



SANDY FRASER-THOMAS DISTRICT GOVERNOR 2026-27

MARK S. LYON INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT 2026-27



LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL

August 2026

District 31 - I News and Happenings

Meet the District 31-I Governor Team



District 31-I Governor Team
2nd VDG - Eddie Harmon
DG - Sandy Fraser-Thomas
1st VDG - Chris Beck

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



DISTRICT CABINET

District Governor

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

Tim Williams

Global Leadership Team

Coordinator

Kathleen Poirier

Global Membership Team

Coordinator

Paul Bledsoe

Global Service Team

Coordinator

Joseph Poirier

LCIF Coordinator

Simon Thomas

Zone Chairpersons

Betsy Anderson – 1A
Jeff Lambert – 1-B
Tammy MacLean - 2
Sharon Weddington - 3
Debbie Williams - 4
Emily Cook – 5
Steven Emerson - 6
Angie Kaiser - 7
Patricia Johnson – 8

Information & Technology

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.”

07/20/2026

Dear Fellow Lions,

On behalf of Immediate Past District Governor Steve Cline and I, we wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who attended the First Cabinet Meeting, Awards Ceremony, and Installation for District 31-I on Saturday, July 18th, 2026.

Your presence, enthusiasm, and commitment made this day a tremendous success. It was inspiring to see so many dedicated Lions gather to celebrate the accomplishments of the past year, recognize outstanding service, install our new leaders, and begin this Lions year with renewed purpose and excitement.

Thank you to every Lion who traveled near and far. To our presenters, Committee Chairs, volunteers, award recipients, and everyone who worked behind the scenes. Your dedication reflects the very best of Lionism and reminds us that we accomplish more when we work together.

As we move forward, let us continue building on this momentum by strengthening our clubs, supporting one another, and serving our communities with compassion. Together we will make this a remarkable year of service as we commit to Lions Clubs International's mission 1.5 and continue to make a positive difference in the lives of other.

With sincere appreciation.

Sandy Fraser-Thomas

District Governor

District 31-I

2026-2027

Stronger Together, One Team, Shared Success



District Web Site:

<https://nclions31i.org>



Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/District31I.NCLions>

HELLO DISTRICT 31-I LIONS!! We've started off our new Lions year with a wonderful Awards, Officer Installation & 1st Cabinet Meeting! But before I move forward into the new Lions year, I need to go back to the job Y'All did for Brighter Visions last year. With our district being #1 in funds collected & turned in, \$171,564.00, blowing last year's total of \$124,974.00 out of the park! We're #1 in funds collected per member with \$204.24; all the Clubs had donations turned in in their Club's name, and that hasn't happened in years! We tied for 1st in % of Gov. Goals at 114% with District S, so a large SHAZAAM to ALL the Clubs & Lions for their hard work last Lions year! I've already spoken to our 2VDG Eddie Garmon about Brighter Visions this year & I told him that I feel we're going to have another great year! So let's get together at the Konnoak Lions Club & let's get our BV off to a great start at our District I KickOff on August 1! I want to tell you a little about our District I convention this year in Clemmons, NC at the Village Inn Hotel & Events Center. Our Friday Fun Nite, we'll take a Celebrity Cruise Ship ride on the Carolina Sea Lion! I'll be the captain of this cruise & I have a crew to assist me like they had on the TV show The Love Boat! I have a Cruise Director Julie, a ship doctor, Dr Adam Bricker, A Gopher & a Bar Tender, Issac! They will assist me on a cruise, please attend & find out who these characters are! We have speakers for our Seminars already & they'll provide IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO ALL OUR CLUBS! We'll have an election of officers for our next Lions year & the Gov It will be fun & entertaining, but it will be more fun if you are there! We also have ads available to purchase this year for our convention book. I'd like Clubs & individual Lions to consider & purchase an AD to help pay for our convention! We have so much to LOOK FORWARD to this Lions year, it's going to be a great year & I wouldn't want to MISS ANYTHING GOING ON!!

