down and paints the landscape a beautiful white. You can step outside, things are quiet, and the only thing you hear is the snow as it falls from the sky, and yes, it can be that quiet. And as I try to finish writing this article, we once again have several inches of snow on the ground.

That's not to say everything is all roses when it snows. You wonder if it really will snow once the weather person calls for snow and if it does, will you be able to get out for an appointment the next day. After it snows, you worry about being able to get out period, and even worse, if you do get out, you wonder if you'll be able to get back in, especially if you have a steep drive to navigate to get to the main road. On top of that, it takes a lot of work to scrape the drive and shovel snow to be able to get out. You also know once you do that, it will re-freeze at night and be a sheet of ice the next morning. So, while the snow is pretty, it can create a lot of problems.

I guess you could say our district is somewhat like we are in the mountains waiting for it to snow. We are still very much affected by COVID-19 and probably will be for some time. Many of our activities and service projects have been put on hold, but we've still had a lot of good things taking place. Let's take a look at where we are with some of the things happening across our district.

First, let's take a look at our membership across the district. We currently have 52 clubs in the district which is one less than the 53 clubs we had on July 1st. The one club we lost actually was the result of a merger between the Arcadia and Welcome Clubs that took place last fall and the merged club changed their name to the North Davidson Club. On January 1st, we had 1,033 members, down from the 1,120 members we had on January 1, 2020. We have added 37 new members since July 1st but have lost 77 members. Thirty-two of our clubs have less than 20 members. All of this points to the fact that we have lost members across the district and this is the same over the state.

What about our Brighter Visions contributions? As of January 26th, our district has contributed \$57,441 to Brighter Visions which is 40% of our goal of \$145,000. This amounts to \$50.48 per member. It has been difficult for some of our clubs to contribute to Brighter Visions since many have not been able to have fund raisers. Thanks to all of our clubs who have contributed and we hope all clubs will find a way to contribute to Brighter Visions before the end of June.

As most of you know, our district convention will be held on Saturday, March 20, 2021. For the safety of our members, our district convention will be held by Zoom. As a result, the convention will be an abbreviated version of our normal convention; however, we will hopefully have an International Director speak with us, elect our officers for next year, and have a district cabinet meeting. Information will soon be sent to club secretaries with regards to submitting the names of delegates from each club who will be voting in the election. More information regarding the convention as well as instructions for how to join will be provided later.

Our state convention will also be held virtually this year in April as well as the International convention in June. The times dictate what we can do, and we as Lions are adapting as best as we can.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Unfortunately, COVID-19 has carried over into 2021 and it appears that it will be with us for some time to come. While there are vaccines available and people are being vaccinated, it is going to be awhile before the vaccines are available to everyone, so that means we are still going to have to be careful and operate as we have been. Because of a medical condition I had years ago which could still affect my health, my doctors have told me I should avoid groups of people if at all possible and have almost gone so far as to forbid me from attending meetings with people across the state. I have finally decided to listen to them and as a result, I will not be making in-person district governor visits to clubs unless things clear up in the spring. For those clubs who are meeting by Zoom, I will be delighted to visit with you by Zoom and hope to schedule a meeting in the near future.

1st Vice District Governor — H. Wayne Kennerly

Can you believe that we now half way through this Lions year? Most all of our Lions work has been on Zoom so we can all be safe in our districts.

Each of my monthly newsletters has asked each of us to work on membership. Dr. Jung-Yul Choi, our International President has also asked continued work toward achieving our membership and service goals, and for us to make the necessary adjustments needed to accomplish our goals. We all need to think out of the box to find ways to raise the necessary funds to meet our goals. What are you doing to meet your goals? Let's not let Governor Donald Cobb down; we all need to work hard for him to meet all of his goals this year.

Hopefully, soon we will again have our club meetings open to attend. Most members like to attend meetings for the same reason you do. These reasons include interesting programs, fellowship and a chance to be part of an organization that makes a meaningful contribution to our community. Most members do not enjoy attending meetings that are not interesting, are poorly attended and do not start and end as scheduled. We all need to work to make meeting productive and interesting. Those who attend will continue to do so if they feel their time is well spent.

