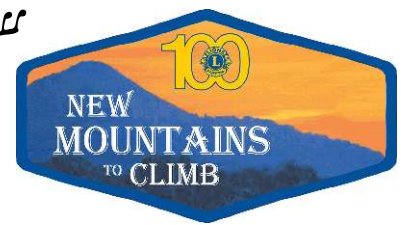




Issue 8

The VOICE of 31-I

February



2017

Lions Clubs International
District 31-I

From Governor Butch:

Greetings Lions of the "Ideal" District,

I sincerely hope that your New Year is going well and that it turns out to be a very prosperous and joyous one. It's hard to believe but over half of our 2016-2017 Lions year is over and it's time to focus on our annual fund drive – Brighter Visions.

As of January 28, 2017, District I has given \$78,036.96. Our goal for the year which ends June 30, 2017, is \$220, 000. I realize that this is an ambitious goal but I believe in our district and I believe in our Lions, who have hearts of gold. I also realize that many clubs in the district wait until May or June to get monies turned in to Brighter Visions, especially those who have major projects during the last quarter of our Lions year.

However, those who can should send in your monies as you collect them. These funds are used throughout the year and are desperately needed all year long.

Meetings & Events

FEBRUARY

Feb. 3-5 Council/Board Mtg.
North Raleigh Hilton

Feb. 11 Cabinet Meeting,
2 pm Camp Dogwood

Feb.12 New Club Workshop 2 - 6 pm
DT Lions Den

Feb.13-16 New Club Canvassing
Contact DG Butch for more Info

Feb. 24-26 State Leo Convention
Camp Dogwood

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

May 12-14 Fun Weekend at Camp

JUNE 20 Executive Committee

Conference Call

June 30-July 4 International

Convention, Chicago, IL

Here is what State Chair Jana Pedin has had to say:

"On July 1, 2013, NCLI implemented the Brighter Visions Annual Fund Drive, a change in name and a big change in our fundraising philosophy. In order to maintain our current programs and then grow and expand our services it is necessary to look to additional fundraising areas to help supplement the monies that keep the programs and services alive for our VIP's.

Our kickoffs in August have successfully taken place in each District. . . The resident Tail Twister in District I, Lion Chris Beck, displayed the height of enthusiasm as he collected funds for a Brighter Visions Raffle. His efforts, along with the efforts of co-chairs of the District's Brighter Visions Fund Drive (Lion Jamie Chandler & Lion Jimmy Myers), were lively as their clubs and individuals in the District came forward with the greatest amount of kickoff funds ever received at one time by a District!"

Indeed, we did collect over \$44,000, but Lions, since the kickoff, we have only collected a little over \$26,000. As your District Governor, I

know that we can do much better!

With the Brighter Visions approach and resources, we can go out into our communities and ask for donations from small businesses and large corporations as well as from individuals.

We must let donors know how their donations are being used and how their donations have made an impact on real people. If perhaps you don't know how these funds are used, maybe it is time for a refresher course. Ask our District Co-Chairs, Lion Jamie Chandler of the Bethlehem Club and Lion Jimmy Myers of the Mocksville Club to give your club such a refresher course at a meeting.

A banner patch and year tab will be presented to each Club that equals or exceeds the state average per capita donation to the Brighter Visions Annual Fund Drive.

As our state chair Jana says, "Lions, we must go ABOVE AND BEYOND what is asked. NCLI would like Brighter Visions to inspire and motivate our donors creating their ownership just as we are inspired and motivated as Lions!"

Yours in Lionism,

C.R. "Butch" Conrad

District Governor, 31-I

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On the Prowl -- With DG-Elect George *Let's move on!*

It's the day after the Presidential Inauguration and I'm in a hotel room while at one of our neighboring District's Lions convention. The television is on and CNN is reporting the March on Washington's effort to send a message to our new President.

In meeting rooms just outside of my room, Lions are seeking new ways to serve others, new methods of reaching potential members, and new methods of sharing our pride in what we do. I find that it is time to get out of my room and join the March on the World – LIONISM!

Here is your homework assignment for today. It is a simple set of words that you should not memorize but etch on your heart. It is why we are Lions. It is the Vision Statement of Lions International:

To be the global leader in community and humanitarian service.

There are several words in that statement that make our organization different than others;

GLOBAL

We are open to all, period.

LEADER

We want to be known as the best.

