

LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL

February 2026



STEVE CLINE
DISTRICT GOVERNOR 2025-26

A.P. SINGH
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT 2025-26



District 31 - I News and Happenings



2025-26 District Governor Team

Chris Beck - 2nd VDG, Steve Cline - DG,
Sandy Fraser-Thomas 1st VDG

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DISTRICT GOVERNOR STEVE CLINE

We are now halfway through the Lions' year. All of our goals are well on their way to being met, but we can't stop now. I hope everyone that attended the District Convention on January 9th and 10th had a good time. Our ID, Bert Nelson, and his wife had a good time. The cows made a great impression on him. Sandy did a great job on Fun Night Friday. North Carolina won the jeopardy contest. A lot of people dressed up. I still think Pam and I should have won. Ha, Ha

The Boutique, Zone baskets and auction brought in \$7240.00. This is the most since before the pandemic. I want to thank the convention committee, especially Theresa Matthews, Liz Steele, VDG Sandy Fraiser Thomas, Debbie Williams, Michelle Myers, Kathy Poirier, Sharon Weddington and Pat Johnson for their hard work.

We now have over \$103,000 for Brighter Visions. We are not finished. We still need \$47,000 or more for our goal of \$150,000. Linwood Lions Club has donated over \$15,000 for Brighter Visions. They have set the bar for the rest of the Clubs in the District to shoot for.

Christy Kestler, Debbie Williams, Cathy Critz and Betsy Anderson all received the President's Appreciation award, the fourth-highest award in Lions.

Like the Panthers, keep pounding until June 30th.

DG STEVE CLINE



Dear Lions of District 31-I

Greetings:

A heartfelt congratulations and thank you to District 31-I for showing up for our Convention last week. You guys are AWESOME!

It was great seeing so many fellow lions at one location. Let us do it again next year.

A special thank you to the clubs that have made special donations for the hospitality room. I appreciate every one of you, your kindness matters. To the Convention Committee, all of you worked extremely hard to make it a success, and it was. We had a fun time and enjoyed every moment of it. Again, Thank you, Thank you, and Thank you. Now, let us all get back to working on our District Governor goals of bringing in at least two members per club.

Yours in Lionism,
Lion Sandy Fraser-Thomas
1 st Vice District Governor
2025 2026
Salisbury Lions Club
980-892-2439

“I want my whole team to succeed, not just me, all of us.”



2nd Vice Governor - Chris Beck

Hello Fellow Lions!!

It's been a busy time as your 2nd VG as I've been attending Club meetings, Zone meetings & District Conventions for District L & District N & S. I was supposed to attend District O Convention the 23, 24 of January, but it was postponed to Feb. 13-14 in Greensboro, due to the possibility of Winter weather coming in.

I've enjoyed representing our district at these conventions & I have answered the same type of question at the 2 conventions I attended. District L had their convention before our District had ours, & the question was "What are y'all doing for your District Convention in District I? Whatever y'all plan, we know it's going to be good! Your District knows how to plan a convention, & we know the Lions will turn out for it! Y'all always have the best convention in our state. How do y'all continue to do it? I told them we have a great group of Lions across our District that plans our convention & a great group of Lions that will show up to participate!

I attended District N & S joint convention in Greenville, NC, on Jan. 16-17. The comments I heard was " District I had another great convention & that a large number of Lions were there. They all caught me with a big smile on my face, & I told them what a great convention we had, I wish they would have attended to witness it for themselves! I told them we plan on doing it all again next year & I invited them to come & experience it for themselves! Then they'd have the know-how in how we planned our convention, & it would help them in planning theirs! If you would like to be part of our planning team for next year's convention, I'm extending a humble invitation to attend our planning session to plan next year's convention. Be on the lookout for the invite to be part of the team, you don't have to be a district officer, a PDG, or an officer in your Club, but have the heart & ideas to make our 2027 Lions Convention a huge success! I was invited to be part of this team by PDG Lion Alan Thompson over 25 plus years ago & I have never regretted it! I've made so many friends from across our state, met IDs from other states & other countries, many of them are still close friends! I will say this without any hesitation, you'll never know who you'll meet, the lifetime friendships you'll make & the fun you'll have!

