



District 31-I News

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



District 31-I Newsletter

January 2021

Issue 7

Member News

In Loving Memory

Of Lions who have passed this past month:

Member	Club
David Joseph Myers	Hasty
Ruth Hill	Pilot
Ray Costello	Rockwell
Tim Nicholson	South Iredell
Benjamin Hines	Taylorville

NEW MEMBERS!!!!

Member	Club
William Mesimer Jr	Denton
Denise Lafone	Elkin
Cornelius Green	Hickory Grove
Sherry Thompson	Hickory Grove
Jeffrey Oberlin	Kernersville

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*"Whatever has happened in the past year,
the New Year brings fresh
beginnings.... Let us be thankful for the blessings of
the past and the promise of the future."*

Peggy Toney Horton

Volunteers Creating a Future — DG Donald Cobb

Happy New Year to the Lions of District 31-I!

We have entered a new calendar year and the year 2020 is behind us. Doesn't it feel great to say that after all the things we have gone through in 2020? January means we can put the old year away and look forward to all the things the new year brings – a chance to start over and do those things we wanted to get done last year that we didn't do, as well as a chance to take advantage of new opportunities. And we can do this as Lions!

One of the things we can encourage our fellow members to do, especially during this time when many of our clubs are not meeting, is to make sure we all understand the Lions organization, how we operate, and what resources we have available. One way to do this is to go to the Lions Club International (LCI) website at www.lionsclubs.org. At the top of the page, click on Resources For Members. On the left side of the page, you'll see a list of resources under For Members. By clicking on the items underneath this heading, you will find a world of resources that provide information for both new Lions as well as Lions who have been around but may need a refresher on various aspects of Lionism.

If you have new members in your club, (and yes, we do have new members who have joined our clubs in the district during the past few months) you should ask them to visit the LCI website, look under Resources and then have them click on New Members. They will find a short video welcoming them to the Lions organization and additional information that will help them become familiar with Lions. By having new members go to this site, you will begin their orientation process and help them get off to a great start as new Lions.

In addition to the section for new members, there are other topics that can benefit all Lions. By clicking on Resource Center, one can find a wealth of information pertaining to such topics as Member Support, Membership Development, Service Activities, Communications, Club Administration, Leadership Development, Women's Initiatives, the Foundation, Campaign 100, and others. Each of these sections is designed to provide information Lions need to know as well as being a link to various forms needed.

In addition to the LCI website, the North Carolina Lions, Inc., website as well as the Lions District 31-I website is available to provide information for members as well. The NC Lions, Inc. website may be found at <https://nclionsinc.org> and the District 31-I website may be found at <https://nclions31i.org>. The North Carolina Lions, Inc., website provides information on the various programs and services offered by Lions across North Carolina and how Lions have assisted our communities. By clicking on the Members Area tab on the top right of the page, you will find access to the Multiple District 31 Constitution and By-Laws as well as the NCLI By-Laws. You will also find various Financial Reports including amounts clubs have contributed to Brighter Visions as well as club members who have received awards. If you haven't taken the time to look around both the NC Lions website as well as the district website, spend some time looking at them to find out more about what we as Lions do in our state.

Taking the time to learn about the Lions organization or to refresh our memory on things we do can help get us started on the right track for 2021!

ANNOUNCEMENT

Unfortunately, COVID-19 has carried over into 2021 and it appears that it will be with us for some time to come. While there are vaccines available and people are being vaccinated, it is going to be awhile before the vaccines are available to everyone, so that means we are still going to have to be careful and operate as we have been. Because of a medical condition I had years ago which could still affect my health, my doctors have told me I should avoid groups of people if at all possible and have almost gone so far as to forbid me from attending meetings with people across the state. I have finally decided to listen to them and as a result, I will not be making in-person district governor visits to clubs unless things clear up in the spring. For those clubs who are meeting by Zoom, I will be delighted to visit with you by Zoom and hope to schedule a meeting in the near future.



1st Vice District Governor — H. Wayne Kennerly

Thank goodness 2020 is behind us! Hopefully 2021 will bring us together again so we can meet in our individual Lions Clubs once again. With the two new vaccines now available in record time, one must think that soon we can see an end to this virus. Most Lions Clubs serve their local communities. We are looking at new challenges that we are all facing. Even though we cannot meet in large groups, many clubs are finding ways to raise money for their goals through new projects, such as drive thru meals, chicken dinners, and BBQ's. Some have even had golf tournaments and yard sales. What are you doing to keep your club healthy and active?

LCI had an incredible goal to reach out to triple the service of the number of people being served worldwide. This will reach over 200 million bringing good to our world.

With campaign 100, LCIF is striving to raise \$300,000,000 over a 3-year period. We are currently two-thirds of the way there. We will meet this goal which will give our members the resources to offer the help and hope to those in most need.

One of the best things happening when we secure a new member is that they will receive a new member kit that will offer much educational information about what Lions actually do. We sometimes take for grant everyone already knows what we do. Many times, people ask me what Lions do. How about you? Have you made a list yet of those businesses or people you plan on contacting in the near future? You need to start now so 2021 can be a much better year.