COMMUNITY

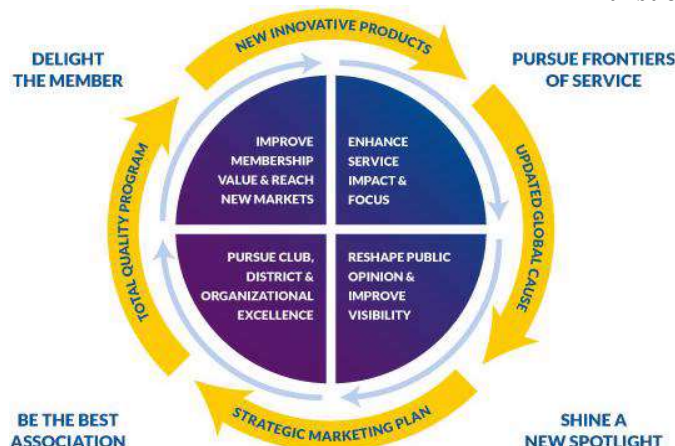
We start at home and then move beyond

SERVICE

*Humanitarian Service
WHEREVER
there is a NEED.....*

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. Our previously set goal to serve 100 million individuals has already been surpassed! We now believe that we can serve 200 million! Now watch for the LCI FORWARD efforts.

Lions throughout the world are being asked to set an annual goal of reaching 200 million each year for the next five years. The emphasis on service encourages our local clubs to focus on four areas:



Delight the member – the key to obtaining and retaining new members is that we must enjoy what we are doing. Do you need another boring meeting to attend just to eat, burp, and go home?

Be the Best Association – Could

your attendance at club, zone, or district levels be off because of the structure of the meeting itself? Leadership emphasis on club and organizational excellence can help encourage meeting structure. Content should meet the needs of the audience. Think youth, hunger, sight, environment, needs.

Shine a new Spotlight – Simply said: TOOT YOUR OWN HORN! Let your community (and your club members) know what your club is doing to become a leader in humanitarian services.

Club Presidents and Secretaries – ensure you record the number of people your club serves monthly on MyLCI.

Pursue Frontiers of Service –

Believe it or not, on one of my club visits, I was told the club was not able to find a 'need' for service. My response, look again. They are there, just asked someone.

We must move on; if not we are stuck in the past. If your members are not 'delighted' in your club and our efforts to serve, then it is time to move on. Let's not protest -- let's not say, That's not

the way we do it." Let's fix the problem.

LCI FORWARD is a blueprint for success we all should embrace.

George Culp

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

On the Tour Bus பலகாசுபுத்திரத்தால்

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

Each club has an annual official visit from one of the District Governor Team members. Here are the final official visits scheduled. If you have special requests, please contact DG Butch.

1st VDG-Elect Carolyn -- Share the Wealth

Definition: Volunteering is the act of giving your time and service without payment or personal agendas.

Actualities:

I. Helping others actually makes us feel great.

Psychologists call it the “helpers high” or giving ourselves an esteem boost.

II. Being a consistent volunteer results in higher overall well-being. Studies report that the more regularly we volunteer the more confidence we cultivate creating an atmosphere for stronger friendships.

III. Being a source of “good” in someone’s life. Helping others gives off positive vibes that can rub off on our peers and improve our friendships.

IV. Become a glass half-full person. Having a positive impact on someone else helps change our own outlook and attitude. Performing acts of kindness boosts our moods and ultimately makes us more optimistic and positive.

V. Helping others makes us feel like we can take on the world. We, and those we help, will contribute to maintaining mutually beneficial like-minded folks offering needed service to others.

VI. We feel a sense of belonging. According to a survey by the United Health Group, 96% of people who volunteer for a 12 month period said volunteering enriches their sense of purpose.

VII. Giving of ourselves help us find our inner peace. Whether volunteering in a large group or a group of two friends, helping others creates a feeling of community. “Face-to face” activities help reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation not only for us who volunteer but to the recipients of our caring.

VIII. Volunteering makes us feel thankful. Studies show that 78% of those surveyed reported that volunteering activities lowered stress.

IX. Volunteering gives us a sense of renewal. Helping others provides perspective of our own situation and teaches us to be appreciative of our day-to-day lives.



X. Volunteering will spur others to pay it forward and keep the cycle of happiness going. Kindness is contagious. Being helpful to another person gives us and them initiative to do something good for others.