Henry Ford said "If everyone is moving forward together then success takes care of itself."

Hope your 2021 is moving forward in the right direction for a successful year!

Find us on the web at: NClions31I.org

Send items you would like posted on the webpage to Lion Elizabeth Rummage at lionrummage@gmail.com.

Thank You PDG Ron Staley!

For the past several years, PDG Ron Staley has managed our district's email service. In fact, PDG Ron along with another Lion first created the email service when he was in District E and then moved the service to District I whenever we combined districts. Not only has PDG Ron maintained the list of emails and been responsible for sending newsletters and other emails, he has personally paid for the service all these years. I think you would agree with me that we owe PDG Ron a big THANK YOU for helping us communicate with the district throughout these years!

PDG Ron has asked that we find someone else to handle the email service. Lion Susan Mathers from the Mint Hill Lions Club has graciously agreed to manage our email service and she has been working diligently to make this change. From now on, you may send items that need to be emailed to the district to Lion Susan at susancmathers@gmail.com. Lion Susan, thank you for being willing to assume the responsibility of handling our email service! Once again, a big THANK YOU to PDG Ron Staley for handling our email communications for the past several years and for all you have done for our district!

DG Donald Cobb

2nd Vice District Governor — Bill Mathers

As all of us know, the Lions motto is “WE SERVE”. As I have mentioned before we have always been an organization ready to serve. This year has been very different and strange. With Covid still not under control, and we are still waiting for our vaccine shots, we MUST focus on serving.

We do not necessarily have to focus on big projects as we have in the past. Many of us are doing different and many times, smaller acts of service. A lot of Lions are already doing these things. What has prompted this article I am writing? Actually there are several things. Here are just a couple. My wife, Lion Susan, has an 86 year old father who lives in Gaffney, SC. My father-in-law has always been in the greatest of health during his life. He was a Charlotte Firefighter. In the last year he had a small stroke. He has recovered a good bit, but he still walks with a cane. The other day he told my wife that he had driven up to his local convenience store and bought some milk and orange juice. Then the magic happened. He said out of nowhere two young women carried his milk and orange to his car for him. He thought that was great and really enjoyed their help enough to tell Susan.

A second story I heard was from a dear friend of mine who had to go home and cut his neighbors lawn. When I asked about it, he told me she was an elderly lady and the neighbors took turns helping her.

Neither of these stories were about Lions but caring and serving people of their communities. And then I read about one Lions Club baking cookies and delivering them to the health care workers at their local hospital. I have heard other stories about Lions delivering food to the fire and police departments in their communities. We all know the stories of collecting food for the local food banks.

All of this got me to thinking. Lets’ have each club start with a small competition in their club that would cost very, little, or no money and take very, little time. I am suggesting at your next meeting, challenge each other to do “LITTLE RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS” in your communities and report back at future club meetings what you did once or twice a week that each of you were proud of.

It could be taking a shopping cart to a corral for an elderly shopper in a parking lot. It could be calling an elderly person or VIP and just see how they are doing. It could be writing a note to a friend you have not seen. It could be holding a door open for a person. How about babysitting for a parent that might need time. Shop at a store for someone. Make a meal for a family. Most of these, cost very, little, or no money at all. People need help all over our communities in these trying times. Just for the little things they need to get by.

This is a challenge to each Lion in each club in our district. Make it a club competition. Talk about what you each did at your zoom or in-person meetings. Make it part of your agenda. Applaud each other for what you do. Help each other feel good about what you are doing. One great act of kindness each week. Keep this up until Covid is over!!! Can you just imagine what Lions of District I could accomplish, with “LITTLE RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS”?

Have a great month...



State Lions Pins

District Governor Donald Cobb has State Lions Pins available. They are \$2 each.

This year's pins feature famous North Carolinian Sam Ervin, Jr. Anyone wanting to purchase pins should email DG Donald at dwcobb@skybest.com.