Have a great day & a wonderful week!!

Best Wishes,

Lion Chris Beck

2nd Vice Governor



Club News



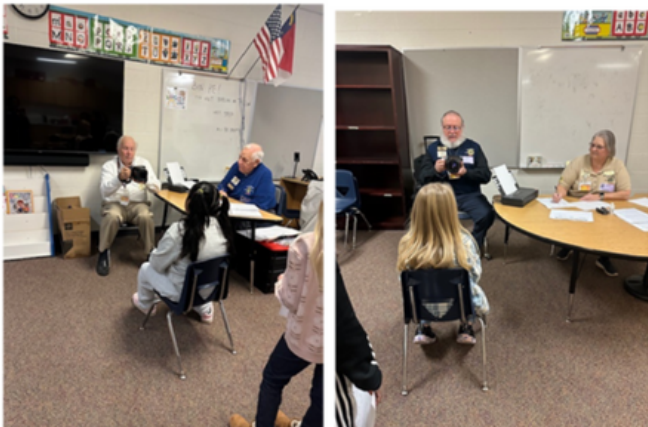
Charlotte Southern



Our club sponsored and participated in the “Breakfast in the Dark” event at Lions Services in Charlotte on January 14, 2026. We gained a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by individuals who are blind or have low vision.

Our club members attended the District 31-I Mid-Winter Convention in Clemmons, NC on January 9th and 10th. Seen here with Lion Sandy Fraser, our new District Governor elect.

Concord



The Concord Lions Club has been very busy with vision screenings throughout Cabarrus and Kannapolis Schools!! Thank you, Terry Cauble, from the Mt. Pleasant Lions Club for being a part of our team.

Mount Pleasant



The west Iredell Lions Club had District Governor Steve Cline induct Lion Lauren Nichols on December 11th. We are so excited to have her join our club! She is amazing!

Club News

Salisbury



Nine members from Salisbury LC attended District 32-I Family Fun Night.

West Iredell



The West Iredell Lions Club rang the bell for Samaritan's Purse on December 20th. Our club truly enjoyed the opportunity to serve our community and give back during the holiday season. We look forward to doing this again next year!

N&S District Fun Night



Nine members from District 31-I attended District N& S Convention Friday Fun Night.

Have a Story?
The newsletter editor has a new email address.
Please send your story with pictures attached to lions31newsletter@gmail.com, by the 20th of each month.

Member News

In Memoriam Of Lions No Longer Able to Serve:

PDG Lenual Forsyth - West Iredell Club



We are sorry for your loss!

Welcome New Members

Harrisburg

Lucille G Mann - sponsored by Mary Craig

Lexington Downtown

Robert Lee Holton - sponsored by Randy Everhart

Sparta

David Nichols - sponsored by Bobby Ragland

Governor Steve Cline Club Visits

February

3rd - North Charlotte

March

10th - Kernersville
16th - Hickory Grove

April

22nd - Lake Norman

From PDG Theresa Matthews

Global Service Team Chair

What's the hardest thing about reporting your Club's activities on the Lions Portal

Dear Lion Leader, Lions and Leos

Take action to make our communities better. We lead with kindness, make a lasting impact, and change lives. As a service leader, you may be asked questions about club service. Some common questions are:

What types of service do clubs provide? Each club chooses how they serve to meet community needs. The types of service are:

- * Service activities, such as vision screening, tree planting, and serving meals
- * Advocacy, which includes community awareness and education, legislation, and public policy
- * Donations to individuals and organizations, including Lions Clubs International Foundation
- * Fundraising, when money is collected to enable service
- * Service support activities, such as meetings, events, and administrative tasks that enable service

How do we count the number of people served?