My point is this, share the Lionism opportunity of “We Serve” with family, friends (and foes), church family, professional connections and [watch us grow in membership](#), retention of existing members, new clubs, and most of all -- “that personal feel-good feeling”.

Carolyn Sprinkle

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

DISTRICT CABINET MEETING

Feb. 11, 2 pm Camp Dogwood

Light refreshments

No Reservations Needed
EVERYONE WELCOME

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

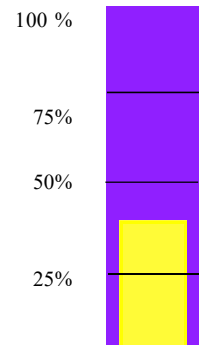
\$ 220,000

Total as of Jan. 28

\$78,036.96

35.4% of goal

ReDouble the
Efforts --
Finish Strong



Fundraising -- The FUN Way

Mount Pleasant Lions Club and Gold Hill Lions Club have found a fun way to go about the serious business of raising funds for Brighter Visions and local service projects. The projects involve auctions which are not your ordinary sales.

Mount Pleasant's Brighter Vision Auction is set for Thursday, February 23, at their Lions Den, 8595 Park Drive, Mt. Pleasant. A meal will kick off the evening at 6 pm, followed by a White Elephant Auction featuring a wide range of items -- new, second-hand, collectible, and vintage items. A local auctioneer has donated his skills for a number of years.

Cost of the meal is \$8.00, payable when you arrive. If you plan to attend, contact Secretary George Barrier at glbarrier@ctc.net or phone 704-436-2328 by 9 pm on Monday, February 20 so meals can be ordered.

Sometimes those not attending the Mount Pleasant Auction find themselves bidding in absentia and are the proud new owners of interesting goods. The members come prepared to make an annual Brighter Visions donation with a good dose of humor to go along with it.

Gold Hill Lions enlist the kitchen talents of their members for an annual Bake Sale Auction planned for Thursday, March 16, at the Russell-Ruffy Shelter in Gold Hill Park, 770 St. Stephens Church Rd.

The evening starts with a meal at 6:30 pm

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.

followed by the sale with the talents of Auctioneer extraordinaire, Lion Keith Bowersox, who has gained and polished his skills at this annual event. Be careful how you scratch your nose or talk to someone else.

Both these events provide laugh-filled evenings that result in overflowing good feelings as everyone knows where the money raised will be going.

The serious business of fundraising can be FUN-raising. Just think outside the box.

Assistance Needed to Form New Lions Clubs

A new club consultant from Lions International will be coming to our area in February to help us form new clubs. Target areas are Clemmons in Forsyth County and Piedmont Crossing in Thomasville. We also have been contacted about forming a campus club at UNC-Charlotte.

Lions are needed to help recruit new members. For a new club to survive and flourish, Guiding Lions are needed. Certified Guiding Lions training is available from LCI at www.lionsclubs.org.

Our new club workshop will be on Sunday, Feb. 12, from 2 pm to 6 pm at the Davis-Townsend Lions Den, 522 Turner Road, Lexington. New club canvassing will take place Feb. 13 to Feb. 16 in the target areas.

If you are interested in sharing in this growth opportunity, please contact DG Butch at 336-746-5046, 336-239-3125, or chrisjenministries@gmail.com.



FOOD DRIVE FOR VENEZUELA



NON PERISHABLE ITEMS TO BE COLLECTED:

✓ RICE	✓ SUGAR
✓ SPAGUETTI	✓ POWDER MILK
✓ DRY BEANS	✓ PROTEINE BARS
✓ TUNA (preferable pouches)	✓ INDIVIDUALLY PACKED OATMEAL

Items will be collected at Cabinet Meeting on Feb. 11.

#alimenta
lasolidaridad

District 31-I By the Numbers *LCI By the Year*

Provided by PDG Gene Everette, GMT Chairman

Clubs Health Assessment -- July 1 thru December 31, 2016

July 1, 2016, Total Members 1342

58 Clubs 1276 Members as of Dec. 31, 2016

New Members Added +60/Dropped Members -95

6 Months Net Membership Growth: -35

Clubs with Less than 15 members: 19

Clubs with No MMR for last 3 Months: 6

Clubs with No Activity Reports for 3 months: 15

****Please Note that the MMRs and Activity Reports are VITAL to Ensure the Health of Your Club and to give YOUR Club the RECOGNITION it deserves in the DISTRICT, MULTIPLE DISTRICT, and LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL.**