Yours In Lionism,
1st VDG Chris Beck

It is a new and exciting Lions Club year!!! The new club presidents are planning their year, and the clubs are planning their service projects. I would love to hear about what your club has planned for this year. I know you are all special individuals and will do incredible things this year!!!

I remember a few months ago, at one of our club meetings, one of our newer members got up and said “Before he joined the Lions Club, he thought the Lions Club was just for special people”. I naturally made a joke about it, saying, “Who are these Lions Club members who are not special? We need to kick them out”. But he was right; the Lions Club is not just for the politicians, lawyers, doctors, and other officials in our communities. The Lions Club is a service organization. It is for anyone who wants to help support our service.

On the other hand, I see so many people in the Lions Club that are “special people”. Not because of their jobs or the money they have, but because of their willingness to serve. You do not sit around watching football on the weekends. You support your local Lions Club, and that is what makes you SPECIAL!!!!

Thank You! Eddie





District Global Leadership Team Coordinator – Kathy Poirier

Rooted in Service

Our District Governor, Lion Sandy Fraser-Thomas, has asked the District's Global Action Team to host three Zoom training sessions this Fall. These sessions will be open to all Lions in the District, not just club officers. The topics that will be covered are Leadership (with instructors GLT Kathy Poirier & 1st VDG Chris Beck), Service (with instructors GST Joe Poirier & 2nd VDG Eddie Garmon) and Membership (with instructors GMT Paul Bledsoe & GET Tim Williams). These sessions are currently in the planning stage, but more information will be forthcoming through the District newsletter and District email blasts.

We're looking forward to having another successful year of training for the Lions of District 31-I. As I mentioned in the July newsletter, there are multiple ways to learn more about being a Lion either through the Lion Portal or Lions University. If you have questions about learning more or if you need help accessing either the Lion Portal to use the resources in the Lions Learning Center or how to register for Lions University, please don't hesitate to contact me (email: lionkathypoirier@gmail.com or phone: 203-645-1040). Learning is something we shouldn't stop doing just because we're not in school anymore. Expand your knowledge of Lionism to help you be an even better Lion than you currently are.

Lion Kathy Poirier
CC/GLT District 31-I



District Global Service Team Coordinator-Joe Poirier

Rooted in Service

Last year, International President A.P. Singh started a new initiative for providing service. He proposed three weeks of service that focused on different global causes. This year, our new International President, Mark Lyon, is continuing this idea, and he has proposed three weeks of service as well. The three Focus Weeks are 1) Vision Week- October 8-18, 2026, 2) Youth Week-February 13-21, 2027, and 3) Environment Week-May 29-June 6, 2027. All clubs are encouraged to participate in some way during each of these weeks. If you're unable to have an activity in the proposed weeks, do something when you are able during the year. Information will be forthcoming as we receive more information from Lions International.

Our focus as Lions is to provide humanitarian service to the people in our communities. Once you've done service projects in your community, it's important that your activities are reported on the Lion Portal. One of our goals this year is to increase the number of clubs reporting service activities. This past Lions year, 44% of our clubs reported (18 of the 42 Clubs). Our goal this year is to attain 75% district-wide reporting, which would be a 50% increase. To do this, we need at least 15 more Clubs to report their service. Reporting is how you share your story about what your club has accomplished, and it helps Lions International share statistics with other foundations when looking for funding. Reporting your service activities could spark an interest in other clubs to do something similar as well.

Training is available for club secretaries and/or club service chairpersons who need assistance in getting started on reporting. Assistance can be done in person, by phone or by Zoom. Please feel free to reach out to me for assistance (email: pdgjoe23a@sbcglobal.net or phone: 203-687-8781) or PDG Theresa Matthews (email: mkmsales@mindspring.com or phone: 336-906-2510) who is also available to help. In addition, training on the Lion Portal will be available at our District Convention in January.

Multiple Distinct 31 Council of Governors. In order of district.



