

On the Prowl -- With DG-Elect George

Is there a buzzard hovering over your club?

As I ponder my newsletter article for the January 2017 issue, I find it difficult to focus on a new year when it is one week until Christmas. I've a few more things to do prior to the holiday. There is an office Christmas party tomorrow, a Christmas Cantata at church this Sunday, a drop-in on Sunday, Carols of Christmas at a friend's church Sunday evening, and back to work on Monday. Seems as if there remains much to do to finish up this year.

And 2017 is a special year for Lions International. It is our Centennial Celebration with additional focus on the next one hundred years and an emphasis on service. In July, we will celebrate our 100th year at our convention in Chicago, the birthplace of our organization.

As we look to the future, we turn from the past. Our experiences, both good and bad, have brought us to this point. Now, we must look ahead and move on to the future. Perhaps we can help fund methods of preventing blindness. There is hunger to work on, the environment, and encouraging our youth to serve others as well.

So, what is stopping us? You have heard the answers: getting old, need some younger members, not enough time, and just not interested in another meeting.

Does your club need a boost into the next century of service? Is there a buzzard hovering over it?

There is a strange phenomenon occurring in my neighborhood. For over a year now, turkey vultures (actually not a buzzard) are roosting in the trees just north of our house. Late afternoons, as we sit on the deck or look out our den windows, 40 or 50 turkey vultures begin backing-up in their flight plan, much as I've seen aircraft at the Atlanta airport.

In the early morning they stay on-perch until a little later, perhaps

after 9 am when they begin to head out for their morning garbage pick-ups.

Apparently, according to what I find online (it has to be true -- it's on the internet), turkey vultures head out each day into their territory which could be over a 50-mile radius of their home base. With wingspans sometimes of six feet, they seek airlifts on which to soar in search of their meals. Now here is the kicker! It is not their keen sight that finds the morning roadkill, it is their sense of smell.

There are several species of buzzards, all dependent of carrion: the decaying dead flesh of an animal. Turkey vultures have such a powerful sense of smell that they can detect meat under the forest canopy of trees. Turkey vultures are usually the first to find food, and other species of vultures and condors follow them to the food source. See (<https://www.reference.com/pets-animals/turkey-vultures-eat-9e9021e08e1a07fb>).

By now, you are likely wondering where in the world I am going with this. What's the point?

Did you notice that their sight is not their primary method of finding food? Not the point I wanted to make as it is more in tune with -- how we recognize how our local club is being presented to our communities. Do we 'stink' when it comes to telling others about what we do?

Each Club must ensure that your community is aware of what you are doing to help others. Who have you helped? How many lives have you touched? How many have you fed, clothed, transported, sent to camp or fishing? Members of your community need to know what you are doing in your community in order to support your next effort. Potential members must want to be a part your effort.

So, it begins with you.



Lions International's goal is to serve 200 million people per year by 2021. How? By enhancing our service impact and reshaping the public's opinion and by improving our visibility, we hope to improve membership value and reach new markets.

Want to know more?

To reach our goal, LCI has developed a strategic plan called ***LCI Forward***. They have built this roadmap for the future based on feedback from thousands of Lions just like you. LCI Forward embraces new ways to serve, new cutting-edge technologies, and new ways to engage youth in Lions. It will offer more tools for training leaders, more global marketing to raise our visibility, and more ways to experience the pride of being a Lion.

Learn more about our strategic plan by exploring the LCI Forward page. Check it out at <http://members.lionsclubs.org/EN/lci-forward/index.php>. There is even a special video which you can share with your club members.

Perhaps you have heard the familiar saying, "It is hard to soar with eagles, when you work with a bunch of turkeys." Your community would be a mess without the turkey vultures seeking opportunities. Thanks to **carrion**.

Same is true of your Lions Club. **Carry-on**, a new year is here. Don't waste it.

George Culp
District Governor-Elect, 31-I
Liongeorgeculp@gmail.com



Lions Clubs International FOUNDATION

North Carolina Lions Inc., NC Lions Council of Governors, and Lions Clubs International Foundation have agreed to provide matching funds for the purchase of two state of the art pieces of equipment for the UNC-Chapel Hill Kittner Eye Center.

The funds will be used to purchase a Lipiflow Thermal Pulsation System that will heat the inside and outside of the eyelid to remove any blockages causing dryness.

