



SANDY FRASER-THOMAS
DISTRICT GOVERNOR 2026-27

LIONS CLUB
INTERNATIONAL

July 2026

MARK S. LYON
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT 2026-27

District 31 - I News and Happenings



North Carolina Lions

District 31-I



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Lions Clubs International District 31-I Sandy Fraser-Thomas District Governor 2026-2027



DISTRICT CABINET

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Sandy Fraser-Thomas

1st Vice District Governor

Chris Beck

2nd Vice District Governor

Eddie Garmon

Cabinet Secretary

Tim Williams

Cabinet Treasurer

Kirby Matthews

Global Extension Team

Coordinator

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Simon Thomas

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Jeff Lambert – 1-B
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Scott MacLean

Peace Poster

Emily Cook

Vision Screening Program

Cathy Critz

Newsletter Editor

Jennifer Merry

"I want my whole team to succeed, not just me, all of us."

Good day Lions of District 31-I,

Today we are preparing ourselves to lead more effectively and grow stronger as a club and as a district.

This year our focus is clear; Membership Growth, Meaningful Services, and Strong Leadership, and today is where that work begins.

It is about stepping into responsibility, it is about service that truly reaches people and changes lives, which turns into membership. That is who we are, and that is exactly why these goals matter.

The goals for District 31-I are as follows:

These are not separate goals they work together, and it is how we can help to move the district forward.

1. Membership – Each Club is asked to sponsor three(3) new members. If we want to grow membership, we have to build clubs that people want to be a part of.
2. Service – Each club is asked to report their services in the Lions Portal, we want to bring our reporting up to 100% - If we want stronger service, we need Lions who are willing to step up and help with the service reporting.
3. Leadership – Each club is asked to promote their membership by mentoring our new Lions through encouragement. If we want to develop strong leaders, we have to give them the tools by training them, everything else including growth and service will follow. Strong leaders build stronger clubs, stronger clubs attract and retain members, and growing clubs serve more people in more meaningful ways.

What District 31-I needs now, what your Club needs now, are active, engage lions, people who are willing to step up, take the initiative and make things happen.

Stronger Together, One Team, Shared Success



District Web Site:

<https://nclions31i.org>



Follow us on Facebook:

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Lions Clubs International District 31-I Sandy Fraser-Thomas District Governor 2026-2027



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The question is whether we are willing to act, not someday, not when we feel ready, but now. Every single one of us has the ability to strengthen our clubs, whether that is helping it to grow, improve how we serve or stepping into leadership.

So, here is my challenge to District 31-I Lions and Leos:

- Make a decision on how you will help your club grow.
- Decide on ways to strengthen your club services.
- Take a bold step towards leadership.

Yours in Lionism,

Lion Sandy Fraser-Thomas
District Governor
District 31-I
2026-2027
Salisbury LC
980-892-2439

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Thank you Lions

When you get this newsletter, I will be a past District Governor. I would like to thank each club and each Lion in District 31I for your support this year.

We have accomplished a lot. We led the State with our Brighter Visions giving. We will be close to a plus membership. You gave more for Camp Dogwood with the ticket sales. You also gave more for LCIF than last year.

We lost two clubs, Derita and Elkin, but we gained a new club in Wallburg.

I want to thank my Governor team. Governor elect Sandy has done a great job. Please support her this coming year. Thanks also to

1

st VD elect Chris for the job he did as District Brighter Visions Chair, \$163,000 at the time I wrote this. Thank you for your hard work in making District 31 I one of the best in the state.

Thank you again
PDG Steve Cline



HELLO fellow Lions!!

It's hard to believe we've ended this Lion's year! I know you're reading this in our new Lion's year under DG SANDY, but let's look back & remember what we accomplished under DG Steve Cline. We were able to help contribute to Tiny Homes to be placed in the mountains in areas that were hit by Hurricane Helene, that were affected, Lions went up in the mountains to cook & serve meals to those as well as provide needed supplies. We also set records in Brighter Visions contributions with monies collected from our district & sent in! For the first time in a long time, every Club was credited with a BV contribution in our district! We also added the Wallburg Lions Club to our district with lots of help from PDG David Smoot, PDG Kathy Poirier & PDG Mike Edwads, with DG Steve helping to get this Club across the finish line! And what a time we had at our district convention, with an increase in Lions attending this event! With our Fun Night & Jeopardy, the money we raised from our Tail-Twisters Auction, our BV Boutique & Zone Basket Raffle, our great seminars & our DG Banquet with our visiting ID speaking & giving a great speech, it was a great success! DG Steve Cline, you've had a great year! I was proud & honored to be part of your leadership team! THANKS for ALL you did for Lionism, Lion Steve Cline! CONGRATULATIONS!

