

# LIONS NEWSLETTER

*DISTRICT 31N*  
*September 2023*



## **IT'S VISION AWARENESS MONTH!!**

Seeing Clearly means living fully...

During the month of September, Lions Clubs throughout NC are presenting vision awareness month. Local Lions Clubs will be offering free eye screenings for children and adults, color blindness screenings, and educational events revolving around the need to protect your vision and maintain lifelong eye health!

### **DID YOU KNOW...?!**

- More than 258,000 people in report blindness or severe difficulty seeing even with glasses in NC.
- People with severe vision impairments are more likely to have diabetes, arthritis, and mobility issues.
- 4,000 NC school children, ages 5-19 suffer eye injuries each year.
- 1 in 20 preschool age children in our state suffer from amblyopia (aka "lazy eye")
- 25,614 preschoolers and 349,518 school age children have visual problems



### ***International Peace Poster Contest***

For over three decades, Lions clubs around the globe have been sponsoring a very special art contest in schools and youth groups. Creating peace posters gives children everywhere the chance to express their visions of peace and inspire the world through art and creativity.

#### **2023-2024 CONTEST: DARE TO DREAM**

To a young person, a dream isn't just a wish, hope or desire – it's a path, a goal, an ambition. But achieving that dream takes hard work. So this year, we're asking young people to show how they'll turn their dream of a peaceful world into reality.

## A FEW WORDS FROM OUR

# District Governor



Greetings Fellow Lions,

What a month August has been. I have visited the Grifton and Erwin Lions Clubs. Went to Kinston Host's Reverse Drawing. We even had our Brighter Visions Kick-off and 1st Cabinet Meeting. Grifton keeps growing and is on the way to do great things. I will be going back in September to induct some new members. When I went to Erwin Lions Club, I had the pleasure to do a few

extra duties. First, I inducted some new members, then installed the new officers. Gave my message but the greatest honor was honoring one of their members, Lion TJ Morrison. Lion TJ teaches at Triton High School, he is the Basketball Coach and the Leo Advisor. There was three of his students there and they are an energetic bunch. So it was my pleasure to give Lion TJ a Certificate of Appreciation with my pin and Dr. Patti Hill's pin. I love recognizing our Lions for something they have done especially when they are very humble about their service. So going forward let's remember to recognize those individuals for the work they have done in your club. If you have someone in your club let me know and I would love to come to your club to do that.

Now lets talk about the Brighter Visions Kick-off and 1st Cabinet Meeting. Our Brighter Visions Kick-off was a success. We raised 21,980.00. Before the event started NCLF had received \$1580.00 bringing our total to \$23,560.00. And we have closed out the month at \$26,680 with a check from Anderson Creek. I do want to highlight Western Harnett gave who gave the largest at the kick-off. Thank you to the members of Western Harnett for working hard on their fundraisers and to all of the clubs that gave so generously to a great campaign that helps our citizens in our district and the state.

Now on to Membership. We continue to grow in our membership. As of August 26th, we currently sitting at 987 members. We started the year out 963. Currently we have added 38 new members, dropped 14 for a net gain of 24. I commend all of you that have brought in new members. We need to continue the trend of finding new members and start new clubs. They are out there and they want to help. For us to continue to help our communities which are growing, we need to keep growing. **More members = More services.** By growing we also do not want to forget our youth in the communities. Start a Leo Program either as a community base or at the high school club. I received information from our Leo Chair that a club is forming in the New Bern area. That is great news, but I know each of communities can benefit by having a Leo Club. For more information contact PDG Robert Block, his email is [lionrobertblockjr@gmail.com](mailto:lionrobertblockjr@gmail.com).

## ...CONTINUED

Since we are on the topic of Leo's. I need all advisors to input your members and officers into MyLCL. I will be appointing a Leo by September 30th to sit on the Cabinet as a Leo Liaison.

We need their voice. The key to growing is our youth. With New Bern coming on board we are getting closer to having 6 clubs in the district. By having 6 clubs, they are able to elect their own district officers and to meet other Leo's. I am excited for our young Leo's with the opportunities that seem to begin to open up for them.

