

DISTRICT 31-1 NEWS



Over 200 MILLION Served



District 31-1 Newsletter

February 2018

Issue 8

Planting Seeds with DG Lion George Culp

I will assume that most of you reading this experienced a wintery mix of snow and ice just recently. Reading my email, I noticed several club and zone events were cancelled. Snow days, as known by the teachers and students of my household, most often become a welcome break in the winter season. We often make a pot of soup, build a fire, and take time to enjoy the day off with a book or binge watch a television show. The snow covers the mud and bare spots of the winter landscape and adds a bright whiteness to the bare limbs of trees awaiting the warmth of spring. I assume that perhaps some of you had a similar experience. The coldness and bareness of winter reminds us that warming days are coming soon. Winter will morph into Spring and Spring to Summer. Life goes on as new life emerges. So too, must the Lions Clubs of our district.

On January 3rd, your Global Action Team (GAT) met to plan the remainder of this Lions year in an effort to encourage club excellence. We believe this initiative toward quality clubs will assist those clubs who may be struggling. The effort is a five-step plan which intends to help your club and its members to be excited about being Lions. In my visits, I'm proud to say that the majority of our clubs are well organized, active, and are clubs that a potential member's first visit would be enjoyable. Pardon me if I might be a bit blunt when I ask the questions: "If your next meeting was your first exposure to Lions Clubs, would you want to be a member of that organization? Was it enjoyable? Did you hear stories or reports of how this club is serving their community? Are service projects announced and scheduled?" Years ago, I visited a club where a member told me that their club was a "meet, burp, and go home club." Sadly, that club has been disbanded for over 25 years.

Your GAT team goal is to encourage club excellence via five steps.

- Step One - Understand the Process of Change
- Step Two - Determine the Need for Change
- Step Three - Set Goals
- Step Four - Develop Plans
- Step Five - Implement and Sustain Change

Lions International President Naresh Aggarwal has been quoted to say, "Membership growth is key to the future of our organization. But we need to do more than just invite new members. We need to encourage them in club life and make sure they feel the Power of Service. And, we must seek innovative ways to serve our communities and our members."

(continued on page 3)

"Gathering Times"

FEBRUARY *Pay International and District Dues*

9-11 *NCLI Quarterly Meeting-
Marriott Airport,
Greensboro*

18 *Third Cabinet Meeting
-see flyer on p 7*

23-25 *State Leo Convention -
Camp Dogwood*



Happy Valentine's Day



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1009 - Carolyn Sprinkle...

First, thanks to each Lion for serving those in need in your communities. And an extra thanks for reporting your service activities (not fund raising projects) to LCI.

I recently had the opportunity to attend training for incoming District Governors. This training was presented by Constitutional Area 1 Leaders. Past International Directors, Jay Patel - leadership attributes and development of current and incoming Lions as effective leaders; Jerome Thompson - membership retention and new member recruitment and development; Kembra Smith - Lions service work – evaluation of current, additional or different areas of need in our communities.

As the time for recruitment, nominations and installation of club officers comes near, I am sharing with you the club officers for the 2018-2019 Lions Year which are: President, 1st, 2nd & 3rd Vice Presidents, Immediate Past President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Chair, Services Chair, Leadership Chair, and a Marketing, Publicity/Technology Chair. The Board of Directors shall be: Club officers (listed above), Lion Tamer (optional), LCIF Chair, Program Coordinator, Safety Officer (optional) and all other elected directors or Committee Chairs. *(continued on page 4)*

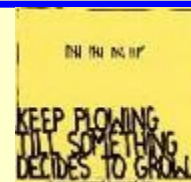
"Sharing

the Harvest"

Our 2017-2018 District 31-I Brighter Visions Goal	Should be here	58%
is	\$73,174	39.03%
\$187,500		0%

New "Roads" to Tend

Where in the district is DG George?