Yours In Lionism,
1st VDG Chris Beck

Hello, let me introduce myself. I am your new Second Vice District Governor Eddie Garmon. I have been a member of the Mount Pleasant Lions Club for 30 years.

Becoming the second vice district governor was not an enjoyable experience for me. Writing my letter of intent and my bio are not my favorite things to do. However, it forced me to think about my years of service in the Lions Club. I remember shortly after joining I asked the Late PDG Gene Hough what I needed to do to become the Lion of the Year and he told me "Everything". In some ways that is true. I helped with our clubs Brunswick Stew, Fiddlers Convention, our town's flag display and our football concessions stand. I love to volunteer because it gives me something to do. At one point, I worked almost every Saturday in the fall for 15 hours in our football concessions stand. After doing this for a few years, I was burnt out and needed a break. I stopped doing as much in the club because it felt like I was not getting support from my other club members. Then one day someone told me they needed my help to sell brooms at the local convenience store. I was excited to hear and it changed my attitude.

Now I am about to start another chapter in my Lions Club journey. I am very excited, and somewhat apprehensive, about the upcoming year. I know it will be an opportunity to meet and get to know other amazing Lions in our district but, on the other hand, I know it will take some extra time dedicated to the Lions on my part. I have already been reprimanded by the higher ups for not showing up for our district officers training in May. However, I know this is a great organization and it will be an honor for me to serve the members of District 31I as your second vice district governor.

Thank You! Eddie





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“I want my whole team to succeed, not just me, all of us.”

SERVING THROUGH GIVING

Why Every Club in District 31-I Should Support LCIF

One of the greatest strengths of the Lions Club family is our shared commitment to service. Every Lions Club works hard in its community - conducting vision screening, supporting food drives, and helping schools. But there are times when the needs are bigger than any single club or even a district. That is when our Lions Foundation becomes important making it affordable to multiply the impact of our service.

When hurricanes strike, LCIF disaster relief grants help Lions provide immediate assistance and long-term recovery support. Grants also help us to provide vision screening equipment or access to eye care. Simply put LCIF allows Lions to think bigger.

For our district, supporting LCIF is more than just making a donation- it is an investment in the future of Lions service. Every dollar contributed by a Lion helps fund life-changing projects across the world and here at home. In fact, many districts have benefited directly from LCIF grants that support community initiatives, disaster recovery, and humanitarian programs.

As your District 31-I Coordinator, I encourage every club to consider how they can participate in this important mission. Participation can take many forms:

- a. Making a club donation to LCIF
- b. Encouraging members to become individual donors.
- c. Recognizing contributions through Melvin Jones Fellowship.
- d. Hosting a club fundraiser dedicated to LCIF.
- e. Setting a club giving goal for the year.

What matters most is that every club participates at some level.

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“I want my whole team to succeed, not just me, all of us.”

I challenge every club in District 31-I to take part in supporting LCIF this year. Whether your club contributes a small amount or sponsor a Melvin Jones Fellowship, or individual members make a personal donation, every act of generosity strengthens our ability to serve.

Together, we can ensure that Lions continue to lead the way in humanitarian service – locally, nationally and around the world.

Thank you for everything you do as Lions, and thanks for supporting LCIF.

Simon Thomas
District 31-I
LCIF Coordinator
2026-2027
Salisbury LC
347-752-8827

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District Global Leadership Team Coordinator – Kathy Poirier

Welcome Lions of District 31-I to our 2026-2027 Lions year. On behalf of our District, we would like to thank PCC/GLT Tim Williams for the outstanding job he has done over the past several years as our Global Leadership Team Coordinator. As the incoming GLT, I have very big shoes to fill. I will do my best to serve all of you.

Another Lions year gives all of us continuing opportunities to keep learning and growing on our journey as Lions. From the newest Lion to one who has served for many years, there is always something new to learn. Everyone who has an account in the Lion Portal has access to the Lions Learning Center. In the Learning Center you will find numerous courses in the Content Library. Another learning option is on the Lions University website (<https://lionsuniversity.org/>). Here you can take courses just because you want to learn or there are learning paths to earn certificates (Not Degrees) at the Bachelor, Master and/or Doctorate level. The world is open to you to learn as much or as little as you want as a Lion.

