



# District 31-I News

*United in Kindness and Diversity  
International President,  
Dr. Jung-Yul Choi*



District 31-I Newsletter

October 2020

Issue 4

## Announcement:

District I Convention was originally scheduled for November 6 -7. Unfortunately, this has been CANCELLED. We are planning on rescheduling sometime Spring 2021

Those who have registered and paid will be contacted by Lion Liz Steele regarding your payment. If you have made room reservation at the Village Inn please call them directly at 336-766-9121 or 800-554-6416 to cancel your reservations.

Watch our Newsletter for more Convention Updates!

## Member News



### In Loving Memory

Of Lions who have passed this past month:

Member	Club
Larry Morrison	Davis-Townsend
Helen Marcia Wight	Lake Norman
JoAnne Wiles	Lake Norman
James Crockett	North Charlotte
George L. Barrier III	Mt. Pleasant

### NEW MEMBERS!!!!

Member	Club
Duane A. Saunders	Mint Hill
Elizabeth A. Brady	Salisbury

## IN THIS ISSUE

- \* Member News Page 1
- \* DG Page 2
- \* 1 VDG Page 3
- \* 2 VDG Page 4
- \* Calendar Page 5
- \* Club News Page 6
- \* NCLI News Page 7
- \* Brighter Visions Page 8
- \* NAMI Page 9

## Volunteers Creating a Future — DG Donald Cobb

### Ramblings from the District and Around the World

October finds us still restricted from our normal lives as we continue to deal with the COVID-19 Virus. Restrictions have been eased recently: groups of up to 25 individuals are now allowed to meet indoors and groups of up to 50 individuals are allowed to meet outdoors. Even if we're allowed to meet, we need to ask ourselves if it is the right thing to do considering the health and safety of our members and those with whom we serve? We continue to hear that the virus may worsen during the fall and winter months and activities could be more restricted if that happens.

Most of us are tired of having to deal with COVID-19 and having to limit our activities. As Lions, we see we haven't been able to do service activities as we would like, nor have we been able to do fundraisers as we normally do. We may even wonder if other Lions are being restricted as we are. The answer to that is a resounding "Yes!"

I am writing this on a Sunday night and yesterday, Saturday morning at 7 am, I participated in a Zoom meeting with a group of fellow District Governors from around the world. The Lions in this meeting were placed together when we participated in our District Governor training in St. Charles, Illinois in February. We have met together by Zoom every two or three months since that time to share ideas as well as provide support for one another on our journey as District Governors. Our group consists of those of us from North Carolina as well as Lions from New York, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania, and also India, Egypt, Australia, and several European countries.

One of the things we do during these meetings is share things that are going on in our districts. During this Zoom meeting, we quickly realized that all of us are experiencing the same things. We found that no matter where we were from, a few Clubs were meeting in person, some were meeting by Zoom, and some were not meeting but trying to stay in touch with their members. Some District Governors had been able to do a few Club visits but many had not done any Club visits or only a very few visits. Clubs around the world were looking for creative ways to serve and meet the needs of their communities. We also found out that Lions within our group had been affected by COVID-19 in various ways. One District Governor from India has had six of his family members infected with COVID-19. We heard that Australia was on lock-down and no one could enter the country without being quarantined. Every one of us as individuals and as Lions were being affected by COVID-19 in one way or another.

So, what do we do? First, we continue to keep the health and safety of our members in the forefront of what we do and let that guide our actions and activities. We also shouldn't judge our fellow members if they are not comfortable participating in meetings or activities. We should look for safe ways in which we can serve our VIPs and communities. And we should continue to stay in touch with one another, whether it be by in-person meetings where we can wear masks and social distance, or by Zoom meetings, or by calling or emailing members to stay in touch. Remember, we are Lions and we look out for one another and those We Serve. We are, after all, "Volunteers Creating a Future" for those We Serve!