Tuesday, February 6, 2018	Rockwell
Tuesday, February 13, 2018	S. Iredell
Tuesday, February 27, 2018	Kernersville
Thursday, March 1, 2018	N. Wilkesboro
Tuesday, March 6, 2018	Concord

Brighter Visions

More to Do for Our VIPs

A mission to care, to enrich, and to serve our North Carolina citizens, that's what Lions across District 31-I and North Carolina believe and do. We serve, that's our motto. The citizens we have promised to serve and care for are the visually impaired and those who are in danger of becoming visually impaired. **Are we doing all we can for them?**

As Lions, we support 11 programs and services for our visually impaired through our contributions to Brighter Visions. Through Brighter Visions, we support Camp Dogwood, matching funds for eye exams and glasses, support and mobility canes, educational grants, low vision aids, recycling, organ and tissue procurement, the Lions eye health program, the mobile screening unit, the deaf blind retreat, and the VIP fishing tournament. These programs and services need our support to serve our visually impaired. **Are we doing all we can for our visually impaired?**

Our District 31-I Brighter Visions goal for this year is \$187,500. As of December 31, 2017, Lions Clubs and individuals in our district have contributed \$71,884.39 to Brighter Visions to reach 38.34% of our goal. We still have a long way to go to reach our goal for this year. **Are we doing all we can for our visually impaired?**

At the end of December, our district had 13 clubs that have yet to contribute to Brighter Visions. We had 6 clubs that had contributed less than \$100. We had 9 clubs that had contributed between \$101 and \$500. **Are we doing all we can for our visually impaired?**

I believe we have more to do to support our visually impaired. Let's all work together to meet our goal and help our visually impaired. Send your Brighter Visions contributions to North Carolina Lions, Inc., as soon as you can. **We can do more.**

Donald Cobb - **Brighter Visions** Chair

Sprinkle—(Continued from page 2)

The Standing Committees shall be: Global Action Committee whose responsibilities include: Leadership development and training, Membership recruitment, retention, training and mentoring and Services coordinator and reporting; Constitution and By-Laws Committee and Finance Committee.

I will be mailing details of these committee structures and responsibilities to current Club Presidents shortly.

Remember, the Lions Motto is "WE SERVE." Living to that motto defines us as Servant Leaders and as such we demonstrate the characteristics of empathy, listening, stewardship and commitment to personal growth towards and for others. We have the responsibility and the opportunity to continue Lions legacy of service and commitment well into the next century.

Carolyn Sprinkle - DGE



Suggested Service Projects for February thru March

- Champion a vision / diabetes screening
- Plant some trees
- Hold a food drive
- Visit or volunteer at a hospital
- Sponsor a blood drive
- Collect can tabs for the Leader Dog Program
- Assist meals on wheels deliveries
- Collect used pill bottles for poor country in need
- Recycle eyeglasses
- Volunteer at a school
- Maintain a "Little Free Library"
- Distribute personal-need bags for men or women shelters

Continue with ongoing service projects

Any questions or concerns may be sent to:
Lion Ron Rich/email : casper101@windstream.net

"The Power of WE"

COMING SOON!



VSP Vision Care In Kind Certificates

VSP has partnered with the LCIF to provide adults and children in need with access to affordable or no-cost eye exams and eye glasses. We have received 50 adult certificates and have appointed a District VSP Chair.

More information will be made available soon.

*****SAVE the Date*****

The State Leo Forum and Convention will be held at Camp Dogwood February 23-25, 2018.

Last day to register or order t-shirts is February 2, 2018.