Club News

Boone Area



Boone Area Lion Barbara Groh, our club's 2nd VP and LCI Representative, volunteered in July at Camp Dogwood by helping the blind with archery, bingo, BB guns, meals, and other activities. She's had a great and rewarding experience and hopes more Lions will volunteer.



During the very hot 4th of July, Boone Area Lion Jerry Traudt and Lion Helper Lynda Lasseter set up a card table in front of the Blowing Rock Library to sell cold water to help attendees stay hydrated in the extreme heat. Lion Jerry, club president and Dist. 31-I Diabetes Awareness chair, wore his Diabetes Awareness shirt. They made a profit of \$296 for the Blowing Rock Library

Club News

Charlotte Southern



Agatha Bisbikis- Lions Services - Development Director spoke at our club on July 13th. She gave our members an update of the new 2026 Braille Trail Walk and the diverse ways our club can support. She shared the new initiatives and programs offered at Lions Services.



Tom Kindlick was sworn in and congratulated as Vice-President during our July Meeting.

Club News

Concord



Flag Repair Day! John Nunn, Mark Gaskey, Jeff Smith, Jim Adams, and Janine Girard. The Club displays over 620+ flags to honor 10 holidays throughout the year.



Eye screening at Granville County Convention Expo & Center for a Bee Jubilee on June 26, 2026.

27 screened, 3 referrals, 3 unable.

Pictured: 31-S DEG Jody Proctor, 31-O DG Juanita Brown, Lion Ron Rice (Concord) and New Lion Sherri Battaile (Eden)

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

Lake Norman and Mooresville



Lake Norman and Mooresville Lions, and Zone 3 Chair Sharon Weddington, met July 21st to pack 450 hygiene bags for Kindness Closet to deliver to Caterpillar Ministries. Last year Kindness Closet provided half a million basic hygiene products not covered by government assistance.

West Iredell



Lion Lisa Hawkins, Lion Mary Summers and Lion Christie Kestler participated in Christmas in July project District Governor Sandy asked the clubs to do. We donated 12 birthday cakes in bag to Iredell Christian Ministries. Minday Harris is seen pictured here from ICM with Lion Christie and Lion Mary.

Club News

West Jefferson

What We've Been Doing...

- Parking cars for Christmas in July Festival. 8 hours (8 different members in shifts) netted in \$1565
- Flag placement of 200 flags during July 4th weekend. 20 hrs of work 6
- 2 members volunteered 32 hours each reading literacy program for 25 children identified by teachers needing help
- 2 members drove to Greensboro (2 + 2 hrs) to pick up brooms for sale
- 3 members restocked brooms 1.5 hr
- Purchased food for 4 people
- 3 members participated in VFW "helping" other veterans (12 hours)

New Zone Chairs Installed

Scenes from the 1st Cabinet meeting



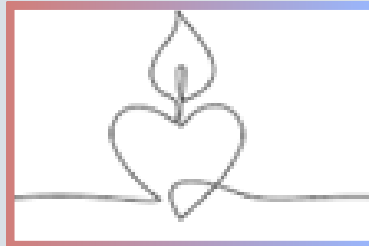
District Governor Sandy did something new by having the Past District Governors pin the new Zone Chairs. Two were missing from the photo: Tammy Maclean and Jeff Lambert



Member News

In Memoriam Of Lions No Longer Able to Serve:

David Preddy - Mt Pleasant



We are sorry for your loss!