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY: 1917 to 2017

Lions Clubs International **and MD-31 North Carolina Lions**

Remembering our Past and Embracing Our Future

- 1917** Lions Association Founded.
Melvin Jones, Secretary General. Chicago Illinois.
- 1917** First National Lions Convention in Dallas, Texas
(9 States and 22 Clubs).
- 1920** Lions Clubs became INTERNATIONAL
with Chartering of Windsor, Ontario, Canada.
- 1922** North Carolina joined Lions International, Chartering
Winston-Salem Host Lions Club at the Robert E. Lee
Hotel. Melvin Jones presented the Charter.
- 1925** Helen Keller addressed the Lions International
Convention in Cedar Point, Ohio, issued them
Challenge to BECOME KNIGHTS OF THE BLIND.
- 1931** The start of more Foreign Countries joining Lions Clubs
International. RUSSIA in 1990 and more recently
CHINA was admitted (the ONLY Civic Club allowed
in China).
- 1940s** North Carolina Lions organized a statewide project
entitled White Cane for the Blind.
Now Known as Brighter Visions.
- 1945** United Nations formed the Non-Governmental Department.
Lions Clubs International First Civic Club represented.
- 1957** NC Lions MD-31 adopted as state-wide project the
Boys Home (now Boys & Girls Homes of NC Inc.)
at Lake Waccamaw. Lions Cottage completed in 1960.
- 1965** Lions of North Carolina established Camp Dogwood
for the Blind & Visually Impaired.
- 1967** Lions International officially approved Leo Club Program
for young men and women.
- 1968** Lions Clubs International Foundation strives to
sustain Lions Humanitarian Services throughout
the World by combating Eye Diseases and
Providing Disaster Relief.

- 1968** First Leo Club was Chartered in North Carolina at
Surry Central High School in Dobson.
- 1969** Eliada Home became a major project for District 31-A.
A Lions Cottage was built as an Emergency Residence
for Girls. It is now a Level IV Treatment Facility for
both girls and boys.
- 1979** McCune Center, a Happy Home in the Mountains became
a reality by the support of District 31-A. The center is a
64-bed and home for aged, blind and disabled.
- 1983** First VIP Fishing Tournament organized by the Lions
of the Outer Banks. Now enjoyed by the Blind &
Visually Impaired from across NC.
- 1984** Lions Quest became a reality when LCI partnered with
Quest International. Now in 86 countries and 36 lan-
guages. Promotes Social & Emotional Learning,
Character Education, Drug Awareness, and Bullying
Prevention.
- 1986** North Carolina Lions Association for the Blind became the
NC Lions Foundation. Now known as North Carolina
Lions, Inc.
- 1987** Lions Clubs International becomes the First Co-ed
Service/Civic Club by Admitting Women.
- 1990** Lions International Launched Campaign Sight First,
a major blindness prevention Initiative and
\$140 Million Program.
- 1999** North Carolina Lions Vision Van was initiated by District
31-D and now is a major part of today's NCLI projects.
- 2007** Lions State Council approved the formal structure of
North Carolina Lions Hall of Fame, to Recognize
and Honor the State's Most Outstanding Lions.

International Lions Club Presidents: North Carolina
has had three International Presidents: Jack Stickley and
William Woolard from Charlotte Central Lions and Sid
Scruggs from Vass Lions.

International Lions Directors: North Carolina has
had five additional International Directors: Grady Pulliam,
Lacy Presnell, Howard Stallings, Ronald Huber, and
Harvey Whitley.

Lions International Membership Goal: Lions
International is striving to reach 1.4 Million Members.
Current membership Worldwide: 1,390,635 Members in
210 Countries and Geographical Areas.

The LIONS are the youngest major social service or-
ganization and we have grown to be the World's Largest.
We have succeeded because we have embraced ALL those
committed to building a Brighter Future and Brighter
Vision for the World and for themselves. Now, with a New
Generation of
Enlightened Members,
WE are working smarter
and faster with a greater
commitment than ever be-
fore.

***We are the LIONS
and We Serve.***





Lake Norman Lions Club gave a Jack Stickley Fellowship to Tammy Loukas, head of Services for the Blind in Iredell County. She and her organization have done so much to help the blind in our community. We donate \$1000.00 annually to that organization. Pictured left to right, PDG Willie Hudson, Ms. Loukas and Club President Pat Soutullo.