Where to find it on the web:

nclions31l.org to find links to meeting and convention forms such as those for State Convention Ad purchase and State Leo Convention registration information

nclions31N.org, nclions31N.org or nclions31S.org to find link to their convention registrations

<https://www.lcif.org/EN/support-our-work/members-donate.php> to donate to LCIF disaster relief

2ND VDG JIMMY MYERS

An Italian Roman Catholic Bishop, Saint Valentine was born in the year 226. The legend goes that he was caught illegally marrying Christians during a time of persecution by a Roman Emperor named Claudius. While in prison awaiting execution, he converted his jailer's daughter, prayed that her blindness be healed, and she received back her sight. Valentine would have made a great Lion. Valentine left her a note prior to his execution signing it, "Your Valentine." On February 14, 269, he was beaten, stoned, and beheaded. The day of his martyrdom is recognized as his Sainthood day.

On February 14, we celebrate "love." Happy Valentine's Day fellow Lions. God bless you as you love others with your service.

Lion Jimmy Myers, 1st Vice District Governor-elect

FELLOW LIONS,

THE LEOS OF THE NC LEO EXECUTIVE BOARD HAVE BEEN HARD AT WORK PLANNING FOR THE 2018 STATE LEO CONVENTION! IT WILL BE HELD FEBRUARY 23-25 AT CAMP DOGWOOD. PLEASE SHARE THE ATTACHED REGISTRATION FORM WITH YOUR LEO CLUB AND/OR LEO CLUB COORDINATOR. TO DOWNLOAD THE FORM, CLICK:

[HTTP://ATTACHMENT.BENCHMARKEMAIL.COM/
C361097/2018_NORTH_CAROLINA_LEO_LEADERSHIP_FORUM_AND_CONVENTION.PDF](http://attachment.benchmarkemail.com/c361097/2018_NORTH_CAROLINA_LEO_LEADERSHIP_FORUM_AND_CONVENTION.PDF)

LEOS SHOULD SEND IT ALONG WITH THEIR REGISTRATION COSTS TO STATE LEO CHAIRPERSON LIZ STEELE.

LIONS, PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR SPONSORED LEO CLUBS RECEIVE THIS REGISTRATION FORM AND PLEASE OFFER ASSISTANCE IF YOU CAN. WE WANT ALL NC LEOS TO ENJOY THIS TIME OF COLLABORATION AND FUN.

IF YOU HAVE PROBLEMS OPENING THE LINK, TRY THE FOLLOWING:

1. CLICK, "VIEW THIS EMAIL IN YOUR BROWSER" LISTED AT TOP OF EMAIL OR,
2. ENTER THE LINK, INCLUDING THE HTTP: ETC. IN YOUR BROWSER.

Lion Liz Steele, State Leo Chairperson

DG George (Continued from page 1)

If your club would like to participate in this effort, please contact me. Consider that we can use this cold spell to prepare for the warming of the earth and new growth. Your club can grow when they **Tend and Befriend** others in your community. The GAT is here to help. Use us.

I hope to see many of you at the upcoming District Cabinet Meeting on February 18. See the information included in this newsletter for details.

Thanks to all for what you are doing to serve others in your communities, our state and our world.

