



District 31-N Newsletter

July 2021 Vol. VII Issue I

And A Good Time Was Had By All

This year's Awards and Installation Banquet was held on June 5th at the Country Squire near Warsaw. Take a look at the photos below that capture some of the many great moments.



HAPPY
4th of july



District
Governor
Robert Block



1st Vice
District
Governor
Mayra
McCloud



2nd Vice
District
Governor
Carlie Metts

Thoughts From Our District Governor

Lions of District 31N,

Wow, it's amazing how fast time goes by...here we are...District Governor...

Marie, the boys, and I are excited and honored to be able to serve you all. Many, if not all, of our clubs are resuming in person meetings and being able to hold functions. We are getting back to being able to physically serve our communities and interact with others to get the word out about Lions.

This year I want our clubs, zones, regions, and district to focus on the understanding of unity and family. Over the last two years of this pandemic, we have had to find creative ways to keep in touch and keep moving forward. We have introduced Zoom, Google Meetings, and revamped MyLion to provide the ability to unite from afar. I urge each club to continue to utilize these resources, as it can draw community members, who might not have considered joining Lions before, but find that this is a drawing factor for them. I ask that clubs get creative and put on service projects in their communities that you might not have considered before. Remember, if you don't try you have 100% failure rate, but if you try you decrease your percentage of failure to a minimum 50%, if not even less! If you are reading that and say "well we don't have enough members or members who can work functions" then call your neighboring clubs or zone chair and work to get assistance for the project to go on. Membership comes from involvement and action, not from sitting around a table "talking".



I want to be clear that I believe our club meetings, district meetings, and so on, are important and must occur, but that cannot and should not be the foundation of our club. Service must be our foundation and the pillars of our club. A project that services 20 people is just as important as a project that serves 1,000 people, because we made a difference for someone, including how our Lions and non-Lions see us.

I am excited to have 1st Vice District Governor Mayra and 2nd Vice District Governor Carlie serving by my side and all of our cabinet chairs, zone chairs, and region chairs. I know that we have a team put together that is action driven and willing to find ways to be involved. We will challenge you, respect you, and serve by your side.

I have heard from several clubs to schedule visits, and I am excited to visit! Lions Mayra and Carlie will be available for visits as well and all chairs. Our committee chairs will also be looking for individuals who want to learn, grow, and potentially one day help serve the district in a chair position. We need the efforts of EVERYONE. Share ideas, be involved, and love what Lions do. This is what makes a family, what will grow us, and what will lead us to success at every level. Thank you for believing in me, and know that my governor's jacket is off, my work shirt is on, and I'm ready to come and help you be the best you can be so call me, email me, or text me when your service projects are happening and I will do all I can to come serve by your side.

Sincerely,

Lion Robert C Block Jr and family
District Governor – District 31N

New Bern Lions Club
Cell:252.229.5099

From the Desk of Our 1st Vice District Governor

Hello Lions! As most of you know, my “Lion Passion” is technology for the visually impaired... and I, and available folks from our committee, travel all over NC to try out, critique, test or demo cool tech. And then tell YOU about them so YOU are aware of the technology in case you know someone who can use it.

Very recently, Enchroma, the leading makers of color blind corrective lenses, sent us assorted pairs to try out.

I asked a couple of our Lions in Fayetteville to try them on. Lion Rick from Fayetteville Community Lions was the first. He is “shade blind”. He put them on and it took a few minutes to “click” for him, but then he made many comments about the difference in brightness of the colors and the amount of detail in a leaf, and in flower petals! He drove home with the glasses and was fascinated by everything he was seeing because of brightness and color contrasts he had not seen before! The next person that tried them on was Lion Sandy, who is co-chair with me on our “Tech Committee For The Visually Impaired.” She is not only a V.I.P, but also colorblind! She tried testing the glasses and was thrilled! For her, the glasses kicked in immediately and she was able to see differentiation of color veining in plant leaves, color separation in flowers, and saw my sweater as a different color all together! She, originally, before putting on the glasses, thought that my sweater was brown but was actually olive green! These glasses do not cure color blindness, but while wearing them, the color blind will see color as it’s meant to be. There is no guarantee... But it works for 70% of the red/green colorblind folks that try it. There is no tech yet that helps with blue/yellow color blindness... Yet! If interested in testing this or other tech, and help others at the same time, please contact myself or your local TFTVI committee person in your local Lions club.