### District 31-I now has Zoom Pro!!

This is available for use by Lions in our District. If you have a meeting that you need more than the 45 free minutes on Zoom, please contact Lion Kirby Matthews about reserving the use of the District Zoom. Lion Kirby is keeping a calendar for the Zoom and can tell you if it is available on the date and time you wish to use it.

You can reach Lion Kirby at:

[kirby@minutemansupply.com](mailto:kirby@minutemansupply.com)



**DG Donald has not scheduled any club visits due to many clubs not meeting.**

**Please send him an email**

**at [dwcobb@skybest.com](mailto:dwcobb@skybest.com) to let**

**him know when your club will next meet, so he can begin to schedule club visits for the year.**

# 1st Vice District Governor — H. Wayne Kennerly

There is an old saying “if you can’t stand the heat, then get out of the kitchen.” During this global health crisis, all of the service organizations have come together to combine the strength of the millions of members to join their efforts to support the many front line health workers and the first responders to battle this disease to save lives. Never have I seen such an effort from all our civic clubs working together. Our International President Dr. Jung-Yul Choi said, “Great challenges test us, but they also bring us together.” There were many other quotes from the Optimist, Rotary, and Kiwanis. These joint statements were an effort to remind the public that in time of uncertainty, all local civic clubs are committed to meeting the challenge of finding ways to all take action and help our communities to heal and thrive.

George Culp, PDG, our North America Membership Initiative Chairman (NAMI), for District 31-I gave a program this week at the Salisbury Lions Club on NAMI. We had several visitors from District 31-O to hear his presentation. This included the District Governor, First Vice District Governor, Second Vice District Governor and the District Cabinet Treasurer. These dedicated Lions are interested in building:

- 1- A Team
- 2- A Vision
- 3- A Plan
- 4- Success

We all need to be as dedicated as these hard-working Lions from 31-O who were interested enough to come to Salisbury to gather information to make sure their membership is a success. This NAMI program is a three-year plan that will work if we follow the wide range of resources and training opportunities available to help each club succeed. Membership has always been at the top of my list. I know this new support plan will work! We all must do our best for NAMI to meet its goal.

Remember each person counts; so why not share Lionism?



Send items you would like posted on the webpage to  
Lion Elizabeth Rummage at [lionrummage@gmail.com](mailto:lionrummage@gmail.com).

Find us on the web at: **NClions31I.org**

## \*\*Directory Correction\*\*

Joe Poirier, who is our district Clinical Eye Research representative, has the incorrect email address listed (he actually has Chris Beck's email under his name). Joe's correct email address is [pdgjoe23a@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pdgjoe23a@sbcglobal.net).



## Exciting News From Lions Clubs International:

Until December 30, 2020 all entrance fees are WAIVED!

No charter entrance fees, no fee to join an existing club, no fee to transfer clubs.

Now is the time to invite friends, family, and neighbors to join the world's largest service organization!

## 2nd Vice District Governor — Bill Mathers

This past week I had the honor and privilege of swearing in the officers at the newly-formed North Davidson Lions Club. North Davidson Lions are a merger of two Lions Clubs: Arcadia Lions Club and the Welcome Lions Club.

I was so impressed with this Club for several reasons. First, they did hold an in-person meeting even during these trying times of Covid-19. Of course, before I arrived, I was a bit skeptical about all the members meeting in-person safely. However, when I arrived, I was greatly surprised at what I saw. When I walked into their Clubhouse, I realized all the members, and I mean all the members, were wearing masks. Next the Clubhouse was set up with about 20 to 25 chairs all spaced out at least 8 to 10 feet apart. I was excited to see that a Club had improvised and made it very possible to meet safely during these trying times. I felt very safe as an outsider at their Club meeting.

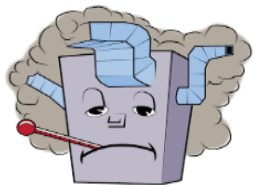
Another thing that impressed me was the attendance of the Club. These two former Clubs now have 19 members together after the merger and according to Club President Claudia Woodruff the merger has created excitement and they should have two new members shortly. And most of all, 18 of the 19 members of the Club were in attendance at the meeting. It was phenomenal to see a Club where all the members are showing up and participating. As Lions, our Clubs need a lot more of that.

