



District 31-I News

*We serve through diversity, creating
harmony through service with 102nd
International President, Dr. Jung-Yul Choi*



District 31-I Newsletter

July 2020

Issue 1

Member News

In Loving Memory

Of Lions who have passed this past month:

| Member | Club |
|------------------|-----------|
| Harry L. Garwood | Salisbury |

***Information obtained from MMRs submitted to LCI*

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NEW MEMBERS!!!!

| Member | Club |
|----------------|--------|
| Christy Clark | Denton |
| Lynne Driskell | Denton |

VAVS Bingo Schedule

The VA Hospital is not currently allowing visitors in their facility. Hopefully this will be lifted soon!



Please contact Judi Seymour @ (704) 279-4207 for more information.

*"Every single day, in every walk of life,
ordinary people do extraordinary things."*

Jim Valvano



Volunteers Creating a Future — DG Donald Cobb

Volunteers creating a future: that's what Lions are around the world and it's what Lions are across our district. We volunteer our time and talents and follow our motto, "We Serve," and as we do that, we're creating a future, for our VIPs, and for others in our communities.

For my year as your district governor, I have selected the slogan "Volunteers Creating a Future" to highlight the work you do as Lions across our district because I do believe that as Lions, we are creating a future for others through the work we do.

As he was battling cancer and encouraging others to contribute to the fight to eliminate this disease, the late Jim Valvano had a saying that has been quoted many times. He said, "Every single day, in every walk of life, ordinary people do extraordinary things." I think this saying is true for Lions as well. Most of us are ordinary people who want to contribute to our communities and make the world a better place in which to live. We have found that while working individually, we can do a little, but while working together as Lions we can accomplish extraordinary things. As Lions, we accomplish extraordinary things across our district, state, and around the world.

What are some of the things we have accomplished across our district? We have created a visually enhanced media center at a local library, sponsored blood drives, made monetary donations to local businesses and communities during challenging times with the coronavirus. Contributions to Brighter Visions and Camp Dogwood have been made to keep our signature programs going strong. We have provided eye exams and eye glasses to those in need, provided vision and hearing screenings with our Mobile Screening Unit, tested the vision of our children, and even helped purchase eSight glasses for our visually impaired. We have collected eye glasses to be repurposed for use in other countries. We've collected food for our struggling food pantries, volunteered at food pantries, delivered Meals On Wheels and backpack meals to children. We've cleaned roadsides and other areas and displayed flags in our towns on holidays. Scholarships have been provided to high school seniors and contributions have been made to Leader Dog. We've collected can tabs, ink cartridges, hearing aids, cell phones, and pill bottles to support programs. Every one of these things along with the many other things we have done across our district will result in a better life for those whose lives we have touched. We, as Lions, are "Volunteers Creating a Future" for those individuals and for our communities.

I am honored to serve as your District Governor for the coming year and I look forward to working with you as we continue to serve our communities and world. It's not going to be an easy year as we continue to deal with the changes COVID-19 has brought. It still may be a while before we can safely meet in person and even when we can, we will need to keep the safety of our members in the forefront of our actions. We don't want our Lion family to get sick nor do we want those we serve getting sick. While we want to get back to how things were, we don't want to move too fast.

Thank you for being a Lion. Thank you for the service you do.
Thank you for being volunteers who are creating a future!

DG Donald has not scheduled any club visits due to many clubs not meeting. Please send him an email at dwcobb@skybest.com to let him know when your club will next meet, so he can begin to schedule club visits for the year.



Thank you Lion Elizabeth!!

Lion Elizabeth Conrad has been our district newsletter editor for the past few years and has decided to "retire". Thank you, Lion Elizabeth, for all the great newsletters you have published for the district!!

Let us know about club events, fundraisers, service projects and honors received so that we can share them with our fellow Lions. Email to diannamwald@gmail.com or mail to Lion Dianna Wald, PO Box 1260, Denton, NC 27239

by the 20th of each month.