Calendar

Feb. 18 8pm	Zoom	NAMI Meeting— Action Planning	Contact PDG George Culp for Invite
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March 3, 2021

11a-2p or until Sold Out

At NC Lions Camp Dogwood

Plates \$10

Includes: BBQ, slaw, baked beans,
roll, and dessert

Call 828.478.2135 x 229 to guarantee
your plate by Feb 26



THE COCKMAN FAMILY AND BBQ DINNER FUNDRAISER

Benefitting Camp Dogwood!

Mark your calendars:

April 17, 2021

At Camp Dogwood Sherills Ford, NC

BBQ Dinner at 5pm

Lake Front Concert at 7pm

828.478.2135 for more info and tickets!

North Carolina Lions Eyeglass Recycling Program

According to The World Health Organization, 153 million people have uncorrected refractive errors (near-sightedness, far-sightedness or astigmatism). Most of these vision impairments are quickly diagnosed and easy to treat with corrective lenses.

Still, millions of people in developing nations are pushed deeper into poverty

simply because they don't have glasses. They can't learn, because reading is difficult. They can't work to the best of their ability, because they can't see clearly. For children, clear vision means a better education, healthier development, and a better quality of life. For adults, clear vision means greater employment opportunity and economic strength. For seniors clear vision means less dependence on others.

North Carolina Lions collect over 170,000 pairs of eyeglasses each year to address the need for glasses, making eyeglass recycling one of our most popular activities.

Please welcome our NEWEST newsletter feature by our favorite Tail Twister, Lion Chris Beck!

IDIOTT CIRCLE

TRUE VALENTINE'S DAY STORIES

"The lingerie store where my aunt works was crowded with shoppers selecting Valentine's Day gifts for their wives. A young businessman came to the register with a lacy black negligee. My aunt noticed that the next customer, an elderly farmer, was holding a long flannel nightgown and kept glancing at the younger man's sexier choice. When it was his turn, the farmer placed the nightgown on the counter. 'Would you have anything in black flannel?' he asked.

"About a year had passed since my amicable divorce, and I decided it was time to start dating again. Unsure how to begin, I thought I'd scan the personals column of my local newspaper. I came across three men who seemed like they'd be promising candidates. A couple of days later, I was checking my answering machine and discovered a message from my ex-husband. 'I was over visiting the kids yesterday,' he said. 'While I was there I happened to notice you had circled some ads in the paper. Don't bother calling the guy in the second column. I can tell you right now it won't work out. That guy is me.'"

VALENTINE'S DAY QUOTES

- 1- **Mae West:** Love thy neighbor — and if he happens to be tall, debonair and devastating, it will be that much easier.
- 2- **Lemony Snicket:** Love can change a person the way a parent can change a baby — awkwardly, and often with a great deal of mess.
- 3- **Cameron Esposito:** I married for love, but the obvious side benefit of having someone around to find my glasses cannot be ignored.
- 4- **Agatha Christie :** An archeologist is the best husband any woman can have; the older she gets, the more interested he is in her.
- 5- **Albert Einstein:** Gravitation is not responsible for people falling in love.
- 6- **Carroll Bryant:** Love is a two-way street constantly under construction.
- 7- **Charles M. Schulz:** All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt.
- 8- **George Burns:** Love is a lot like a backache: it doesn't show up on X-rays, but you know it's there.
- 9- **Lily Tomlin:** If love is the answer, could you please rephrase the question?
- 10- **Phyllis Schlafly:** Marriage is like pantyhose. It all depends on what you put into it.
- 11- **Phyllis Diller:** Marry a man your own age; as your beauty fades, so will his eyesight.

Since DG Donald Cobb, at the urging of our beloved Lion Gayle Cobb, is doing his best to accomplish his New Year's Resolutions, (posted in last month's newsletter), he offers this poem to all Lions in our district:

Roses are red,
Violets are blue.
At our next zoom meeting,
I'll be wearing pants too!!



Poems From The IDIOTT

Roses are red,
The sun is
shinng.
But my mental health,
Is rapidly declining!!

