

From Governor Butch:

Greetings Lions of the "Ideal" District,

As the February winds blew (I thought they were March winds!), we were on the streets of Clemmons in Forsyth County near Winston-Salem, trying to start a new Clemmons Lions Club. We pounded the pavement there from Monday, February 13, until Thursday, February 16, calling on businesses in the area, inviting individuals to two open house sessions. One was held at Agape Faith Church on Wednesday, February 15, and another at the Clemmons branch of the Forsyth County Library on Thursday, February 16.

Regrettably, only two people showed up, but we are not about to give up so easily. We found much interest in the Clemmons community and plan to have other sessions available before we throw in the towel! If you know someone or have contacts in the Clemmons area, please let me know and I will call or email them. We might need to start with a Branch Club in Clemmons and the hope that it will blossom into a traditional Lions Club.

We are staying positive. Our next move will likely be the Pilot Mountain area. We have perseverance and determination on our side. We won't give up! We might feel down but we're not out! We could use all the members of the choir in these endeavors to extend the reach of Lionism in District 31-I.

Meetings & Events

MARCH -- Third Zone Meeting
Nominate Club Officers
March 21 Executive Committee

Conference Call

March 23-26 SE Leadership Institute
APRIL -- Elect Club Officers

April 7-8 Budget Hearings
Camp Dogwood

April 9-12 Camp Volunteer Week April 15 Report Club Officers to LCI/DG

April 28-30 State Convention North Raleigh Hilton

MAY 5-7 Council & Board Mtg.
Airport Marriott, Greensboro

May 7 NCLI Annual Mtg.
Airport Marriott, Greensboro

JUNE 20 Executive Committee

Conference Call

June 30-July 4 International Convention, Chicago, IL

JULY 15 District Awards 11:30 am 2 pm Installation/Cabinet Meeting Camp Dogwood **Secretaries and Presidents**: It's

that time of year again – time to elect officers for the 2017-2018 Lions year. Be sure your slate of officers is read three separate and distinct times to your club before voting on that slate. This is spelled out in our Constitution and By-Laws of Lions International and in our District 31-I Constitution and By-Laws as well. Secretaries, it's imperative that you report your new officers to International through MyLCI by April 30. Paper PU-101s are still available for secretaries without the internet.

Again, be sure that you are turning in all your service activities to International when you do your MMR. Don't forget to list any Centennial Challenge Activities as well as your Legacy projects.

Congratulations to the Thomasville Club, which completed a Legacy Project last year and has completed another Legacy Project this year as well as working on an additional Legacy Project for next Lions year. Many clubs have completed their Legacy Projects for this year but several have not decided on a Legacy Project yet. It's getting late!

It is my hope that your club is completing my goals for 2016-2017 by partnering with other Lions Clubs, civic groups, businesses, churches, schools and other organizations to complete service projects.

Another Governor's goal is to feed the hungry. I sincerely hope that your club is collecting food for homeless shelters or resource centers in your community. We seem to outdo ourselves at Christmas but as the year rolls along these charitable organizations begin to run low on food for the hungry. We collected over 1200 pounds of food for the Boys and Girls Homes at our District Convention and this should be an ongoing project for each club.

Many of you remember that we collected around 1000 books for the Ronald McDonald House in Winston-Salem and Boys & Girls Homes, and this should also be an ongoing project. Volunteer to tutor a child in a school or a library setting. Listen to children read and (Cont. Page 2)

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On the Prowl -- With DG-Elect George

Nor ever murmur nor repine

For the last couple of days, I've had this phrase rolling around my brain. Perhaps now that I have shared it with you, who, like me, will first begin to determine why it may be familiar to you. A song perhaps as you try to put it in the

clefs of musical notes.

Murmur I can define, but what is a repine? I can assume is the opposite of pine. I've heard that from older relatives who perhaps pined for someone or something lost. Repine, I found, is to feel or express dejection or discontent.

As Lions Club officers, we must

As Lions Club officers, we must communicate with our members constantly. Good communication skills focus on listening, not talking. Are members murmuring in your club? Repining? Are you listening?

