



On the Prowl -- With DG-Elect George

March Madness is that time of year where Lions Clubs all around the world are making those decisions that may or may not make their clubs successful in the upcoming Lions year.

I notice with interest during March Madness as team after team

strives to move from one of 64 to Number One. Five best players typically start the game for their team. Many of those players have names that are familiar and who may be headed to Pro status in the near future. Their abilities have been proven over the last several months as they earned their place in the tournament.

Behind those five players, stand perhaps 15 bench buddies, six or more coaches, trainers, and other important staff members. A team it is called. A group with a purpose, organized, focused, and ready to go.

Your Lions Club is a team with a purpose. Your March Madness is your strategic opportunity to set the goals and objectives for your club. It is time to pick your leaders. But let's go back to basketball for a moment. How did those players get on their team?

Their love for the game probably started with someone asking them to join the game, perhaps in the backyard or school gym. It continued to grow as did their confidence supported by their peers and their leaders.

One of LCI objectives for the next five years revolves around leadership. For our clubs and district, we will strive for Club Excellence with a Service Focus, Leadership Development, Teamwork and Support. This is a part of **LCI Forward**, our strategic plan through 2019-20.

Is your club recruiting new members for the team? Are you encouraging members to become leaders of your club? Do not miss the opportunity to nominate and elect from your club emerging leaders who can add new perspectives to our organization.

Remember, someone asked you to serve. Pass the ball and work like a team. Shoot for the goal.

I hope you win!

George Culp

District Governor-Elect, 31-I

Liongeorgeculp@gmail.com

2017 - 2018 District Cabinet Planning Session

District Governor-Elect George Culp has set a planning meeting for Sunday, April 23, at 2 pm at Konnoak Moravian Church, 3401 Konnoak Drive, Winston-Salem.

The afternoon begins with Zone Chair Training at 1 pm. Remaining Cabinet members and others who want to join us are invited to come for the 2 pm work session to determine district goals for 2017-2018.

Celebrate Liberty Essay Winner Named

Olivia Bauman, a 16-year-old student at Overhills High School in Spring Lake, has won the 2017 Celebrate Liberty Essay Contest, an annual writing competition that is open to high school juniors enrolled in the state's 1,084 public, private and charter schools by the Lions of North Carolina. Bauman's entry was sponsored by the Anderson Creek Lions Club in Harnett County in District 31-N in southeastern part of the state.

The Lions Celebrate Liberty program is designed to foster an understanding of the rights guaranteed by the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. Each year, Lions sponsor Celebrate Liberty programs in schools with local political leaders.

Participants in the contest are asked to focus their essay on a quote from one of the Founding Fathers. This year's quote was by James Madison Jr., the fourth president of the United States from 1809 to 1817. He is hailed as the Father of the Constitution for his pivotal role in drafting and promoting the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

The submitted essays were judged by academics from Belmont Abbey College and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

For her winning entry, Bauman will receive a check for \$250, presented at the N.C. Lions State Convention in April in Raleigh, where she will be presented the prize and have the opportunity to read her essay to the Lions in attendance.

For More Information, contact Michael H. Schwartz, schwartz5483@gmail.com.

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

\$ 220,000

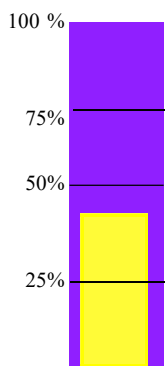
Total as of March 27

\$94,431.49

42.9%

of goal

*Good Luck
on Spring
Fundraisers!*



Troutman Lions Club's 71st Anniversary was celebrated with a cake made by PDG Joyce Keels.

Lion Christy to Get Leader Dog

Congratulations to Lion Christy Poteat who has been accepted by Leader Dog for the Blind in Rochester Hills, MI, to receive a Leader Dog. She will go to the facility on April 23 for 26 days of training with her dog.

Christy is a member of the Bethlehem Lions Club. Lion Antha Reid, District Leader Dog Chair, has worked closely with Christy to help make this possible.