We had successful in-person and Zoom training sessions this year under the leadership of PCC/GLT Tim Williams. There were six in-person training sessions and six Zoom sessions. The topics covered were Presidents/Vice Presidents, Secretaries/Treasurers, Membership Chairs, Tail Twisters, New Members and Zone Chairs. A grand total of 180 Lions attended the training. In some cases, there were Lions who attended both in-person and Zoom trainings, so they were counted for every session they attended. According to PCC/GLT Tim, participation was up compared to last year, mainly due to an increased number of people attending the Zoom sessions.

Besides having our annual officer/new member training sessions in the Spring, we will be offering Certified Guiding Lion training again this Lions year. Stay tuned for details about this important training and when it will be held.

Lion Kathy Poirier

CC/GLT District 31-I

Club News

Boone Area



Boone Area Lion Teresa Greer, also a member of the High Country VIP Support Group, worked with Shirley Smith & Wayne Powell (volunteer drivers) organizing a 4 day trip to the Outer Banks where they were able to climb the 234 steps of the Currituck Beach lighthouse and see the Corolla Wild Horses.



Boone Area Lions were honored to have PDG Bill Mathers to install our 2026-2027 officers and directors.

Club News

Charlotte Southern



Our club sold brooms and lottery tickets to raise funds for Camp Dogwood and Brighter Visions at the “Arts in the Park Festival” in Pineville on Saturday, May 21st. We also increased awareness of our club and how we serve the community.



Our members volunteered at the VIP (Visually Impaired Persons) Spring Fling on May 30th. The event gave attendees opportunities to enjoy games and activities and connect with vision resources in the community.



Club News

Concord



Installation of Officers 2026-27 by Gov.-Elect
Sandy Frazier-Thomas



Broom Sales at the Farmers' Market



Food Drive for Cooperative Christian Ministries 465 pounds plus \$164 in donations!

Have a Story?

The newsletter editor has a new email address.

Please send your story with pictures attached to
lions31newsletter@gmail.com, by the 20th of each month.

Club News

North Davidson

NORTH DAVIDSON LIONS CLUB

Lexington, North Carolina

Lions Making a Difference for the Next Generation

What We've Been Doing...

Spot Camera Event was held on April 18, 2026, at Arcadia Fire Dept. In addition, Lion Claudia Woodruff goes to facilities where we've held previous events to do a one-on-one screening of a child showing signs of vision problems. We appalled Lion Claudia's dedication to our vision screening program.

On May 19, 2026, President Joe Craver presented the Bruce & Betty Hayes Scholarship to Willa Ambrositia from North Davidson High School. Willa was a member of the Leos Club during all her high school years. We wish her well as she begins the next phase of her education in attending Wake Forest University.

Our first Red Cross Blood Drive of the year was held on May 19, 2026. We way exceeded our goal by collecting 52 pints of blood! Lions Joe Craver and Donna Long work tirelessly to register donors in advance, set up our facility and enter donation data in the Red Cross system. Way to go Joe & Linda!

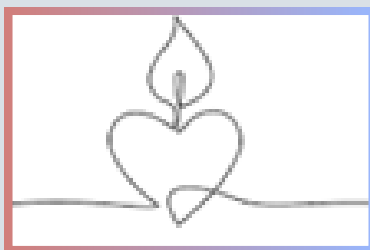
June 5, 2026, we teed up for our annual Golf Tournament fund raiser. 92 individuals and businesses graciously purchased Hole Sponsorships. We had 21 teams participate! Even though the temperature was in the 90's, everyone said they had a great time. The event started out with hot dogs & all the trimmings AND homemade cookies (Thanks Lion Frances Davis! She made 16 dozen by herself!!! In connection to this event, 3 anonymous donors gave us \$2600 to be used toward the purchase of a second Spot Camera. This kind of success makes all the work worth it!

Everyone was so busy, we forgot to take pictures at these events. We will definitely attempt to do better in the future!

Member News

In Memoriam Of Lions No Longer Able to Serve:

William Hamlin - Dobson
Robert Dalton - Kernersville
Betty McAdoo - Kernersville
Charles Poteat - Winston Salem Konnoak Hills



We are sorry for your loss!