As I close out this article, we have a great service opportunity for the month of September. The District Governors for NC, all decided that September would be focusing on Vision as a service project. In the newsletter is information on the project with flyers, news release and information on Color Blindness. I want to see all 53 Lions Clubs along with our Leo's to do a project during the month of September. My club will be helping with a Vision Screening in New Bern that is put on by the Eye Doctors in New Bern. You can partner with an agency, do a Kindsight screening, or just recycle glasses. And do not forget to send a report to me and put it in MyLion. And if you use social media, post it and then share it with the district.

**It is a great time to be a Lion!**

Yours in Lionism,

*DG Carlie Metts*

Carlie Metts

District Governor



(L to R) Lion Larry Atwood, Lion Beth Nelson, and District Governor Carlie Metts. Not pictured was photographer Lion Alan Yoder.

## **LIONS HOST VISION SCREENINGS!!**

The New Bern Lions Club and Twin Rivers Lions Club performed vision screenings for 55 children on Saturday, August 5th, during an elementary school student's "Back to School" event held at the Jones County Civic Center in Trenton.

Lion Alan Yoder

New Bern Lions Club



# FROM OUR 1VDG ANA ELLIOT

Hola Lions!!!!

Welcome to the month of September, Lions Service month will be working throughout the state in Vision. We ended the month of August with a great Brighter Vision Kick off. Thanks to all the clubs that showed up it could not have been successful without your support.

If your club has a monthly/quarterly newsletter please share with me! I can wait to see what your club is doing to serve and support your community.

Always available to support you!

Ana M. Elliott, PhD

254.415.2751

[msgelliottwife@gmail.com](mailto:msgelliottwife@gmail.com)

1VDG 31N



## Dick Rudin Golf Tournament Western Harnett Lions Club

\*\*\*\*ENTRY FORM\*\*\*\*

Saturday, September 23, 2023  
Carolina Lakes Golf Course

Two Person/ Captain's Choice/Shotgun  
(Flighted)  
Start: 8:30 AM

\$65 per person (\$130 per team)

Includes: Golf, Lunch, Range balls, 2 Mulligans and Prizes

Checks Payable to: Western Harnett Lions Club  
ZELLE and VENMO Accepted  
Entries returned to: Carolina Lakes Golf Course  
Phone# 919-499-5421

Or

Western Harnett Lions Club  
P.O. Box 248, Olivia, NC 28368

### TWO MEMBER TEAM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ HANDICAP: \_\_\_\_  
Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ HANDICAP: \_\_\_\_  
Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor: (Please Circle) Yes or No

This event is the major charity fund raiser for our club. Please play in the tournament and show your support for our club and efforts to assist local charities, organizations, service and civic events. We sincerely thank you for your help and participation in our efforts to raise funds for charity.

If you wish to be paired with another twosome please indicate below:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ NAME \_\_\_\_\_

# SIGN UP FOR THE WESTERN HARNETT LIONS GOLF TOURNAMENT!!



**FROM OUR...**

# *2nd Vice District Governor*

As Camp Dogwood state chairperson, traveling to all the Brighter Visions Kickoffs I have the opportunity to meet the energetic Lions in our state. This experience along with attending LCICON in Boston have given me an appreciation for the enormity of our association.

Even though, many of our clubs are small in membership numbers, we are doing **BIG** things in our communities through our service projects. No matter how small your club is **you are doing a fantastic job at serving**. Those small projects in your community mount up to make Lions the very best service organization in the world. We should be proud of the things we have accomplished.

Thinking back to last year after the devastating loss at Boys and Girls home when a fire resulted in the loss of a human life and the loss of two servicedogs. We came together and replaced the animals at a cost of \$20,000 within months. **Impressive!**

Yet there are still things we can do. **September Lions month of service** is focused on Vision. Here are a few different ways your club can plan an event(s).

