



District 31-I News

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



District 31-I Newsletter

November 2020

Issue 5

Member News

In Loving Memory

Of Lions who have passed this past month:

Member	Club
James McCall	Bethlehem

NEW MEMBERS!!!!

Member	Club
David Nicholson	South Iredell
Lynn Blalock	Sparta

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"I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back."

Maya Angelou



Volunteers Creating a Future — DG Donald Cobb

A Time for Thanksgiving, A Time for Giving

Even though things are different from what we are used to, the calendar pages keep turning as the year is coming to an end. November is the month we typically stop to give thanks and enjoy time with family and friends. As Lions, our family includes individuals across our district and state, whether they are friends we have made as Lions or friends we have made as we serve our VIPs and others in our community. While we continue to deal with COVID-19, we need to stop and give thanks for the blessings we have received as well as for our family and friends.

Many of our clubs around the district are still not meeting or are meeting by Zoom. Fundraisers have been put on hold by some of these clubs and members are concerned about being able to keep financial commitments to Brighter Visions and other organizations they typically support.

We also have several clubs that are meeting and have found ways to raise funds in these difficult times. Some have changed the way they raise funds to adapt to the times. Tickets have been sold for takeout meals with very good response from the community, 5K runs have been held, and some clubs have held successful golf tournaments. At least one club held a successful on-line auction of items donated. A few clubs have asked businesses that typically sponsor various fund-raising activities to donate funds, even though the activities were not held and these businesses have contributed in order to support the work of Lions. In each of these cases, clubs have adapted their fund-raising projects in order to keep the public safe.

Yes, it is difficult to raise funds to support our projects during the time when we need to keep our members and the public safe, but it can be done if you use a little creativity and “think outside the box.”

Not only are our clubs affected by COVID-19, but the services we offer our VIPs are affected as well. You probably know that Camp Dogwood has furloughed all part-time employees as well as 5 fulltime employees. The Mobile Screening Unit as well as the Matching Funds program have been suspended through the end of December. These steps were taken as a result of the loss of camp rentals and programs that provide funds for Camp Dogwood, as well as the decrease in Brighter Visions funds contributed by clubs. Even though contributions to Brighter Visions and rental income are down, monthly expenses such as electricity, water, telephones, maintenance, and salaries for remaining employees still have to be paid. As a result, our signature Lions camp is suffering as the income has decreased.

Your club may have made a contribution to Brighter Visions already this year. If you have, I want to thank you for doing so. If your club has not yet made a contribution, I would encourage you to do so as soon as you can. Camp Dogwood needs your support in order to keep the Lions tradition and programs alive. Even though it's a tough year, consider giving as much as you can. Our VIPs depend upon your support for a brighter future.

Before I close, let me make a comment about our district convention. As you know, we have postponed our convention and will not be holding it in November due to COVID-19. The health and safety of our Lions is our first priority and with the increasing number of individuals becoming infected with the virus, we do not want to take any chances. We are planning a one-day convention on March 20, 2021. Hopefully we will be able to hold our convention at that time. You will be receiving more information on the convention at a later date.

In the meantime, enjoy the Thanksgiving season, stay safe, and remember, as Lions, we are volunteers who create 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



1st Vice District Governor — H. Wayne Kennerly

Having to cancel our District I Convention in November has to be one of the most disappointing things that has happened in my 40 years in Lionism. Can you imagine the disappointment of our VIPs missing the summer at Camp Dogwood and missing the fishing tournament at the Outer Banks this year? This makes our disappointment of missing the convention seem less important when I think these two events might be the only time the VIPs can be with other visually impaired friends during the year.

This month we will be celebrating Thanksgiving with our families. We all need to be thankful for what we have and the freedom we all share. As Lions, we need to call our VIPs occasionally and wish them well. Again they will possibly miss out on all the festivities of Thanksgiving, and possibly even Christmas. We all need to think of ways to help our VIPs year round and not just on holidays.

October is normally membership month. With some clubs starting up again, I hope you are taking time to think of ways to increase your club membership. One of the best statements I have read about membership recently said that true success comes only when every generation continues to develop the next generation, teaching them the value and method of developing the next group of leaders. If we do not bring in new members into our clubs, train them, and explain to them what Lionism is all about, then many of our clubs will disappear. What a sad thought?

Most of our clubs are hurting for money due to not having our regular fund raisers. Many other clubs are having a hard time meeting our district goals. A few clubs have had golf tournaments, yard sales, BBQ sales, candy day and a new one -- a duck race on water! If you have a river near your club, this is an easy way to raise money. Just ask and I will explain how to have this fun event.

You have noticed that I have not had much to say about the pandemic. I try to concentrate on other things and not be consumed by thoughts of this virus. Mainly we can continue to serve by practicing social distancing, wearing a mask, and following the safety guidelines where we live.

Remember each person counts. Why not share Lionism?

Find us on the web at: NClions31I.org



State Lions Pins

District Governor Donald Cobb now has State Lions Pins available. They are \$2 each.