Welcome New Members

Denton

Frances Christian - Sponsor April Mesimer
Lynn Driskell - Sponsor April Mesimer
Mikal Aaron Ward - Sponsor Jack Briggs

Fair Grove

Stephen Taylor - Sponsor Robert Taylor

Mint Hill

Amy Tapia - Sponsor John Robinson

Thomasville

Dedra Allen - Sponsor Michael Floyd
Diane Floyd - Sponsor Michael Floyd
Paul Mitchell - Sponsor David Smoot
Jessica Nance - Sponsor Michael Floyd

West Iredell

India Lackey - Sponsor Christie Kestler

Winston Salem Twin City Host

Valerie Westmoreland - Sponsor Holly Ellis



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“I want my whole team to succeed, not just me, all of us.”

July 1st, 2026

Dear Club President and Secretary,

RE: CLUB POINTS CONTEST:

We hope this message reaches you and your family in the best of health!

This new Lionistic year we are including a club contest based on service reporting on the Lions Portal. It requires that you submit a list of your service activities to the District Club Contest Chair Lisa Cleaver, email: lisaccleaver@gmail.com or Co-Chair Sharon Snellings, email: scsnellings@gmail.com.

This program is designed to encourage clubs to be actively involved in reaching our District goals for reporting service hours. Points will be assigned based on your monthly or quarterly submissions. Your club points must align with the Lions Portal service information. The contest starts July 1st, 2026, thru June 30th, 2027. A copy of the contest rules is attached to this letter.

At the end of the Lionistic year, the club points will be tallied, and the top two clubs will be rewarded. As District Governor, I will be emphasizing my theme of approaching our projects and service activities with an attitude of “Think Service-Think Positive” for 2026-2027.

Thank you for your participation and I look forward to recognizing the wonderful service activities in our District.

Sandy
Lion Sandy Fraser-Thomas
District Governor
2026-2027
District 31-I
980-892-2439

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CLUB POINTS CONTEST:

Please [click here](#) to see the full list of points

DISTRICT GOVERNORS' VISIT FOR THE MONTH OF JULY

TAYLORSVILLE LC - MONDAY
JULY 13TH

NORTH WILKESBORO LC -
THURSDAY JULY 16TH

CRESTON RIVERVIEW LC -
THURSDAY JULY 16TH

SPARTA LC - MONDAY JULY
20TH

WEST JEFFERSON LC -
TUESDAY JULY 21ST

MOUNT AIRY LC - WEDNESDAY
JULY 22ND

THOMASVILLE LC - THURSDAY
JULY 23RD

CHARLOTTE CENTRAL - FRIDAY
JULY 24TH

MINT HILL - TUESDAY JULY
28TH

1	SPONSOR A NEW CLUB (LION OR LEO)	100
2	ADD A NEW MEMBER	50
3	PAY DISTRICT DUES BY OCTOBER 31	50
4	PAY INTERNATIONAL SEMI-ANNUAL DUES BY OCTOBER 31	50
5	PAY INTERNATIONAL SEMI-ANNUAL DUES BY MARCH 30	50
6	CLUB PRESIDENT ATTENDING DISTRICT MEETING	25
7	CLUB SECRETARY ATTENDING DISTRICT MEETING	25
8	ADDITIONAL CLUB MEMBERS ATTENDING DISTRICT MEETING	10
9	CLUB PRESIDENTS ATTENDING AC MEETING	25
10	CLUB SECRETARY ATTENDING AC MEETING	25
11	ADDITIONAL CLUB MEMBERS ATTENDING AC MEETING (10 POINTS EACH)	10
12	GUEST SPEAKER AT CLUB MEETINGS (DISTRICT COMMITTEE CHAIR)	50
13	GUEST SPEAKER AT CLUB MEETING (NON LION)	50
14	INVITE LCIF COORDINATOR	25
15	PEACE POSTER CONTEST INVOLVEMENT	50
16	SERVICE ACTIVITY ARTICLE SUBMITTED TO DISTRICT NEWSLETTER	50
17	SERVICE ACTIVITY ARTICLE SUBMITTED TO STATE MAGAZINE	50
18	LIONS PUBLICITY, ADVERTISEMENT, SERVICE ARTICLE SUBMITTED TO LOCAL P	100
19	PU 101 SUBMITTED BY MAY 1	50
20	MONTHLY REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE 28TH OF EACH MONTH	50
21	EYE BANK TRANSPORTATION	50
22	CLUB COMMUNITY FEEDING ACTIVITY	50
23	USED EYE GLASS COLLECTION CAMPAIGN	50
24	PARTICIPATION IN CAMP DOGWOOD CLEAN UP DAY/WEEK	50
25	PARTICIPATION IN OVARIAN/ I.E.A.L. WALK (Virtual)	25
26	PARTICIPATION IN BREAST CANCER WALK (Virtual)	25
27	PARTICIPATION IN PROSTATE CANCER WALK (Virtual)	25
28	PARTICIPATION IN PEDIATRIC CANCER WALK (Virtual)	25
29	PARTICIPATION IN DIABETES WALK (Virtual)	25
30	ATTEND STATE CONVENTION (10 POINTS EACH MEMBER)	10
31	ATTEND MID-WINTER CONVENTION (10 POINTS EACH MEMBER)	10
32	ATTEND LIONS DAY AT UN (10 POINTS EACH MEMBER)	10
33	ATTEND CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP FOR GMT/GLT/GST	10
34	ATTEND DISTRICT GOVERNOR THANK YOU PARTY (PER MEMBER)	25
35	ATTEND BRIGHTER VISION KICKOFF (PER MEMBER)	25
36	ATTEND COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS MEETING (PER MEMBER)	25
37	SPONSOR EVENT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT	25
38	SPONSOR EVENT FOR THE LEOS (PER MEMBER)	25
39	REGISTER FOR CLUB EXCELLENCE PROCESS	100
40	ATTEND ALLI/FD/LCIF	100
41	COMPLETE A WEBINAR (MUST SHOW DATE AND NAME OF CLASS)	100
42	NEW VOICES WEBINARS (DATE & TIME)	100
43	ESTABLISH CLUB LCIF CHAIRPERSON	100
44	ESTABLISH CLUB SERVICE CHAIRPERSON	100
45	ESTABLISH CLUB COMMUNICATION CHAIRPERSON	100
46	ESTABLISH CLUB MENTORING PROGRAM	100
47	CLUB PRESIDENT ON LIONS PORTAL	25
48	CLUB SECRETARY ON LIONS PORTAL	25
49	DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONS TO SUPPORT - DONATION POINTS	
50	LCIF MINIMUM \$100.00	50
51	LCIF CLUB MEMBERS \$50.00 AND ABOVE (EACH MEMBER)	50
52	DISTRICT 31 NCLF \$100.00	50
53	DONATION TO ROWAN HELPING MINISTRIES (PER MEMBER)	50
54	DONATIONS TO SMARITAN PURSE (PER MEMBER)	50
55	VISION SCREENING (PER MEMBER)	25
56	COMMUNITY FEEDING/ DONATIONS OR FOOD. (PER MEMBER)	25
57	DONATION TO BRIGHTER VISIONS.	25
58	BOYS & GIRLS HOME \$100.00	25
59	AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY \$100.00	50
60	VISIONS \$100.00	25
61	DIABETES \$100.00	25
62	CLINICAL EYE RESEARCH \$25.00	50
63	LEADER/GUIDE DOG PROGRAM \$25.00	50
64	SCRUGGS BEACON OF HOPE \$100.00	50
65	WOOLARD PARTNER-IN-SERVICE \$100.00	50
66	LACEY & ESTHER PRESNEL VIP AMBASSADOR AWARD \$100.00	50

Each Club is Not Automatically Entered into the Club System. To enter your club you must select a club Point System Chairperson. Submit all information and club name to the District Club Contest Chairperson Lion Lisa Cleaver, email: liscleaver@gmail.com & Co-Chair Lion Sharon Snelling, email: scsnellings@gmail.com.



District 31-I Lions Mid-Winter Convention

Registration Form

Village Inn Hotel and Events Center, Clemmons NC - January 8-9, 2027



Friday - January 8

(Registration: 3:00PM-6:30PM Hotel Lobby)

Hospitality Room Open.....	3:00PM - 5:00PM
Exhibits, BV Boutique, Zone Basket Raffle	3:00PM - 6:00PM
Portal Help (Drop-in).....	4:00PM - 5:00PM
Family Fun Night (Dinner and Entertainment) "Celebrity Cruise on the Carolina See Lion".....	6:30PM - 9:30PM
Hospitality Room Open (Lions Bingo)	Following Fun Night

Saturday - January 9

(Registration: 7:00AM-6:00PM - Hospitality: 9:00-11:00AM & 1:00-5:00PM)

Breakfast (On Own, Breakfast is included with room reservation).....	
Tail Twister Auction.....	8:30AM - 10:00AM
Exhibits, BV Boutique, Zone Basket Raffle	10:00AM - 4:00PM
Town Hall Meeting with Visiting ID Nadine Bushell	10:30AM - 11:30AM
Delegate Certification.....	11:30AM -12:00PM & 1:00 - 1:30PM
Lunch in Hospitality Room (Must be registered).....	11:30AM - 1:00PM
Portal Help (Drop-in).....	11:30AM - 12:45PM
Seminars (to be announced later)	1:00PM - 3:00PM
District Cabinet Meeting and Officer Elections.....	3:15PM - 4:15PM
Banquet (Lions and Guests) dessert in hospitality room afterwards.....	6:30PM - 9:00PM