Keep roaring! And have a wonderful 4th of July!

1st VDG Mayra McCloyd



Notes From Our 2nd Vice District Governor

Greetings Lions;

Most of you know me as Lion Carlie Metts, son of PDG Carlton and Lion Anne Metts. I have met a lot of great Lions over the years and have appreciated the encouragement to run for Governor over the years. I am looking forward to working with each of you as your 2nd Vice District Governor this year. This past year has proven that we as a whole can overcome any type of adversity if we work together. As our communities have opened up, I look forward to us hitting the ground running with our projects in the district. There are many needs but two close to my heart are our biggest projects being Brighter Visions and Camp Dogwood. I truly believe if every club participates we can reach our Governor's goal. Our chair, Lion Gene Goetz has worked hard these past two years trying to help raise the funds in the district for Brighter Visions and Camp Dogwood. With the pandemic putting a strain on the clubs, Lion Gene has done a wonderful job. With no stumbling blocks in his way this year I would love to see our district meet its goal.



I look forward to working with District Governor Robert Block this year. We have become friends over the years with our two clubs working together in New Bern. As I sit typing this article, I keep glancing at his pin with two words that keep catching my eye. "Family and Service". I believe most of us got into Lions either due to Family, Service or both. What I have learned over my years as a Lion, we all are Family and We all Serve. I want to challenge each of you to develop our District to being one big family and serve our communities better than ever.

Last but not least, Information Technology. I have done this position for a long time and look forward to all of the challenges. Yes, I said challenges. Without challenges we never can grow, gain knowledge or solve problems. This year we have added a couple of Lions to help our district to grow. Lion Nicole Corbett from the Fayetteville Community Lions and Lion Emilie Metts from the New Bern Twin Rivers Lions. Both have a great deal of knowledge and expertise in the field. I look forward to new and great things coming from this group of Lions. More will come out in the coming months on how we are expanding our services.

So Lions let's remember the challenge I have given each of you. Let's develop our District to being one big family and serve our communities better than ever.

Yours in Lionism,
Lion Carlie Metts
2nd Vice District Governor



Brighter Visions Year End Report

BRIGHTER VISIONS END OF YEAR RESULTS

As of June 25th, 31-N is at \$73,009.28, (73% of our goal of \$100,000). Here's how we did compared to the other districts.

District L 65%
District I 73%
District O 99%
District N 73%
District S 73%

Club Results

Gold 100% or greater: Angier, Shallotte, Washington Evening, Kenansville, Godwin, Smithfield, Kinston, Lumberton, Pikeville, Saint Pauls, Western Harnett, Kinston Ram Neuse, New Bern, Pine Level, Buies Creek and Dunn Mary Stewart Community, Goldsboro Downtown, New Bern Twin Rivers, and Burgaw

Silver 75% or greater: Goldsboro Host, Clarkton, Clinton, Southport, Hampstead, Jacksonville New River, Pembroke

Bronze 50% or greater: Wilmington

Multiple District Results

We were short of the goal by \$123,981.44

Camp Dogwood Raffle

Our district Camp Dogwood Ticket sales at \$18,191.00 with an average of 1.61 books per member.

The **top 5** clubs are: #1-Lumberton \$3,760 #2-Western Harnett \$1,582 #3-Southport \$1,500, #4-Kinston \$812 #5- Pine Level \$780.

**This has been a challenging year for fundraising. I want to say
“Thank You”**

to all the clubs who have put forth an extra effort to contribute.

DON'T FORGET THE BRIGHTER VISIONS KICKOFF ON AUGUST 1ST.

Bob Timberlake Raffle Sales

The Bob Timberlake Raffle will continue for the 2021-2022 year with the print shown below;

Mountain Flurries. Tickets will be available starting at the **Brighter Visions kickoff on August 1st.**



Thank You for your continued support.
Lion Gene Goetz Brighter Visions Co-chairperson

Brighter Visions Year End Report



Fellow Lions,

As we come to the end of what I believe we can all agree has been a very difficult year, I want to thank all of you for your service and perseverance!