Christy and her mom Pat ask for prayers as she begins a new journey in her life with a new best friend.

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, contact me or the State Chairpersons as soon as possible. Contact information is below.

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



Troutman Lions Club participated in the Love Your Library Project as a community service activity for February. Donations of craft supplies for the library's many craft nights for all ages were presented on February 28. Pictured are Lions Charlene Overcash, Phyllis Honeycutt, Rebecca Lopez (Troutman Library Branch Manager), and Joyce Keels. Picture by Lion Lois Rich.

From 1VDG-E Carolyn Sprinkle:

TEND AND BEFRIEND THRU SERVICE



Mark your calendars now –District I Fall Convention at Camp Dogwood

November 3rd & 4th 2017. Fun, food, fellowship, seminars, networking, sharing ideas and challenges. More information to follow regarding room reservations, menus, fun night activities, banquet, seminar topics and leaders.

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.



Mooresville Lions invited PDG Gene Everette to officially install five new members who have joined in 2017. Left to right are Lion Kimberly Maggio, Lion Jim Bigler, PDG Gene, Lion Diane Barnard, Lion Mike Luhn, and Lion Jr. Combs.

* * *

Lion Andrew Ferguson joined the Taylorsville club in February. In March, he sponsored two more new Lions.



New Members Joining the Chorus

Welcome to these new Lions
& thanks to their sponsors:

Cleveland: Bertidean Alexander, Sponsor Liz Steele

Martha Faust, Sponsor Locke Steele

Kernersville: Mark Schute, Sponsor Willis Apple

Lexington DownTown: Betty Vanhoy, Sponsor Melissa Egelnick

Mint Hill: Randy Gillis, Sponsor Jack Bryan

Mooresville: Diane Barnard, Sponsor Sharon Weddington

Kimberly Maggio, Sponsor Kelly Johnson

Pilot: Melva Stephenson, Sponsor Loretta Comer

Taylorsville: Shawn Bennett, Sponsor Brenda Higgins

William Fischer, Sponsor Kelly Moose

Jimmy & Shirley Lambert, Sponsor Andrew Ferguson

WS Konnoak Hills: Patricia Johnson, Sponsor Janet Doub

Information obtained from MMRs submitted to LCI

New Member Fee

Beginning July 1, the entrance fee for new Lions in both existing and chartering clubs will be \$35. The new member fee has been \$25 for existing clubs 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.

Club Updates & Events

Dobson -- April 1st.
(Saturday) Annual Bass
Fishing Tournament at
Belews Lake. Also planning
yard sale, golf tournament, Vision Van (MSU), and will
have tent at Dobson Spring Folley.

Welcome -- Annual Golf Tournament set for Fri., May 19,
at Lexington Municipal Golf Course. Meal served at 12
Noon. Team cost is \$200.00 with mulligans available.
There will be a "Tournament within a tournament" for
teams with two current Lions members. Cash prizes for
the top three teams and prizes for closest to the pin and
longest drive (men and women). There will also be many
door prizes. For more information call Vaughn Black at
336-886-2663 or Jayme Black at 336-881-0825.

Southmont -- BBQ Chicken at Southmont Civic Center.
Saturday, April 22, from 11 am to 5 pm. Meal includes 1/2
chicken, potato salad, slaw, rolls, and dessert for \$8. Eat-in
includes drink. Take out meals also available.

Denton -- Partnered with Denton Elementary Student
Council to present Miss Denton/Little Miss Denton
Pageant. Council will receive \$500 donation. Silver Valley
Elementary School will also be receiving \$500 for play-
ground repair. Denton Lions have held the pageant since
the 1950's.

WS Konnoak Hills -- Golf Tournament set for Saturday,
April 29, at Wilshire Golf Club. Tee off 1 pm with lunch
served at Noon.

Concord -- Planning Legacy Project of four-year \$1000
scholarship starting with spring 2017. Each year another
student will be presented a four-year scholarship.