As always, we love your pictures too!!

1st Vice District Governor — Wayne H. Kennerly

Even though social distancing, stay at home requirements, and quarantines have led us to cancel all activities at Camp Dogwood for our VIP's this summer and also the cancellation of the Lions VIPs fishing tournament at the Outer Banks in October, we Lions will get through this Covid-19 pandemic and hopefully come back stronger from this experience. All of this has to be a huge blow to all our VIPs who count on these functions for their vacations each year. Many never leave their homes until Lions bring them to these activities. We see how bad it is to not be able to shop or go out to eat. How would you like to stay home year after year like the VIPs and now miss out completely on their two fun activities? We must start working on new projects to help our VIPs. Maybe Lions can start a phone tree to stay in touch with them or invite them to your club. Can you think of other things that could be done?

Lions Clubs in other areas have started setting up tents at places like Wal-Mart, collecting food for needy families especially those out of work. Other Lions Clubs are working with the Red Cross and having blood drives. Some are having virtual fund raisers to collect money for their charity accounts since they are not able to have their normal projects due to the pandemic. We all need to work on new ideas because soon we all be back in our clubs.

Even though we are not currently in our clubs, hopefully each president is thinking about the Lion who is deserving to be the Unsung Hero from your club He or she will be recognized at the Saturday luncheon by our visiting International Director. Please work hard on this so our Convention in November will be one to remember. This will be a Friday night (Fun Night) and a Saturday luncheon and not formal. Low cost and a short convention; please plan on being there if possible.

Remember, each person counts, why not share Lionism!



CAMP DOGWOOD NEWS:

****2020 Camping Season — Cancelled ****

It is with great regret that due to Covid-19 we will not be holding Summer Camp 2020. It was a hard decision to make, but please know the health and safety of all our Visually Impaired come first. Camp Staff has contacted all applicants. Stay safe!

Lion Elizabeth Rummage has managed out district webpage for some time and she will continue to work with the web page and serve as our district IT person in the coming year. Send items you would like posted on the webpage to her at lionrummage@gmail.com. Thanks Lion Elizabeth for continuing to manage our webpage!



Find us on the web at:

NClions31i.org

2nd Vice District Governor — Bill Mathers

It is me again, now in the new role as your new 2nd Vice District Governor for District I. I once again am going to need your help as Lions of District I. I will admit I do not know yet fully what a 2nd Vice District Governor is suppose to do. Do I go to Funerals of State as our District I representative? Do I do campaign speeches in place of Donald Cobb, the District Governor, or the 1st Vice District Governor Wayne Kennerly? Do I have to kiss babies? Do I get to fly on NC Lions' version of Air Force One? Do I get Lions Club Secret Service Protection? I just don't know yet.

All kidding aside (yes, I was kidding), I am looking forward to the new challenge of this responsibility. We, as Lions of District I, have had the benefit of having had some pretty great District Governors thru the years. This year will be no exception. I look forward to working with DG Donald Cobb and learning all I can from him and the members of the Cabinet. I am really looking forward to visiting all of your clubs and please feel free to invite me to visit.

A few years ago just before Susan and I joined Lions, the NCLI in their wisdom set up North Carolina into just 5 new Districts. District I had been a merger of 2 other Districts. Because of my newness to Lions, I was not a part of either of the old Districts. I have been a Lion for about 5 years now. I will be the first 2nd Vice District Governor that has only been in District I. As dumb as it sounds, I feel very proud of that because it shows how times in our world continue to change. I am also the first ever State and District officer from my club, Mint Hill Lions Club. I have watched how our club in Mint Hill has changed and grown through the years. I would like to be a part of helping your clubs grow and prosper in the future, as well.