The other purchase is a Lipiview Ocular Surface Interferometer which takes and stores pictures of the eye's lipid layers and uses an intense pulsed light in a procedure that closes blood vessels and has been shown to reduce inflammation in the eyelid oil glands that cause the most common type of dry eye called evaporative dry eye.

The Lipiflow Thermal Pulsation System cost: \$58,780.00

The Lipiflow Ocular Surface Interferometer cost:

\$44,900.00

Total Funding: \$103,680.00

PDG Paul Bledsoe

Immediate Past President, NC Lions, Inc.

1st VDG-Elect Carolyn --

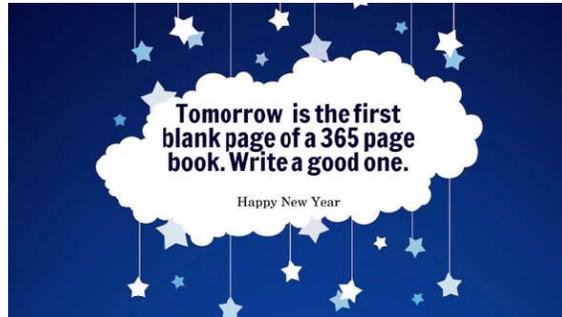
A special thank you for the work and creativity that went into making the 2nd District 31-I Fall Convention a success. Please mark your calendars for *Tuesday, January 31, at 6:30 pm* for a wrap-up meeting.

We will have our final reports from each of you of the success, joys, and/or concerns in the tasks and projects you had responsibility for. I ask that each of you bring a written report or email your report to me prior to January 31. I plan to have those reports emailed to each one who helped with the convention so that we can share a very brief question and answer session after our time of food, fun and fellowship at the *Olive Garden located at Hanes Mall in Winston-Salem*. Reservations have been made for 20 to 25 attendees.

Please plan to attend. Your presence will make our time together more meaningful and your report is a valuable building block for future conventions.

A meeting to begin planning the 2017 fall convention will be held during the week of Feb. 13 through Feb. 17. Additional information on this meeting will be sent out in the next couple of weeks.

Happy 2017 to you. May every great new day bring you sweet surprises and a happiness buffet.



Carolyn Sprinkle, 1st Vice District Governor-Elect
Sprinkle89@skybest.com

2016 - 2017 District 31-I
31-I Brighter Visions Goal

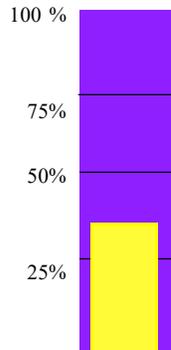
\$ 220,000

Total as of Dec. 20

\$66,121.96

**Half-Way
Through
2016-2017**

**Let's get those
Fundraisers
GOING!!**



On the Tour Bus

Each club has an official visit each year from one of the District Governor Team members. These visits will be listed here as they are scheduled. If you have special requests, please contact DG Butch.

Jan. 17	Welcome	1VDGE
Feb. 20	Hickory Grove	DG
Feb. 13	Charlotte Southern	1VDGE
Feb. 28	Kernersville	1VDGE

A Centennial Moment of Your Own in Chicago

District Centennial Chair, PDG Allen Reinhardt

A 100-year Centennial Celebration --

WOW at the excitement at our International Convention this summer in Chicago, June 30 - July 4.

The International Show . . . Can you believe not only the legendary Beach Boys but also the iconic band, CHICAGO.

The International Parade on Saturday, July 1, and the NC Lions will be #15 in marching order accompanied by the award winning Pisgah High School Band.

Possible International Director Candidate from NC . . . Lion Gwen White.

GREAT NEWS-- Independent tours to visit LCI Headquarters during the International Convention can now be booked for only \$10.00 per person.

Great door prizes at all the Plenary Sessions.

Register now and save on registration fees.

Register before January 13 for only \$130.

The NC Hotel is the Palmer House Hilton, 2.4 miles from the Convention Center. Located right on Lake Michigan on Monroe Harbour. Walking distance to Millennium Park, the Art Institute of Chicago. Near the Field Museum, the Aquarium, the Planetarium, and the Navy Pier. All Lion activities will take place at the McCormick Place Convention Center.

Has your club planned its Centennial community project yet? Please send me reports of your projects so I can report to our state Centennial Chairperson and we can make LCI aware of the projects you are engaged in. One club donated substantial funds to assist in renovation of a local library. There are so many needs in our communities -- please get involved in a local lasting community Centennial Project.

