



District 31-I News

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



District 31-I Newsletter

April 2021

Issue 10

Member News

In Loving Memory

Of Lions who have passed this past month:

Member	Club
Barry L. Hass	Creston-Riverview
James Albright	Rockwell
Rod Huffman	Southmont
Phillip S. Donaldson	Sparta
S. Aldeen Robbins	Thomasville

NEW MEMBERS!!!!

Member	Club
David R. Huneycutt	Mint Hill
Rick McClellan	Harrisburg

IN THIS ISSUE

* Member News	Page 1
* DG	Page 2
* 1 VDG	Page 3
* 2 VDG	Page 4
* Announcements	Page 5
* Calendar	Page 6
* GST	Page 6
* IDIOTT Circle	Page 7
* NAMI	Page 8
* Club News	Page 9
* Int'l and State News	Page 10

"One of the things I keep learning
 is that the secret of being happy
 is doing things for other people."

Dick Gregory

Volunteers Creating a Future—District Governor Donald Cobb

Thoughts from the District Convention

Our district convention for the year is finally history! No, we weren't able to meet in person, but we did have our convention by Zoom and over 65 Lions joined us for this event. 1st VDG Wayne Kennerly and the district planning committee did an excellent job planning the event. Actually, the committee started planning a year ago and made plans for an in-person convention last November that had to be cancelled due to COVID. Plans for the convention continued to change over the next several months and the committee was flexible enough to plan a one day Zoom convention. To show their flexibility, the committee dealt with changes that occurred the morning of the convention!

One of the highlights of the convention was the message brought to us by International Director Justin Faber who met with us by Zoom during a break while he was actually meeting with another group. His willingness to "work us in" demonstrated that even those at the top level of our organization are willing to do whatever is necessary for the good of Lions across the globe.

ID Faber shared stories about his own club and their willingness to step out of their comfort zone in getting new members and involving them in their club activities. He emphasized that all clubs need new members as new members enable clubs to have more people to do good things through their service to others. He also stressed that our clubs needed to be adaptable to change with the times and clubs should keep moving forward in their efforts to serve their communities.

After ID Faber spoke, he presented three Presidential Certificates of Appreciation to recognize the achievements of Lions in fulfilling the mission of Lions Clubs International. A certificate was presented in Lion Kirby Matthews for his willingness to serve as Zoom host for our district in order to keep us connected. PDG Theresa Matthews was presented a certificate for her mentoring district officers over the years and her work on district projects. The final certificate was presented to PCC Ron Staley for keeping the district connected through the email service which he was instrumental in starting and maintaining over the years. Congratulations to these three Lions who have served the district for many years!

Congratulations are also in order to district officers elected for the coming year. 1st VDG Wayne Kennerly was elected district governor for the coming year, 2nd VDG Bill Mathers was elected to the office of 1st VDG for the coming year, and Lion Kathy Poirier was elected as 2nd VDG and also as one of the NCLI board members for the coming year. These folks will provide excellent leadership for our district next year.

The Council of Governors have approved a plan to market Lions Clubs across North Carolina. Council Chair Michael Schwartz and PDG Paul Bledsoe shared information about the plan. There is a link in this newsletter that will allow you to see video spots that will be used in marketing Lions. More information will be shared shortly.

It should be noted that Camp Dogwood will once again be active this summer with our VIP camping program. While the number of campers and volunteers will be limited, we will have camp. Applications for campers, caregivers, and volunteers have been sent to club presidents and secretaries.

Our state convention will be held by Zoom on April 24th. Additional information will be made available shortly. One other item that has been shared after the convention is that the US/Canada Forum will be held in person in Des Moines, Iowa, this year September 9 – 11.

Yes, the district convention was different this year but comments have been favorable. As ID Faber stated in his remarks, we as Lions have to be adaptable and our district demonstrated its adaptability with the convention. Thanks to everyone who made it a success!



Join North Carolina Lions

on Facebook:

NC Lions MD-31



1st Vice District Governor — H. Wayne Kennerly

It looks like that many of our Lions clubs are starting to meet again and hopefully can have some projects so they can reach some of their goals. Brighter Vision needs whatever you can send. Look at the goals set by District Governor Donald Cobb and try to meet as many goals as possible.