Lion George Culp DG NC Lions 31-I

Liongeorgeculp@gmail.com

District 31 I DASHBOARD As of 01/16/2018												
	Service		Members			Leadership			District	District Dues	Brighter	Camp Dogwood
Lions Club	Zone	Activities	July 1	Current	To Date	Pres	Sec	Treas.	Goals Met	Current	Brighter Visions	Tickets
Arcadia	4	5	13	14	1	Y				Y	1,000.00	400.00
Bethlehem	1	55	21	21	0			Y		Y	2,105.00	290.00
Boone	2	9	23	22	(1)		Y			Y	110.00	440.00
Charlotte Central	10		7	7	0		Y	Y		Y	215.00	0.00
Charlotte South Park	10	18	23	22	(1)	Y	Y			Y	25.00	330.00
Charlotte Southern	10		10	11	1	Y	Y			Y	0.00	0.00
Churchland	5	7	13	11	(2)		Y	Y		Y	1,000.00	90.00
Cleveland	6	33	30	30	0		Y	Y		Y	1,145.00	260.00
Concord	9	20	25	29	4		Y			Y	2,676.00	60.00
Creston Riverview	2		17	19	2					Y	1,000.00	30.00
Davidson	8	4	31	24	(7)	Y				Y	3,601.00	720.00
Davis Townsend	5	21	28	26	(2)		Y	Y		Y	140.00	60.00
Denton	5	4	40	39	(1)		Y			Y	1,259.00	820.00
Derita	9	1	10	15	5	Y	Y		Y	Y	2,100.00	260.00
Dobson	3	23	32	31	(1)		Y	Y		Y	40.00	250.00
East Iredell	8	2	6	0	(6)						0.00	0.00
Elkin	1	3	8	8	0				Y	Y	880.00	0.00
Fair Grove	4		17	14	(3)	Y				Y	600.00	0.00
Franklin Ellis	6	2	5	5	0		Y	Y		Y	420.00	0.00
Gold Hill	6	30	12	12	0				Y	Y	250.00	0.00
Harrisburg	9		11	11	0			Y		Y	300.00	370.00
Hasty	4	18	9	9	0					Y	1,700.00	210.00
Hickory Grove	10	6	6	6	0					Y	0.00	0.00
Huntersville	8	6	15	15	0					Y	2,000.00	0.00
Kernersville	7	39	58	60	2				Y	Y	6,148.00	0.00
King	3	6	16	16	0					Y	1,600.00	0.00
Lake Norman	8	13	26	29	3	Y	Y			Y	0.00	0.00
Lexington Downtown	5	11	27	26	(1)		Y			Y	5,000.00	0.00
Linwood	5	17	23	23	0	Y	Y			Y	1,645.00	180.00
Midway	4	7	13	12	(1)					Y	0.00	0.00
Mint Hill	10	15	32	36	4	Y				Y	0.00	540.00
Mocksville	7	34	24	24	0				Y	Y	4,110.00	1580.00
Moorestville	8	82	31	28	(3)	Y	Y	Y		Y	176.00	1810.00
Mount Airy	3	6	18	15	(3)		Y	Y		Y	100.00	0.00
Mount Pleasant	9	13	59	58	(1)	Y	Y	Y		Y	3,815.00	790.00
North Charlotte	9	1	15	15	0					Y	100.00	0.00
North Wilkesboro	1		44	40	(4)					Y	1,100.00	270.00
Odell	9	7	12	12	0		Y	Y	Y	Y	3,000.00	360.00
Pilot-Davidson	4	2	35	36	1	Y	Y			Y	1,522.00	240.00
Pinnacle	3		12	12	0	Y	Y			Y	1,200.00	130.00
Rockwell	6	57	21	21	0	Y	Y			Y	637.00	150.00
Salisbury	6	10	62	53	(9)	Y				Y	1,310.00	0.00
South Iredell	8	2	19	17	(2)					Y	0.00	0.00
Southmont	5		11	10	(1)					Y	0.00	0.00
Sparta	2	203	41	34	(7)	Y	Y			Y	5,037.44	160.00
Taylorsville	1	8	24	26	2	Y	Y			Y	0.00	0.00
Thomasville	4	34	44	45	1	Y	Y	Y		Y	3,006.00	210.00
Troutman	8	35	16	17	1	Y	Y			Y	171.00	0.00
Wallburg	4		14	13	(1)					Y	0.00	0.00
Walnut Cove	3	7	11	10	(1)					Y	0.00	0.00
Welcome	1	20	15	12	(3)	Y	Y	Y		Y	1,100.00	310.00
West Iredell	8	34	18	17	(1)					Y	45.00	0.00
West Jefferson	2	42	27	27	0	Y	Y	Y		Y	4,090.00	520.00
West Lexington	5	1	14	13	(1)			Y		Y	0.00	0.00
WS Konnoak Hills	7	10	20	19	(1)				Y	Y	3,000.00	0.00
Winston Salem Twin City H	7	4	32	30	(2)	Y				Y	0.00	0.00
Yadkinville	1	9	14	14	0		Y	Y		Y	550.00	0.00
Misc											2,145.95	50.00
District 31I Total		996	1,260	1,221	-39	22	29	17	7	56	\$ 73,174	\$ 11,890