This year's pins feature famous North Carolinian Sam Ervin, Jr. Anyone wanting to purchase pins should email DG Donald at dwcobb@skybest.com.

Send items you would like posted on the webpage to
Lion Elizabeth Rummage at lionrummage@gmail.com.



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

How is Social Media Helping Lions Clubs across the country ...

One of the things that amazes me most in the world is the internet. For most Lions across the country who are in their 60's, 70's or even older, we don't understand the power of the internet. We have access to social media and most clubs don't even understand or realize what it could do for your clubs. A few Lions Clubs in our District have a website for their club. Most of those don't update and add club activities on a regular basis. Most clubs in our District say that this is the responsibility of the Club Secretary. I believe that may be wrong. Some Club Secretaries may be proficient in using the internet, but many are not. Each club should pick someone in their club to be the Club Internet Administrator. That person should keep up the club website, maybe run Zoom Meetings for the club, and be responsible for using social media to promote the club.

This is no small job. If your club does not have someone who can do that, I would suggest getting one of your Leos to help or maybe one of your children or grandchildren. Lion Susan and I are blessed with 5 of our 6 children, as well as many of their spouses, working in the world of technology. Not everyone has that luxury. Many clubs around the country are using social media to promote their clubs. However, only a small number of clubs in our District are using social media at all and most are not using it effectively. I have searched most of your clubs' social media presence on the internet and it is non-existent. Those clubs that are have very few followers (an internet term) on their website.

Let's talk about how using social media can have an impact. First, by adding activities to your club website on a continual basis. It will create a small increase in visitors to your site. The next thing you need to do is create a Facebook page for your club. Share your club Facebook Page with your members and your Facebook friends. Your Facebook page needs to be updated regularly with news of your club. Having a meeting? Create a Facebook event. This can be found by anybody looking for something to do. Having a fundraiser, create an event and then share it. Make sure your members are sharing it.

As an example, we have several Mint Hill Facebook Groups that focus on our town. One is called "What's Up Mint Hill" I will use this as an example. When we joined this Facebook Group and started announcing our activities it led to much more attention from our local residents. We have now had 10 food drives being announced on social media and collected over 5000 pounds of food for our local food banks. We had the highest turn out in years for our big fundraiser the 5K run. We raised over \$10,000 and all during the pandemic. All of this is showing up on our local social media sites and we are getting great compliments from people in our town. The interesting thing is that we are a smaller club than the local Rotary Club, the VFW, and other civic organizations and few of them have any social media presence whatsoever. The greatest thing about our social media presence is that has led to several new members joining the Mint Hill Lions in the past few months and new members lead to more ideas for fundraisers and future growth. And yet, we are still not good at it. We are in our infancy and still need lots of improvement. Many Lions Clubs are starting to do this across the country and we are still learning... And it is helping us to SERVE...

Isn't it time for your club to join Social Media and help your club grow and flourish?

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>



Calendar

Nov. 7th	10am	District Cabinet Meeting *use the address to the right to sign onto the Zoom meeting	https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84619293896?pwd=b0ZXU0FzUG8ydTJsOWp2Z2owVEZOQT09
Nov. 18th	8:30pm	NAMI Zoom Meeting *All district officers and club presidents encouraged to attend	Contact Lion George Culp for more information: LionGeorgeCulp@gmail.com
Nov. 15th	All Day	Peace Poster Club Winners Due	See article below for submission requirements



Peace Poster

I understand this has been a very unusual year for the Peace Poster Contest. Many schools have begun their school year as completely virtual; others have begun in Plan B and then back to Plan C, and others are in Plan A. These are trying times. Please encourage your clubs to participate in the Peace Poster Contest. The Theme is Peace Through Service. Your club's winning poster should be postmarked to DG Donald Cobb at 3 Coleman Dr. Sparta, NC 28675 by November 15. Thank you all in advance for your participation. Hope everyone is staying healthy and safe.

Dianne Culp

District Peace Contest Chairperson

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.

CLUB NEWS

WEST IREDELL LIONS CLUB

On September 29th, West Iredell Lions Club was finally able to hold their 3rd Annual Vision 5K/1 mile walk after delaying it from April numerous times. Attendance was lower than usual, but the serious runners were happy to be at an in-person event. Of course, the free drawings are always a popular.



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.

DENTON LIONS CLUB

A group of Dentonians promoting "Random Acts of Kindness" have installed 2 "Blessing Box"s in the community. Denton Lions Club assisted by purchasing and donating the boxes. The boxes are available 24 hours a day to anyone and are located near community hubs. Donations are being made by many in the community and the Lions Club makes sure the boxes are kept clean and no products are expired. Lion Christy Clark has spearheaded this project.



Christmas Craft Bazaar



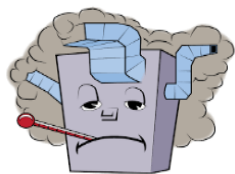
Saturday December 12th
2020 9:00AM - 2:00PM

Make a dent in your holiday shopping list!

