

# District Gazette

October 2025



## District-N

North Carolina Lions



### Dates On the Horizon

**October 1**, Deadline to purchase Peace Poster Kits

**October 4**, Second District Cabinet Meeting

**October 4-12**, Week of service, Mental Health and Well-being

**October 7**, Training Topic: Introduction to Lions for new members, 7pm Zoom

**October 20**, Anderson Creek Lions Club Charity Golf Tournament.

**October 20-22**, VIP Fishing Tournament, Outer Banks.

**October 23-25**, Vice District Governor training at Camp Dogwood

**October 25**, Brave LIL Steps fun run/walk for Childhood Cancer in Greenville.

**November 7-9**, Council of Governors/NCLF meet at Camp Dogwood

**November 18**, Training Topic: Where does the money go? 7pm Zoom

## Your District Team

District Governor Gene Goetz  
First Vice District Governor Eddie Chase  
Second Vice District Governor Earl House  
GET Coordinator PDG Mayra McCloud  
GLT Coordinator PDG DeAngelo Jackson  
GMT Coordinator PDG Vince Schimmoller  
GST Coordinator PDG Bob Block Jr.  
Secretary PDG George Holston  
Treasurer Betty Shingleton

Zone 1 Chairperson Kevin Toman  
Zone 2 Chairperson Dr. Derrick Mitchell  
Zone 3 Chairperson Scott Stevenson  
Zone 4 Chairperson Sherman McCutcheon  
Zone 5 Chairperson Mike McCaskill  
Zone 6 Chairperson Carl Danielson  
Zone 7 Chairperson Jerry Williams  
Zone 8 Chairperson Anne (Nan) Bejian  
Zone 9 Chairperson Catherine Revel

## From your District Governor

Please welcome Lion Beverly Craft as your newsletter editor. Beverly is excited about her new responsibility as editor of the MD-31N Gazette. We welcome hearing from all of you! Whether your article is about a service project, fundraiser, or an editorial on something your club does that really works. **Shout it out in the Gazette!** In order to publish the Gazette on time every month please send your article in by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month for the next month's issue. If your article comes in after the 20<sup>th</sup> it will be published in the next month's issue.

Our intent with the Gazette is to make it more friendly to our VIP's. You'll find all flyers with text at the end of the Gazette. The message on your flyers will also be printed in the body of the Gazette. Please try to send your flyers and articles in word document format and please, **no pictures or scans** of a flyer from your phone.

If you have questions, need help, or have suggestions for improving the Gazette please contact myself or Beverly.

We encourage all of you to submit articles on your club events to the Gazette. You can send articles to [district31n.news@gmail.com](mailto:district31n.news@gmail.com) and to [beverlycraft79@gmail.com](mailto:beverlycraft79@gmail.com)

I had a wonderful trip to the USA/Canada Forum in Atlantic City NJ. This is a great opportunity for lions to learn as they have fun. Servant Hero theme was engraved in the spirit of the event, and the participants loved the experience. The seminars were educational, motivational and thought provoking. There were more than 60 seminars that catered to the needs and interests of everyone. What was specifically evident was the desire to grow membership. So much so that top recruiters and districts with club chartering success were recognized during the lunch sessions in the presence of all 1600 delegates. The environment was relaxed, but learning and fellowship were intense.

The next USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum will be held in Memphis, Tennessee, Sept. 3-5, 2026. Next year will be the 50th Leadership Forum.

The childhood cancer committee has been working hard to make our fundraiser "Brave LIL Steps" a success. During September and October, I've been visiting clubs in the Greenville area, asking for help to make this first annual run an event we can repeat next year. We would like to have a good show of Lions at the event to help and show that Lions are working for the community.

Please be aware of the "Weeks of Service"

Mental health and well-being October 4-12, 2025. Consider planning an event on World Mental Health Day on October 10!

Hunger January 3-11, 2026

Environment April 18-26, 2026

Lion Gene Goetz      District Governor      414-640-5953

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

## From your District 31-N Global Membership Coordinator

I was looking at the membership information for District N and noted that we were down 12 members at the end of August. Now is a good time to make the effort to bring in new Lions. Over the past several months I have been asked by a number of Lion Club Presidents, what can I do to encourage people to join the Lions. I would like to offer 5 tips for the growth of your club.

### **BE TRANSPARENT**

Show how your club works, people want to see the real impact. If you do a project affecting your community, make sure that it is publicized. Tell your friends about what you are doing. If you use Facebook or social media, use it to spread the good things that your club does.