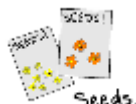
In loving memory of Lions who have died this past month

PDG "Gene" Hough Mt. Pleasant
Doyle Levan West Iredell

Information obtained from MMRs submitted to LCI

**REMEMBER ALL LIONS, FAMILY AND FRIENDS
WHO ARE IN NEED OF PRAYERS AT THIS TIME**

New



in the Garden

Welcome new Lions & thanks to their sponsors

Denton	Meghan Nealey	April Mesimer
	Nathan Nealey	April Mesimer
Kernersville	Misty Walker	Debbie Warren
Salisbury	Rikki Spencer	Wayne Kennerly



2018 VAVS Schedule

Date	Lions Club
26-Feb	West Lexington/Welcome
26-Mar	Churchland
23-Apr	Hasty
21-May	Harrisburg
25-Jun	Mt. Pleasant
23-Jul	Salisbury
27-Aug	Concord
24-Sep	Cleveland
22-Oct	Thomasville
26-Nov	Gold Hill
3-Dec	Pilot
	Cleo Zemke - VAVS-District Co-Chair 704-785-4478

"North Carolina Lions, Inc. is excited to share that we are the recipients of a \$20,000 grant in support of the NCLI Mobile Screening Unit for 2018. Each year, NCLI is proud to support over 6,000 individuals through the MSU, but with this funding we hope to expand our reach of offering FREE vision and hearing screenings to North Carolina residents."

From NCLI Brighter Visions Newsletter—December 14, 2017

Check out this newsletter for more about Brighter Visions. You can find archived editions at nclionsinc.org. Wonderful testimonials from campers, new giving ideas, and other information about what's new with Brighter Visions can be found on the website.

Important Deadlines:

Feb. 2 - Leo Convention Registration
(see information on page 3)
Feb. 9 - Liberty Day Essay Entries to State Committee
Feb. 14 - RSVP for District Cabinet Meeting

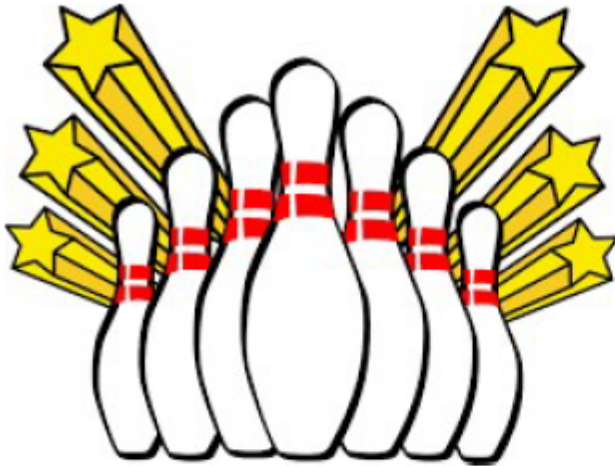
Directory Changes

P 39 - Troutman Lions Treasurer
E: dan.tedder@att.net
P 52 - Camp Dogwood mailing address (no PO Box)
7050 Camp Dogwood Drive, Sherrills Ford 28673

Important Events:

Check out the club fundraisers and other events in our district. See pages 7-9 and support as many as you are able.

Brighter Visions needs all the support we can give.



FEBRUARY 18

MEET – EAT - BOWL

Let's have a meeting and some family fun too!

Here is your opportunity to hear the state of our district and meet with Lions from throughout the district. It is a time to share ideas and make new friends. After the meeting, you can order from the menu and/or BOWL! We have a special group rate which includes bowling and shoes for \$6 per person (includes children). This will offer you two hours of bowling fun with your family and friends. (Anyone interested in a little tournament for Brighter Visions, contact DG George.)