Join us for this festive fundraiser!
Lunch will be sold at the event

Camp Dogwood on Lake Norman
7062 Camp Dogwood Drive Sherrills
Ford, N.C.

Vendors needed
for details call: 828-478-2135 ext.229



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 or 919.780.8819.

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



THE COCKMAN FAMILY AND BBQ DINNER FUNDRAISER

Benefitting Camp Dogwood!

Mark your calendars:

April 17, 2021

At Camp Dogwood Sherills Ford, NC

BBQ Dinner at 5pm

Lake Front Concert at 7pm

828.478.2135 for more info and tickets!

Build a Vision

In March, Lion Dianne and I were excited with the birth of our first grandson. Today, he is seven months old and after several years, we will likely make another trek to our local Build-a-Bear site. In you aren't familiar with Build-A-Bear, customers go through the process of selecting the necessary parts to build a bear that meets the needs of your recipient. The results of the participation is each of the family members submit their ideas toward the final product that creates the result of the bear for our grandson.

Build-a Vision

As the District NAMI chair, our team continues our effort to participate in our International challenge to focus on four areas of our organization down to the club level. The four focus areas are:

Rejuvenate Districts with new clubs

Revitalize clubs with new members

Re-motivate members with new fellowships and exciting service

Leader Support

The four groups are meeting between now and November 18 when we will meet again to discuss our progress. There is still room for others to join this effort. To assist in this effort, allow me to share with you a list of questions which your Zone Chairpersons have been asking each club.

Guiding Questions for Club Presidents

Membership

- What can you tell me about the members of your club (backgrounds, professions, etc.)?
- Have you experienced membership growth/decline in the last year? Why?
- What does your club do to make new members feel welcome and involved?
- Do new members stay with the club? If not, have those members given reasons for leaving?
- Is the club actively recruiting new members? If so, what recruitment strategies are being used? If not, why not?
- Would you consider your club a 'healthy' club? Why or why not?
- What are some of your goals for membership in the coming year?
- What are some of your challenges/concerns regarding membership?
- How can I best support you?

Leadership

- How do you encourage leadership development in your club?
- Are you able to fill leadership positions? Why or why not?
- Are newer members encouraged to pursue leadership positions within the club?
- What are some of your challenges/concerns regarding leadership?
- How can I best support you?

Service

- What are some of your club's recent service projects? How did they go?
- Are future service projects planned? What are they?
- How well are service projects meeting the needs of the community?
- How does the club actively involve new members in project planning/implementation?
- What are some of your challenges/concerns regarding service in your club?
- How can I support you?

Communication

- Have there been any past challenges in communicating with the zone chairperson or with the district?
- What is your preferred method of communication?
- How often would you like to communicate?

General

- Does your club have a long-term plan in place that identifies action related to club operations, service, leadership development, and membership growth?
- Has your club participated in the Club Quality Initiative?
- Are there any other issues/challenges that you would like to discuss?
- What do you need from me to be successful?

Please consider joining the NAMI process. If you are interested in meeting with these focus groups, please contact me or any of the names below.

Membership – PDG David Smoot 336-991-8731

dsmoot@triad.rr.com

Leadership – PDG Tim Williams 336-301-6361

twilliams6@triad.rr.com

New Clubs – DG Donald Cobb 336-372-2577

dwcobb@skybest.com

Service – Lion Ron Rich 704-662-8516 [cas-](mailto:casper101@windstream.net)

per101@windstream.net

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 li-
onGeorgeculp@gmail.com 704 906 8568





Hello Fellow Lions,

Just wanted to keep you updated on how much we have received for Brighter Visions. So far we have raised 40,843 of our 145,000.00 goal. We can and will raise the money we need to reach the DG Donald Cobb's goal. We are in this together!!

I had an awesome time speaking with the Rockwell Club. The food was amazing and it was great fellowshiping with fellow lions.

If your club would like for me to come and talk with you about Brighter Visions, I will be more than happy to do so. Please reach out to me at 704-402-0121.

Lion Christie Krestler
Brighter Visions Chair
Ckestler04@gmail.com

Join North Carolina Lions
on Facebook:

NC Lions MD-31

Suggestion for Services Projects for Oct thru Dec.

1. Collect can tabs for Leader Dog Program
2. Food Drive
3. Citizen Recognition
4. V.I.P. Christmas Party
5. Vision / Diabetes screening
6. Partner with Operation Christmas Child
7. North State military Christmas Boxes
8. Maintain a "Little Free Library"
9. V.I.P. Fishing Tournament
10. Partner with Angel Tree
11. Toys for Tots – Toy Drive
12. Partner with Toy Store for Jesus
13. Visit Nursing Homes, maybe bring a treat
14. Collect used pill bottles for countries in need
15. Recycle Eyeglasses
16. Distribute personal-need bags for Men or women shelters

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

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!!

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 Ron Staley

7935 Altacrest Drive

Concord, NC 28027 or rstaley@carolina.rr.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 Elizabeth Conrad
member of Lexington Downtown Lions Club
for winning October's contest!

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