Roses are red,
Apples are too
Violets are purple,
They ain't blue!

Roses are red,
Violets are blue.
Though these crazy times,
We will pull through!!

Valentines are for Loving Individuals Offering Needed Service

I must admit, it is a stretch to make a transition from Valentines to LIONS. Well, perhaps not if you are as I am. Valentine Day for me started in elementary school when we inserted a valentine into a construction sheet envelope each adorned with the student's name in the class. I recall the excitement of receiving a valentine from one or two little girls in my class that I hoped like me as much as I liked them. Sadly, seems as if they were more broken hearts at that age than most of us want to remember.

When Past International President Sid Scruggs who many of you know, and if not, Lion Sid is a member of the Vass Lions Club here in North Carolina. During his time as President, he came up with the acronym above: Loving Individuals Offering Needed Service.

Our participation in the Valentine traditions is not limited to the fourteenth of February for LIONS. The majority of our LIONS participate in sharing our love for others not with a card but with action. Thus, our motto, "We Serve".

The emphasis for one of our NAMI Focus groups is to re-motivate members with new fellowships and exciting service. Sadly, the current pandemic has hampered both our fellowship and opportunities for providing service to others.

Lions of District 31-I are stepping up and finding new ways to meet the needs of their communities. We have seen clubs focus on Hunger Projects with food drives. Others are sending greeting cards to local assisted living facilities. Hopefully all clubs are contacting their VIPs with assistance where needed including transportation to vaccine sites.

Should your club need service ideas, contact Lion Ron Rich who is our District Global Service leader. He and his focus group is there to help. You too can help by reporting your service activities to MyLCI. This effort assists in sharing of ideas for other clubs to try.

There is another plus to providing service in your community. What better way to boost your membership than by inviting prospective members to join you in service projects? Let them see what you already know and feel, the Love by Individuals Offering Needed Service.

For more information on Service, contact Lion Ron Rich casper101@windstream.net (704) 662 8516. Happy Valentines to each of you. Keep loving your club and community as we move into 2021.

PDG George Culp

GLT District 31-I

liongeorgeculp@gmail.com 704 906 8568

Do you order from Amazon.com?

Did you know that your order can benefit NCLI?

All you need to do is use the address of Smile.Amazon.com

and select NCLI as the beneficiary. Amazon will donate a portion of every order made using that web address to NCLI.



Let us know about club events, fundraisers, service projects, and honors received so that we can share them with our Fellow Lions.

Email to diannamwald@gmail.com or mail to Lion Dianna Wald,

PO Box 1260, Denton, NC 27239

by the 20th of each month.

As always, we love your pictures too!!

CLUB NEWS

BOONE AREA LIONS CLUB

The Boone Area Lions Club has a new project to meet the needs of those who have been facing the COVID 19 challenges and may have had difficulty obtaining protective masks and also to honor those serving the victims of COVID 19. The Boone Lions committed to design, purchase and distribute 300 face masks free to those serving the community and to those in need.

The masks, that are dual layered, made of blue polyester and emblazoned with the Lions Club logo have so far been distributed to individuals and charities including the Hunger and Health Coalition, Hospitality House, Meals on Wheels and The Broyhill Wellness Center. Members of the club are also distributing masks to others who need them and plan to set up a table at Boone Mall with masks and information about the work of the Lions.

The Boone Lions have also purchased an En-Vision I.D.Mate Omni Bar Code Reader for two local VIPs, Regina and Charles Mettam, who are wearing the new Lions Club masks. The machine scans the bar code on commercial products and reads them aloud so the VIPs are able select grocery items without assistance.



Club Secretaries: Most of you have probably noticed the new effort to improve our communication to our club members via emails. The current lists are being purged and new lists are being created. As a district, we would like to have the ability to communicate with every member via email. While we understand that every member does not use email, we hope that club secretaries make an effort to get the information to these members using whatever method works best for you. Some clubs print out the newsletter and hand it to the member or mail it to them. The source of email addresses for us is from MyLCI. The ability to communicate to the masses requires valid email addresses in MyLCI. On a recent data download, we found that for 1043 members, only 655 had emails in MyLCI. That works out to 63%. Perhaps each of you can audit your membership on MyLCI and check with your members for any missing email addresses. This will assist our district's ability to communicate to the members. Thank you for your help. Let me know if I can help.