Think of the signs of discontent and rejection. Has their attendance dropped off or worse yet, stopped? Has a member been shown rejection by not being included in activities? Perhaps their expectations of what Lions do has not been as expected.

I remember reading somewhere the question, "What is the first thing you do if you dig yourself into a hole?"

Simply stated, "Stop Digging!" We must first realize we have a problem and then begin to create a plan of recovery.

If you have club members who are not participating, they should be contacted. Call or invite them to lunch. Try to determine why they no longer participate. Perhaps you will find that your club can offer them a place that better fits their schedule or interest.

No living member should be dropped without your determination of the reason.

You are the leaders of your club. It is up to you to set the example and to listen to your membership. It is up to you that whatever lot you see, you leadeth them.

Oh Blessed Thought – Lead On.



District Peace Poster Chair Debbie Williams congratulates our District 31-I winner, Mahalia Stainback, representing Concord Lions Club. Mahalia was also the State Peace Poster winner and her poster is being judged in the International Competition. In addition to a \$250 cash prize from 31-I, she received a canvas print of her winning poster.

(DG from Page 1)

even provide reading tutoring for adults. Collect books for a school or library. This would make an excellent Legacy Project for your club.

Finally, we all know about our drop in membership. As I spoke to over 20 clubs on my official visits, I mentioned that there is a program in the District Directory for gaining members as laid out by PDG Allan Thompson of the West Lexington Lions Club. This program works if carried out specifically following the program.

Presidents, secretaries, treasurers, PDGs, and membership chairs have a District Directory. Make copies and give to your members and see if this is a program that would work for your club.

Just a reminder that there are many kinds of membership options. Offer new members an alternative membership including affiliate and at large.

Lions, the year is not over. We still have much work to do! Remember:

"We Serve."

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

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Host Families & Events Needed for Youth Exchange

As part of our Centennial Celebration the NC Lions have invited four males and four females for Youth Exchange. We need eight families across the state to host these youth age 15 to 17 years old from July 8 through July 22. During these two weeks the young person will stay with the host family and should be treated as a member of the family. If you go on vacation during this time you can take the exchange youth with you.

You will meet the youth when they fly into a nearby airport to begin a journey that will be rewarding for you and them. After these first two weeks, the youth will join the State Chairpersons PCC Paulette and PDG Larry Gasperson to travel together around the state, visiting local Lions Clubs and historic sites. If your Club is willing to host an event and/or provide accommodations for the Group please contact me or the State Chairpersons soon.

If you are willing to serve as a host family, there is an application for the Host Families that needs to be completed and returned to the State Committee Chairpersons. Their address is: PDG Larry and PCC Paulette Gasperson, PO Box 494, Pisgah Forest, NC 28768 or for more information, email:

lfgasperson@comporium.net

Thank you. Lion Fred Francis, 31-I Youth Exchange Chairman Tel: 336-817-3266 Email: fr3939@aol.com



NCLI Names New Executive Director

North Carolina Lions, Inc. is pleased to announce that Hillary Brodofsky has been named the new Executive Director, effective January 30. Brodofsky succeeds Steve Walker, who has retired. Walker has been a Lion since 1985 and

served as the organization's Executive Director for 22 years, since 1995.

Brodofsky brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her role as Executive Director. Having been voted one of Lake Norman's Most Powerful Women, Brodofsky has been dedicated to the non-profit industry for the past 20 years in several locations across the country. With a Masters Degree in Adult Education and Community Development from Armstrong State University, a recent graduate of

Leadership Lake Norman, and member of Lake Norman Young Professionals, Brodofsky most recently served as Executive Director of the Sallys and Lincoln County YMCAs.

"I am thrilled at the opportunity to join North Carolina Lions in such a capacity and look forward to continuing the legacy of great work to expand the reach of services for the blind and visually impaired through North Carolina Lions, Inc. programs and services," she said.