Lastly, I want to congratulate the North Davidson Lions Club for being able to make the merger happen, especially in these trying times. We are in a very difficult time in our country today. People are more divided than ever. And it may get worse, before it gets better. But here are two former Clubs who had some different views of how a Lions Club should be set up coming together for the common good. The Welcome Lions sold their property and the new North Davidson Lions are using the Arcadia Lions Community Building as its new headquarters. I know that must have been a hard decision for both groups.

Finally, I was honored to stay around for their business meeting. This Club is already moving forward with new projects, even in this time of the Covid-19 pandemic. They are not sitting on their butts waiting to serve. They are SERVING now. This week they will be having a Blood Drive and other projects are scheduled in the near future. I predict that the new North Davidson Club will show other Clubs in our district how to do many great things well into the future.

To all of you at North Davidson Lions, I salute you and look forward to seeing you do great things together as the new Club I think you will become. Thank you for inviting me to your Installation and allowing me to be a part of it.

To all Lions... Be Safe... and SERVE.



## Camp Dogwood HVAC Fund Drive

Camp Dogwood needs our help!

They need \$38,000 for several new HVAC units.

Several units need replacing and gutters for the Udovich dorm are needed. Cost estimates are \$4900 for Duplex (4); \$6400 for White dorm; \$20,000 for Udovich and Lineberger dorms; and \$6200 for gutters on Udovich dorms.

Please consider making an additional donation directly to Camp Dogwood for these important repairs. For questions please contact PDG Wayne Faber at [wfaber100@hotmail.com](mailto:wfaber100@hotmail.com) or 919.780.8819.

Make the check to NCLI c/o Camp Dogwood and mark "for heating/air repairs".

# Calendar

Oct. 21	7pm	Zone Goal Setting and Action Planning	District L and District I Zone Chairpersons will receive Zoom invite. Others are welcome to contact PDG George for invitation to join.
Nov. 7th	10am	District Cabinet Meeting	<b>More info to come!</b>

"A pessimist, they say, sees a glass of water as being half empty; an optimist sees the same glass as half full. But a giving person sees a glass of water and starts looking for someone who might be thirsty."

G. Thomas Gale



## Did you know?!?!

Camp Dogwood now has pledge cards!  
You are able to give a one-time gift, quarterly, or monthly donation.

Did you know that if each Lion in NC would give only?

\*\*\$1.00 a month for a year would add  
\$62,868.00 to the Program Budget

\*\*\$5.00 a month for a year would add  
\$314,340.00 to the Program Budget

\*\*\$10.00 a month for a year would add  
\$628,680.00 to the Program Budget

That will purchase a lot of white canes, glasses, eye exams, and camper fees.

If you are interested in filling out a Pledge Card drop us an email or give us a call.

Chris Braswell from Orcam contacted LCI about doing virtual programs.

In this time of Covid, Club Programs are hard to come by. So, if you are looking for a Virtual Club Program give Chris a call.

His contact info is:

Chris Braswell  
Area Sales Manager- GA,  
NC, SC  
OrCam Technologies  
chris.braswell@orcaml.com  
mobile: (404) 285-4747

# CLUB NEWS



Seven Members from the South Iredell Lions Club received Melvin Jones Fellow Humanitarian Awards. The local Club also received a Special Honor because 100% of their membership are Melvin Jones Award recipients.

Members receiving award:

Max Barker, Darryl Cerro, Steve Lumpkin, Tim Nicholson, Ray Sepesy, Tommy Stutts and Grady Woodward.

## Leader Dogs for the Blind

I trust you are staying safe and well during of these trying times. I have been busy learning more about the many available videos and new material that is available from our home office in Rochester Hills, Mich. I have attended many Zoom meetings for training and information during the summer months and want to share this with you. Until that time, please contact Leader Dogs for the Blind; they will be happy to send you information and great fliers that you can share with your members. I wish I could come to your Clubs and share these with you but until then, please go to the website and enjoy the videos that are available. Seeing the dogs in training from birth to being placed in the hands of our VIPs is so rewarding!

