

District Gazette



District-N

North Carolina Lions



December 2025



Dates On the Horizon

December 1: Postmark deadline for a district governor to send one winning district poster to multiple district council chairperson.

December 6, State Peace Poster Judging 12:30 at The Arts Council of Wayne County, 139 W. Walnut St Goldsboro.

December 15: Postmark deadline for the multiple district council chairperson to send one winning peace poster to the Brand & Creative Department at International Headquarters.

December 16, District training (zoom) at 7pm, Mission 1.5

December 31, Hall of Fame Deadline for submission to District Governor

January; 3-11, 2025 Week of Service – Hunger

January 10, District training (in-person) at 12:30pm, **Location TBD**

January 16, 17, District N & S Mid-Winter Convention January 16-17, 2026
Holiday Inn, 203 SW Greenville Blvd. Greenville, NC

January 27, District training (zoom) at 7pm, Leader Dog.

January 31, Fayetteville Massey Hill Oister Roast 1613 Camdin Rd. 11am to 4pm.

January 31, Hall of Fame deadline for submission by the District Governor

February 1: Peace Poster International winners notified on or before this date.



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

This issue of the Gazette will most likely go out after Thanksgiving so It is my hope that all of you had an opportunity to celebrate this holiday with family and friends.

With Christmas right around the corner I wish you warm greetings as we enter this special time of year. As we celebrate this season of giving, I'm grateful for your service and leadership.

The VIP Fishing Tournament on the Outer banks, as always, was a success. Volunteering to serve at this event is a joy for me. But more importantly it's a memorable and FUN event for the many visually impaired that took part in fishing, the seminars, meals and don't forget the dancing. Visually impaired people came from places all over the US but primarily along the East coast all the way up to Road Island and Canada.

Our own Lion John Uplinger won first place in not only the North Carolina tournament but as well the national tournament.

Congratulations Lion John!

The 5K run for Childhood Cancer, "Brave LIL Steps", in Greenville on October 25th was a success. The event added enough to our childhood cancer account to meet the \$10,000 matching grant requirement for diversion equipment for James and Connie Maynard Children's Hospital. Many thanks to all the Lions and community members who purchased donor pins. A special thanks for club donations from Raleigh Host, Beaufort, Kenansville and Zone nine, MD31-N.

It's time to start planning a service project for the next two service weeks:

Hunger: January 3-11, 2026

Environment: April 18-26, 2026

Lion Gene Goetz District Governor 414-640-5953 ggoetz00@gmail.com



From your First Vice District Governor

As we approach this time of the year, I would like to take time to wish everyone of you and your families a wonderful and blessed Holiday season. As Lions, we celebrate together the meaning of serving others throughout this very special time of the year. Please enjoy your time with your families and friends. Looking forward to a very prosperous and successful 2026.

Lion Eddie Chase 1VDG 31-N

From your Second Vice District Governor

Wishing All A Joyful Holiday Season from the Desk of SVDG Earl House!

As we celebrate this special time of year, I want to extend my warmest wishes to you and your families. May your holiday season be filled with joy, peace and the spirit of service that defines us as lions. Thank you for all you do. Your compassion, dedication and commitment to making a difference inspires us all.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

From your District 31-N Global Membership Coordinator

In my article this month I will be sharing information about how we as part of Constitutional Area (CA) 1 are doing so far this year. For your information, CA 1 includes the United States, Canada, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. CA 1 is off to a powerful start adding +1,857 members — an 85% increase over this time last year! Even more inspiring, CA 1 welcomed 49 new clubs, a 96% increase from last year.

These are not just numbers — they are new hands, new hearts and new opportunities for service. Every new Lion, every new club represents another community where hope grows stronger, service shines brighter and lives are changed.

How is District N doing you ask. Bring you up to date, on Sunday, Oct 12, DG Gene Goetz held a Zoom meeting with many of the Zone chairs to discuss membership plans for District N. IT was agreed that they would hold monthly Zoom meeting, next one is Nov. 12 at 8 pm, if interested in joining contact DG Gene Goetz. They explored possible new locations for Lions clubs and the rebuilding of existing clubs in which membership has dwindled. Below are some tips that ALL LION MEMBERS can do.

Ask yourself:

- Where can Lions service bring hope that isn't being met right now?
- Are there other clubs near you that need an extra boost to reach their full potential?
- Who in your club and district might be the spark to start something new?

Let's keep expanding our reach — because where there's a need, there must be a Lion.

Mission: Connection and Care

Sometimes, the smallest gesture can make the biggest difference.

Pick up the phone. Call a Lion you haven't seen in a while. Check in. Ask how they're doing. Let them know they matter.

That simple act of connection can remind them why they joined — and help them stay engaged and inspired. THIS IS SOMETHING THAT WE ALL CAN DO

Equally, reach out to clubs in your district. Ask if they need help — with recruitment, service ideas, reporting, or leadership transitions. A supportive call today may be what keeps a club thriving tomorrow.