Often, measuring service impact is straightforward. For example, if your club hosts a diabetes educational event, just count the number of people who attend. However, counting beneficiaries for activities like caring for our environment can be more challenging.

In some cases, clubs serve in ways that are more challenging to measure, like cleaning a park, holding a fundraising dinner or promoting awareness of a cause. Learn more about what types of activities can be reported, what metrics are collected and how beneficiaries are counted in the Measuring Service Impact

(https://cdn2.webdamdb.com/md_EojtS3XXbZg5.jpg.pdf?v=1) resource

https://cdn2.webdamdb.com/md_EojtS3XXbZg5.jpg.pdf?v=1

Thank you for choosing to be a service leader. If you have additional questions, contact us by email at serviceactivities@lionsclubs.org

The Service Activities Division Team

And Who Can Report Service --

For clubs and districts through the Lion Portal:

Lions club president, Lions club secretary, Lions club service chairperson, Multiple district / district global service team (GST) coordinator, Multiple district / district / club administrator Multiple district / district / club information technology chairperson, District / club protocol chairperson, Guiding Lions (for sponsored club).

Club secretaries do need to sign in and confirm/submit the reports.

Please contact me at 336-906-2510 or mkmsales@mindspring.com. (mailto:mkmsales@mindspring.com)

Just leave a message if I can't answer at the time. I'll be happy to walk you through the process.

PDG Theresa

102nd ANNUAL NORTH CAROLINA LIONS STATE CONVENTION



REGISTRATION FORM

(Registration is required, even if not purchasing meals)

WELCOME TO THE CHANGE!

April 17-19, 2026, Greensboro/High Point Airport Marriott

NEW! Scan this QR Code for online registration



<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/102nd-annual-north-carolina-lions-state-convention>

- OR - mail this completed form and payment **NO LATER THAN APRIL 3** to:

PDG Susan O'Brien, 1003 Croyden Court, Fort Mill, SC 29715

Lions Club Name: _____ District: _____ Phone : _____

| Indicate if Attendee is a "Lion" or "Guest" & Choice of Entrée (√) | | | Fri Dinner | Sat Brkfst | Sat Banquet | |
|--|-----------|---------------|------------|------------|------------------|-----|
| FIRST NAME | LAST NAME | Lion or Guest | Taco Bar | | Boneless Chicken | Veg |
| 1. | | | | | | |
| 2. | | | | | | |
| 3. | | | | | | |
| 4. | | | | | | |
| 5. | | | | | | |

Please indicate only the food allergies that may result in a medical emergency (e.g. nuts): _____

| Event | Meal Cost | Meal Count | Event Total (Cost x Count) |
|--------------------|-----------|------------|----------------------------|
| Friday Fun Night | \$15 | | |
| Saturday Breakfast | \$15 | | |
| Saturday Banquet | \$38 | | |
| TOTAL DUE: | | | |

For Check Payments: Payable to....."NC LIONS STATE CONVENTION"

For Credit Card Payments, complete the following:

Card Number

Exp Date

Sec Code

Zip

*******DON'T DELAY – CALL OR CLICK TO RESERVE YOUR ROOM!*******

Lions room rate of \$132.00 (plus tax/service charge) is only available until **MARCH 26, 2026**

Call 1-888-236-2427 – OR - Click the link below or to request the special room rate:

[CLICK HERE to book at the group rate for "North Carolina Lions 2026 State Convention"](#)

AD FORM

2026 NORTH CAROLINA LIONS COUNCIL STATE CONVENTION

Welcome to the Change!