Please continue to collect your change and your TABS for Leader Dogs and know that YOU are making a difference in the lives of so many who need our help. I miss being with you and look forward seeing you at our Fall District Convention.. Bring your TABS with you and stay safe during this time.

Lion Antha Reid, District Leader Dogs Co-Chairperson



## A Message from NCLI

We hope this email finds everyone healthy & safe during these trying times! Since March, Camp Dogwood & NCLI have experienced unprecedented economic challenges as the Covid-19 Pandemic has made it almost impossible to raise revenue through camp rentals and programs.

The Lions Clubs of North Carolina have had their ability to perform service projects and fundraisers severely restricted as well. We were very fortunate to receive a Payroll Protection Program grant of \$114,000 which paid for payroll, benefits & utility expenses for an 8-week period in May, June, and the first week of July. Understanding that since clubs have not been able to rely on their normal fundraising activities, our Brighter Visions kickoffs raised significantly less revenues this year than in years past.

The NCLI Board of Directors has authorized various cost saving measures in our ongoing efforts to remain financially sound until we and the country can recover from the pandemic. We have furloughed all part-time employees as well as 5 fulltime employees. In addition, the Mobile Eye Screening (MSU) program has been suspended through December 2020. This impacts 9 scheduled screenings as 2/3 of our screenings had already been canceled by the Lions Clubs themselves.

Our Matching Funds program will also be suspended effective September 20 through December as well. To offset the loss of Matching Funds to the clubs, you can contact our MSU Director Bryan Hoover for VSP Vouchers that will pay for eye exams and glasses at participating Optometrists. We have been using these vouchers for the last year in the MSU program and they work great! You will need to contact Bryan in advance of sending someone to the eye doctor as the patient will need to take the voucher with them when they visit the doctor. Bryan will mail the voucher to the club who will in turn give it to the patient.

In December, the NCLI Board will reevaluate our financial situation to determine if we will be able to reinstate the MSU & Matching Funds programs in January or extend the moratorium. I assure you that these actions have not been taken lightly and we are looking forward to getting back to normal as soon as possible! As we have taken significant measures to minimize our costs, we still have ongoing monthly expenses for power, water, phones, maintenance, and salaries of our remaining employees that must be paid.

Your Brighter Visions contributions and raffle ticket sales are needed now more than ever so please resolve to continue your clubs support of YOUR NCLI association!! You will be glad you did!! The Lions of North Carolina will persevere, and I am convinced we will come out of this pandemic stronger than ever! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call or email me.

Yours in Service!

PDG W. Durden Dean  
Executive Administrator, North Carolina Lions, Inc.  
828-478-2135 ext.223; [dudden@nclionsinc.org](mailto:dudden@nclionsinc.org)



## MOBILE SCREENING UNIT ANNOUNCEMENT

As many of you may have heard, the Mobile Screening Unit (MSU) and Matching Funds have been suspended until next year. On the MSU this past year we have been issuing VSP Vouchers to patients qualifying for the VSP Program. With the MSU being sidelined for the next few months, we want to still use these vouchers, so they are being made available on a first come first served basis. We have a very limited number of VSP Vouchers of various types, and we must use the appropriate voucher or it will be kicked out by VSP.

Every voucher is very specific as to what it covers and is listed in depth on each voucher type. If you have a need, please email me with your request and I will email you copies of all three voucher types for you to review (PLEASE NOTE THESE ARE NOT FOR USE AND ARE VOID).

We have one voucher that is Full Coverage, which covers a Comprehensive Eye Exam and single-vision or lined multifocal lenses. We have another voucher that covers Materials Only, which covers single-vision or lined multifocal lenses. The VSP voucher Sight for Students is for Students 19 years old and younger, it will also cover a Comprehensive Eye Exam and single-vision or lined multifocal lenses. You will need to look over the three different types of vouchers and decide which your patient qualifies for.