Mission Possible Action Steps

Spot opportunities – Identify one community where a new club or new service project could make a difference. Take the steps to bring service to that community.

Celebrate and share – Recognize those who are driving growth and service. Their stories fuel momentum for everyone. Together, We Serve — Together, We Grow

Thanks to Pat Vannetti, Global Action Team Chair for CA 1 for many of these ideas

Lion Vince Schimmoller

District N Membership Chair

919-935-9937

Mission Possible: Let's keep the momentum moving forward!

From your District 31-N Marketing Coordinator

Wear it Wednesdays

We need to wear our Lions pin/shirt whenever we are out in the Public. You have at least 1 pin / most of us a lot more than 1 pin. WEAR IT.

To promote the idea Lion Kevin Toman of the Shallotte Lions Club and our DG Gene have joined with me in promoting the idea of ALL of us wearing some Lions pin/shirt on EVERY WEDNESDAY of the month.

You will be surprised to see how many people will ask you about your pin/shirt and "What are the Lions?" This will allow you to promote your own Club! You can use your local TV Station to promote this marketing campaign. Let's start wearing our pins/shirts at our own Club meetings. Especially when we have a speaker. I am practicing what I am preaching at my Wilmington Lions Club. One day SOON I expect to walk into a meeting with EVERYONE wearing some Lions apparel.

For some reason – at the mid-point in this Lions year – no ZONE has asked me to speak and expand on some marketing idea.

I am still available!!

In Lionism PDG Irwin Siegelwax
Irwin423@atmc.net
910-209-6170



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!

Picture on the left Shows the Goldsboro Downtown LC has a head start!

Hunger January; 3-11, 2025

Environment April; 18-26, 2026

NCLF News and Events

COG and NCLF meetings

On November 7-9 the Council of Governors (COG) and North Carolina Lions Foundation, Inc. (NCLF) Board held 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 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. Submit reconditions to the district Hall of Fame Chair by Dec 15th so it can be sent on to the district Governor by December 31st.

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

The deadline for submission by the respective District Governor is January 31st so that the State Council of Governors may decide on the inductees at the February Council Meeting.

District News and Events

Districts 31- N and S Mid-Winter Convention

District 31-N & S Midyear Convention Location: Holiday Inn, Greenville, NC Dates: January 16-17 Join us for an inspiring and engaging convention! We invite all clubs and members to contribute to our hospitality room. Your donations will help make this event a success!

How can you help: Donate snacks, beverages, or other hospitality items. Volunteer your time to assist in the hospitality room. Please notify 1VDG Eddie by January 12th if you plan to donate any items or volunteer. Contact 1VDG Eddie Chase at 252-939-0549 Email: eddie.chase1953@gmail.com As always, thank you for all you do to help.

Hospitality room: #243 Open Times: Friday, January 16th: 2:00-4:30 / 9:30-10:30 Saturday, January 17th: 2:00-4:30 / 9:30-10:30

Strides for Diabetes

Hi fellow Lions:

I want to reach out and let you know I'm the Strides Chair for District 31-N. I would love to help you get involved in the Strides initiative to help diabetes patients, contribute to research, and many other ways. Please contact me at 252-560-6451 or 252-523-1019. You may email me at sharon@lionsindustries.org

I would love to come to your club and speak to you about Strides events, help you to plan an event and show up for support.

Lion Sharon Axelberg
District 31-N Strides Chair

Peace Poster Contest for 2026

Students ages 11, 12 or 13 as of November 15 are eligible to participate in the International Peace Poster Contest. Kits go on sale from the Club Supplies Sales Department at International Headquarters on January 15th, 2026.

Best result for your club is to order your kits **EARLY** so teachers have a chance to add it to their next year's academic plan. If you order your kits through the district, we will place a bulk order to reduce the shipping charges. For further information contact Marilyn Jackson 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 lionsstephenson@gmail.com phone: 910-494-0809 for more information.

Tour to Miracles in Sight - May 1st, 2026

Don't miss this opportunity

The Sight and Hearing Conservation committee has scheduled a tour of Miracles in Sight in Clemmons NC for May 1st, 2026. Any Lions wishing to join us in visiting this facility should contact Kevin Toman for further details. We would like to get a group of Lions from each district to attend. Miracles In Sight is a nonprofit organization that focuses on the restoration of sight through corneal transplantation and related medical therapy and research.

The organization is a global leader in eye banking, helping to restore vision to thousands of people worldwide. It is driven by the generosity of eye and organ donors, who provide tissue for research and further advancements in sight restoring treatment and technology. Miracles In Sight also offers reliable tissue preparations and other products to make surgical processes and treatment easier.

As a nonprofit, financial contributions allow them to help more people in need of life-changing corneal transplants.

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 are printed in the "On the Horizon" section of this Gazette.