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.



Lake Norman Lions also recently installed six new members in January. New members left to right are Rick Luttrell, Carol Luttrell, Judy Kiernan, Joanne Wiles, and Willie Wiles. Not pictured is Jim Kiernan. Also in the picture are Lake Norman President Pat Soutullo and PDG Willie Hudson.

BV Boutique Excels

The Brighter Visions Boutique was a huge success at our district fall convention. We raised \$1,016 at the convention and an additional \$365 at a later event, for a total of \$1,381. We had really great donations from twelve clubs. Four clubs passed the two hundred dollar mark in total Brighter Visions credit from both sales: Concord \$201, Linwood \$203, Troutman \$222, and Sparta \$334.

I am very grateful to everyone who made donations and to everyone who shopped at the Boutique. Thank you for supporting this fundraiser!!

I will have individual club totals at the district cabinet meeting on February 11 at Camp Dogwood.

Additional totals from the second sale include:

Concord \$35, Davidson \$8, Fair Grove \$2, Harrisburg \$15, Linwood \$75, Mooresville \$35, Sparta \$137, Troutman \$38, West Iredell \$20.

Thanks again!!

Debbie Williams, Brighter Visions Boutique Chair

Special Summer at Camp Dogwood

Camp Dogwood for the Blind and Visually Impaired will celebrate 50 years of operation this summer, including the opening of a time capsule in July.

The camping season will include youth-only week, July 9 through 15, in a partnership with IFB Solutions Foundation, a part of Industries for the Blind in Winston-Salem. SEE Camp Abilities H₂O will offer water sports instruction and other recreational programming to school-age children who are blind or visually impaired. Camp instructors will include certified Teachers of the Visually Impaired and Orientation and Mobility Specialists along with Camp Dogwood's summer staff. For more information on the youth camp, contact Jay Hardwig at jhardwig@ifbsolutions.org.

Volunteers are needed throughout the summer. Applications are available at <http://nclionscampdogwood.org/>. Camper applications are also posted there.

Club Updates & Events

Bethlehem -- Recently approved \$100 for Good Samaritan's Food Pantry. Also made donations to Santa Cops and Bethlehem Elementary School Benevolence fund and Crisis Assistance Ministries. They rang the bell for the Salvation Army in December and plan Adopt-a-Highway effort in April.

Dobson -- Had over 180 entries in their Christmas parade and cleared over \$1000 in their annual fruit sale. Also donated fruit boxes to Woltz Hospice House, Children's Center of Surry, and Dobson Food Pantry.

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.

Gold Hill -- Inducted new members of the Cub Club at Morgan Elementary School in January. There were five returning members and ten new members.

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.

Kernersville -- Approved \$500 for Camp Dogwood dining room chairs.

Each year the new members are asked why they want to join and all ten stated they want to help others. They will take on several projects during the year and when they graduate, they will be prepared for the Leo Club at Erwin Middle School.

Charlotte SouthPark -- Received \$7000 grant from Novant for their work with KidSight eye screenings.

Mocksville -- Donated \$500 for Hurricane Matthew relief efforts. 14 Lions sold 389 fruit boxes and netted \$4993. In first half of year have provided 37 eye exams and glasses.

Davis-Townsend -- All-you-can-eat pancake breakfast Saturday, Feb. 25, 7 am - 11 am. Lions Den 522 Turner Road, Lexington.

CAMP DOGWOOD -- The Western North Carolina Braille Challenge will be held in February at Camp Dogwood, as a one-day event sponsored by the National Braille Institute. Students in kindergarten through twelfth grade will demonstrate their Braille skills in reading, writing, comprehension, and math competitions.

The youth who scores the highest nationwide are awarded an all expense paid trip to the Braille Institute in California, with a chance to compete in the finals.

CABINET MEETING -- DG Butch Conrad has planned a cabinet meeting for Saturday, Feb. 11, at Camp Dogwood. Light refreshments will be available and the meeting will be called to order at 2 pm. All Lions and guests are welcome. We will be collecting certain food items for a Venezuelan Hunger Relief project being assisted by SouthPark Lions and District International Relations Chair Cesar Perez-Sanchez. Items being collected include: rice, spaghetti, dried beans, tuna (preferably in pouches), sugar, powdered milk, protein bars, and individually packed oatmeal.