Brodofsky's passion for the Lions Club began early in life when her father, Sidney, served as a devoted Lions Club member for over 30 years in their hometown of Greenville, Mississippi. She later became a charter member of the Pooler Lions Club near Savannah, Georgia. During her time with the Pooler Lions Club, the club hosted free vision screenings for over 1,200 children through a partner-ship with local summer camps

Volunteer Week at Camp Dogwood

From: Wayne Faber, State Volunteer Chair Re: Volunteer Week at Camp Dogwood

Greetings Fellow Lions:

Our annual Volunteer Week is scheduled for April 8-12. We expect to have our normal projects such as painting, staining rocking chairs, landscaping, power washing, sorting glasses, general repair and cleaning.

Guest room check in will begin Saturday afternoon at 4 pm. Due to the number of activities being held at Camp Dogwood the weekend prior to clean-up week, early checkins will not be available for Lions not involved in the budget sessions. (The exception would be for those Lions who are power washing to arrive on Friday. Lion Nathan Medlin will oversee this project.) Our first meal will be dinner at 6:00 PM on Saturday. We will have a brief assignment meeting following dinner to discuss the projects and divide into teams. Following the meeting, we will be playing BINGO and if you would like to join, please bring a small gift to be used as a prize.

Each Lion must complete a registration form and return it to camp secretary Keisha Ramseur. Local Lions are welcome to volunteer for the day but still need to register.

Please contact your District Volunteer Chairperson if you have any questions. There is a limited supply of tools at Camp, so volunteers may want to take tools with them.

New Member Fee Increasing

Beginning July 1, the entrance fee for new Lions (charter or existing clubs) will be \$35. The previous new member fee for existing clubs has been \$25 since 1993.

In addition to an enhanced new member kit with ongoing new member communications and tools, MyLCI 2.0 will provide members a destination to track their activities and engage with other members. Also planned are a mobile app and a digital LION Magazine including mobile magazine app.

Camp Dogwood is still looking for week-long volunteers for camping season. Volunteering for a week at camp is a rewarding experience and you can make a difference in the lives of the blind and visually impaired across the state. There is no charge for this wonderful opportunity to serve and have fun at the same time. If you are interested in volunteering during camp, please contact Camp Director Susan King at 800-662-7401 ext. 229 or at susan@nclionsinc.org. Visit our camp website at www.nclionscampdogwood.org for a volunteer application or contact Camp to have one sent to you.

Reservation Form SPRING MAINTENANCE DAYS SATURDAY, APRIL 8, to WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

NAME	-							
NAME (spouse/roommate)								
DAYTIME PHONE								
EMAIL ADDRESS								
Lions ClubDISTRICT								
ARRIVAL DATE	-							
DEPARTURE DATE								
NUMBER OF PERSONS STAYING OVERNIGHT								
Space is limited. Would you be willing to room with someone? Yes No								
NUMBER EATING MEALS:								
Sat. Sun. Mon. Tues. Wed.								
7:30 a.m. Breakfast XX								
12:00 Noon Lunch XX								
6:00 p.m. Dinner								

Please, remember that camp staff will be preparing food to accommodate ONLY the number of people signed up for each meal. If you find that you will not be at camp for a certain meal, please notify Keisha so that meal preparation can be adjusted.

RETURN NO LATER THAN MARCH 24. MAIL TO: Keisha Ramseur, NCLI, PO Box 39, Sherrills Ford, NC 28673 Or Email: Keisha@NCLionsInc.org

National Blind Idol Competition in NC

IFB Solutions, in partnership with Raleigh Lions Clinic for the Blind, is looking for this country's best singers who also happen to be legally blind, to participate in the third annual "A Brighter Path Blind Idol" singing competition. Interested singers can visit www.blindidol.com for competition details. Submissions opened on February 13 and end on March 13.

The 2017 Blind Idol singing competition is open to any legally blind adult who is 18 years or older and a resident of the United States. Entrants are required to provide proof of legal blindness as defined by the Social Security Administration. The Blind Idol winner will re-

ceive a Grand Prize package of \$1,000 cash, eight hours of recording time at a recording facility in Winston-Salem, and a professional headshot. The total prize package is valued at \$3,000.

To enter, contestants must submit a video or mp3 audio file of an individual singing performance no longer than two minutes in length, either online or by mail, no later than March 13. A panel of judges will then select 20 semi-finalists to perform in a live audition hosted by RLCB in Raleigh on June 3.