Welcome New Members

Boone

Wayne Powell sponsored by Teresa Greer

Davidson-Huntersville

Tyler Raper sponsored by Jerry Shope

Dobson

Carol Anne Forwood sponsored by Thomas Forwood

Fair Grove

Alice Colwell sponsored by Pam Britt

Mocksville

Timmy Johnson sponsored by Patsy Crenshaw

Taylorsville

Dylan Wells sponsored by Scott Killian

Thomasville

Quansheeba Long sponsored by Dedra Allen

John Mclendon sponsored by Michael Floyd

District Governor Club Visits

August

North Charlotte
August 4th
11:30am

Kings
August 4th
5:30pm

Pilot
August 10th
6:00pm

Kernersville
August 11th
6:00pm

Winston Salem
Konnoak
August 17th
6:00pm

Boone Area
August 18th
12:00 noon

Dobson
August 18th
6:30pm

Lexington
Downtown
August 20th
12 noon

Mooresville
August 24th
6:30pm

Odell
August 25th
6:00pm

West Iredell
August 27th
6:00pm



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



DISTRICT CABINET

District Governor

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

Tim Williams

Global Leadership Team

Coordinator

Kathleen Poirier

Global Membership Team

Coordinator

Paul Bledsoe

Global Service Team

Coordinator

Joseph Poirier

LCIF Coordinator

Simon Thomas

Zone Chairpersons

Betsy Anderson – 1A
Jeff Lambert – 1-B
Tammy MacLean - 2
Sharon Weddington - 3
Debbie Williams - 4
Emily Cook – 5
Steven Emerson - 6
Angie Kaiser - 7
Patricia Johnson – 8

Information & Technology

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.”

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

Stronger Together, One Team, Shared Success

District Web
Site: <https://nclions31i.org>



Follow us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/District31I.NCLions>

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/ T.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 GOVERNERS 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 ALLIANCE/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 NCIF \$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 OF 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: lisaccleaver@gmail.com & Co-Chair Lion Sharon Snelling, email: scenellings@gmail.com.

CLUB POINTS CONTEST:

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



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: _____

MJF=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		
		MJF	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”.



I need money!!! I need \$383.57 per day to reach our goal of \$140,000.00 for the year, so as of the 20th of July, I am behind on our goal by \$7500.00. I am willing to work for money. Let me know if you have a Brighter Visions fundraiser planned for the upcoming year. I would love to help you, and maybe I can make a little money for Brighter Visions in the process!!!

You can contact me to help you with a Brighter Visions fundraiser or schedule me for a club visit at (704) 691-5364 or e.garmon@live.com. Thank you for all you do for Brighter Visions and the Lions Club!!!



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.

Lions International Peace Poster Contest

2026-2027

"Harmony in Humanity" is the 2026-2027 theme. When we treat each other with respect and kindness Peace can flourish!

Grand prize- monetary \$5000.00 and an invitation to a Lions International event. There will be 23 merit winners to receive a certificate and a monetary of \$500.00 also.

Purchase Peace Poster kits from January 15th – October 1st. Kit is available in 12 languages. Some of the languages are English, Chinese, French, Italian, Korean, Portuguese, Simplified Chinese, Spanish and Sweden to name a few. Part number is PPK1EN for the regular kit of \$11.95 plus shipping cost of \$11.60. Digital kit part number is PPK 1026EN. You can order either kits at Lionsclubinternational.My Shopify.com, Lionsclub.org or call 630-571-5466.

Age restriction are 11 – 13. Important deadlines for clubs:

1/15-10/1/2026 Kits are on sale in Lions Shop Online

11/15/26 Postmark deadline for a club to send 1 winning poster. (Per contest sponsored) to District Governor Sandy Frazier Thomas.

12/1/2026 Postmark deadline for DG Sandy Frazier Thomas to send 1 winning poster into Lions International.

2/1/2027 Club Presidents of International winners will be notified on or before.

FYI there are several items for purchase from Lions International such as Peace Poster honorable mention certificate, Social media kit and club level press release template to name a few.

I feel this is a great way to get our younger people involved and make even stronger bonds with our communities and schools to be a more positive difference. If I can be of any assistance please do not hesitate to let me know either by calling my mobile at 704-200-8144 or via email at ecook0821@yahoo.com



Lions Clubs International

District 31-I

Sandy Fraser-Thomas

District Governor 2026-2027



"I WANT MY WHOLE TEAM TO SUCCEED, NOT JUST ME, ALL OF US."