### **FOSTER A FAMILY ATMOSPHERE**

Invite potential members to come to your meeting, ask family members to join and make sure that you include the young children in the invite, if you are like our club the older, more experienced women have a chance to play the grandmother role.

### **SERVE THE COMMUNITY**

Showcase your service projects as meaningful service attracts other like-minded people who want to make a difference for their community. Be open about how you raise your funds and more importantly how you help those in need. Many of you feed the hungry, support the local Breadbasket, provide supplies for schools at the start of the school year, or pick up trash along a road. The next time you have a service project event, ask a friend or neighbor to join you.

### **BUILD FRIENDSHIPS**

This is done through the earlier tip I shared. Have your club become like a family. You are close with your brothers, sisters and kids and do the same with your fellow Lion members.

### **EMBRACE PARTNERSHIPS**

Work with other organizations to expand your reach through the community. We have a strong relationship with the local Fire Department, the 5N2 Food Pantry, the Buddy Back Program, the Harnett County schools through our Vision Screening, and sharing activities with nearby Lions clubs.

I hope that these few ideas will spur you into action to bring on additional Lions to help the needy in your community. Any questions, give me a call or email.

Lion Vince Schimmoller

District N Membership Chair

919-935-9937

## From your District 31-N Marketing Coordinator

Let's get excited about all the ways we can add new members to our Clubs. After a few years of attending to various health issues, I am looking forward to working with everyone as our District Marketing Coordinator.

I feel there are many ways we can all do our part to promote interest in our communities and to the outstanding work we as Lions are doing every day in our communities.

If you are not doing so now, please do this in the future at EVERY Club event.

1. Have a brochure to hand out with information about your Club
2. Consider a small raffle signup for a \$50 gift card
3. To get the gift card they must sign their name and contact information
4. After the event the Membership Committee needs to follow up

MORALE: Sometimes you need to spend money to make money

My goal is to visit each Zone and have a roundtable discussion of Marketing ideas that could work in your area.

During my year as District Governor in 2016-2017, we generated excitement and added 77 members and 3 Clubs.

We can do it together again! Are you with me??

See you soon

PDG Irwin Siegelwax

## Lions International News and Events

### Weeks of Service

This initiative unites Lions and Leos worldwide to address the critical issues of mental health and well-being, hunger, and the environment. By participating, you'll be part of three impactful weeks dedicated to creating positive change and making a difference in communities around the globe — together. So, get involved and help drive collective action for a better future!

Mental Health and Well-being; October 4-12, 2025

Hunger January; 3-11, 2025

Environment April; 18-26, 2026

## NCLF News and Events

### VIP Fishing Tournament Golf Ball Drop

Buy one of the Lions Club's charity golf balls for \$25 and if your numbered ball drops into the cup or is closest to the hole you will win up to \$10,000 in cash. See the registration form at the end of this month's Gazette.

## **COG and NCLF meetings**

On November 7-9 the Council of Governors (COG) and North Carolina Lions Foundation, Inc. (NCLF) Board will hold their second meeting of 2025-2026. These meetings are held 4 times a year in August, November, February and May at camp Dogwood. If you are new to Lions or just want to learn more about the association please consider attending at least a part of these meetings. Contact Tammy [tammy@nclf.org](mailto:tammy@nclf.org) 828-478-2135 ext. 229 to register.

## **Hall of Fame Award**

The mission of the North Carolina Lions Hall of Fame is: “to recognize and honor the State’s most outstanding Lions for their extraordinary accomplishments on the Club, District, State, and/or, the NC Lions Foundation levels.

Criteria: Nominees may be living or deceased. The nominee must have had at least ten (10) years of service in North Carolina if living, or deceased for at least five (5) years, unless death occurs in the year the candidate was being considered for a living Hall of Fame Award. See the recommendation form at the end of this month’s Gazette

## **District News and Events**

### **Our next Cabinet Meeting**

The second Cabinet Meeting for 2025-2026 for District 31-N will be on October 4, 2025, at the Burgaw Melodist Church, 110 E Bridge Street, Burgaw NC. We will gather at 10:45 AM with a light lunch at 11:00 AM. The meeting will start promptly at 11:30 AM and we should be finished by 1 PM.

This meeting is open to all Lions in the district and is a good way to be informed on the activities of your district.

Please RSVP to Betty Shingleton [emilysgigi2015@gmail.com](mailto:emilysgigi2015@gmail.com) by October 1<sup>st</sup>. See the flyer at the end of this issue.