PDG Lion George Culp – GLT Chair email: LionGeorgeCulp@gmail.com

International Convention Will Be Virtual

Due to the continuing concerns about COVID-19, the LCI Board of Directors have voted to move the 2021 International Convention to a totally virtual convention. This decision was made with the health and safety of Lions, staff and vendors in mind as limiting international travel and large gatherings is key to global containment strategies.

Here are some important details about the 2021 virtual convention:

- **Everyone's invited** – The 2021 convention will be a virtual event that's open to all Lions and Leos around the world.
- **Registration fees** – The registration fee will be US \$50 until March 31, then US \$75 beginning April 1. The registration fee for Leos will be US \$30 regardless of date. Convention is currently scheduled for June 25-29. Additional event and registration details will be provided soon.
- **Current registrants** – Lions who are currently registered for convention will receive an email soon with more information about their registration options.
- **Elections** – Executive officer and international director elections will be conducted electronically and voting procedures will be forthcoming.

Convention updates – Check the convention website LCICon for convention updates and details as they become available.

Resolution Approved by LCI Board of Directors

To support the incredible men and women serving with us during the COVID-19 pandemic, the International Board of Directors unanimously passed the following resolution to help our clubs.

- **Charter and entrance fees waiver** – We have waived all charter and entrance fees from January 1 through June 30, 2021.
- **Flexible payments** – No clubs in good standing on December 31, 2020 will be suspended or canceled through June 30, 2021 for late payment of dues. Full payment is required to be received before June 30, 2021 to avoid suspension or cancellation.
- **Please note that clubs placed on financial suspension on December 31, 2020 will remain on suspension until the full balance is paid. Those clubs will still need to address their outstanding dues or make arrangements for repayment with the Accounts Receivable Department at Lions Clubs International to avoid cancellation scheduled for March 1, 2021.**

Hello from the
1st Vice District Governors of MD 31,
We are pleased to announce that **PDG Dale Dupree** has been selected as our Council Chair for the 2021-2022 Lions year!
And we're excited to continue our journey together serving the Lions of North Carolina. We encourage all Lions to reach out to us with any suggestions as to how we can serve you in the coming Lions year!

Happy New Year to you all and we're looking forward to a fabulous year!

Respectfully, MD 31 1st Vice District Governors

L Kenneth Beach
I Wayne Kennerly
O Barbara Thompson
N Robert Block
S Randy Oxendine

District 31-I Newsletter is published monthly.

DEADLINE for inclusion of articles is the 20th of each month if by email. Cost of producing and distributing this publication is paid from member dues received.

Newsletters sent by email are available on the day of publication. USPS mailings are received a week after publication and cost a minimum of \$.50 to mail; and depending on the number of pages in each edition, could cost \$.71 to \$.92 cents per issue to mail.

All articles, announcements, etc. for inclusion in the District 31-I Newsletter should be sent to:

Lion Dianna Wald

PO Box 1260

Denton, NC 27239 or diannamwald@gmail.com.

Please send all submissions as a Word Document and pictures in a separate .jpg file. Mail to arrive by the 20th of the month.

Address corrections or additions for USPS or email should be sent to

Lion Susan Mathers

6700 Pine Lake Lane,

Mint Hill, NC 28227 or susanmathers@gmail.com.

Can you find me?!?!?



Somewhere in this newsletter is this historical Lions Clubs International emblem from 1918. The first person to find it and email Lion Dianna at diannamwald@gmail.com WINS a prize!!

CONGRATULATIONS to Lion Sherry Lackey from Bethlehem Club for winning January's Prize!!

International Association of
Lions Clubs
Lion Donald Cobb
District Governor, 31-I North Carolina
3 Coleman Drive
Sparta, NC 28675