District 31-I CABINET MEETING

RSVP:
LionGeorgeCulp@gmail.com

Sending me the numbers by 2/14 will assist in planning our meeting room size.

**Cabinet Meeting at
3PM**

**Followed by Eating
and Bowling**

**George Pappas'
Victory Lanes,
125 Morlake Dr,
Mooresville, NC 28117**

LIONS OF DISTRICT I

Tend and Befriend
Through Service
704 906 8568

LionGeorgeCulp@gmail.com

Feb 18, 2018 at 3PM

East Iredell Lions Club donates park land to county

The East Iredell Lions Club has donated eight acres and a nearly 2,300-square-foot building to the Iredell County Parks and Recreation Department for the purpose of a new community park.

In exchange for the donation, the Lions Club board of directors only asked that the park be named East Iredell Lions Club Community Park. The donation was announced in a press release last week.

The East Iredell Lions Club was motivated to donate by the effort and resources that Iredell County put into transforming Scotts Rosenwald Community Center into the premier recreational and leisure facility in the Scotts Creek community in West Iredell, the press release said.

I am very grateful and humbled that the East Iredell Lions Club identified Iredell County Parks and Recreation as the recipient for this donation," said Michelle Hepler, Iredell County Parks and Recreation director. "The fact that a group is willing to donate something to our department that was built using their blood, sweat and tears speaks volumes about their dedication to the East Iredell community. I am proud of the work that our staff has put into the Scotts Rosenwald Park and look forward to making the East Iredell Lions Club Community Park a center of the community."

Initial plans for the facility, which is at 336 River Hill Road, include \$30,000 in renovations to the community building, including new flooring, driveway and parking areas.

The facility has long been a gathering place for family reunions, showers and birthday and anniversary parties for a nominal fee. That won't change, the county announced.

Published in *The Statesville Record & Landmark* - January 2, 2018

Although we are sad to report that the East Iredell Lions Club, founded March 23, 1959 under the sponsorship of the Mooresville Lions Club, has voted to disband, we are comforted by knowing that its legacy will live on in the park that will bear its name.

Club News and Events

Sponsored by the **Denton Lions Club**, the 2018 Miss Denton and Little Miss Denton Pageants will be held on March 3, 2018. Miss Denton is open to Sophomore, Junior, and Senior girls at South Davidson High School. Little Miss Denton is open to First and Second grade girls at Denton and Silver Valley Elementary Schools. Please join us for our opening meeting, Feb. 11 at 2 pm - 736 N. Main St., Denton. If you have any questions or need more information, contact [Theresa Wallace Matthews](#) or [Liddy Matthews Bray](#).

The **Mt. Pleasant Lions Club** will have its annual dinner and Brighter Visions auction on Thursday, February 22nd at 6:00 pm. Please contact Lion George Barrier at gbarrier@ctc.net to RSVP for dinner. All Lions and guests are invited to attend this lively event.

The **Gold Hill Lions Club** invites you to their biggest fundraiser for Brighter Visions March 15. If you have not been to their dinner and bake auction, you are missing out on a lot of fun.



OUR BEAUTIFUL ENTRY IN
THIS YEAR'S PARADE

Club News and Events

Gold Hill Lions Club

On November 1st, the Gold Hill Lions joined with Norfolk Southern railroad to spearhead a joint venture, a coat drive for homeless and needy veterans. Coats came from Lee Burton, representing the railroad, and the following Lions clubs: North Wilkesboro, Cleveland, Salisbury, Troutman, Kernersville and Gold Hill. Churches that joined in were Organ Lutheran, First Baptist of Rockwell, Saint Stephens Church of Gold Hill and Bethel Baptist of Rockwell.