- Contact an elementary school or childcare facility and **hold a vision screening**.
- Connect with your local school system or childcare centers to **promote our KidSight program**.
- Hold a community event featuring a speaker on **technology for the blind** or invite a local optometrist to talk about **diseases of the eye**.
- Collect eyeglasses. Add a couple **new eyeglass collection locations**.
- Set up an information booth or table in your community to promote **vision** or **color blindness awareness**.

PDG Paul Bledsoe created some marketing information for you to use and share. You can download the files and customize them for your club. Use the link below to access the files.  
[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1MggkCb194knkVLG1u9VUKYqG\\_lKiDo1G?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1MggkCb194knkVLG1u9VUKYqG_lKiDo1G?usp=sharing)

If all of us do even a small project the result will be **BIG!**

“Changing the World”  
One step at a time!

Gene Goetz 2VDG  
“Life is Good”



# FROM OUR PAST DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Greetings Lions!

I am very excited about the month of September and the Brighter Visions focus on working on vision issues. There are many things clubs can do to "get credit" for participation... I am enclosing one way to participate! Enchroma, the Color Blind Glasses Company, has a program that lines up perfectly with what Lions are doing.

September is International Color Blindness Awareness Month also! EnChroma will give you two pairs of their glasses for color blindness for you to give to color deficient students or citizens to promote color blindness awareness.

Sign up here to receive the glasses and see the simple suggested ways you can promote color blindness awareness. All you have to do is do at least one activity that generates awareness anytime in September, like possibly testing school kids for color deficiencies, or purchasing assorted color correcting glasses for a school to loan to students!

It's not required to receive the two free glasses and participate, but if you wish to buy glasses to loan to color blind students on campus, a 'Kit' of four indoor glasses costs under \$650, an outdoor kit of six pairs is under \$850. This includes EnChroma donating a pair for each pair you buy. You'll also get the two free pairs if you sign up for Color Blindness Awareness Month.

One in 12 men (8%) and one in 200 women (.5%) are red-green color blind; 350 million worldwide and 13 million in the US. They only see 10% of the one million hues and shades people with normal color vision see, creating obstacles to appreciating life. Btw... they are also partners in the VSP glasses purchase program!!! Enchroma will give Lions a 20% discount on any glasses purchased on TOP of everything else!

To order! or for questions, contact or email PDG Mayra McCloud at

[madmayra@gmail.com](mailto:madmayra@gmail.com) or call at

931-252-8147. You can also contact Kent directly at email [kent@enchroma.com](mailto:kent@enchroma.com) or call (Kent) at 530.908.9225

Thank you for supporting accessibility for those with out color vision.

Mayra McCloud



Sunset with Birds - Cindy Ann Jones, Ding Darling Wildlife Society.  
Color blind conversion courtesy of EnChroma, Inc.

# NEW MEMBERS– How Many Did You Get???



In my August article on Membership, I challenged each Lion to ask at least one friend, neighbor, or co-worker to become a LION. How did it go?? I hope that many of you tried and were met with success.

DG Carlie Metts was installed as the DG at the Lions International Convention in Boston, He brought back some information about International President Patti Hill's focused membership effort called Mission 1.5. It is an effort to bring our membership numbers to 1.5 million by July 1, 2024. Following is a hyperlink to a website that discusses this issue in depth.

<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/resources-for-members/mission-to-grow>

Click on the hyperlink and the scroll down to the Just Ask Guide for more detail. There is a lot of information about how to recruit new members. The guide stresses the need to make recruiting a team effort. As President of your club, you will need to form a team to undertake this task. Each member has strengths and preferences. Make the most of these by encouraging your members to take on roles in the recruiting process. Important roles include: '

Organizing: Some members are planners; they see each step and can prioritize what needs to be done.

Promoting: Tech-savvy and creative members can create brochures, issue your press releases and update your website and social media networks.

Reaching out: These are your Lions who are comfortable talking to new people about your club.

Encourage them to promote Lions Clubs International to your target group via community groups, at your fund raisers, service projects, on social media, email, and community-based events to begin engaging with prospective new members.