Lastly I want to thank several special Lions in my heart for their guidance on my quest to be your 2nd Vice District Governor. First I want to thank Lion Charles Mills, our Mint Hill Club Past President, and this year's Zone Chair, for bringing Susan and myself into Lions. Early in my career, as a Lion, I was wavering about whether Lionism was for me. And then PDG George Culp came to one of our Club meetings and talked about something called the VIP Fishing tournament. Most of you may not know, but growing up in Michigan I fished most of the year round, and since living here in NC since 1983, I have fished many years on the FLW Professional Bass Tournament circuit. After listening to PDG George Culp and going to the VIP Tournament, I was "hooked" as you might say as a LION... I really understood at that time what "We Serve" really meant. Thank you, Lion George. I want to thank PID Gwen White, our VIP Fishing Tournament director, for allowing Susan and I to be a part of the tournament every year since. The VIP Fishing Tournament has a very special place in my heart. I would also like to thank PCC Bob Sprinkle and PDG Carolyn Sprinkle, PDG Butch Conrad, PDG Jimmy Myers, and DG Donald Cobb for convincing me to run for 2nd Vice District Governor. You all have no idea how much you have influenced me in my trip through Lionism. Thank you to Lion Michelle Gregory, PDG Theresa Matthews, and Lion Kirby Matthews and the rest of the cabinet for helping me through my year as Brighter Visions Chair. I could go on and on, but as you can see it takes the village...

Thank you,

Bill Mathers, Now 2nd VDG

P.S Be safe

District 31-I Convention



District Governor Donald Cobb and 1st Vice District Governor Wayne Kennerly invite you to come to the Convention of District 31-I on November 6-7, 2020 at the Village Inn Hotel and Event Center in Clemmons. This year's theme is Unsung Heroes.

Each club is being asked to name an unsung hero to be honored at the Saturday luncheon. Club presidents/secretaries are to fill out the form included in this newsletter and return to DGE Donald. The "Unsung Hero" is the Lion who goes above and beyond for their club and community without expectation of accolades -- in other words the hardest working Lions that quietly go about upholding "We Serve." Clubs may have president/board of directors name this Lions or have a vote of the club, however the club decides to name the hero. Clubs are also asked to consider paying for the luncheon fee for their honored Lion.

At the back of this newsletter you will find the registration form, program ad form, and nomination form for the Unsung Hero chosen by your Lions Club.

We hope to see you there!

Calendar



| | | | |
|----------------------|--------------|---|--|
| July 18 | 10am – until | Awards and Installation District Cabinet Meeting | Zoom Meeting |
| TBD | | District Training | New Member Orientation |
| July 31– August 2 | | NCLI BOD — Installation — COG | Camp Dogwood |
| Aug. 26 | 6pm | Brighter Visions Kickoff | Mayflower Seafood Restaurant 665 Montroyal Rd, Rural Hall, NC |

2020-2021 Zone Chairs

- *Zone 1—Andrew Ferguson
- *Zone 2—Darryl Hawkins
- *Zone 3—Angie Kaiser
- *Zone 4—Steve Cline
- *Zone 5—Don Conner
- *Zone 6—Kathy Poirier
- *Zone 7—Charles Mills



**Zoom Officer Installation
& Cabinet Meeting**

10:00 am Saturday, July 18, 2020

Due to COVID-19, we will not be able to meet in person for our Awards, Officer Installation, and Cabinet meeting. Instead, we will install officers and have a cabinet meeting by Zoom. Please send your name and email address to DG Donald Cobb at dwcobb@skybest.com or call 336-372-2577 to let him know you will be attending. You will receive information on how to join the meeting a day or two before the event. The district award presentations will be done by PDG Jimmy Myers at our convention on November 6 – 7. Please make plans to join both our Zoom officer installation and cabinet meeting as well as our awards presentation in November!

Did you know??

NC Lions collect and recycle used ink cartridges to raise money to offset the cost of the annual Deaf/Blind Retreat held each fall. You can now link yourself or your business and mail those ink cartridges directly to the recycler at no cost to you.