We ended the drive with 275 coats, pants, shirts, shoes, hats, scarves, underwear (men's & women's), sweatshirts & sweaters all packed in ten 24X20X40" boxes. A special thanks to SupplyOne for providing the boxes used for packaging the clothing. When we pulled up to drop off the first six boxes, we were met with open mouths.

Kernersville, led by Lions Willis Apple and Mark Schulte, generated quite a drive with 64 coats. North Wilkesboro, led by Mike and Antha Reid, also had a great drive. Two Lions met us in Salisbury to drop off coats, underwear, shoes, scarves and about anything else you could name. They told me they wanted to stay for the bingo party for the veterans but had to get back to estimate the damage from the tornados that had hit their area. Both these clubs showed what it is to be a LION and set a great example.

My thanks to Lions Bob Rummage, Cleo Zemke and Linda VanVleet for their help and for representing Lions at the final delivery.

A big thanks to all who helped,
Morris VanVleet, PDG
Gold Hill Lions Secretary



Lake Norman Lions Club

Lake Norman Lions will hold their dinner, auction and reverse raffle March 17 at the Charles Mack Citizens Center in Downtown Mooresville to benefit Brighter Visions and other service projects of the club. Contact Willie Hudson or Duncan McDuffie to purchase tickets which are \$150 and entitle you to dinner for two with cocktails plus a chance at the grand prize of \$10,000. There are other monetary prizes to be given at selected times during the drawing, and you will have opportunity to bid on some great silent auction items as well. **Only 250 tickets will be sold. Get yours now!**

Tell us about your club events: fundraisers, **service** projects and honors received so that we can share them with your fellow Lions.

Email the details to ebc4986@yahoo.com or mail to Lion Elizabeth Conrad, 1270 Beck's Nursery Rd, Lexington, NC 27292 **by the 20th of each month.**



Special Olympics
North Carolina

AGAINST THE ODDS – SPECIAL OLYMPICS WILKES COUNTY ATHLETE DOESN'T LET ADVERSITY GET IN HER WAY

December 7, 2017 [Feature Stories](#)

Michael Jordan once said: "Obstacles don't have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it." Special Olympics Wilkes County Athlete, Christy Poteat, has spent her entire life figuring out just how to work around those obstacles in her path.

Born three months premature, Poteat weighed only two pounds, 15 ounces. To keep her alive, doctors administered oxygen to her throughout her nearly two-month hospital stay and while this was important for most of her development, it was detrimental to her vision. Because of an over-administration of oxygen, she developed Retinopathy of Prematurity, causing her to become mostly blind in both of her eyes. "I can see the shapes of objects that are near me and sometimes bright colors that are farther away from me," Poteat says, "and that's about all."

Poteat started her career as a Special Olympics Athlete in Wilkes County during elementary school. Now 48 years old, she has competed in bowling, basketball skills, golf skills, track & field, bocce and volleyball. She stays involved with Special Olympics because of all of the friends she has made. "I love all the people you get to meet, especially at state-level tournaments," expresses Poteat. In all of her experience, golf, though a relatively new passion, has become her absolute favorite.

"A few years ago, I went to Camp Dogwood, a camp for the visually impaired," Poteat says. "When you're there you get to do all kinds of activities and one day I decided I would try my hand at putt-putt golf. From then on, I fell in love with golf. I have been playing for the last three years now!"

Without her vision, Poteat relies heavily on other senses to play golf, a skill seemingly unfathomable to people with their sight. Her routine is clearly established. First, she grabs her club bag where she has strategically placed her clubs in order. "I know exactly

which clubs I put where and I don't have any problem getting out the correct club, unless someone moves them. Then, I get confused," Poteat laughs. Then, she walks the course with a volunteer. They discuss the dips, holes and obstacles, so she can get a feel for how she will need to hit the ball. "Sometimes, a volunteer will have a cone and will walk the cone out as far as I can see it. Then, they'll tell me how far away the hole is from the cone," explains Poteat. After she hits the ball, her coach gives her feedback on her shot, she adjusts based on what he tells her, and she continues.