Some of the District goals for 2021-22 are as following: By the end of the year 2021-22, our district will increase the percentage of clubs reporting services, many do not report anything. By the end of the 2021-2022 physical year our district will achieve a positive membership growth. Before the beginning of the first quarter 2021, our district will hold training for Club officers and Zone chairpersons. The District GLT coordinator will report each training using the local training report Tools in learn. By the end of the 2021-2022 physical year, our district will support Lions Club International Foundation or (LCIF) in his Endeavor to achieve campaign 100 Target goal of \$300 million. If we do not have any goals for this year, it will be hard to have a successful district.

We are all volunteers, how can our clubs help serve our community? That's what we really ought to be doing, trying to find something that we can do to help those around us. Some might want to join us when they see us working.

Let's finish out this year on a positive note. We have been confined too long.

Want to thank all those who made our Spring convention a success. Originally, we had over twenty members on this committee. Maybe it will be different next year.

Remember, each person counts, why not share Lionism.

1st Vice Dist. Governor

H. Wayne Kennerly

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.

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.

2nd Vice District Governor — Bill Mathers

I hope April finds all of you in great spirits and getting your vaccines if you have not had them yet. I received mine at Bank of America Stadium and I had never seen a group of older people party like they did after their second shots. I mean it. Old people like many of us were singing and dancing after their shots in the waiting area afterwards and it reminded me of Woodstock without the drugs. It was a HOOT!!! The euphoria and relief swept over these people like crazy... That is my interesting story for the month.

On a more important note, we Lions in District I have a major problem with our communication network. As many of you may know, my wife, Lion Susan, took over the email program for our District from Ron Staley a few months ago. We have over 1000 Lions in our District. Only 525 are receiving the newsletters. That is all the email addresses Susan has for our members in the My LCI system. And worse only about 125 are even opening the newsletter and other outgoing emails to them. She is also able to check and monitor this and does. Also, she has discovered that before she took over the mailings many members had opted out of receiving the email which means they do not get the newsletter at all. The only way this can be changed is if the member goes back into their "My LCI " account and change the settings to opt in. Susan does not have the ability or authority to make those changes for each member. Until this is done, we will continue to have a big lack of communication in our District with our Lions.

Also, do not send her your new email addresses when you change them. She cannot add them to your My LCI account. You have to do that yourself. She draws the mailing list from My LCI. I do realize that a few of our members, but a very few do not have email addresses or use a computer. This is a very small number of our members. We should have over 900 of our Lions in the District receiving all the emails.

IMPORTANT... IMPORTANT

I would like to ask those of you that are Club Presidents and Club Secretaries to hold one club meeting with your members and help them go to their My LCI accounts at your club meeting and have them set up their My LCI account at the meeting so that it gets done. You or a computer expert in your club will have to help all of them. I know that many of you Presidents and Secretaries are not that computer savvy. That is okay. If you are not, get someone in your club to set them up at your meeting. Or get one of your children or grandchildren to help out at the meeting. Do not tell your members how to do it at the meeting. Help them do it at the meeting so it gets done. If 400 to 500 more Lions were getting the communications think how much more involved they might be both in your club and in the District. We will all benefit. Also why not assign a club member to help set up new members to your club immediately upon their joining? As a new member they should feel much more involved with your local club right away.

Come on you leaders, have one meeting and do this... It will have to help your club... It could just be your most important meeting you have this year. And this also goes for you clubs that are more computer savvy than some others. Every club has members who need your help and may just be too embarrassed to ask.

District Brighter
Visions Goal

\$145,000



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Statewide Marketing Campaign to Begin

In the next few days, your 2020-2021 North Carolina MD 31 Council of Governors will begin a statewide awareness and branding marketing campaign throughout North Carolina. The Council of Governors understand that more awareness and understanding of our impressive organization is a vital factor for the continuous growth of our clubs statewide. Our own PDG Paul Bledsoe of Bledsoe Advertising/Productions has developed the campaign.