Badges must be worn at all meal functions (including Fun Night)

Village Inn Hotel and Events Center

6205 Ramada Drive
Clemmons, NC27012

Lions Room Rate
\$109.99 plus tax
(includes Breakfast)

*Lions Room Rate will be available until Dec24th.
Hotel Reservations after December 24th will be
provided on a space available basis.*

*Make room reservations by calling (800) 554-6416
and ask for NC Lions District 31I Convention.*

Make check for meals payable to:

NC 31-I Lions Clubs

Mail check with bottom portion of this form to:

Lion Elizabeth Steele Phone: (704)798-3471
2252 Baker Mill Rd
Cleveland, NC 27013
Email: ElizabethRSteele67@gmail.com

Do Not Mail after December 18, 2026

Phone registration only between Dec 21 & Dec 24

No refunds after December 28th

Return this part of the form with your check – Copy as needed

Club: _____

District: _____

MFJ=Melvin Jones fellow, JSF=Jack Stickley Fellow, WLW= William L. Woolard, BOH=Scruggs Beacon of Hope,

VIP= VIP Ambassador, AMB= NCLF Ambassador, HOF= Hall

PID/PIP=Past International Director/President, DG/PDG=Past/District Governor, PCC/CC=Past/Council Chair, 1&2VDG=1st & 2nd Vice Governors

Please check all that apply

Names:

(PRINT first and last names & circle title)

	*Food Allergies	Check all awards you have							Fri FN	Sat L	Banquet		
		MFJ	JSF	WLW	BOH	VIP	AMB	HOF			Salm	Beef	Veg
1. _____ ID, PIP, PID, DG, PCC, PDG, 1VDG, 2VDG, Lion, Leo		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. _____ ID, PIP, PID, DG, PCC, PDG, 1VDG, 2VDG, Lion, Leo		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. _____ ID, PIP, PID, DG, PCC, PDG, 1VDG, 2VDG, Lion, Leo		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4. _____ ID, PIP, PID, DG, PCC, PDG, 1VDG, 2VDG, Lion, Leo		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Function

Family Fun Night **Taco Bar**

Lunch in Hospitality Room

Sat Banquet **Beef Tips w/ Mushroom Gravy, Salmon or Veg Option**

\$25.00

\$5.00

\$45.00

Number Attending

Adults

Cost

Reminder: Please Select Banquet Meal Preference and Specify *Food Allergies Above

Total Cost \$ _____



District 31-I Mid-Winter Convention

Gold Sponsor/Ad Order Form

Convention Date: **January 8 - 9, 2027**

Village Inn Hotel and Events Center, Clemmons NC

DEADLINE is December 11th

Date: _____

Name of Club, Business, or Individual _____

Mailing Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone & Email Contact _____

Approval Signature _____

Convention Gold Sponsorships Available \$500

Banner Recognition at all Events

Ad Size: Full Page (8 ½ x 11) \$100 _____

Half Page \$75 _____

Quarter Page \$50 _____

Please consider an Ad to honor your newest members.

Make Checks Payable to: NC 31-I Lions Clubs

Mail Check & Form to: Lion Elizabeth Steele

2252 Baker Mill Rd

Cleveland, NC 27013

Please Include Payment with Ad Copy and Form

For questions call: 704-798-3471 Cell

Email clear, high resolution Ad copy in .jpg or Word format to: Elizabeth Steele

ElizabethRSteele67@gmail.com

Plans are progressing for the District 31-I Mid-Winter Convention set for Jan. 8-9, 2027, at the Village Inn Hotel and Event Center in Clemmons, just north of Winston-Salem.

Mid-Winter 2026 was a smashing success with a packed Friday Fun Night and a sold out Saturday District Governor's Banquet. We expect the same this January!

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A DISTRICT CONVENTION?

On the surface it is a time for Lions to socialize and exchange ideas and for the District Governor to convene a cabinet meeting with business session for the district.

But it can be so much more.

Exchanging ideas and “war stories” with Lions (old and new) from all around the district is a great way to bond and discover all the things a Lions Club can do for its community,

In addition to learning from each other, there will be exhibitors and information available and two great seminars on Saturday afternoon.

RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS & NEW MEMBERS – PDG Paul Beldsoe will be talking about how to get the word out about our clubs and what we are doing. And how to build excitement and interest about your Lions Club and its activities. How to get people involved in your projects as volunteers which can lead to new members.+

YOUR CLUB FINANCES – DUES/GOALS/FUNDRAISING – Do you need a better understanding about how you can budget your club funds? How much do you need to charge in membership dues? How do you know how much a fundraiser profits? What is the purpose of the District Humanitarian Goals we pay every year? What else does your club need to budget for? What counts as an administrative cost and what counts as project expense and what can be funded by your humanitarian/charitable funds? How do you stay out of trouble with the IRS?? Cabinet Treasurer Kirby Matthews and PDG Theresa Matthews will take all questions on all “money topics”.

AND JUST WAIT UNTIL YOU HEAR WHAT CONVENTION CHAIR CHRIS BECK IS PLANNING FOR ANOTHER STUPENDOUS FRIDAY FUN NIGHT –

Get your cruise-wear picked out. Or come as “A Celebrity”.





District 31-I
2025-2026 Awards Celebration
2026-2027 Officer Installation and First Cabinet Meeting
will be held on Saturday, July 18, 2026 – 9am

Fair Grove Lions Den
120 Willowbrook Dr, Thomasville, NC

Please use this form to register for lunch.
Our menu will be: one meat and three vegetables,
bread, dessert, water and iced tea.
The cost is \$15 per person.

Club (s): _____

Names – Lions and Guests:

Please send this registration form and payment to Lion Tim Williams,
District Cabinet Secretary 344 John M Ward Rd, Lexington, NC 27295
by Friday, July 10, 2026 so that we may submit our headcount to the
caterer.

Wow, we are starting a new Lions year and a new campaign to raise funds for Brighter Visions! Last year we surpassed our goal to raise \$150,000 dollars and this year's goal is \$140,000 dollars. I know with everyone's support we will surpass this year's goal also. Remember, our goal is to enrich the lives of our Lions VIP's through our Brighter Visions fund and the money raised will go to support Camp Dogwood, clinical eye research, the VIP Fishing Tournament, educational grants, Kidsight, matching grants and mobility canes.

If you would like to schedule me for a visit to your club, you can contact me at (704) 691-5364 or my email is e.garmon@live.com. I look forward to seeing everyone this year!



A reminder to everyone about the importance of proper documentation when sending payments to the Foundation for Memorials, Honorariums, or Awards. To ensure your club receives the appropriate credit and your honoree gets their acknowledgment cards, please make sure to include the completed forms required for each type of contribution.

For Brighter Visions Donations or Camp Contributions made by personal check, please write the club name in the memo line of the check or include a note in the envelope to help us identify your contribution.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for helping us ensure everything is processed smoothly.



NORTH CAROLINA LIONS DISTRICT 31-I



ZONE CHAIRS *Meeting*



WEDNESDAY,
JULY 15, 2026



6:30 PM



FunkHeizer's Diner
(Formerly Fresh Chef)
179 Turnersburg Hwy
Statesville, NC

Enjoy an evening of:



GREAT FOOD



**FUN &
FELLOWSHIP**



**SHARING IDEAS
FOR THE NEW
LIONS YEAR**

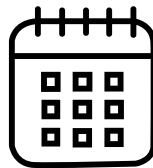


Join us for an evening of connecting and building ideas
to shape the future of **MD 31-I**.



PLEASE RSVP *if attending to:*
liontammy2020@gmail.com

Let's work together for
**A STRONGER TOMORROW
IN OUR COMMUNITIES! ♥**



Important Dates

The 1st Cabinet Meeting will be held on Saturday, July 18th,
2026, from 9:00 am, at the Fairgrove Lions Club.

The Brighter Vision Kickoff will be held on Saturday, August 1st,
2026, from 9:00 am at the Winston-Salem Konnoak Lions Club.

The 2nd Cabinet Meeting will be held on Saturday, October 17th,
2026, from 9:00 am in Cleveland.

LIONS SERVICES NEEDS

North Charlotte Lions Club is requesting help in fundraising for a need at Lions Services Inc. in Charlotte. An ice maker used by those at Lions Services must be replaced due to its age at a cost of \$5000. The ice machine is used in the breakroom, and everyone has access to it.

The club would greatly appreciate donations towards the project from other Lions Clubs and individuals. Checks can be sent to Lions Services Inc., PO Box 561987, Charlotte, NC 28256.

Be sure and mark "For Ice Maker".