Charlotte SouthPark/Derita -- Screened 135 children at
Mallard Creek Presbyterian Weekday School with 33 refer-
als to further testing.

Yadkinville -- Now meeting at Yadkin Senior Center, 207
East Hemlock Street,
Yadkinville. Due to the
rainy weather in January,
the setting of the flag pole
for the Senior Center was
delayed until February. Lion
Darryl Hawkins was crew
chief for setting the pole.

Mocksville -- Donated
\$500 to youth summer
basketball camp.

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.

NFB Bingo Night

National Federation of the Blind of Mecklenburg
County will have a Bingo Night FUNdraiser on
Friday, April 21 from 7:00 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.

Winston-Salem Konnoak Hills recently ac-
cepted a project along with Konnoak Hills
Moravian Church and Konnoak Elementary
School to honor students monthly with a special
meal. Part of the School Principal's Lunch Club,
one student from each class is chosen for exhib-
iting "CARE": Citizenship, Academics,
Responsibility, and Effort.

For Valentine's Day, Konnoak Hills Lions
entertained their VIPs with a dinner and enter-
tainment. Each VIP also received a box of
Valentine candy.

North Carolina Lions, Inc. recently up-
dated the website, www.nclionsinc.org, with
overall improved readability, accessibility, ef-
ficiency, 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.

Robert Norton, Elkin
PDG Allen Deaton, South Iredell
Esther Presnell, Raleigh Host
(Mrs. Lacy Presnell)

Information is obtained from MMRs
submitted to LCI.

2017 Leo Convention

NC Leos held their state convention February 24 to 26 at Camp Dogwood. Activities included a Stop Hunger Now project on Sunday, packing 10,000 meals that are distributed to hospitals and schools throughout the world to feed children.

LCI Past International Director Harvey Whitley of Monroe installed the new officers for 2017-2018.



At left are new officers being installed by Past International Director Harvey Whitley of Monroe. Left to right are President Sydney Smith of Pisgah Leo Club; Vice President Alex Smith of Piedmont; Secretary Maggie Chavis of Union Pines; Treasurer Breanna Metcalf of Pisgah; Historian Maggie Price of Piedmont; and Middle School Representative Lillie Rogers of Concord.

At right, 2016-2017 Leo President Samantha Kodikara of Piedmont Club receives a International President's Certificate of Appreciation.



NC Lions State Convention Notes

The Lions of North Carolina will convene April 28 through 30 at the North Raleigh Hilton. Registration form is on Page 9 of this newsletter and should be mailed with payment before April 20.

Our guest for the convention is 2nd International Vice President Gudrun Yngvadottir of Iceland, who will be the first woman President of Lions International in 2018-19 as we begin our 2nd Century of Service. Her husband Past International Director Dr. Jon Bjarni Thorsteinsson will also be in attendance.

Friday Family Fun Night will feature the Hall Sisters of North Carolina, who have made appearances at the Grand Ole Opry, the National Quartet Convention, and Carnegie Hall

On Friday, April 28 from 2:00 to 4 pm there

will be a Strides Walk on the 1/4 mile track on the grounds of the Governor Moorehead School for the Blind in Raleigh. Parking is suggested in the shopping center parking lot across the road from the track. The recommended distance for walkers is one to four laps. Donations for the walkers may be mailed with convention registration or will be accepted at the walk.

All proceeds from the walk will go to support the North Carolina Lions' DAPS (Diabetes Awareness Peer Support) Program.

The Council of Governors is calling this "Walk A Mile In Their Shoes" and will be walking the course blindfolded. They invite others to join them in identifying with the VIPs we serve.

Continuing Lions Support Of Boys & Girls Homes

Boys and Girls Homes of NC Inc. has established a capital campaign to replace the furniture in the Lions Cottage. The Lions Cottage was the second cottage built on campus at Lake Waccamaw.

Total project cost is \$26,900 with sponsor opportunities available for Lions Clubs and individuals and will be recognized with permanent plaques.