DISTRICT CABINET MEETING

**Feb. 11, 2 pm Camp Dogwood
Light refreshments**

New Members Joining the Chorus

Welcome to these new Lions
& thanks to their sponsors:

Cleveland: James & Kennette Bouchard

Sponsor Morris Clements

Dobson: Charles DeHoff Jr., Sponsor Melvin Woppman

Lake Norman: Jim & Judy Kierman, Tina McCachern,

Joanne & Willie Wiles

Carol & Richard Luttrell, Sponsor Michael Sabbagh

Mt. Pleasant: Kelly & Marvin Flincher, Sponsor Ned Hudson

David McSwain, Sponsor Jerry Lanier

Information obtained from MMRs submitted to LCI

On a Sad Note

Each month we will remember
Lions who have passed away.

Raymond Engleman, Lake Norman
John B. Fisher, Salisbury

Information is obtained from MMRs
submitted to LCI.



Leo State Convention Feb. 24-26

The NC Leo Executive Board has been hard at work planning for the 2017 State Leo Convention! It will be held February 24-26 at Camp Dogwood.

DEADLINE for REGISTRATION is February 3.

Lions are welcome to come be a part of the convention, which provides opportunities for leadership growth, service projects, club development, and fun.

Full registration forms available at:

http://attachment.benchmarkemail.com/c361097/2017_North_Carolina_LEO_Leadership_Forum_and_Convention.pdf

For more information or to register contact:
Liz Steele, State LEO Chairperson, at 704-798-3471
or email lrsteele@hughes.net. Lion Cori Cauble is District Leo Chairperson.

**Registration Deadline
February 3**

2016/2017 LEO State Officers

President Samantha Kodikara, Piedmont Leo Club
Vice President Dalton Wheelless, Union Pines Leo Club
Secretary Alex Smith, Piedmont Leo Club
Treasurer Destiny Sarno, Piedmont Leo Club
Immediate Past President Chad Tyson, Piedmont Leo
Historian Tucker Guignard, Piedmont Leo Club
Middle School Rep. David Isaiah King, Concord Leo

REGISTRATION

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E Mail _____

Male _____ Female _____ I request my roommate to be:

I do not have a roommate, please appoint one for me _____

I am an Advisor / Driver _____

Meals:

Friday, Dinner \$12.00

Saturday, Breakfast \$ 9.00

Saturday, Lunch \$10.00

Saturday, Dinner \$12.00

Sunday, Breakfast \$9.00

2 night, Room Cost \$35.00

Room cost is \$35 per night.

\$17.50 each double occupancy

Total Registration: \$87.00

Registration/Check in

Opens 5:30pm

State Leo T-Shirt \$15 each

Small _____ Medium _____

Large _____ Extra Large _____

Last Date to Order T-Shirts

will be FEBRUARY 3!

Still Time To Sell Those Tickets

Hello Lions!

Time is running out and we need to sell as many Camp Dogwood tickets as we can.

Spring is on its way and a lot of Lions Clubs have fundraisers coming up. This is the time to make sure your club has Lions out selling Camp Dogwood tickets at your events. Sell tickets at every club meeting if you can and make sure that your members are selling as many tickets as they can.

At every club meeting I attend, I sell tickets to our members by making a couple of desserts to raffle off with camp tickets.

I would be honored to come to your club to give a Camp Dogwood program. Just give Theresa Matthews a call and she will set it up for me.

Thanks again and keep selling those tickets because you might be the lucky one to win that car in June.

Yours in Service, Theresa Munyon
Camp Dogwood District Chair

District Peace Poster Winner from Concord

District 31-I Peace Poster contest had seven entries from six different clubs. The winner is Mahalia Stanback from Concord Middle School, sponsored by the Concord Lions Clubs.

Thank you to all the clubs who sponsored a contest -- Concord (2 entries), Mocksville, North Wilkesboro, Sparta, Troutman, and Welcome.

Posters may be picked up at the district cabinet meeting on Saturday, February 11, at Camp Dogwood.

The theme of the 2017-2018 Peace Poster Contest is "The Future of Peace". Kits are now available to order from LCI's website.

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 reserve any. The cost is \$2. They will be available at the District Cabinet meeting and at the state convention, as long as supplies last.

DISTRICT CABINET MEETING

Feb. 11, 2 pm Camp Dogwood

Light refreshments

No reservations needed



Centennial Coin Being Minted

In celebration of 100 years of humanitarian service, Lions Clubs 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 will be available for purchase from LCI Club Supplies and from the United States Mint.