Go to the web address below to get more information about what cartridges are taken and how you can mail yours in.

<http://www.fundingfactory.com/goal/camp-dogwood>

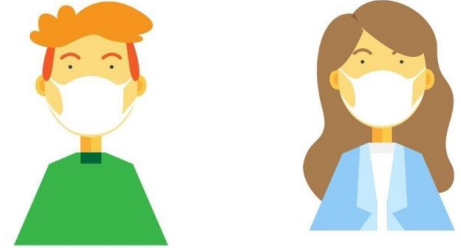
CLUB NEWS

MOCKSVILLE LIONS CLUB

A Mocksville Lion recently found a way to serve the community during these trying times of not being able to have a Club meeting. Mocksville Lions Club Secretary Mary Jeffrey, when speaking with Angela Parrish, Director of Activities at Somerset Court in Mocksville, discovered the facility had an immediate need for additional food serving trays.

As a result of Governor Cooper's state-wide order, commencing on Monday April 13 at 5 PM, group homes would no longer be able to dine in groups within their dining rooms. Food serving trays would need be used to serve meals to occupants in their rooms and Somerset Court needed an additional 40 trays. Lion Mary volunteered to help and contacted Mocksville Lions Club President Patsy Crenshaw and Linda Bradford of the Davie Civitan Club for assistance in acquiring the needed trays. Both Clubs jointly decided to purchase the needed trays for Somerset Court and expedite their delivery to the home. Consequently, 40 brand new serving trays were purchased and delivered to Somerset Court on Saturday April 11.

Even with "social distancing" in mind and the inconvenience of not being able to hold regular club meetings, a way to help was found. Civic groups like the Mocksville Lions Club and the Davie Civitan Club are proud to help others in need during these difficult times. They are hopeful that soon they will again be able to meet, socialize, and continue to serve communities here in Davie County. Thanks to all who support the clubs enabling them to help others.



How is your club serving while we are unable to be together?! Please let us know your ideas!



DENTON LIONS CLUB

Pictured at left is Miss Denton Emily Smith, and Little Miss Denton Addison Johnson helping gather supplies.

Denton Lions Club did an outdoor, drive-thru toiletry drive for the local South Davidson Family Resource Center.



This past year, I have had the honor and privilege of being Brighter Visions Chair for District I. I want to thank all of you Lions in our District for making this year's Brighter Visions Program a success. As of this writing, we have collected over \$143,000 for Brighter Visions and we still have a little time left to reach our goal of \$150,000.

We have all had a trying year. The pandemic has rendered many clubs almost totally unable to have fundraisers to help with Brighter Visions and yet you have stepped up across the District and helped well beyond what anyone could have imagined.

I am so proud that our District led the entire state of North Carolina once again by raising the most money of any other District by over \$50,000. And by giving the highest per member donations of any of the other Districts.

When PDG Jimmy Myers asked me to do this job, I was very hesitant because I do not mind volunteering and have done so all my life, but to be responsible for collecting money of this amount was not my thing. I had to really come out of my comfort zone on this project.

If it had not been for the help of many, many Lions across our District, I am not sure we would be here at this level today. I want to personally thank Lion Michelle Gregory, Brighter Visions Chair from last year, for all her guidance and support all the way through the year. I want to thank all the club presidents and club officers that invited me to their clubs (pre-Covid) and through zoom meetings (post-Covid) around the District. And I want to thank the members of our District leadership and District Cabinet for their continued support for helping me grow in this job. The best part of this responsibility was getting to meet so many wonderful Lions across our great District and State. I have made a great group of new friends and learned so much about you and your clubs. And I wish all of you could have had the opportunity to meet and get to know why our motto is "We Serve." For those of you who are not aware, our District is loaded with some great and solid leaders for our future. And the most important thing I have learned all year is that all of the LIONS I have gotten to know really CARE about what we do.