Happy New Year! This is our year to celebrate 100 years of Lionism. This is our year to plan and excel in new opportunities of service. This is our year to stand proud as we serve together and also let NC know what the Lions around the world are doing. . . .

Where there is a need -- There is a Lion!
Thank you for your service!



Three-Person Membership Committee

(A Must for Success in Recruiting)
PDG Gene Everette, GMT Chairman

The three-person Membership Committee structure helps clubs make Membership Growth activities a priority by putting together a strong, unified team to lead the club's efforts in those membership areas.

The committee is composed of three elected members, serving three-year terms on a rotating basis. The Freshman member, serving the first of a three-year term, is responsible for MEMBERSHIP; the Junior member, with two years remaining, focuses on LEADERSHIP and RETENTION and is Committee Vice Chair; and the Senior member, with one year remaining, concentrates on EXTENSION. The Senior member is the Committee Chair and is on the club's Board of Directors.

The Three-Person structure gives the committee members time to gain valuable experience over the three year period of service committee, as well as giving the club continuity in Membership Related Areas. Other benefits include:

- Creating a stronger Club Membership Committee.
- Ensuring appropriate emphasis on four vital aspects of club operation.
- Reinforcing the importance of Membership Responsibilities.
- Encouraging ongoing communication about Membership issues with the Club Board of Directors.
- Giving continuity to the committee's efforts.
- Providing a direct link to the District and Multiple District MERL Team.
- Provides Lions who are knowledgeable about Lionism to assist with Induction and Orientation of New Members.

If ***YOUR CLUB*** does not currently have a THREE-PERSON MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE in place, please encourage your club leadership to consider appointing one immediately. It will be a big asset to your Club Membership Chair. It will also add a cohesiveness and depth to your Membership, Extension, Retention, and Leadership efforts that will be far greater than if those committee chairs work alone.

Bringing additional new members into the club is a responsibility of EVERY MEMBER. As Club Membership Chair, you will organize these efforts and ensure that goals are set and met.

Just ask! Don't assume someone doesn't want to become a Lions Member. By not asking, you are getting a NO answer before you even ask the question!

Let us start the New Year with renewed energy and make our 100th Lions Anniversary Celebration one to elevate our Services to Mankind throughout the World!

NCLI Director Walker Honored On His Retirement



At the annual NCLI staff party, retiring Executive Director Steve Walker and his wife Patti were surprised with some special presentations. The first was an extra-long bench with their names on it given by the Past Presidents of NCLI.

The second was the Ambassador of Goodwill Award, arranged for by PID Harvey Whitley, given on behalf of LCI President Bob Corlew. This is the highest award presented to a Lion by the International President. No more than 40 are given world-wide each year.

DISTRICT CABINET MEETING
Feb. 11, 2 pm Camp Dogwood
Light refreshments



Lions Glenda & Charles Everhart recently delivered 252 books to the Ronald McDonald House in Winston-Salem. The books were collected at our Fall Convention



Jan. 5 Deadline for Photos

Deadline for the District Lions Environmental Contest is January 5. District winner will be sent to the state contest.

The contest is open to all LIONS and LEOS with photos depicting a nature theme such as plants, animals, weather phenomenon, etc.

Photos should be original and UNALTERED and depict the environment of the photographers' LOCAL service area. Do NOT include people in the photograph. Photos should be printed on high-quality photo paper and measure 8 x 10. Each club may submit ONE entry to the district. Contest entries become the property of LCI. For more information: www.lionsclubs.org.

Mail your entry to Lion Debbie Williams, 887 Old Linwood Rd., Lexington, NC 27292 by January 5, 2017. Send questions to: djwms@triad.rr.com.

*To each of you, our special friends,
 Judy and I are wishing you a very blessed Christmas
 and a joy-filled New Year.*

As we remember each name, we thank you for serving as Lions, always remembering those less fortunate than we are. To us, each of you are, and always will be, a special Beacon of Hope. Instead of sending personal Christmas cards this year, we will send a donation for Brighter Visions.

*Please accept this greeting as our Christmas card to you.
 Sid and Judy Scruggs*

Club Updates & Events

Mooresville -- Raffle of Kindle Fire 7 raised \$132 for Brighter Visions. The winner was Angie Cook of Mooresville, a non-Lion.