DISTRICT CABINET

District Governor

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

Tim Williams

Global Leadership Team Coordinator

Kathleen Poirier

Global Membership Team Coordinator

Paul Bledsoe

Global Service Team Coordinator

Joseph Poirier

LCIF Coordinator

Simon Thomas

Zone Chairpersons

Betsy Anderson – 1A
Jeff Lambert – 1-B
Tammy MacLean - 2
Sharon Weddington - 3
Debbie Williams - 4
Emily Cook – 5
Steven Emerson - 6
Angie Kaiser - 7
Patricia Johnson – 8

Information & Technology

Scott MacLean

Peace Poster

Emily Cook

Vision Screening Program

Cathy Critz

Newsletter Editor

Jennifer Merry

07/20/2026

DISTRICT 31-I CELEBRATES 11 YEARS OF SERVICE

Happy 11th Anniversary , District 31-I

On behalf of District Governor Sandy and the entire District 31-I family we proudly celebrate the 11th Anniversary of our District 31-I, chartered on July 1st, 2015

For eleven years, our Lions have answered the call to serve with compassion, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to making our communities stronger. Through countless service projects, acts of kindness, and leadership, we have demonstrated that when Lions work together, lives are changed and hope is renewed.

As we celebrate this special milestone (Christmas in July) we honor the vision of those who helped establish District 31-I and recognize every Lion, Leo and Club, whose service has made our district a shining example of what it means to serve others.

May this anniversary inspire us to continue growing, strengthening our clubs, and welcoming new members.

Thank you to every member for your dedication and unshakeable support. Together we will continue to build a brighter future.

With gratitude and Lions pride,

Sandy Fraser-Thomas

District Governor

On behalf of the Officers, Cabinet, and members of District 31-I
2026-2027

Stronger Together, One Team, Shared Success



District Web

Site:



Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/District31I.NCLions>



DISTRICT 31-I

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

Think Service – Think Positive



Christmas
in **JULY!**

*The spirit of
Christmas lives
in our hearts
all year long
through service!*



Fellow Lions,

Christmas is a season of giving, hope, and kindness—but those values are not limited to December. As we celebrate **CHRISTMAS IN JULY**, let's take this opportunity to spread joy throughout our communities in meaningful ways.



Collect school supplies, support a local food pantry, or help a family in need.



Visit a senior living community or bring cheer to someone who may feel forgotten.



Offer a helping hand—every act of service makes a difference!

Our greatest gift as Lions is our willingness to serve. Together, we make a lasting difference through compassion, teamwork, and dedication. Every project, every volunteer hour, and every smile we share reflects the heart of Lionism.



I encourage each club in District 31-I to consider a special **CHRISTMAS IN JULY** service project this month. Let's challenge ourselves to brighten lives, strengthen our communities, and inspire others through our actions.

Thank you for your continued commitment to serving with pride and purpose. Together, we will continue to build stronger communities and create hope for those who need it most.

Think Service – Think Positive!

With Lion Pride,

Sandy Fraser-Thomas

District Governor
Lions District 31-I



**WE SERVE
WITH HEART**



VISION



YOUTH



ENVIRONMENT



HUNGER



CHILDHOOD
CANCER



DIABETES

TOGETHER, WE SERVE. TOGETHER, WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



Lions Clubs International

District 31-1

Sandy Fraser-Thomas

District Governor 2026-2027



DISTRICT CABINET

District Governor

Sandy Fraser-Thomas

1st Vice District Governor

Chris Beck

2nd Vice District Governor

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Scott MacLean

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Emily Cook

Vision Screening Program

Cathy Critz

Newsletter Editor

Jennifer Merry

"I WANT MY WHOLE TEAM TO SUCCEED, NOT JUST ME, ALL OF US."

07/16/2026

The District Goals for the 2026-2027 Lions Year are as follows:

1. Charter at least three new clubs.
2. Recruit 136 new members.
3. Strengthen retention of members.
4. Obtain 85% of Clubs reporting service on the Lions Portal.
5. Establish a succession of leadership for 2nd VDG and Zone and Committee Chairpersons.
6. Initiate Lions Portal Zoom Training.
7. Encourage members to utilize the LLC (Lions Learning Center).