The campaign includes a mix of social, streaming and digital marketing. We are marketing to an age group of 25-54 adults, men and women within our state. This demographic is the most populist group within North Carolina where the overall average age of our population is 38.6.

If you would like to see a preview of the marketing clips that will be used, go to the following link: <https://vimeo.com/524442538>. Additional information regarding the campaign will be coming soon.

LCI Dues Proposal

The International Board of Directors of Lions Clubs International has voted to approve an international dues adjustment resolution that will be voted on at the International Convention in June. After careful consideration, the Directors approved the resolution calling for a \$7.00 dues increase over a three year period. Under the proposal, dues would be adjusted according to the following schedule:

- \$3 increase on July 1, 2022
- \$2 increase on July 1, 2023
- \$2 increase on July 1, 2024

LCI dues have not been adjusted since 2011 and several cutbacks have been made during this time. The dues adjustment is needed so LCI can continue to support Lions and the global initiatives of the more than 1.4 million members in 50,000 clubs around the world. It is important to note that there will be no change in the LCI dues rate for the coming 2021 – 2022 year.

Camp Dogwood Summer Camp Volunteers

Join us for Summer Camp 2021. Volunteers are needed to assist with activities and events during each session. Private rooms are available this year and of course you will enjoy dining with a lake view. Volunteering is a very rewarding experience.

If you are interested in becoming a summer camp volunteer, please contact Tammy at Tammy@nclionsinc.org or 828-478-2135 ext 229





Calendar

April
4th



HAPPY EASTER



G.S.T. Corner

Hello Fellow Lions, The calendar is saying spring is here and soon the warmer days will be too. Now, the nation is getting the covid virus under control, this would be a good time to plan a service project outdoors. Consider planting some trees or doing a food drive. I hope by now everyone knows how to use Mylion website to report service projects but if not I am available to assist you.

Suggested Service Projects for April thru June

1. Cookout for VIPs
 2. Tree Planting (Earth Day Project)
 3. Volunteer at a soup kitchen or help deliver food for Meals on Wheels
 4. Collect School supplies
 5. Maintain a "Little Free Library"
 6. Give or Present a scholarship award
 7. Food Drive
 8. Adopt a creek, highway or Police Officer
 9. Volunteer at Camp Dogwood's Cleanup day in April or summer camp
 10. Participant in a Stride Walk
 11. Vision / Diabetes Screening
 12. Donate books for a summer Reading program
 13. Collect can tabs for the Leader Dog Program
 14. Collect used pill bottles for poor countries in need
- Any questions or concerns may be sent to:
Lion Ron Rich
casper101@windstream.net

Camp Dogwood HVAC Project Update

Thank you for those that helped get the other units done in our other buildings however the biggest & most dire need is the cates room which is where OUR meetings and dances etc are held down at camp dogwood. They are hanging in there but need replacing. We are asking clubs, districts and for personal donations. Nothing is too big and nothing is too small ☺

We have about \$9,000 towards the roughly \$24,000 needed for the project to remove the 5 ton unit and replace with a 10 ton unit, install in storage room, new ductwork, line set, connect to existing grills and additional electrical work.

PLEASE MAIL CHECK TO CAMP DOGWOOD
7050 Camp Dogwood Dr., Sherrills Ford, NC
28673 **MARK check FOR HVAC UNIT PROJECT)
Question: Contact PDG Wayne Faber at 919.780.8819 or wfaber100@hotmail.com.



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!

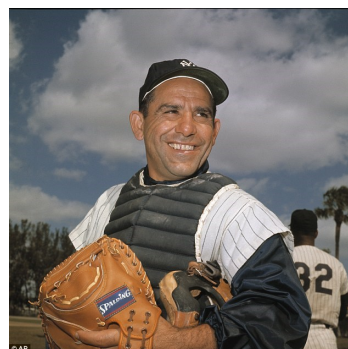
And now a word from our favorite Tail Twister, Lion Chris Beck in

IDIOTT CIRCLE

HELLO ALL LIONS!! It's almost time for one of my favorite seasons, Spring Yes, BUT that means the boys of spring are back, IT'S BASEBALL SEASON! (loud cheers). So this IDIOTT Circle is dedicated to America's Pastime, BASEBALL, & one of it's greatest players, Yogi Berra of the NY Yankees.