This will be my last article in the newsletter as your Brighter Visions Chair. However, as most of you know, I now have a new calling and you will still be hearing from me every month in the newsletter as the 2nd Vice District Governor for District I.

Thank you, one last time,

Bill Mathers, your now Past Brighter Visions Chair

P.S. Be safe and see you at the convention!!!

AND NOW FOR THE REST OF THE STORY...

WE HAVE REACHED OUR GOAL FOR THIS YEAR!!!

At the NCLI Meeting on Saturday, June 28th, I received an additional \$7,000 in donations and since last Friday we received even more contributions and we now have over \$152,000. Our goal was \$150,000. And as of this writing we are only \$301 from last years record year. I want you all to know that District Governor Jimmy Myers stepped up and helped with a tremendous donation and a donation from Lion Gary and Lion Liz Steele of the Cleveland Lions Club put us over the top. Therefore, as promised I will be shaving my beard of 43 years off. I made the promise and you guys came through! The beard removal will be held in the middle of July and I will send out a district invite for all of you who are bored enough and want to attend. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Lions of District I are truly amazing!



HAPPY NEW YEAR**Welcome to the new LIONS' Year.**

While each of us have multiple years of being a Lion, I doubt that any of us would have expected the impact of Covid19 to our home clubs and our District. This Lions' year will be different from past years, allowing us the necessity of change. Our role will be to be change agents that will focus on our club members, service opportunities, and our organization.

To our new and returning officers, let me sincerely thank you for serving your club and community. As members of Lions International, we are proud to SERVE our citizens.

Officer Training

In the past several weeks we have held multiple training events for Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers, and Zone Chairpersons. On June 27 we have scheduled training for your club Tail Twisters. (These may be the roughest group, yet!) Perhaps some of you missed the officer training opportunities. Should that be the case, you are welcome to contact me and we will attempt to conduct make-up sessions.

We are reaching out to the new members that have been added after July 1, 2019, and will provide an orientation session in person or online as regulations allow. I hope to have the orientation in August.

In case you may have more time on your hands while in Stay-At-Home mode, Lions International has multitudes of training resources. Simply go to the Lions International website and check in the Member's Area under Resources. Search there for keywords for areas of your interest. You may be overwhelmed by what is available.

NAMI

Watch for more information on the North American Membership Initiative. This effort will be a three-year effort to start new clubs, add new members, and rejuvenate the current members while focusing on serving others.

Stay Safe and remember to find ways to provide service in your communities. Please contact me if I can be of assistance.

PDG George Culp GLT

District 31-I

liongeorgeculp@gmail.com 704 906 8568



Welcome Lions Judi Seymour and Evelyn Craig!

Lions Judy Seymour and Evelyn Craig have graciously agreed to serve as coordinators of our Veterans Administration Volunteer Service program. They will be coordinating the bingo program with the VA hospital and Lions Clubs which serve as the monthly host for bingo once restrictions are lifted. Welcome aboard Lions Judi and Evelyn!

Thank you Lions Linda Van Vleet and Cleo Zemke!

Lions Linda Van Vleet and Cleo Zemke have coordinated our Veterans Administration Volunteer Service program. Lion Cleo has moved and Lion Linda has decided to retire. Thank you Lions Linda and Cleo for coordinating this program with the VA and our clubs!

Congratulations!!

The Lions of District 31-I have reached the Brighter Visions Goal!!

District Brighter Visions Goal

For 2020 – 2021

\$145,000

Let's start working to make our goal a reality!

Christie Kestler

Brighter Vision Chair

Ckestler04@gmail.com

704-402-0121 (Cell)



Do you order from Amazon.com?

Did you know that your order can benefit NCLI?

All you need to do is use the address of Smile.Amazon.com and select NCLI as the beneficiary. Amazon will donate a portion of every order made using that web address to NCLI.

As of last quarter, NCLI has received

\$633.72

from this program!