Stronger Together, One Team, Shared Success



District Web

Site:



Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/District31LNCLions>

Sight & Hearing Conservation Committee
AUGUST IS NATIONAL AMBLYOPIA AWARENESS MONTH



What is amblyopia?

Amblyopia (also called lazy eye) is a type of poor vision that usually happens in just 1 eye but less commonly in both eyes. It develops when there's a breakdown in how the brain and the eye work together, and the brain can't recognize the sight from 1 eye. Over time, the brain relies more and more on the other, stronger eye —while vision in the weaker eye gets worse.

It's called "lazy eye" because the stronger eye works better. But people with amblyopia are not lazy, and they can't control the way their eyes work.

Amblyopia starts in childhood, and it's the most common cause of vision loss in kids. Up to *3 out of 100 children have it*. The good news is that early treatment works well and usually prevents long-term vision problems.

What are the symptoms of amblyopia?

Symptoms of amblyopia can be hard to notice. Kids with amblyopia may have poor depth perception — they have trouble telling how near or far something is. Parents may also notice signs that their child is struggling to see clearly, like:

- Squinting
- Shutting 1 eye
- Tilting their head

In many cases, parents don't know their child has amblyopia until a doctor diagnoses it during an eye exam. That's why it's important for all kids to get a vision screening at least once between ages 3 and 5.

What causes amblyopia?

In many cases, doctors don't know the cause of amblyopia. But sometimes, a different vision problem can lead to amblyopia.

Normally, the brain uses nerve signals from both eyes to see. But if an eye condition makes vision in 1 eye worse, the brain may try to work around it. It starts to "turn off" signals from the weaker eye and rely only on the stronger eye.

Some eye conditions that can lead to amblyopia are:

Refractive errors. These include common vision problems like nearsightedness (having trouble seeing far away), farsightedness (having trouble seeing things up close), and astigmatism (which can cause blurry vision). Normally, these problems are easy to fix with glasses or contacts. But if they're not treated, the brain may start to rely more on the eye with stronger vision

What's the treatment for amblyopia?

If there's a vision problem causing amblyopia, the doctor may treat that first. For example, doctors may recommend glasses or contacts (for kids who are nearsighted or farsighted) or surgery (for kids with cataract).

The next step is to re-train the brain and force it to use the weaker eye. The more the brain uses it, the stronger it gets. Treatments include:

Wearing an eye patch on the stronger eye. By covering up this eye with a stick-on eye patch (similar to a Band-Aid), the brain has to use the weaker eye to see. Some kids only need to wear the patch for 2 hours a day, while others may need to wear it whenever they're awake.

Putting special eye drops in the stronger eye. A once-a-day drop of the drug atropine can temporarily blur near vision, which forces the brain to use the other eye. For some kids, this treatment works as well as an eye patch, and some parents find it easier to use (for example, because young children may try to pull off eye patches).

After your child starts treatment, their vision may start to get better within a few weeks. But it will probably take months to get the best results. After that, your child may still need to use these treatments from time to time to stop amblyopia from coming back.

It's important to start treating children with amblyopia early — the sooner the better. Kids who grow up without treatment may have lifelong vision problems. Amblyopia treatment is usually less effective in adults than in children.

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



Important Dates

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.

Riverview LIONS Club



Festival By The River & DUCK RACE

Sat Aug 15, 2026
11:00 am - 03:00 pm

Scan to
order tickets!



Riverview Community Center

11719 Hwy 88W, Creston, NC

RAIN OR SHINE!

Music, Food, Fun, Arts & Crafts!
and DUCK RACE.

Ducks are \$5 each or 5 for \$20.

You DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN.



Food by: Appalachian Senior Program

We will be having a raffle this from Local Businesses that have
been generous enough to donate a basket or gift certificate
helping to support the Riverview Lions Club!

Vendors & Supporters:



APPALACHIAN SENIOR PROGRAMS



naked creek farmacy LLC



<https://tinyurl.com/LionsClubDuckRace>

HARRISBURG LIONS CLUB PRESENTS
**FRIDAY HOT DOG
& WING SALE**



EVERY FRIDAY!