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

Topics: Team work Goal Setting Diversity

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 Regional Lions Leadership Institute and mail to:

Lion John Owens
8563 Conway Elliott Road
Oxford, NC 27565

owens407@centurylink.net
919 693-2203

DISTRICT 31-I

GMT Membership Half Year Update

From PDG Gene Everett
Global Membership Team Chair

- I. District Membership June 1 - December 31, 2016
- Opening Balance: 1,295 Ending Balance: 1,311
 - Added Members During First 6-Months: + 58
 - Dropped Members During First 6-Months: - 91
 - o Net Gain/Loss - 33
 - o Closing Balance as of December 31, 2016 = 1,278
- § **Worldwide Membership: (1,390,635)**

- II. District Clubs Service Activities: (Half Year)
- Lions Clubs with Activities Reported: 38
 - Lions Clubs with no Reported Activities: 20
 - o Total Lion Hours Reported thru District: 10,094
- § **Please Note: Make sure that YOUR LIONS CLUB Receives the Recognition that it deserves by reporting your club's Service Activities on MyLCI.**

- III. District Challenge for
January 1 - June 30th., 2017:
- Let each Club make an Extra Effort to increase Membership. ASK!
 - Let each Club set a GOAL to assist our District 31-I to ERASE our Membership Deficit by the end of the Lionistic Year.
 - Encourage your Club's Membership Committee to become even more active in promoting Membership -- have a Special Prospective Membership Dinner.
 - Promote Lions, Worlds Largest Service Organization, by wearing your Lions Pin, Lions Vest/Cap at meetings/projects and report club activities with pictures and write-ups in local newspapers. Did YOU see LCI Float in the Rose Parade? It was beautiful and outstanding.

- IV. REMEMBER that 2017 is our 100th Anniversary and Centennial Celebration:
- Let us strive to reach our Centennial Goal of 1.4 Million Lions throughout the World. It was not very long ago that OUR GOAL was 1.5 Million and ten years ago WE almost reached that goal. Also, each NEW LION this year receives a Special Centennial Membership Certificate and Pin. Also the Sponsor receives a special Sponsor Certificate and Pin. Let us make this a YEAR to remember.

- V. Congratulations! 2016 New Lions District 31-I, June through December 2016:

Arcadia: Linda J. Sowers, Jewell F. Walker;
Charlotte SouthPark: Victor Benavides, Teressia Janine Hagopian, Enrique Nassar, Dolores O'Malley, John J. O'Malley, Martha Rueda;
Churchland: Joe Shaffer; Creston Riverview: Jeffrey T. Lambert, Sherry W. Lambert; Davidson: Lauren Simonson, Brent Tumblison; Gold Hill: Michele Swaney Bowersox; Huntersville: Tom R. Frazier, Kristen C. King, Joshua L. Shope;
Kernersville: Darrell Davis, John M. Holpe, Jr., John Largen III, Crystal Tanner, Jeff Peterson;
Mooresville: James Bigler, Tiffany Ramos, Donald Combs, Jr., Carol Lila Weathers;
Mt. Pleasant: Tim H. Mauldin; Pilot: Ann Eads, Richard Eads, Edward Dewitt McKinney; Pinnacle: Pamela Sams; Rockwell: John Calvin Eller, M. Frances Eller; Salisbury: Michael W. Edwards;
Sparta: Marshall W. Boyer; Taylorsville: Brenda Gilbert, Marc Gilbert, Maggie Miles, Ashley Pennell, Logan Walters, Cody Gilbert, Brianna Higgins, Zackery Pearson, Timmy Pennell;
Thomasville: Cheryl Pressley; Wallburg: Jaclyn King; Welcome: Sharon Grubb-Benson; West Lexington: Chance A. Blake, Harold Burns, Tori Danielle Blanton; Winston-Salem Konnoak Hills: JoAnna Grace Burns; Yadkinville: Vickie Gardner.

- VI. Memorial/Remembrance:
(Deceased Lions 2016)

Boone: Bobbie Paige; Charlotte Southern: Jack E. Eulitt, Barry G. Hitchner; Denton: Tommy Beanblossom, Mack Cranford; Dobson: Fred Patterson; Mocksville: Perry Seawright; North Wilkesboro: Herbert McKenzie; Sparta: Pamela Caudill; West Iredell: Kenneth W. Waugh;
Winston-Salem Konnoak Hills: Allan D. Lambert;
Winston-Salem Twin City Host: Fred E. Foster, Jr.