Welcome Lion Dianna!

Lion Dianna Wald has graciously agreed to be our district newsletter editor and keep our Facebook page for the upcoming year. Send your items for the newsletter by the 20th of month to her at dian-namwald@gmail.com. Welcome aboard Lion Dianna and we look forward to you keeping us informed!

Greeting Fellow Lions,

Welcome to a new Lion year. This year will be so different from past years in so many different ways. The corona virus will still be with us, which has brought us many challenges in the past. As you plan your service projects, please report them using MyLion website. These reports assist the governor and Lions International in the function of their duties. If you have trouble navigating thru MyLion website, I am available to assist you.

Lion Ron Rich

District Global Service Chair (GST)

Contact: casper101@windstream.net

Suggested Service Projects for

July thru Sept

1. Gather school supplies, including hand sanitizer for teachers
2. Collect clothes for a local children's home
3. Partner with a school, Scouts, or another community organization.
4. Maintain a "Little Free Library"
5. Collect used pill bottles to send to an organization that fills them for poor countries in need
6. Vision / Diabetes Screening
7. Assist Meals on Wheels deliveries
8. Join or start a reading program at a school or library
9. Food drive
10. Join a local parade or host a festival booth
11. Adopt a highway or a police officer
12. Collect can tabs for the Leader Dog program
13. Visit nursing homes, maybe bring a treat (make sure to contact them ahead of time to find out any visitor restrictions)
14. Recycle eyeglasses





District 31-I Fall Convention
Gold Sponsor/Ad Order Form

Convention Date: November 6 - 7, 2020
Village Inn Hotel & Event Center, Clemmons NC

DEADLINE is October 16

Date: _____
Name of Club, Business, or Individual _____
Mailing Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone & Email Contact _____

Approval Signature _____

Convention Gold Sponsorships Available \$500
Banner Recognition at all Events

Ad Size: Full Page (8 1/2 x 11) \$75 _____
Half Page \$50 _____
Quarter Page \$25 _____
Business Card \$15 _____

Make Checks Payable to: NC 31-I Lions Clubs

Mail Check & Form to: Liz Steele
2252 Baker Mill Rd
Cleveland, NC 27013

Please Include Payment with Ad Copy and Form
For questions: cell 704-798-3471

Email Ad copy in .jpg or Word format to: Liz Steele
LRSteele@hughes.net



District 31-I Fall Convention
UNSUNG HERO SELECTION FORM

To recognize a Lion who goes "above and beyond" for their club
and community at the Convention Luncheon Banquet.

Convention Date: November 6 - 7, 2020
Village Inn Hotel & Event Center, Clemmons NC

DEADLINE is October 16

Selected Lion _____
Club _____
Address/Phone _____

How long a Member (Years) _____

Favorite Club Project _____

Reason for Selection _____

Submitted by Club President or Secretary _____

Address/Phone _____

Mail Form to: DGE Donald Cobb
3 Coleman
Sparta, NC 28675

For questions: 336-372-2577 H or dwcobb@skybest.com

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 email are available on the day of publication. USPS mailings are received a week after publication and cost a minimum of \$.50 to mail; and depending on the number of pages in each edition, could cost \$.71 to \$.92 cents per issue to mail.

All articles, announcements, etc. for inclusion in the District 31-I Newsletter should be sent to:

Lion Dianna Wald

PO Box 1260

Denton, NC 27239 or diannamwald@gmail.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 email should be sent to

Lion Susan Mathers

6700 Pine Lake Lane,

Mint Hill, NC 28227 or susancmathers@gmail.com.

Can you find me?!?!?



Somewhere in this newsletter is this historical Lions Clubs International emblem from 1918. The first person to find it and email Lion Dianna at diannamwald@gmail.com WINS a prize!!

International Association of
Lions Clubs
Lion Donald Cobb
District Governor, 31-I North Carolina
Address
City, State Zip