Poteat had a lot of people to thank for nurturing her love of golf. First, her coach, Jimmy, has been around for a while as both an assistant and her head coach. "Jimmy helps me achieve all of my craziest goals," she says. "He is a really great coach."

The second is her local Lion's Club, a club dedicated to serving and assisting people with some form of visual impairment. Poteat says her favorite Special Olympics memory was when a fellow Lion came out to watch her compete. "That was special that he was able to be there! It really meant the world to me," says Poteat.

Amid all of her success this year, perhaps the biggest change in

Poteat's life was the addition of her new guide dog, Autumn. In April, Poteat flew to Michigan to attend the Leader Dogs School for the Blind. It was there that she met Autumn. They trained together for a few weeks and on May 17th, Poteat brought Autumn home with her.

She goes everywhere with me. She is my eyes; she guides me through life. She is such a huge blessing," says Poteat. "I don't even remember what life was like before she was with me." This unspeakable bond is evident when you see Poteat interact with Autumn. Poteat was elated that she was able to bring Autumn to every hole in her golf skills competition at Fall Tournament this year. I got the bronze medal at this year's Fall Tournament, but the best part was when they gave Autumn special recognition, too!"

Poteat has experienced incredible adversity throughout her life. She has accomplished goals that some would never even dream about. Through it all, she has the brightest smile on her face. Poteat and her "sweet Autumn" walk through life together one day at a time.

"With practice," Poteat said, "you can do anything. Would seeing help? I don't know — you just do the best with what you got!"



**HAVE INDEPENDENCE
WILL TRAVEL**

Robert "Bob" Rock

After Bob lost sight in both eyes—one due to a nail accident, the other from **glaucoma and cataract surgery** complications—he couldn't find the confidence to walk around the block. Today, he's tearing up the town by walking up to 40 miles a week with his white cane.

More than **75,000 people become blind or visually impaired** each year. However, only **10% travel independently with a white cane or guide dog.** That's why we're making vital orientation and mobility training more accessible for clients. With your help and our expertise, more people can travel safer, easier and with greater freedom than ever before. And together, we'll make people unstoppable.

BE OF SERVICE
LeaderDog.org/Lions

LEADER DOGS FOR THE BLIND
FOLLOW THE LEADER

IN EVERY LEADER DOG LIES THE HEART OF A LION.
A Leader Dog partner since 1939.

Lion Antha Reid, District Chair for Guide Dogs reports that our clubs are not contributing this year as they have in the past and maybe a little reminder will help. She forwarded a note from Beth Slade, condensed below.

Greetings, Leader Dog Chairs and Champions-

Each year, 75,000 people in the United States lose their vision. With such drastic numbers our partnership with Lions has become just as important as the day three Lions Club members founded what is today Leader Dogs for the Blind.

Each month we will be sending out a newsletter update for Lions based on this historic, unique partnership. (see flyer above).

Thank you for helping us get the word out on our services, our partnership with Lions and the good things we are all a part of each day in all 50 states.

*Cheers,
Lion Beth Slade, CFRE
Director of Lions Engagement
Leader Dogs for the Blind-Rochester, MN*

District 31-I Newsletter is published monthly.

DEADLINE for inclusion of articles is the 20th of each month if by email. 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; and, depending on the number of pages in each edition, could cost \$.60 to \$.81 cents per issue to mail.

All articles, announcements, etc., for inclusion in the District 31-I Newsletter should be sent to: Lion Elizabeth Conrad, 1270 Beck's Nursery Road, Lexington, NC 27292 or ebc4986@yahoo.com. Please send all submissions as a Word document and pictures in a separate .jpg file. Mail to arrive by the 20th of the month.

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



International Association of
Lions Clubs
Lion George Culp
District Governor, 31-1 North Carolina
134 Eastcliff Drive, SE
Concord, NC 28025