North Wilkesboro Lions Club Obtains Plusoptix Screener

From PDG Michael Reid

PDG Jimmy Foster attended the Lions International Convention in Japan, came back home, and shared an interest in an eye screener for children with North Wilkesboro Lions. The idea and cost was discussed but no action was taken. In October 2015 PDG Mike and Lion Antha Reid attended the 31-I Fall Convention in Clemmons which included a display of the Plusoptix Eye Screener, designed to check the eyes of children six years old and younger. The idea of obtaining a screener was brought back for discussion with their club Board of Directors.

The club decided to first investigate the need for a screener in the community by contacting Becky Smith, school nurse coordinator for Wilkes County Schools, and then discussed the need for such a service to the school system. Becky's answer was that this would be "an answer to their prayers."

At one time Wilkes County had a screening device, but it was now obsolete. Becky asked to set up a meeting with some local groups that might be interested. Materials for six people were prepared but 11 people attended the meeting, clearly determining that there was a need.

The Reids now took on the job of selling the idea to the North Wilkesboro Lions Club to come up with funding to purchase the machine that would fill a great need in the community. After contacting several sources, the Plusoptix brand was chosen and a goal of \$8,000 was set.

NW Lions Board of Directors accepted this challenge as did the club members. PDG Jimmy Foster headed a three-member committee for the project which included Lion Otis Church and PDG Mike. Not having a 501C (3) non-profit status, the club worked with North Carolina Lions, Inc. to use that tax status, making all donations to the project fully tax

deductible and eligible to apply for grants.

To qualify for a grant from Lions Clubs International Foundation, the project would need to have a co-sponsoring Lions Club. As North Wilkesboro is the only club in the county, they decided to apply for grants from other sources, including a Wal-Mart Community Grant, Carolina West Community Grant, and Lowes Charitable and Educational Foundation. They also

raised \$4990 from the club members.

Lion Dan Little contacted Heather Murphy, Executive Director of the Wilkes Health Foundation, who suggested applying for a grant from that foundation and received a \$4000 Matching Fund Grant. The in club capital campaign had already provided

those matching funds.

North Wilkesboro Lions also received \$250 from Carolina West, \$2500 from Lowes Hardware, \$300 from Bojangles, \$200 from the local VFW, and \$100 from the Great State Bank.

The Wilkes County School System required that all Lions participating in the school screenings must have a background check. With 24 members indicating a desire to work with the Plusoptix, this was an additional \$900 expense. Again a NW Lion said, "Let me work on that."

The North Wilkesboro Police Chief was willing to do the checks at no charge.

Lindy Toner with Plusoptix was at the MD 31 State Convention in Raleigh last April and agreed to train four Lions while there at no cost. The normal onsite training cost is \$795. After being certified at the Lions Convention, PDG Jimmy

Foster, Maize Foster, PDG Mike Reid, and Lion Antha Reid were now able to train other Lions.

Working in small groups, they now have 16 members qualified to operate the screener. The NW Lions owe a great thank you to Lion Dr. Gary Nash, a Wilkesboro optometrist.

In October 2016, the club arranged to test all of the pre-kindergarten children in Wilkes County Schools. After screening 368 children, there were 67 referrals, a rate of 18%. As a club, there were 126 man hours of training and 117 man hours of testing at 13 different schools on 14 different days. Additionally 37 children in a private school were tested with just 2 referrals.

North Wilkesboro Lions Club goal is to offer screenings to all private schools, day cares, and church schools in the county. Plans are also to screen children at the next Wilkes Dental Clinic Open House.

Screenings are already scheduled for the pre-registration clinics of Wilkes County Schools in the spring.

After following up with the Wilkes County Schools, we found that less than half of the referrals have been to a doctor.

I think that we, as a Lions Club, must emphasize the need to take the child to an eye doctor for further examination. In the Wilkes County Public Schools, vouchers are provided to all children, so cost is not a factor. We must educate the parents and schools on the need for this eye care at an early age and we will incorporate that in our program as we continue to serve others.

(This is one of several clubs in 31-I which are screening children with automatic pediatric eye screeners, including Thomasville and Charlotte SouthPark Lions.)



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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.



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Lions Clubs