I truly believe the Lions of North Carolina will come out of our pandemic year stronger than ever and rededicating ourselves to **Service** to those most in need throughout our great state!

As you know, our **Brighter Visions Campaign** is the lifeblood that powers our statewide services! From our VIP Camps, our ability to offer camps to children with Diabetes, Cancer and Special Olympians, Eye & Hearing screenings to thousands of children & adults, providing comprehensive eye exams and glasses at reduced prices or free through our VSP Voucher program, recycling of tens of thousands of prescription glasses, readers & sunglasses, the recycling of hearing aids, college scholarships for children of blind and visually impaired parents, free white canes for the blind and visually impaired and so much more is all made possible by your support of **Brighter Visions**.

The 2020-21 Lions year ends in one week on June 30!

If your club or you individually have already contributed to **Brighter Visions**, THANK YOU!!

If you &/or you club have not contributed to this year's **Brighter Visions Campaign**, please consider doing so! We are currently \$146,191.44 short of our budgeted 2020-21 goal. Every contribution counts no matter how large or small!

You and those we serve will be glad you did!!

Thank you!!

Yours in Service!

Lion Durden

Club News

06/25/21

Kinston Host Lions has just finished up a really good year, even with the set backs we had from the pandemic. We are on a regular schedule with our meetings. We are looking forward to new year beginning July 1st. We had a great installation of the incoming officers and also enrolled a new member in June. Thanks to PDG Irwin Siegelwax and Mrs. Linda for being with us and doing this for us. We would also like to give a huge shout out for Lion Norman Howell who was chosen Lion of the year for the Kinston Host Club. Lion Norman is and continues to be a great example of Lionism. As we begin our new year we have been planning several special events. Our Strides Walking/Rocking for Diabetes is scheduled for October 23rd at the Kinston community Center. We will be having a reverse drawing fund raiser to be held on August 24th at Kings in Kinston. We will also be planning our VIP Christmas party and Christmas Auction fund raiser very soon. We will continue to strive to do all we can to be more involved in our community and to continue to show the great things that Lions continue to do. Looking forward for a great year in Lionism.

Eddie Chase

President Kinston Host Lions

Club News



The Smithfield Lions Club hosted Zone 11 meeting led by Zone Chair Karen Brown at the Holt Lake Restaurant in Smithfield. The attending club, Princeton, Pine Level, Selma and Smithfield welcomed DIstrict Governor DeAngelo Jackson as a guest speaker. At the end of the meeting, the District Governor inducted new Lion Susan Strickland into the Smithfield Lions Club. Susan is a former member who decided to come back and rejoin! We welcome her back with open arms!



President Karen Brown and Membership Chair PDG Keith Peedin congratulate Smithfield Lion Shirley Black for sixty years of membership in Lionism. Lion Shirley held down the position of Secretary for an exemplary 43+ years and penned "History of the Smithfield Lions Club 1950-1995, a wonderful journal of membership and activities.



New Board and Committee members were installed at our Installation of Officers and Picnic on June 6th at Calabash Town Park. In photo—Lions Thurman Gause, Mike Eisenhart, Marlen Mapes, Dawn Eisenhart, PDG Irwin Siegelwax, Marion Walsh, Linda Siegelwax, Alex Dugas, and Cathy Delaney.



Club News

Lion Vince Schimmoller – NC Lions Hall of Fame Inductee!

The Western Harnett Lions Club's Vince Schimmoller was recently honored for his induction into the North Carolina Lions Hall of Fame. This is a very distinguished honor as only a few Lions are selected for this prestigious honor annually. For all that know PDG Lion Vince, he is of course, so deserving of this recognition. As well as serving as President of the Western Harnett Lions Club, Lion Vince is a two-time PDG, has served as Region and Zone Chairs, and has held numerous committee chairs and assignments in the District and Multi-District 31. He and Lion Donna are active in so many NC Lion activities including Camp Dogwood and the VIP Fishing Tournament. Perhaps most importantly, he gives so freely of himself to his community and our club and he can always be counted on to accomplish anything for someone in need.