### **Call for Candidates: Second Vice District Governor 2026**

The District is now accepting candidate submissions for the position of **Second Vice District Governor**, with elections scheduled for **January 2026**. All interested Lions are reminded that the required documentation must be submitted no later than **December 1, 2025**.

#### **Required Documents**

Candidates are asked to provide the following:

- A **letter of intent** from the candidate
- An **endorsement letter** from their home club
- A **Lions resume** (if available)

#### **Submission Information**

All documents should be emailed to **PDG Carlton Metts (carltonvmetts@gmail.com)** and **PDG Ana Elliott (msgelliottwife@gmail.com)** by the December 1st deadline. This will ensure the District has adequate time to review all materials in advance of the election.

### **Questions or Assistance**

For further information or questions regarding the submission process, please contact Lion Ana Elliott at **(254) 415-2751** or by email at **msgelliottwife@gmail.com**.

This is an exciting opportunity for Lions to step forward in service and leadership. The District looks forward to hearing from qualified candidates who are ready to take on this important role.

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### **Ana M. Elliott, PhD**

IPDG District 31-N

*We listen, we process... we SERVE!*

### **Peace Poster Contest**

Students ages 11, 12 or 13 as of November 15 are eligible to participate in the International Peace Poster Contest. Entries not meeting the following deadlines will be disqualified.

The district is out of kits but clubs can order peace poster kits as a digital version on the Lions International Web Site.

Digital kit: \$11.95 each kit contains:

- Downloadable Official Club Contest Guide and Rules
- Downloadable Official School or Youth Group Contest Guide and Rules
- Downloadable participant flyer to print and give to participating students to take home
- Downloadable sticker to place on back of winning poster
- Digital certificates to print for contest winner and school or youth group

#### **Peace Poster Contest Deadlines**

- ✓ **January 15:** Kits go on sale from the Club Supplies Sales Department at International Headquarters.
- ✓ **May 31:** Deadline for District 31N bulk order.
- ✓ **October 1:** Deadline to purchase kits from the Club Supplies Sales Department at International Headquarters.
- ✓ **November 15:** Postmark deadline for a club to send one winning poster (per contest sponsored) to the district governor.
- ✓ **December 1:** Postmark deadline for a district governor to send one winning district poster to multiple district council chairperson.
- ✓ **December 1:** Postmark deadline for a district governor not belonging to a multiple district to send one winning poster to the Brand & Creative Department at International Headquarters.
- ✓ **December 1:** Postmark deadline for a club not belonging to a district to send one winning entry to the Brand & Creative Department at International Headquarters.

- ✓ **December 15:** Postmark deadline for the multiple district council chairperson to send one winning poster to the Brand & Creative Department at International Headquarters.
- ✓ **February 1:** International winners notified on or before this date.

For further information contact Marilyn Jackson [md5jack@yahoo.com](mailto:md5jack@yahoo.com)

## **Boys and Girls Home**

Join the challenge “Keys to the Vans” Help us raise money for a Lions cottage van. Raise \$500 and get a Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina (BGHNC) banner patch for your Lions Club.

See the flyer at the end of this month’s Gazette

Contact Scott Stephenson [lionstephenson@gmail.com](mailto:lionstephenson@gmail.com) phone: 910-494-0809 for more information.

## **Brave LIL Steps**

“Brave LIL Steps” fun run will take place in Greenville on October 25, 2025. Save that date, we are asking for your help.

At the start/finish line there will be tables set up for clubs to promote their activities to the public and to hand out treats to the participants and the kids. This is a great place to market your club and hopefully gain new members. Along with that we are asking you to give out “Treats to the Runners”. We suggest: energy bars, hard candy, small candy bars, bags of potato chips, corn chips, and etc.

We are also looking for community sponsors. More on that closer to the event.

Funds raised from the run will be used to augment a \$20,000 grant from Lions International Foundation to The James and Connie Maynard Children’s hospital in Greenville.

The grant will allow the hospital to add diversion equipment to various locations throughout the hospital. This diversion equipment and software will ensure all patients, no matter the age, have something to distract them during procedures.

Interested in joining the “Race” part of the event? You can sign up here:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/NC/Greenville/BraveLILSteps>.

## **District Training**

A tentative district training schedule has been developed for 2025-2026 year. I cannot over stress the importance of these training sessions. They will make your job as a Lion easier because you will be more confident performing your job and in turn will improve the performance of our clubs. Please try to attend as many as you can. Dates will be printed in the “**On the Horizon**” section of this Gazette.