Things you may not know about Yogi:

- He was a D-Day veteran @ 18 yrs. old, giving cover rocket fire from a boat to our troops @ Omaha Beach.
- He was the inspiration for the cartoon character, Yogi Bear. (true story)
- He has 8 quotes in Bartlett's Famous Quotations book which is fondly called "Yogi-isms".
- He published several books: his autobiography in 1961; "It Ain't Over" in 1989; "The Yogi Book: I Didn't Say Everything I Said" in 1998, it made the NY Best Sellers List.



On pizza: When asked by the pizza man if he wanted his pie cut into eight or six slices he replied: 'Make it six, I'm not that hungry.'

On selecting a restaurant: 'Nobody goes there anymore. It's too crowded.'

On economics: 'A nickel ain't worth a dime anymore.'

On the 1973 Mets: 'We were overwhelming underdogs.'

On how events sometimes seem to repeat themselves: 'It's deja vu all over again!'

On a slipping batting average: 'Slump? I ain't in no slump. ... I just ain't hitting.'

On travel directions: 'When you come to a fork in the road take it.'

On pre-game rest: 'I usually take a two-hour nap from 1 to 4.'

On fan mail: 'Never answer an anonymous letter.'

On being told he looked cool: 'You don't look so hot yourself.'

On being asked what time it was: 'You mean now?'

On being given a day in his honor: 'Thank you for making this day necessary.'

On death: 'Always go to other people's funerals. Otherwise they won't go to yours.'

On learning: 'You can observe a lot by watching.'

On his team's diminishing pennant chances: 'It ain't over 'till it's over.'

On the fractured syntax attributed to him: 'I really didn't say everything I said'.

On sense of purpose: If you don't know where you are going, you will wind up somewhere else!

On individuality: If you can't imitate him, don't copy him.

On commitment: You give 100 percent in the first half of the game, and if that isn't enough in the second half you give what's left.

On dealing with upset: Take it with a grin of salt.

On self-improvement: You can observe a lot by just watching.

On looking ahead: It's tough to make predictions, especially about the future.

On philosophy: If the world was perfect, it wouldn't be.

On self-appraisal: You are what you think; maybe that's why some people need attitude adjustments.

He helped win 10 World Series, 14 American League Pennants in 17 full seasons. He hit the first pinch hit homerun, caught the only perfect game, played in 75 games in World Series history. He caught over 100 games in 10 straight seasons, caught both games of 117 double headers, named MVP 3 times, & made the All Star team 15 straight seasons.



FOR IT'S 1,2,3 STIKES
YOU'RE OUT AT THE OLD
BALLGAME!!! LET'S GO
DIST 31-I LIONS!!!

Pity the Fool

Here we are in April. Wow, what a year we have been through! There is good news as more are getting vaccinated and we are gradually moving into our new normal. I continue to hear from clubs that have found new ways to serve others and many clubs are using Zoom meetings. But speaking of the “Fool”, I hope all of you have enjoyed the District TT Beckster’s jokes and shenanigans he shares each month in our newsletter. He told me the other day an interesting bit of news. Being a man of knowledge and useless information, he tells me that the World Health Organization says that dogs do not transmit Covid-19. Now we know WHO let the dogs out!

Meanwhile, your NAMI team continues to hone in on their action plans. Our March 25 meeting will have occurred prior to my reporting here in a timely matter of making this April newsletter.

My conversations with the four-focus groups indicate each group is prepping to share their efforts with our clubs. Each of the four focus groups (New Clubs, New Members, Leadership Support, and Member Motivation via Service) have met and continue to look for others of you to join the process.

As your GLT, it is time to nominate and elect your officers for 2021-22. Your leaders will have plenty of opportunities to receive useful information on their officer position. Contact me or Lion Tim Williams for more information.

Our next step is to share our plans for feedback and then Build Success. It is not too late to join the team. Contact me! There are no bad ideas, only opportunities.