April 17-19, 2026

Greensboro/High Point Airport Marriott
Greensboro, North Carolina



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT of the NC LIONS of Multiple District 31

Ad deadline: February 1st, 2026

Name of Club, Business or Individual: _____

Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Approval Signature: _____

INSTRUCTIONS:

Please include payment with Ad Design.
Make checks payable to:
NC Lions State Council Convention

Mail to:

Susie Dailey
4304 Waterbridge Court
Gibsonville, NC 27249

Please Check Box Indicating the Ad Size:

| | | |
|----------------------|--------|--------------------------|
| Back Cover | \$1500 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Inside F/B Cover | \$1250 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Full Page (8-1/2x11) | \$ 300 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Half Page | \$ 150 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Quarter Page | \$ 100 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Business card | \$ 50 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Cash: \$ _____ or Check #: _____

Credit Card Amount

(Charge): \$ _____

If applicable, e-mail Ad File To: lionsusied@gmail.com

Debit or Credit Card# _____

Exp. Date: ____ / ____ Zip Code: _____ CVV#: _____

For Club Use: Ad Sold by: _____ Phone: _____

Club Name: _____

For questions, please contact Convention Ad Chair Susie Dailey at:
704-439-6278

SHAZAMM!! District I is doing well in our Brighter Visions Campaign this Lions year! It's NOT your Brighter Visions Chair doing the work, but it is the Lions across our district who deserve all the CREDIT! At the time of this article, our district stands at \$102,000.00 plus for this Lions year, with our goal being \$150,000.00.

To quote an American poet, Jerry Reed, "We have a long way to go & a short time to get there, We're NCLF bound, just watch old District I run!" YEAH!! We have less than \$50,000.00 to go to achieve our goal, but I know we're going to make our goal & then some!! We raised \$7,375.00 at our convention through The Tail-Twisters Auction, the Brighter Visions Boutique & the Zone Baskets.



The Linwood Lions contributed \$17,000.00 & the Concord Lions over \$2,500.00, to our Brighter Visions campaign this year, this past week! Our District is #1 in overall contributions this year, #1 in the percentage of our Gov. Goal at 65%, #1 in \$ per member at \$115.54! This is what makes this Committee Chair happy! But we can't afford to let up!

We were over \$100,000.00 under our goals from last year, so let's help make this number decrease across our state. Plus, we have bills year-round, so PLEASE continue to send your monies in and don't wait until the end of our Lions year! In the words of another American poet, Gomer Pyle, "Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!" This is not for only what you & your Club HAS DONE, but also for what you & your Club WILL DO!

I'll be happy to come & speak to your Club, just call me 704-213-0891 (Cell #) or email me c.beckster@hotmail.com and we'll set a date!

Thanks again, Lions!



A reminder to everyone about the importance of proper documentation when sending payments to the Foundation for Memorials, Honorariums, or Awards. To ensure your club receives the appropriate credit and your honoree gets their acknowledgment cards, please make sure to include the completed forms required for each type of contribution.

For Brighter Visions Donations or Camp Contributions made by personal check, please write the club name in the memo line of the check or include a note in the envelope to help us identify your contribution.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for helping us ensure everything is processed smoothly.

VISION

5K RUN

& WALK

A fun, family-
friendly event
for all fitness
levels!

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2026

STATESVILLE SOCCER
COMPLEX
6:30 PM

SUPPORT WEST
IREDELL LIONS
CLUB

Register now at

[HTTPS://RUNSIGNUP.COM/RACE/N
C/STATESVILLE/3RDANNUALLIONS
CLUBVISION5K](https://runsignup.com/race/N/C/STATESVILLE/3RDANNUALLIONSCLUBVISION5K)

For more information:

CALL 704-402-0121



LIONS SERVICES NEEDS

North Charlotte Lions Club is requesting help in fundraising for a need at Lions Services Inc. in Charlotte. An ice maker used by those at Lions Services must be replaced due to its age at a cost of \$5000. The ice machine is used in the breakroom, and everyone has access to it.

The club would greatly appreciate donations towards the project from other Lions Clubs and individuals. Checks can be sent to Lions Services Inc., PO Box 561987, Charlotte, NC 28256. Be sure and mark "For Ice Maker".