Remember each person counts. Why not share Lionism.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Find us on the web at: NClions31I.org

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

Thank You PDG Ron Staley!

For the past several years, PDG Ron Staley has managed our district's email service. In fact, PDG Ron along with another Lion first created the email service when he was in District E and then moved the service to District I whenever we combined districts. Not only has PDG Ron maintained the list of emails and been responsible for sending newsletters and other emails, he has personally paid for the service all these years. I think you would agree with me that we owe PDG Ron a big THANK YOU for helping us communicate with the district throughout these years!

PDG Ron has asked that we find someone else to handle the email service. Lion Susan Mathers from the Mint Hill Lions Club has graciously agreed to manage our email service and she has been working diligently to make this change. From now on, you may send items that need to be emailed to the district to Lion Susan at susancmathers@gmail.com. Lion Susan, thank you for being willing to assume the responsibility of handling our email service! Once again, a big THANK YOU to PDG Ron Staley for handling our email communications for the past several years and for all you have done for our district!

DG Donald Cobb

2nd Vice District Governor — Bill Mathers

Before I start this month's newsletter, I want to ask you all a favor. If you have had any changes to your current information such as change of address, email address, and other things, please go to mylci.org and update your information. If members of your club are not receiving this emailed monthly newsletter, please send your email address to susancmathers@gmail.com

And now for the January Newsletter:

Oh, what a year...2020. By the time you read this we will be into a NEW YEAR...2021. 2020 has actually sucked for all of us in so many ways. Can't see family and friends, cannot hug your loved ones, no travelling or doing fun things, wearing masks just to go to the store, virtual doctor's appointments, and even zoom meetings. I could go on and on, but we all know these things. But as Lions, 2020 made us think out of the box, change our focus, and go on in many different ways. We should be proud of being a Lion in 2020, more than any other year in Lion history. I am so grateful for what we, as Lions of District-I, have accomplished in 2020. Let us stop and reflect on what we have done, in spite of all the odds against us.

First, we learned to Zoom. Why is that important? Lions Clubs who learned to hold Zoom meetings stayed together. This enabled Lions Club across our district to continue to meet and working on projects. Not bad for a bunch of computer illiterates. I am very grateful for that. Second, by thinking outside the box, many of our Lions Clubs across our district came up with many new and innovative ways to serve our communities. Many clubs had food drives and I would venture to guess that our District has fed an enormous amount of the needy during these times. And we should continue to do more. I am very grateful for that. Third, many clubs have focused more on their immediate communities and local VIP's even more than ever with many of their projects. I am very grateful for that.

Fourth, many clubs have added new members during this time of crisis. I am very grateful for that. Fifth, most of us have stayed safe and been smart about caring for ourselves and loved ones during this time. I am REALLY grateful for that.

Sixth, clubs have been able to host many of their normal fundraisers. Some were done in different ways. Very, very, creative. We had golf tournaments, 5-K races, bar-b-que sales, and even silent auctions. And much, much more from many clubs. For that, I am very grateful. Seventh, and very dear to my heart as last year's district chair, we raised more money than ever before for Brighter Visions, which ended in July. Over \$154,000 for Brighter Visions. And for the new campaign, which started in July, we are stepping up again and raising a lot of money for this year's campaign. We are LIONS. WE SERVE... I am very, very grateful for that.

The Lions of District-I have been outstanding in 2020. Nothing has kept us from helping our communities. We have been the leaders for many of the towns we live in. We should all be very, grateful to be a LION in 2020. We will survive and continue to grow stronger and better. This year has taught us this...

And now, let us look ahead to 2021... A new year is about to begin... and Lions are going to be needed to Serve more than ever. I am grateful that we are all Lions of District-I.

Be safe and serve.



State Lions Pins

District Governor Donald Cobb 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.

Calendar

TBD	TBD In JAN	NAMI Zoom Meeting	All district officers and club presidents encouraged to attend. Contact LionGeorgeCulp@gmail.com to receive a Zoom invite.
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Lion Christie Krestler
Brighter Visions Chair
Ckestler04@gmail.com

District Brighter
Visions Goal
\$145,000



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!



Please welcome our NEWEST newsletter feature by our favorite Tail Twister, Lion Chris Beck!

IDIOTT CIRCLE

From our home office in District 31-I, right in the middle of beautiful downtown Bugtussell, comes our DG Donald Cobb's

TOP TEN NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FOR 2021:

- Add new books to my home library & finish coloring in my old books before I start a new one.
- Make so many baked goods for my besties that they will start calling me Paula Dean.
- Spearhead a campaign to make SPAM the state meat of North Carolina.
- Be a celebrity partner on Dancing with The Stars.
- Not go to the Gym on days that end in "y" to work on my figure so I can spend more time at home.
- Become a leading, successful, top notch, underwear model when my term of District Gov. is over.
- Not give myself unsanctioned haircuts with scissors & a mixing bowl.
- I will do less laundry & wear more deodorant.
Start wearing pants & not just shirts to all ZOOM Meetings.