Five finalists will move on to the live finale competition on August 12 at the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art in Winston-Salem. Contestants will be responsible for their own transportation and lodging.

The 2017 Blind Idol singing competition is sponsored by IFB Solutions Foundation, the supporting foundation of IFB Solutions. IFB is the International Federation of the Blind.

Anastasia Powell, program associate for IFB's A Brighter Path, and Chris Flynt, director of A Brighter Path programs, are returning as the events coorganizers. Powell and Flynt have not let their lack of sight deter them from pursuing their love of music, and they encourage everyone who shares that love to enter.

"Music has the ability to move all of us, young and old, sighted and not sighted," said Powell. "Blind Idol is a great opportunity to showcase our talents on a national stage and enjoy these tremendous performances."

For more information regarding Blind Idol competition guidelines, contact Anastasia Powell at 336-245-5698 or apowell@ifbsolutions.org.

IFB Solutions (IFB) is a nonprofit corporation founded in 1936 that provides employment, training and services for people who are blind or visually impaired.

As the largest employer of people who are blind or visually impaired in the United States, IFB operates manufacturing facilities in Winston-Salem and Asheville, N.C., and in Little Rock, Ark., in addition to more than 50 office supply stores and optical centers across the country.

IFB also provides outreach through A Brighter Path Foundation, which operates Community Low Vision Centers across North Carolina and Tracy's Little Red Schoolhouse based in Winston-Salem.

NCLI Benefits From Yankee Candle Orders

Now through Spring 2017, you can order your favorite Yankee Candle scents online and have a portion of your purchase go to



North Carolina Lions, Inc. and the blind and visually impaired in OUR state!

NCLI will receive 40% of all candle purchases made using our group code: 999965199. Shop online from anywhere and help support NCLI. Make sure you follow our humanitarian branch on Facebook (NC Lions Brighter Visions) and Twitter (@NCLionsInc). Also sign up to receive our Insights to a Brighter Visions Newsletter and join our e-mail list to receive updates.

This is the link to order from Yankee Candle: http://bit.ly/2jcto4H and enter the group code 999965199 to participate and support NCLI.

Club Updates & Events

Welcome -- Will hold only one dinner this year on Sat., March 18, at Center United

Methodist Church Fellowship Hall from 5 pm to 7 pm. Menu includes country style steak, green beans, mashed potatoes, baked apples, homemade rolls, homemade desserts, and tea or coffee. Tickets are \$11 and must be purchased by March 11 from any Welcome Lion.

Odell -- Spring barbecue Saturday March 18 10 am to 3 pm. Pork or Chicken plate \$8, pork sandwich \$3 or 4 for \$10 Bulk pork \$8 lb. BBQ beans, slaw, sauce available. Corner of Odell School Rd. and Highway 73 W (Davidson Hwy).

Konnoak Hills -- Held VIP Valentine Party. Served pizza lunch to 37 students at Konnoak Elementary to reward their good behavior, progress in academics, and reaching schools goals.

Gold Hill -- Thursday, March 16, 6:30 pm Bake Auction at Russell/Rufty Shelter, Gold Hill Park. Last year's event included raffle of 100 car washes, 3 oil changes, and a wine tasting. Make reservations by March 13. Call: Linda or Morris Van Vleet at

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.

704-279-9358. This will also be get acquainted evening for parents and members of the Morgan School Lions Cub

Denton -- Shrimp Boil, Saturday, March 4, 5 pm - 8 pm, Denton Masonic Lodge, South Main Street. \$20 all you can eat. Hot dog plates also available.

-- Miss Denton/ Little Miss Denton Pageant, Saturday, March 18, 7:30 pm, Denton Elementary School.

New Members Joining the Chorus

Welcome to these new Lions & thanks to their sponsors:

<u>Bethlehem:</u> Brenda & Thomas Panella, Sponsor Greg Conrad Charlotte SouthPark: Svetlana Stashchak,

Sponsor Cesar Perez-Sanchez

<u>Denton:</u> Carson Crowe & Gale Rogers, Sponsor Cheree Loflin
 Zac Bray and Amber Smith, Sponsor Liddy Bray
 <u>Hickory Grove:</u> Greg Evangelist, Sponsor Richard Conder
 Taylorsville: Andrew Ferguson, Sponsor Brenda Higgins

Information obtained from MMRs submitted to LCI

VIP Putt Putt Tourney April 8 in Rowan County

Rowan County Parks and Recreation Therapeutic Recreation Division has set the 29th Annual VIP Putt Putt Tournament at Dan Nicholas Park for Saturday, April 8. Registration deadline is Friday, March 10.