Welcoming: Lions who are trained to conduct new member orientation and coordinate mentoring will ensure your new members feel welcome and quickly settle into your club.

The secret of success is JUST DO IT. **WAY TO GO DISTRICT N**

## MEMBERSHIP TOTALS- DISTRICT N

7/1/2023	8/17/2023	GAIN/LOSS
963	982	+19

Any questions, give me a call.

Lion Vince Schimmoller

MD-31 Membership chair

[vschimmoller@gmail.com](mailto:vschimmoller@gmail.com)

919-935-9937

# PLAN FOR OUR- SEPTEMBER 2023 2ND ANNUAL LIONS MONTH OF SERVICE- FOCUSING ON VISION

Last year in September, with all 5 Districts participating, we provided approximately 35 tons of food for the needy.

This year's theme is Vision. With the support of District Governor Carlie and his Council we have expanded the concept from:

North Carolina Lions Day of Service in September to:  
September 2023 2nd Annual Lions Month of Service – focusing on Vision.

With the help of your Region/Zone Chairs, I see no reason why your Club cannot do a vision event in September. Color Blindness Testing, Vision Screening, One Mile Walk/Run for Vision.

At the very least your Club can promote thru publicity/advertising a day in September where glasses can be dropped off, literature about Vision given out and information about your Club to those who stop by your table.

Count all those at each event, who get screened and/or attend Club Vision related events. These counts need to be sent up to your Regions/Zones.

With your help, all our Clubs will participate. At the November Council of Governors meeting – 1st, 2nd and 3rd place Districts will be announced. I see no reason why we cant come out on top.

Together we can and will make a difference!

**PDG Irwin**

North Carolina GST  
Cell 910-209-6170



## MARK YOUR CALENDERS EARLY !!

**The 51st Annual Massey Hill Lions Club Oyster Roast will be held  
on:**

**Saturday, January 27th, 2024**

**Announcements and Ticket sales will begin in late October/early  
November.**



# VISION DAY: Saturday, September 30

## Seeing Clearly Means Living Fully



Your vision directly influences how you experience the world around you. Imagine reading your favorite book, enjoying a stunning landscape, or simply recognizing the faces of your loved ones with ease and clarity.

Regular eye exams help ensure that your eyes are healthy, your vision is optimized, and you can fully engage in every aspect of life. Don't take your eyesight for granted.

Join us for our Lions Club's special event designed for maintaining lifelong eye health.

Make a Positive Difference  
in the Lives  
of People Who  
Lack Access to  
Vision Correction.  
Donate Your Used  
Eyeglasses.



**Accessibility to vision correction:** Many people around the world lack access to proper eye care and cannot afford eyeglasses. By donating used eyeglasses, you provide individuals with the opportunity to improve their vision and quality of life. This is particularly significant in developing countries where access to eye care services may be limited.

**Empowering individuals and communities:** Improved vision has a transformative effect on people's lives. It enables individuals to engage in activities such as education, work, and daily tasks with greater ease and efficiency. By donating used eyeglasses, you empower individuals and communities by giving them the tools to pursue their goals and lead more fulfilling lives.

Join us for our Lions Club's Special Recycling Event

## KIDSIGHT TRAINING

AT Lions Industries for the Blind  
4126 Berkley Ave. Kinston, NC 28504  
Saturday, September 9 10am-3pm



Training is available for those who want to help with the KidSight vehicle or to help with your club's Vision Screening Program.

The training will include:

- Video Presentation (by PID Dr. Ed Cordes, Lions KidSight USA, Chairman)
- Update on the KidSight Program in NC (by Bryan Hoover and Gene Goetz)
- Detailed Review of the KidSight Certification Test.

Lunch will be offered at this event for only \$10, but you are welcome to bring your own meal if you choose to.

Please RSVP by September 7

by email: [ggoetz00@gmail.com](mailto:ggoetz00@gmail.com)

by text/voice message: (414)-640-5935

# *Lions Industries for the Blind*

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