North Charlotte Lions Club is a unique part of District 31-I. The club members are visually impaired or blind and are employees of Lions Services which has a vision to create a world where blind and visually impaired individuals can feel empowered through meaningful employment while building a strong community together. Having a Lions Club in the facility is a great opportunity for empowerment. The club helps members and others who work at Lions Services with needs.

Lions Services is a manufacturing facility that creates an accessible work place that has a mission of helping the blind help themselves since 1935. The organization was created by the Lions Clubs of Mecklenburg County and has its own board of directors which includes Lions and other community leaders.

DISTRICT 31-I SIGHT & HEARING CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Can you hear me now? We've all heard about hearing conservation needed within the workplace for auto mechanics, construction workers, etc. But what about everyday life such as attending concerts, sporting events, riding lawnmowers, using power tools, etc.? Following are some tips that might help with hearing conservation: lower the volume on audio equipment, wear hearing protection earmuffs or earplugs, each hour or so, take 10 minute breaks from loud noises, use smart phone apps to measure noise levels, keep your ears dry to avoid infections, and have your hearing checked. Also, the NC Lions Mobile Screening Unit (MSU) offers hearing screenings, and your local Sams Club offers free hearing tests.

Lion Betsy Anderson, Chair

Dist. 31-I Sight & Hearing Conservation Committee

Cell: 828-265-7440

Global Service Team Chair

North Carolina Lions *Camp Dogwood*

Camp Dogwood Raffle Tickets on sale now!

Get your Raffle tickets online now!

All proceeds go to the maintenance of Camp Dogwood for the Blind and Visually impaired.

Prizes include \$15,000 Grand Prize!

\$500 \$400 \$300 \$200



Use the QR Code above to purchase online.

Tickets are \$5 each or 3/\$10 or 7/\$20

Tickets purchased online will be filled out and directly placed in for Drawings. Tickets will also be distributed at Brighter Visions Kickoffs in your District.

For More Information on local foundations and camp Dogwood, please click on the links below.

<https://nclf.org/>

<https://nclionscampdogwood.org/>

<https://dogwoodlakenorman.org/>

FIRST FRIDAY FISH FRY

HARRISBURG LIONS CLUB

507 PATRICIA AVENUE

704-455-3738

harrisburglionsclub@gmail.com

FIRST FRIDAY EVERY MONTH

4:00 pm to 7:00 pm



Fillet Flounder & Shrimp

Chicken Tenders

French Fries or Baked Potato

Slaw Red or White

Hush Puppies

1 Dessert & Iced Tea

ADULTS \$14.00

SENIORS \$12.00

CHILDREN 3-8 \$4.00

CHILDREN 9-12 \$6.00

(Children under 3 years of age eat free)

SOFT DRINKS \$1.00

BBQ Sandwich \$5.00 BBQ Tray with FF & Hushpuppies \$7.00

TAKE OUT Chooses \$12.00

Fried Fish, Shrimp and Chicken Tenders

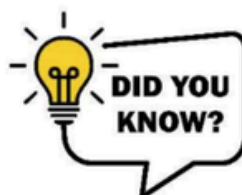
French Fries or Baked Potato

Slaw and Hush Puppies

Add a Soft Drinks \$1.00 or Dessert \$2.00

All Proceeds to benefit Lions Club Blind charities.

Ask about using our club house for your next party or event!



Sight and Hearing Conservation

PROMOTE GOOD EYE HEALTH HABITS TO ENSURE LONG-TERM VISION HEALTH

- ❖ See your optometrist to detect potential vision issues early
- ❖ Use proper eye protection to prevent environmental risks and injuries
- ❖ Reduce screen time
- ❖ Maintain adequate hydration

NOTE: If you would like some of our District 31I Sight and Hearing tri-fold brochures email: cathycritz@gmail.com.

FROM THE EDITOR

The July Issue of the District Newsletter includes lots of information about upcoming events. Here you will find the information on the current efforts and plans for growth and service.

Please feel free to continue to submit your announcements and articles for future editions. All submissions need to be submitted to the editor with a DEADLINE of the 20th of each month.

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

Lion Jennifer Merry
lions31newsletter@gmail.com

Please send all submissions as a Word Document and pictures in a separate .jpg file by the 20th of the month. Provide any links to registration forms for easier printing.

Email address corrections or additions should be sent to
Lion Michelle Myers
michgregory358@gmail.com

Yours in Lionism,
Dr. Jennifer L. Merry, editor
lions31newsletter@gmail.com