Registration must be completed through a social worker or group leader. New participants or county participating for the first time, please contact Vernice Gallon, 704-216-7780 or email vernice.gallon@rowancountync.gov. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Edward Hailey at 704-216-7782.

Registration is \$5 and lunch is provided for participants and volunteers. Lunch is also available at \$5 for any other spectators, family, and friends.

Dan Nicholas Park is located at 6800 Bringle Ferry Road, Salisbury. The tournament begins at 10 am. Check in begins at 8:45 am until 9:30 am in Shelter 4, to the right as you enter the park.

North Carolina Lions, Inc. recently updated the website, www.nclionsinc.org, with overall improved readability, accessibility, efficiency, and a user-friendly online giving platform.

If you were previously registered in the Members Center site, you need to re-register for Member Center log-in here: https://nclionsinc.org/membership-registration/

On a Sad Note

Each month we will remember Lions who have passed away.

Richard McLauglin, Charlotte Central Joseph Ray White, Linwood Ben Culp, Mt. Pleasant

Information is obtained from MMRs submitted to LCI.



In celebration of 100 years of humanitarian service, Lions Clubs at is working with the United States

International is working with the United States Mint to produce a limited-edition silver dollar coin. Sales began January 18.

For each coin sold, \$10 is authorized to be paid to LCIF. This represents a 4 million dollar opportunity to improve the lives of people in need through LCIF initiatives around the world.

The coins will only be for sale during calendar year 2017 and are a limited edition. They are available for purchase from LCI Club Supplies and from the United States Mint.

State Trading Pins!

A new supply of 2016-2017 NC Pins, Centennial Edition, has been received.

Please contact District Governor Butch if you would like to reserve any. The cost is \$2 each. They will be available at the state convention, or from DG Butch as long as supplies last.

Cruise to Benefit Brighter Visions

Clayton Lions Club is sponsoring a 7-night cruise on the Carnival Sunshine with a portion of the cost raising funds for NC Lions Brighter Visions Fund along with an additional donation from Carnival Cruise Line. The ship will leave Charleston, SC, on Nov. 4, 2017, with the following Ports of Call: Amber Cove, Dominican Republic, Grand Turk, and Half Moon Cay Bahamas.

Rates start at \$606 per person for interior state rooms; also available are balcony staterooms for \$1006 per person. Taxes are an additional \$118.37 per person.

Deposit of \$250 per person is due at booking with final payment due August 7, 2017.

For more information contact Jeri or Rich at Carefree Vacations, 919-585-7105 or email: info@carefree-vacations.net.

NFB Bingo Night

National Federation of the Blind of Mecklenburg County will have a Bingo Night FUNdraiser on Friday, April 21 from 7 to 10 p.m.

The event will be held at the Charlotte Bridge Association, 510 East Park Avenue, Charlotte. A \$25 Bingo ticket purchase includes a free raffle ticket and ten games of Bingo, 9 cards per game. Each game winner receives \$75 dollars. Additional raffle tickets may be purchased for \$5 each.

Regional Lions Leadership Institute

March 23-26, 2017

(begins with Thursday dinner at 6:00 pm and ends before Sunday lunch)
Camp Dogwood, 7050 Camp Dogwood Drive, Sherrills Ford

<u>Topics: Team work Goal Setting Diversity</u>

Public Speaking Other Pertinent Issues

Presenters: Lions Joe Pitts, Ron Anderson, Jackie Cameron

Cost: \$142.35 – three nights and eight meals Registration: Deadline March 3

Lion:	Lions Club:
Address:	Phone:
City & State:	Email:
Make check payable to NC Reg	gional Lions Leadership Institute and mail to:

Lion John Owens 8563 Conway Elliott Road Oxford, NC 27565

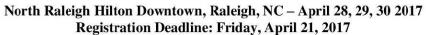
owens407@centurylink.net 919 693-2203

2017 North Carolina Lions State Convention, April 28-30, 2017 North Raleigh Hilton Downtown, Raleigh, North Carolina

(D)	Program Book Ad Form				
We Serve		_	We Serve		
Indicate How many of each	Item	Size	cost		
	[A] Back Outside Cover (4 color) (full bleed if desired)	7.5 x 10	\$1500.00		
	7.5 x 10	\$1000.00			
	[C] Front Inside Cover	7.5X 10	\$1000.00		
	7.5 X 10	\$1000.00			
	[E] Full Page	7.5 X 10	\$300.00		
	[F] Half Page	7.5 X4.75	\$200.00		
	[G] Quarter Page				
	[H] Eighth Page	3.5 X 2.5	\$75.00		
	Advertisement instructions				
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[]Plea	se use our ad from last year with changes as shown (plea	ase include marki	up)		
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lame	Business/Club				
Contact Person	Phone E-mail				
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	Make payable to: 2017 NC Lions State Convention				
Mail Check and this form	to: Lion Ron Beltran 7014 Wexford Woods Trail, Raleigh, NC 276	13			
	Ron Beltran, Phone 919-957-2131, email <u>LionRon31G@yahoo.co</u>				
d Circle all that apply: A-	Back Cover Color, B - inside back, C-Inside Front Cover, D-Center	,			
	E - Full, F - Half, G - Quarter, H- Eighth				
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Who collected the money	<i>r</i>	Date:			



94th Annual NC Lions State Convention





Friday, April 24, 2015 9:00 AM – Golf Tournament											
1:00 PM - 4:30 PM - (Tours & Instructional Health Fair) 12:00 Noon - Past District Governor Luncheon \$27.00 6:30 PM - District Governor Banquet \$25.00 Badges must be worn at all meal functions (including Fun Night)											
North Raleigh Hilton Lions Room Rate: 3415 Wake Forest Road \$99.00 plus tax Raleigh, NC 27609 Reservations after March 28, 2017 will be provided on a space available basis and at the prevailing room rate. Make your room reservations directly with the hotel. Call (800-445-8667) and give the the Group Code NCL 1. or Online, go to www.northraleighhilton.com Enter arrival & departure dates and group code NCL 1			Make check for meals payable to: NC Lions 2017 State Convention Mail check with bottom portion of this form to: Lion Tammy Deppe 226 Michigan Avenue Cary, NC 27519 Email: Tammymaydeppe@aol.com Do not mail after Thursday, April 20, 2017								
Club: District: Check all that apply											
Names: (PRINT first and last names, and	l circle title)	MJ Fellow	Fellow	Woolard Partner	Fellow	<u>Golf</u>	Fun <u>Night</u>	TT Breakfas	PDG t <u>Lunch</u>	DG Banq <u>Pork</u>	Chicken
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Attention, Golfers No Teams Needed. Teams will be formed via a Blind Draw based on handicap.	Func Golf Tourn Strides Wa Fun Night Tail Twiste PDG Lunc District Go	amen lk Celeb er Bre heon	ration akfast	t.		Cos \$50.0 Dona \$25.0 \$15.0 \$27.0 \$25.0	00 ation 00 00 00 00	Numb		Tota	al

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

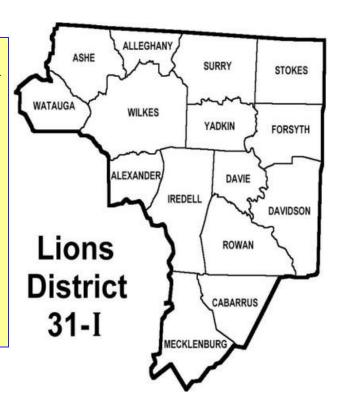
<u>DEADLINE</u> for inclusion of articles is the 20th of each month if by e-mail

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 Covernor, 31-1 North Carolina 1270 Beck's Mursery Road Lexington, MC 27292

Lion C.R. "Butch" Conrad

International Association of **Lions Clubs**