Once you determine which voucher type is correct for your patient you will fill out VSP Voucher Information Form, this form will need to be completed and emailed to [bryan@nclionsinc.org](mailto:bryan@nclionsinc.org). I will then process your request and if the applicant meets all criteria, the voucher will be mailed to the Lions Contact. You will then give the voucher to the recipient. These Vouchers are time sensitive as they expire on October 20, 2020. We plan to apply for more vouchers from VSP, but currently what we have is it.

Thank you and I hope you have a great day!

Bryan Hoover  
North Carolina Lions Inc.  
Mobile Screening Unit Coordinator  
1-800-662-7401 Ext 241  
Email : [bryan@nclionsinc.org](mailto:bryan@nclionsinc.org)





Dear Fellow Lions,

As of right now we have a total of \$35,670.00 pledged or given toward our goal of \$145,00!!! We are off to a GREAT start!!!!

Please remember if you would like for me to give a program for your club, I will be happy to do so. I am available to come in person or via zoom. I look forward to visiting the Rockwell club on October 6<sup>th</sup>.

I realize everyone is having a challenging time being able to hold their fundraisers. If there's anything I can do to help, please reach out.

Lion Christie Krestler  
Brighter Visions Chair  
[Ckestler04@gmail.com](mailto:Ckestler04@gmail.com)  
704-402-0121 (Cell)

District Brighter Visions Goal

**\$145,000**

The 2020 NC Lions VIP Fishing Tournament, scheduled for Oct. 19- 21 on the Outer Banks, has been cancelled due to health concerns for participants and volunteers related to the COVID-19 outbreak in North Carolina. With uncertainty on how long the state will be dealing with the coronavirus, the board of directors decided it was in the best interest of North Carolina Lions to cancel the 38th annual event. Typically, more than 500 Lions and guests participate in the world's largest fishing tournament for the blind and visually impaired.



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](mailto: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!!



## Fall Has Fell

Fall just came and reminded me that our first quarter of the Lion's year has occurred. I hope this article finds you and your family as well as your Club members safe and healthy.

This year will be one to remember or better yet, in some ways, to selectively forget. Perhaps, with restrictions in place, you find yourself with time to read or participate in a hobby such as knitting, sewing, and other handicrafts.

As your GLT (Global Leadership Team), perhaps you will consider browsing through the resources found in the Lions Learning Center. There you will find various topics that will hopefully be of interest to you. I particularly enjoyed the courses for Officers and others like Delegation, and courses on SWOT analysis and Goal Setting.

Speaking of SWOT and Goal Setting, your District NAMI team will meet (ZOOM) again on Sunday, Oct. 4 at 7PM. Your team is seeking leaders to serve on four focus groups: New Clubs, New Members, Rejuvenating Members, and Service. Let me know if you would like to join the conversation.

As you look to the Fall season, remember to find ways to encourage your Club to be active even in these difficult times. Look for projects individuals can complete while practicing social distancing. An example is sending greeting cards to those in assisted living facilities. Another is taking canned foods and dry goods to your local food bank.

Whatever you do, remember our motto of We Serve. It is a good time to both serve and learn. Stay busy, stay safe, stay involved, stay positive, and test negative. I hope you will consider joining our next NAMI meeting. We would love to see you there.

PDG George Culp GLT District 31-I liongeorgeculp@gmail.com 704 906 8568



North Carolina Lions have a  
NEW Facebook Group!

Check it out at:

**NC Lions MD-31**

## ANNOUNCEMENT

\*\*\*\*\*

DG Donald has mailed a box of materials to club presidents that includes district directories, an NCLI directory, Camp Dogwood raffle tickets, Brighter Visions brochures, and possibly some other items.

Be sure to share these materials with the appropriate individuals in your club.



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!!

**CONGRATS** to Lion Melissa Egelnick member of Lexington Downtown Lions Club for winning September's contest!

International Association of  
Lions Clubs  
Lion Donald Cobb  
District Governor, 31-I North Carolina  
3 Coleman Drive  
Sparta, NC 28675