## **District Leaders - On the Road**

Zone 1 chair and LCIF coordinator Kevin Toman will visit:

- ❖ Southport Lions Club; October 2nd
- ❖ Clinton Lions Club; October 6th
- ❖ Kinston Host Lions Club; on October 9th
- ❖ Angier Lions Club; October 21st
- ❖ Pembroke Lions Club; November 18th

## **New Clubs**

PDG Mayra McCloud your Global extension Coordinator (GET) is working on forming new clubs. She is presently working with Sweet Valley Ranch in Fayetteville and a group of interested people in Eastover. Jerry Williams is working with a few people in Ayden to form a club.

## **District N PDG Association**

The District N Past District Governors (PDG) Association will hold its next meeting on **Saturday, November 1, 2025**, at **Lions Industries for the Blind in Kinston, North Carolina**. All **Past District Governors residing in District N** are warmly invited to attend this important gathering of leadership and fellowship.

This meeting provides a meaningful opportunity for PDGs to reconnect, share insights, and continue shaping the future of Lionism in North Carolina. The agenda will include updates on district initiatives, planning for upcoming events—including the **2026 District N & S Mid-Winter Convention**—and discussions on how PDGs can support clubs and emerging leaders across the district.

For those unable to attend in person, **ZOOM access will be available** to ensure full participation and engagement.

Refreshments will be served, and camaraderie is guaranteed. Whether you're newly retired from district leadership or a seasoned PDG, your experience and voice are valued.

**Date:** Saturday, November 1, 2025

**Location:** Lions Industries for the Blind, Kinston, NC

**Time:** 10:00am

**Zoom Access:** Available upon request

Please RSVP to PDG Carlie Metts @ [cmetts22@gmail.com](mailto:cmetts22@gmail.com) or PDG DeAngelo Jackson @ [m5djack@yahoo.com](mailto:m5djack@yahoo.com) by October 25, 2025.

Let's come together to celebrate our shared legacy and continue building a brighter future for Lionism in District N.



## **2025 District N & S Mid-Winter Convention – January 16–17, 2026**

**Location:** Holiday Inn,  
Greenville, NC

Lions from across Districts N and S are invited to gather for the **2026 District N & S Mid-Winter Convention**, a two-day celebration of service, leadership, fellowship and FUN. This year's event features a powerful lineup of programming,

including a carnival atmosphere on Friday evening, updates from the **District Governors' Corner**, highlights from our **Open House**, and inspiring stories of **Lions helping Veterans**.

We're honored to welcome **International Director David Woodworth** as our featured speaker. He will provide an important update on **Lions International and LCIF**, host a **Town Hall session**, meet with **Club Presidents**, and serve as the **Keynote Speaker at the District Governor's Banquet**.

Additional highlights include messages from the **NCLF President**, our **new Executive Director**, and a special farewell from our **retired Executive Director**. You'll also hear exciting news about the **Clinical Eye Research Grant awarded to Miracle in Sight**, and get the latest from **Camp Dogwood**, including updates on **KidSight and Adult Vision Screenings**.

**Early registration ends December 20, 2025**

**Late registration closes January 7, 2026**

### **Hotel Information:**

Call the **Holiday Inn**, 203 SW Greenville Blvd., Greenville, NC 27834 at **252-355-8300** to make your reservation by **December 19, 2024**.

Room rate: **\$110.00 + tax** for Queen or King — **Call early to secure your room!**

Join us as we reflect, reconnect, and recommit to the mission of Lionism in North Carolina. We look forward to seeing you there!

## **Club News and Events**

### **Welcome New Members**

If you have new members that have recently been inducted please send me their names so they can be recognized here [ggoetz00@gmail.com](mailto:ggoetz00@gmail.com)

## **Eye Exams and Eye Glasses**

After the suspension of the VSP vouchers, many of our clubs are looking for ways to provide glasses and exams to those who have a difficult time affording the glasses and/or exams, many do not have insurance or doctors and many have never had eye exams. Clubs should make an effort to:

1. Hold fundraisers to fill the need for exams and glasses in your communities.
2. Contact eye glass suppliers and doctors in your area who are willing to supply glasses or exams at reduced rates.

Our See the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Vision Screening Programs Chair Lion Nan Bejian suggests this list of web sites for suggestions on receiving care

<https://www.nceyes.org/visionnc>

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/services-blind/medical-eye-care-program-preserving-or-improving-your-vision>

<https://nc.preventblindness.org/vision-care-financial-assistance-information/>

<https://www.aao.org/eyecare-america>

<https://www.vspvision.com/eyes-of-hope/get-help.html?sessionid=B7EE896230575CC47F77746B28EB7BB5>

<https://wilmingtoneye.com/news/wilmington-eye-partners-with-global-prosthetics/>

## **A reminder for LEO's and LEO advisors**

My name is C. Trystan Williams and I am from Antigua & Barbuda. I am currently serving as a Leo Club Program Advisory Panelist representing constitutional area 1. The Leo Advisory Panelists act as representatives of the Leo Club Program in their area.