North Charlotte Lions Club is a unique part of District 31-I. The club members are visually impaired or blind and are employees of Lions Services which has a vision to create a world where blind and visually impaired individuals can feel empowered through meaningful employment while building a strong community together. Having a Lions Club in the facility is a great opportunity for empowerment. The club helps members and others who work at Lions Services with needs.

Lions Services is a manufacturing facility that creates an accessible work place that has a mission of helping the blind help themselves since 1935. The organization was created by the Lions Clubs of Mecklenburg County and has its own board of directors which includes Lions and other community leaders.

DISTRICT 31-I SIGHT & HEARING CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Can you hear me now? We've all heard about hearing conservation needed within the workplace for auto mechanics, construction workers, etc. But what about everyday life such as attending concerts, sporting events, riding lawnmowers, using power tools, etc.? Following are some tips that might help with hearing conservation: lower the volume on audio equipment, wear hearing protection earmuffs or earplugs, each hour or so, take 10 minute breaks from loud noises, use smart phone apps to measure noise levels, keep your ears dry to avoid infections, and have your hearing checked. Also, the NC Lions Mobile Screening Unit (MSU) offers hearing screenings, and your local Sams Club offers free hearing tests.

Lion Betsy Anderson, Chair
Dist. 31-I Sight & Hearing Conservation Committee
Cell: 828-265-7440
Global Service Team Chair

AUCTION FOR BRIGHTER VISIONS

The Mt. Pleasant Lions Club invites fellow Lions to our annual Brighter Visions Auction to be held February 26 at the Mt. Pleasant Club Den located at 8595 Park Drive, Mt. Pleasant NC. Dinner will be served at 6:00 PM with the auction to follow. If you would like to order a meal and attend, please contact Lion Robyn Cauble at 704-794-7799 by February 21, 2026, 6:00 PM. Meal cost is \$10.00 and can be paid at the door. An evening of fun and fellowship is promised as we raise funds for Brighter Visions.

MOBILE SCREENING UNIT

The Mt. Pleasant Lions Club is sponsoring the Mobile Screening Unit during the Active Living and Wellness Expo being held on March 18, 2026, from 10:30 am – 2:00 pm at the Cabarrus Arena and Events Center, 4751 NC Highway 49 N, Concord, NC. Additionally, exhibitors will be on-site to share health and wellness information. Admission to the event and parking is free. Please share this information with those in your area within driving distance that may be in need of a vision or hearing screening at no charge. If you have not had an opportunity to check out how spectacular our Lions Mobile Screening Unit is or would like to see how the vision and hearing screenings work, this is a great opportunity to do so.

CLUB OFFICER TRAINING IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

Yes, plans are now underway for the 2026 District 31-I Club Officer Training Institute! We will again be holding a one-day event at First Evangelical Lutheran Church (320 S State St, Lexington, NC) on Saturday, April 25, beginning at 9:00 AM. Besides the wonderful learning opportunity and the chance to interact with some other great people, coffee, water, and light refreshments will be available. Also, keep in mind that having your club's officers attend training is a requirement for eligibility for the Club Excellence Award.



Yes, we will be offering ZOOM training later, but I strongly recommend attending the in-person Institute on April 25! There are really great reasons to do so (in addition to the great people, coffee, water, refreshments, and CREDIT FOR CLUB EXCELLENCE mentioned above). Some of the greatest people that I know are Lions whom I would not have met without attending events like this. If you positively can't be with us on April 25, certainly plan to join us for the ZOOM training, but, if you can, come rub shoulders with us at the District 31-I Club Officer Training Institute!

PCC Tim Williams
GLT Coordinator, 31-I



Lions International

Dear Lions Club Officer,

Congratulations on your club's success during the start of this exciting 2025-2026 Lion Year. As the first half of this exciting Lion year approaches, it is important to review your club's roster ahead of the upcoming dues billing. By reviewing the club's roster, you are ensuring that it is up to date, and your club avoids being billed for inactive members. Log into the [Lion Portal](#) or your regional reporting system to update.