Western Harnett Lions Club President Lion Ginny Barney recognized the importance of Vince's honor, not only to himself, but to our club as well. She went to work immediately planning an event that was both a suitable tribute to Lion Vince and a recognition for the members of our club. As she explained to our board, "This is an honor not just for Lion Vince, but for all Western Harnett Lions, past and present". What made this event so different was this was to be a SECRET, kept completely from Vince. Since Lion Vince prides himself on knowing everything going on in the club, this was going to be most difficult!

The evening could not have gone better. Lion Vince arrived and by the confused look on his face, he was absolutely surprised! He was escorted to his seat by President Ginny to the sounds of "Pomp & Circumstance" and the cheers of the more than 80 in attendance. Six (6) different Lions Clubs were represented. Numerous VIPs were on hand, including Past International President Lion Sid Scruggs and his wife, Lion Judy, District Governor Lion DeAngelo Jackson and his wife Lion Marilyn and mother, Lion Patricia, 1st Vice District Governor Elect Lion Mayra McCloud and Zone Chair Lion Ana Elliot. All spoke and provided warm memories and thoughts about Lion Vince and his service to the Lions. Lion DeAngelo presented Vince with the Hall of Fame Award. We offered prayerful thanks for Lion Vince and played a sentimental video of Vince's long tenure with the Lions and his service to our community. Pictures going back 20 years were shared to the appropriate James Taylor song, "You've got a Friend". Lion Vince spoke and reminisced for just a bit about his service with the Lions. He was so humble about being recognized, so moved by the many in attendance, and so gracious to everyone for helping put it together. We shared a wonderful spread of food and drink and the evening was topped off with Lion Vince cutting the "Congrats Cake". Long after the official program for the evening ended, Lions stayed and celebrated Vince in friendship and fellowship.



Lion Leaders gathered to celebrate the Night!
Left to Right, Zone Chair Lion Ana Elliot,
DG Lion DeAngelo Jackson, Lion Donna,
our honoree, Lion Vince, PIP Lion Sid Scruggs
and 1VDGE Lion Mayra McCloud

continued next page

Club News

continued from page 9

It was a night that I am sure Lion Vince will always remember and a night that all Western Harnett Lions past and present can be proud of. To see the special night of tribute to Lion Vince, the hard work everyone put into the event, the graciousness of Vince in accepting his honor and the fun that all Lions had, made it a night for all to say "I am proud to be a Lion"!

We are all so proud of Lion Vince . . . We thank him for his dedication to our club, his service to our community, and his mentorship and friendship to all of us. We look forward to his many more years of service and leadership in our club, district and throughout North Carolina!

Lion Joe Poth



Lion Vince makes comments to the more than 80 in attendance



Lion Vince cutting his "Hall of Fame" congrats cake

Club News



Kinston Host Lions

8th Annual Reverse Drawing Fundraiser

Tuesday, August 24, 2021

King's Restaurant - Hwy 70 E. - Kinston, NC

Doors open at 6:30 P.M. Social – 7:00 P.M. Dinner

(Ribeye Steak Dinner)

One (1) Meal per Ticket, No Carryouts

GRAND PRIZE: \$2,500

•\$50.00 ea • TICKETS • \$50.00 ea•



Tickets can also be purchased by calling
252-523-1019 or visiting Lions Industries
for the Blind, 4126 Berkeley Ave., Kinston

To Purchase Tickets Contact Club Secretary:
Betty Ann Wooten blorah@lionsindustries.org
or any club member.

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TOURNAMENT

FOUR PERSON SUPER BALL

Benefits the visually impaired in our community

September 18, 2021

Rain Date: To Be Determined

Tee Time: 1:00 p.m.

ENTRY FEE: \$65 per person/\$260 per team

Includes: Green Fee & Cart, Meal

Prizes & Refreshment Cart

Call Robert Block, 252-259-5099

Carlie Metts, 252-259-4827

Deadline for Sign-up is September 11, 2021

twinriverslionsclub@gmail.com,

252-259-4140



We Serve

Mid Winter Convention News



Club Recognition/Ad Form

Help Support a Lions Tradition



The International Association of Lions Clubs District 31-N&S Mid-Winter Convention

January 14-15, 2022

**Hilton Garden Inn
5353 N. Virginia Dare Trail
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