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

HOT DOGS

three
dollars **\$3**

WINGS
6 for \$8
BASKETS

LOCATION:

507 Patricia Avenue, Harrisburg

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT:

LIONS CLUB COMMUNITY PROJECTS





Leaders
Lions:

Lexington Downtown Lions Club

PO Box 571, Lexington, NC 27293



Leaders
and Fellow

The **45th Annual Dave Conrad Lions Memorial Golf Tournament** will be held **Wednesday, September 2, 2026** (rain date **Wednesday, September 9, 2026**). This event will take place at the Lexington Golf Club. The Lexington Downtown Lions Club and Breeden Insurance Services Inc sponsor the tournament. The Tournament is Co-sponsored by Erie Insurance Group.

We need business and civic organizations to sponsor teams for this half-day captain's choice affair. To provide smoother play the tournament will be limited to the **first twenty-four (24) teams**. Each team will consist of an A, B, C and D player (see entry form on flyer). The cost of each **four-man team is \$300**. If you would like to have any "mulligans" included please add \$10.00 (*one per player*) to the fee. Your fees will cover the following:

- *1. Entry of four people in the tournament.
- *2. Green fees and golf carts.
- *3. Chance to win multiple prizes.
- *4. Barbecue Party immediately following tournament

In addition, there will be opportunities to win valuable prizes including a **50/50 Pot** for cash money!
Sponsor a Hole for \$125. Promote your business, church, organization or in honor or memory of someone.

All proceeds from the tournament will be used to aid the blind and visually impaired and for research of eye diseases eye exams and glasses for those who qualify for assistance. You only have to close your eyes for a few minutes to feel the loneliness and isolation that the visually impaired feel. Over the past forty-five years many lives have been touched due to your valuable participation and contributions.

Please make checks payable to the **Lexington Downtown Lions Club or LDLC** and mail with your entry form to PO Box 571, Lexington, NC 27293-0571 or drop by Breeden Insurance, 312 West Center St, Lexington, NC 27292. Your support and participation are greatly appreciated.

Kindest regards,

Lion Randy Everhart Co-Chairman

Lion W. Mark Breeden Co-Chairman

DAVE CONRAD MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
Lexington Downtown Lions Club

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Randy Everhart 336-425-4160
randyeverhart0514@icloud.com

Mark Breeden 336-309-0530
markbreeden@breedeninsurance.com

Dylan Dawson 336-248-3950 (Lexington Golf Club)

Lexington Downtown Lions Club
presents the
**45th Annual Dave Conrad Lions
Memorial Golf Tournament**

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

(rain date Wednesday, September 9, 2026)

Lexington Golf Club
Country Club Drive, Lexington

- *\$300 Entry Fee for four-man team
- *\$10 per player for "Mulligans"
- *\$125 for a Hole Sponsorship

BARBECUE PARTY!!!
(Immediately following afternoon play)

GREAT PRIZES!!!
*50/50 Raffle *Longest Drive *Closest to Pin
*Door Prizes *Hole-In-One Contest \$10,000 Cash Prize

For questions/entry
Randy Everhart (336) 425-4160
randyeverhart0514@icloud.com

Mark Breeden (336) 309-0530
markbreeden@breedeninsurance.com

or mail this form along with your check payable to:
Lexington Downtown Lions Club
PO Box 571, Lexington, NC 27293-0571

Team or Business Name: _____

Player A: _____

Player B: _____

Player C: _____

Player D: _____

Tee Time: **Afternoon 2:00 pm**

Team Contact name: _____
Team Contact phone #: _____
Team Contact Email: _____

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

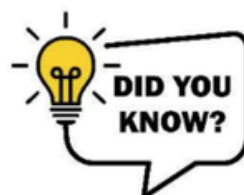
French Fries or Baked Potato

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 311 Sight and Hearing tri-fold brochures email: cathycritz@gmail.com.

FROM THE EDITOR

The August Issue of the District Newsletter includes lots of information about upcoming events. Here you will find 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