AND DG Donald's #1 New Year's Resolution for 2021 is a tie:

- Get 2 tattoos on my "rumplestiltskin": left cheek = NEW YEAR, right cheek = NEW ME.
- NEVER, EVER TAKE SEEPING PILLS & LAXITIVES BEFORE GOING TO BED!!

Any questions, comments, or concerns can be forwarded to our District 31-I Office Manager, his picture & number are as follows:



Two rednecks were looking at a Sears catalog and admiring the models. One says to the other, 'Have you seen the beautiful girls in this catalog?' The second one replies, 'Yes, they are very beautiful. And look at the price!'

The first one says, with wide eyes, 'Wow, they aren't very expensive. At this price, I'm buying one.'

The second one smiles and pats him on the back. 'Good idea! Order one and if she's as beautiful as she is in the catalog, I will get one too.'

Three weeks later, the youngest redneck asks his friend, 'Did you ever receive the girl you ordered from the Sears catalog?'

The second redneck replies, 'No, but it shouldn't be long now. I got her clothes yesterday!'

Is this a good time to start a NEW CLUB?

At a recent NAMI meeting of the focus group for New Clubs, one of the participants mentioned that perhaps we should remind our club members of the availability of club types. Currently, all of us are members of a "Traditional" club. Several clubs are approaching their 100th year.

Lions International has recognized that one size does not fit all when it comes to a Lions Club. My hope is that through this article, members will realize the potential of starting a new club with this information on the available club types. Below is a brief description of each type.

Types of Clubs

Traditional Lions Club

Traditional community-based Lions clubs continue to be our largest source of new club development. This club option offers flexibility to reach new groups of people and serve a variety of communities.

Specialty Clubs

Launched in August 2017, the Specialty Club program was designed to create clubs in which members share a common interest or passion, allowing them to connect with one another on a deeper level. For example, they may share a hobby, profession, culture, common cause or life experience.

Forming specialty clubs allows groups of people around the world to turn their passions into rewarding service projects that directly benefit their communities. Joining a specialty Lions club is a great way to meet people who share common interests and build leadership skills while serving your community.

Club Branch

Club branches are a way that a club can diversify their membership by engaging a small group of at least five people who want to make a difference in their community. Club branches allow people to serve as Lions who may not be inclined to join the parent club.

Members of a club branch become part of an existing parent club but may hold independent meetings and activities. The parent club appoints a branch liaison to serve as the go-between for the parent and the club branch, allowing club branches a high level of autonomy from their parent if that is desired.

Virtual Clubs

Virtual Lions clubs use their phones and computers to serve their communities. These clubs establish a presence in a virtual space and coordinate their in-person service efforts using a variety of virtual channels.

Forming a virtual club is a great option when individuals are pressed for time, restricted by geographic proximity to a club, or have limited mobility, among other reasons.

Lioness Bridge Program

The Lioness Bridge Program makes it possible for Lionesses to honor and acknowledge their proud past while enjoying all the benefits, rights and privileges associated with Lions club membership.

Leo-Lions Club

Current or former Leos between the ages of legal majority through age 35, who have served as Leos for at least a year and a day, can continue serving their communities as Leo-Lion members!

Lions under age 36, who previously aged out of the Leo-Lion program may rejoin the program, by contacting their club secretaries. Those officers can update the member records in MyLCI by choosing the Leo-Lion member type on the edit member page.

As you can see, there are many opportunities available to new and existing members with these club types. As we look to the future, consider the club types that may work in your community. Lions International offer tools for each of the options. For more information, contact me.

Best of luck to each of you as we move into 2021. Yes, this is great time to start a new club. Happy New Year!

Source: <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/resources-for-members/resource-center>

PDG George Culp GLT District 31-I

liongeorgeculp@gmail.com 704 906 8568



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!!

CLUB NEWS

TROUTMAN LIONS CLUB

December 14 meeting was to deliver a Christmas Cheer Basket to a Troutman VIP. The basket contained various items that a blind person could enjoy: A Christmas Mug, Tea, Chocolate Kisses, Cookies, Peppermint Candies, Christmas Socks, CD of Christmas Music, Soap and Lotion, a Knitted winter hat. A Christmas Mask made by Charlene Overcash, and a generous Food Lion Gift Card. She was delighted and wants to thank the Lions of the community.



Club Secretaries: Most of you have probably noticed the new effort to improve our communication to our club members vis emails. The current lists are being purged and new lists are being created. As a district, we would like to have the ability to communicate with every member via email. While we understand that every member does not use email, we hope that club secretaries make an effort to get the information to these members using whatever method works best for you. Some clubs print out the newsletter and hand it to the member or mail it to them. The source of email addresses for us is from MyLCI. The ability to communicate to the masses requires valid email addresses in MyLCI. On a recent data download, we found that for 1043 members, only 655 had emails in MyLCI. That works out to 63%. Perhaps each of you can audit your membership on MyLCI and check with your members for any missing email addresses. This will assist our district's ability to communicate to the members. Thank you for your help. Let me know if I can help.

PDG Lion George Culp – GLT Chair email: LionGeorgeCulp@gmail.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 susanmathers@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!!

CONGRATULATIONS to Lion Mary McGuire from the Fairgrove Club for winning December's Prize!!

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