Lions Clubs of NC funded a renovation project in 2011 but furnishings were not included at that time. The furniture used in the cottages across campus comes from specialty makers with durable qualities for its heavy use but still has a more homelike feel than most institutional furniture.

Sponsorship options include 14 sets of cushions

at \$216 each, two loveseats at \$823 each, two couches at \$865 each, four end tables at \$185, nine oak single beds at \$554, nine dressers at \$686, two dining room tables at \$1557, and five privacy panels at \$433. Other items are also on the need list.

For more information contact Gary Greene, Director of Civic Club Development, 910-646-3083 or gary.greene@bghnc.org. Or Lions Capital Campaign Chair Brad Logsdon, 910-692-7966 or lion31f@gmail.com. Or Lions State Boys and Girls Homes Chair Judy Headley, 704-289-5718 or nurse-babe49@aol.com.

More information on the facility is available at: www.boysandgirlshomes.org.

International Relations Report

From Cesar Perez-Sanchez

District International Relations Chair

Charlotte SouthPark Lions Club has signed official Twin Club Agreements with numerous international Lions Clubs. Most recently they have connected with Tuticorin Snows Lions of India.

In recognition of the Twin Club Agreement and International Understanding, here are pictures of the official annual District Governor's visit to the Tuticorin Snows Lions Club.

Vice Governor Lion K. Prakash Raja represented the District Governor (at right), addressing the group and observing projects and activities.



Below left, a Leo Club was chartered at St. Lasalle Hr. Secondary. School.



And below right was recognition and awareness promotion of health/medical issues.





92nd Annual NC Lions State Convention

North Raleigh Hilton Downtown, Raleigh, NC – April 28, 29, 30 2017

Registration Deadline: Friday, April 21, 2017



Friday, April 28, 2017

8:00 AM – Golf Tournament..... \$50.00

3:00 PM – 6:30 PM – Registration

6:30 PM – Fun Night..... \$25.00

Saturday, April 29, 2017

7:00 AM – 7:00 PM – Registration

8:00 AM – 10:00 AM – Tail Twister Breakfast and Auction \$15.00

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
3415 Wake Forest Road
Raleigh, NC 27609

Lions Room Rate:
\$99.00 plus tax

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

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

Club: _____ District: _____

Check all that apply

Names:

(PRINT first and last names, and circle title)

PIP, ID, PID, CC, PCC, DG, PDG, 1st VDG, 2nd VDG, Lion, Leo, Guest

PIP, ID, PID, CC, PCC, DG, PDG, 1st VDG, 2nd VDG, Lion, Leo, Guest

PIP, ID, PID, CC, PCC, DG, PDG, 1st VDG, 2nd VDG, Lion, Leo, Guest

PIP, ID, PID, CC, PCC, DG, PDG, 1st VDG, 2nd VDG, Lion, Leo, Guest

MJ	Stickley	Woolard	Scruggs		Fun	TT	PDG	DG Banquet Meal
<u>Fellow</u>	<u>Fellow</u>	<u>Partner</u>	<u>Fellow</u>	<u>Golf</u>	<u>Night</u>	<u>Breakfast</u>	<u>Lunch</u>	<u>Pork</u> <u>Chicken</u>
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Attention, Golfers

No Teams Needed.

**Teams will be
formed via a Blind
Draw based on
handicap.**

<u>Function</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Total</u>
Golf Tournament	\$50.00	_____	_____
Strides Walk	Donation	_____	_____ 0.00
Fun Night Celebration	\$25.00	_____	_____
Tail Twister Breakfast	\$15.00	_____	_____
PDG Luncheon	\$27.00	_____	_____
District Governor Banquet	\$25.00	_____	_____
Total Cost		_____	_____

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.



Lion C.R. "Butch" Conrad
District Governor, 31-1 North Carolina
1270 Beck's Nursery Road
Lexington, NC 27292

International Association of
Lions Clubs