PDG George Culp GLT District 31-I
liongeorgeculp@gmail.com 704 906 8568

Boys and Girls Home of NC is in need!!

Please consider making a donation of one of these item:

- * Laundry soap (HE or regular machines)
- * Electric razors for girls and boys
- * Ethnic shampoo/conditioner (ex: Cantu)
- * Ethnic hair products, and hair brushes
- * Caucasian shampoo/conditioner, hair products
- * Toothbrush covers/holders
- * Clothes Baskets
- * Shower caddies
- * OxiClean/Stain Removers
- * Batteries (esp AA and AAA)
- * Bath towels and wash cloths
- * Kitchen brooms/mops/dustpans (industrial, straw, plastic, angled)
- * Dental Floss (not picks)
- * Deodorant
- * Kleenex (boxes and pocket packs)
- * Body lotion/baby oil
- * Hair brushes and wide tooth combs
- * Mouthwash (alcohol free)

- * Dish towels/ dish rags
- * Bathmats
- * Pillows, twin sheets, and twin comforters
- * Mattress and Pillow Protectors (not plastic)
- * Birthday party supplies: plates, candles, etc
- * Snacks (popcorn, cookies, chips, cake mixes)
- * Movies (no R ratings)
- * Journals/Stationary
- * Crossword puzzle or word find books
- * Pens/Pencils/Colored Pencils/Crayons
- * Reusable Water Bottles
- * Fun/Funky Colored socks
- * Black Socks (ankle/calf length)
- * Board Games
- * Craft Supplies

Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina, Inc. is dedicated to providing a comprehensive array of residential and community-based services to meet the needs of children by addressing their physical, emotional, social, educational and spiritual development.

CLUB NEWS

TROUTMAN CLUB

The photo left to right is Bill Garrison, Charlene Overcash, Margie DeLustro...Ron Rich, and Lois Rich. Absent from photo Sheryl Glase. Our club is small, but we are big on enthusiasm! The sign is Town of Troutman congratulations for 75 years. The other photo is our on-going community service project, Little Library...take one, leave one.



DENTON CLUB

will be hosting our Welcome Spring Golf Tourney at 9AM May 3rd at McCanless Golf Course, Salisbury NC. The tourney will be 4 man captains choice \$200 per team with each golfer able to purchase 2 mulligans and 2 red tees for \$20. There will be a special prize for the lowest LIONS team. A lions team must consist of at least 3 LIONS. Lunch after the tourney will be provided.

Contact Kirby Matthews at 336-803-1544 or kirby@minutemansupply.com for more information.

We are holding our famous Shrimp Boil on May 15 from 5:00 to 7:30PM. This will be a take out event with presold tickets. Each plate will consist of 1 lb of shrimp, Kielbasa, Baked Potato, Slaw and homemade dessert. Tickets are \$20 each. Contact Theresa Matthews at mksales@mindspring.com to order tickets.

CORRECTION:

Last month we made a BIG mistake!! We listed Lion Tommy Johnston from the South Iredell Club as deceased. However Lion Tommy is still an active member of the club. His brother passed away. We apologize to Lion Tommy for this mistake and our prayers are with him and his family for their loss.

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.

New Mini– Mobile Eye Screening Van

The North Carolina Lions Eye Screening Program is excited to introduce our new mini Mobile Screening Van. We want to thank the Foundation for the Carolinas grant program for providing the funding for the van and eye screening equipment as well as Lion Neal Alexander for making the grant possible.

Our goal is to eventually have a fully equipped van in each of the five NC Lion Districts. By having a screening van in each district it will allow us to perform 5 times as many screenings as we are currently doing in a cost efficient way. We are putting an emphasis on early childhood screenings by expanding our partnership with the national “Lions Kid Sight Program” so that we can catch eye problems early in a child's life. We will also continue to screen adults and seniors as always. Thank you all for your support of NCLI and all the great things you do as Lions in your communities! Stay Safe & Healthy!

PDG W. Durden Dean

Executive Administrator North Carolina Lions, Inc.
828-478-2135 ext.223 duerden@nclionsinc.org



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 susancmathers@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 March's prize!!

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