For questions on how to access the portal or make changes, visit the [Lion Portal Resource webpage](#) to review videos, FAQs and more. For additional assistance, contact us at lionssupport@lionsclubs.org.

Lions International has gone paperless. Log into the [Lion Portal](#) and navigate to My Club – Club Statements to check your club's balance, make payments and see outstanding balances. Reviewing and paying your club's balance regularly helps keep your club in good standing. For questions regarding your club's statement, please contact Membership Billing at membershipbilling@lionsclubs.org.

Thank you for your continued leadership and dedication to strengthening your club and serving your community. We appreciate your efforts to keep your club's information current and your membership strong. For club support, please contact us at clubofficers@lionsclubs.org.

Sincerely,

District & Club Administration Team

North Carolina Lions **Camp Dogwood**

Camp Dogwood Raffle Tickets on sale now!

Get your Raffle tickets online now!

All proceeds go to the maintenance of Camp Dogwood for the Blind and Visually impaired.

Prizes include \$15,000 Grand Prize!

\$500 \$400 \$300 \$200



Use the QR Code above to purchase online.

Tickets are \$5 each or 3/\$10 or 7/\$20

Tickets purchased online will be filled out and directly placed in for Drawings. Tickets will also be distributed at Brighter Visions Kickoffs in your District.

For More Information on local foundations and camp Dogwood, please click on the links below.

<https://nclf.org/>

<https://nclionscampdogwood.org/>

<https://dogwoodlakenorman.org/>

FIRST FRIDAY FISH FRY

HARRISBURG LIONS CLUB

507 PATRICIA AVENUE

704-455-3738

harrisburglionsclub@gmail.com

FIRST FRIDAY EVERY MONTH

4:00 pm to 7:00 pm



Fillet Flounder & Shrimp

Chicken Tenders

French Fries or Baked Potato

Slaw Red or White

Hush Puppies

1 Dessert & Iced Tea



ADULTS \$14.00

SENIORS \$12.00

CHILDREN 3-8 \$4.00

CHILDREN 9-12 \$6.00

(Children under 3 years of age eat free)

SOFT DRINKS \$1.00

BBQ Sandwich \$5.00 BBQ Tray with FF & Hushpuppies \$7.00

TAKE OUT Chooses \$12.00

Fried Fish, Shrimp and Chicken Tenders

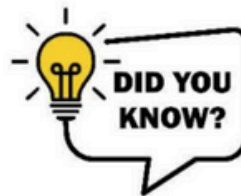
French Fries or Baked Potato

Slaw and Hush Puppies

Add a Soft Drinks \$1.00 or Dessert \$2.00

All Proceeds to benefit Lions Club Blind charities.

Ask about using our club house for your next party or event!



Sight and Hearing Conservation

PROMOTE GOOD EYE HEALTH HABITS TO ENSURE LONG-TERM VISION HEALTH

- ❖ See your optometrist to detect potential vision issues early
- ❖ Use proper eye protection to prevent environmental risks and injuries
- ❖ Reduce screen time
- ❖ Maintain adequate hydration

NOTE: If you would like some of our District 311 Sight and Hearing tri-fold brochures email: cathycritz@gmail.com.

FROM THE EDITOR

The February Issue of the District Newsletter includes lots of information about upcoming events. Here you will find the information on the current efforts and plans for growth and service.

Please feel free to continue to submit your announcements and articles for future editions. All submissions need to be submitted to the editor with a DEADLINE of the 20th of each month.

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

Lion Jennifer Merry
lions31newsletter@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. Provide any links to registration forms for easier printing.

Email address corrections or additions should be sent to
Lion Debbie Williams
debw84483@gmail.com

Yours in Lionism,
Jennifer L. Merry, editor
lions31newsletter@gmail.com