C. Trystan Williams, Lions Club International Leo Advisory Panelist 2025-2027 Constitutional Area 1 St. John's, Antigua & Barbuda [tryswilliams9@gmail.com](mailto:tryswilliams9@gmail.com)

## **Kidsight Vision Screenings**

With the school off to a start, our new Kidsight chair Anne (Nan) Bejian has the following screenings scheduled. "Thank You" to these clubs for sponsoring the screenings.

- ❖ Nov 1st: Smithfield - Smithfield Touch a Truck

## **Beaufort NC Lions Club Celebration of the Restoration of the NC White Cane Law**

The Beaufort Nc Lions Club will celebrate National White Cane Day on October 15th, with a Public event with the support of the Town Police Department. The focus of this event is to begin the public educational process to promote awareness of the Restoration of the NC White Cane Law as an enforceable Class 2 Misdemeanor Offense, effective December 1st, 2025.

The NC White Cane Law was rendered unenforceable due to an oversight during the penalty assignment process mandated by the "Structured Sentencing Act of 1994", thus the law has been unenforceable for the past 31 years. Now through the efforts of a group of Blind Lions, the NC Legislature has taken corrective action, as part of the "Public Safety Act of 2025" with the assignment of the Class 2 Misdemeanor penalty.

This is an extremely important topic for the Blind Community, as once again protection when performing a street crossing at an intersection or at a designated crossing, traffic refusing to stop can now be cited. The NC Beaufort Lions Club challenges all Lion Clubs to become aware of this law change and hold their own educational events on October 15th.

This accomplishment is a perfect example of what can be accomplished when Lions work together to advocate for the Blind! See the flyer at the end of this month's Gazette.

## **Anderson Creek Lions Club Golf Tournament**

Don't miss this opportunity! Monday October 20<sup>th</sup>. This annual event is a major fundraiser for the Anderson Creek LC. All proceeds help to support the following: Camp dogwood for the Blind and Visually Impaired. See the flyer at the end of this month's Gazette

## **Lion's Tales – Goldsboro Downtown Lions Club**

Psst. Have I got a Lion's Tale for you. You've heard the stories from the old days about how alchemists thought they could turn lead into gold. Well, I know a Lion who can turn aluminum into pork chops. Here's his story.

Hi. My name is Joe Batkoski, and I'm a member of the Goldsboro Downtown Lions Club. A number of years ago, our club started collecting tabs from aluminum beverage cans to raise money for the Ronald McDonald House. Lion Barbara Mayes volunteered to lead this project.

About two and a half years ago. I decided to start collecting aluminum cans with the idea of using the money to buy pork chops for a local food pantry called the Soup Kitchen. When I started, I had no idea how well the project would do.

I am so thankful for the support this project has received from my family, friends, church family, Lion's family, local businesses, and Dee's Diner, the restaurant where our Lions Club meets weekly.

I take the cans they donate and crush them using a can crusher. My two sons-in-law built me a table and automatic can crusher (after I wore out 3 single-can crushers) that crushes many at a time. Then, I take the crushed cans and sell them to the metal scrap yard.

Thanks to the generous support of those saving me their cans, and my awesome can crusher, this project has provided 30 pounds of pork chops a month to the Soup Kitchen every month for well over a year.

## Clinton Lions Club

On Monday evening (September 1<sup>st</sup>) the Clinton Lions Club was pleased to have as their guest 1st vice district governor Eddie Chase and zone chairman Jerry Williams. Both presented longevity of service awards to the following members pictured left to right zone chairman Jerry Williams, 1st vice district governor Eddie Chase, Nick West-10 years, Pam McGuirt-20 years, Steve Cox -40 years, Travis Joyner-club president. Not pictured: Ann Oliver - 25 years, Robert Turlington- 20 years, Ruth Holland -10 years.



**For Registration Forms and Flyers on the above events  
see the links below.**



Anderson Creek Golf  
Word doc.docx



golf-ball-drop-flyer-1  
-1.pdf



Keys to the Vans  
pdf.pdf



NC Lions Hall of  
Fame Recommendation

[Beaufort Lions Club White Cane Day](#)

[District N&S Mid-Winter Program Ad Form](#)

[District N&S Registration Form](#)