Denton -- Dessert Auction on Monday, Dec. 19, joint project with Denton Masonic Lodge, raised \$2,748 donated to South Davidson Family Resource Center. Breakfast with Santa raised \$400 for Project Santa. The club-sponsored Miss Denton and Little Miss Denton queens collected household necessities such as toilet paper, shampoo, deodorant, laundry detergent etc. They put together over 60 goody bags for VIPs throughout Davidson County.

Linwood -- Partnered with Pastors Pantry in early December with a turkey shoot. Also had Linwood Lions Country Store, raising money for Brighter Visions. Store featured handmade and homemade items created by Lions and their friends from throughout District I in addition to a variety of other items.

Concord -- In lieu of second December club meeting chose to help three Meals on Wheels clients and their families and provided a full Christmas meal for the three families.

We'd love to list all the food events, golf tournaments, and all the other great projects that clubs sponsor around the district.

**SEND INFORMATION
FOR YOUR CLUB EVENTS
TO BE INCLUDED HERE TO
PDG THERESA MATTHEWS
BY THE 20TH of each month --
MKMSALES@MINDSPRING.COM
OR to PO BOX 788
DENTON, NC 27239**

Pictures are very welcome.



Lions Aid to Gatlinburg

Several 31-I clubs recently sent items and money for the fire victims in Gatlinburg.

Concord, Mt. Pleasant, Troutman, and West Iredell Lions contributed, in addition to Lion Sydney Eudy's church in Harrisburg. Two loads went to Gatlinburg.

Concord Lions President Judi Seymour found a local firefighter/paramedic, who had been called out to fight the fires and rescue people, and while he was out taking care of everyone else, he lost everything he owned when the fire hit his home.

SouthPark & SC Lions Provide Hearing Aids

Reginald Walker, 29, works third shift at Home Depot in Rock Hill, SC, but lives in Charlotte. He, his companion, three of their four children, and his companion's mother are all deaf.

Charlotte SouthPark Lions recently helped River Hills/Lake Wylie Lions of South Carolina, provide special hearing aids for Mr. Walker, paying \$150 of the \$553 cost.

John Davis, a member of the RH/LW Lions, is founder of Sound Advice Hearing Center in Fort Mill, SC, and donated his services and provided the aids at cost. Emily Walker of Bridge Interpreting Services donated her interpreting services during the fitting.

The North Carolina Lions no longer provide hearing aids, as we once did, but rely on the services provided through the NC Division for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Services and aids provided through NCDHHS were not sufficient to help Mr. Walker, but these two Lions Clubs came through to make him safer at work.

New Members Joining the Chorus

Welcome to these new Lions
& thanks to their sponsors:

Mooresville: James Bigler, Donald Combs Jr.,

Sponsor Allen Lowrance

Tiffany Ramos, Sponsor Sharon Weddington

Mt. Pleasant: Tim Maulden, Sponsor Richard Barrier

Salisbury: Michael Edwards, Sponsor Wayne Kennerly

West Lexington: Chance Blake, Sponsor Adam Blanton

Tori Blanton, Sponsor Tish Blanton

Harold Burns, Sponsor Roger Craver

Information obtained from MMRs submitted to LCI

On a Sad Note

Each month we will remember
Lions who have passed away.

PDG Oscar "Doc" Evans, Sparta
Robert Clayton, WS Konnoak Hills

Information is obtained from MMRs
submitted to LCI.

District 31-I Newsletter, *The Voice of 31-I*, is published monthly.

DEADLINE for inclusion of articles is the 20th of each month if by e-mail.

Cost of producing and distributing this publication is paid from member dues received.

Newsletters sent by e-mail are available on the day of publication. USPS mailings are received a week after publication and cost a minimum \$.47 cents to mail; depending on the number of pages in each edition could cost \$.60 to \$.81 cents per issue.

All articles, announcements, etc., for inclusion in the District 31-I Newsletter should be sent to: PDG Theresa Matthews, PO Box 788, Denton, NC 27239 or mkmsales@mindspring.com. Please send all submissions as a Word document and pictures in a separate .jpg file.

Address corrections or additions for USPS or e-mail should be sent to Lion Ron Staley, rstaley@carolina.rr.com, 7935 Altacrest Dr., Concord, NC 28027.



District Governor, 31-1 North Carolina
1270 Beck's Nursery Road
Lexington, NC 27292

Lion C.R. "Butch" Conrad

Lions Clubs

International Association of

We Serve