Club News and Events



Past District Governor Luncheon

Past District Governors!
Please join us for lunch


 Date: Saturday, December 6th, 2025

 Time: 12:30 PM

 Location: Taste of Africa Restaurant
116 Person St., Fayetteville, NC

RSVP by December 1st, 2025

 Email: msgelliottwife@gmail.com

 Phone: 254-415-2751

Each Person is Responsible for Their Own Meal and Drinks

Outstanding Veteran

Lion Tom Mattison, President, Jacksonville Host LC was awarded as "Outstanding Veteran" from the city of Jacksonville.

Mr. Tom deserves any and all recognition. He is a superb human being. His club stands in awe of him for all the "serving" he does. He doesn't do it for the recognition. It's just a part of living life to him. We are all proud of you and all your fellow veterans!



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

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 21st 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?jsessionid=B7EE896230575CC47F77746B28EB7BB5>

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

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



NC Lions Hall of
Fame Recommendation

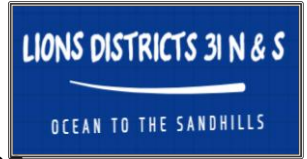


2026 Districts N&S
Registration Form.doc



Club Recognition/Ad Form

Help Support a Lions Tradition



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

January 16-17, 2026

Send Ads & Pictures in Color

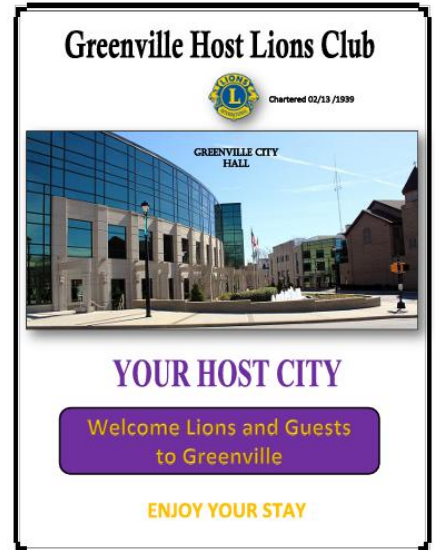
Holiday Inn

203 SW Greenville Blvd.

Greenville, NC 27834

Ad Prices

Full Page	\$100.00
Half Page	\$ 70.00
Quarter Page	\$ 50.00
Eighth Page	\$ 35.00
Front Inside Cover	\$150.00
Back Inside Cover	\$150.00
Back Cover	\$200.00



E-mail Ad Copy to: PDG Carlton Metts

carltonvmetts@gmail.com or call: 252-259-4140

**NEED HELP WITH DESIGN IDEAS?
Contact PDG Carlton Metts!!!**

Make Check Payable to:

Districts 31-N&S Midwinter Convention

Mail Check & Form to:

Lion Anne Metts

(Enclose copy of Ad)

2001 Williamson Drive

New Bern, NC 28562

******* AD DEADLINE – December 27, 2025 *******

Club Name _____ Email _____

Business Ad Name _____

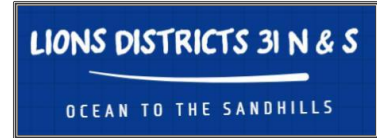
Contact Name _____ Phone _____

Ad Size _____ Amount \$ _____

2026 Districts 31-N&S Mid-Winter Convention Registration



HOLIDAY INN
 203 SW Greenville Blvd.
 Greenville, NC 27834
 Phone: 252-355-8300
 January 16-17, 2026



NAME TAG REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

<u>Lion / Guest Name</u>	<u>Club Name / District</u>	<u>Circle Ones that Apply</u>	<u>Circle Honors</u>
_____	_____ / _____	FFN TTB Lunch DGB	MJF-JSF-WLW-SLS-HOF- NCLF Amb-VIP Amb
_____	_____ / _____	FFN TTB Lunch DGB	MJF-JSF-WLW-SLS-HOF- NCLF Amb-VIP Amb
_____	_____ / _____	FFN TTB Lunch DGB	MJF-JSF-WLW-SLS-HOF- NCLF Amb-VIP Amb

MEAL REGISTRATION	Meal Cost	Late Registration (after 12/20/2025)	Number Attending	Amount Due
Friday Fun Night, Jan. 16, 2026 – 6:30 PM Backyard Cookout Buffet w/Hamburgers	\$30	\$33	_____	\$ _____
Saturday Breakfast, Jan. 17, 2026 - 7:30AM Classic Breakfast Buffet	\$25	\$28	_____	\$ _____
Saturday Lunch, Jan. 17, 2026 –12:00 PM Chicken Noodle Soup w/Sandwich Buffet	\$25	\$28	_____	\$ _____
Saturday, January 17, 2026 – 6:30 PM District Governors Banquet - Plated Blackened Sirloin w/Peppercorn Demi Sauce	\$40	\$43	_____	\$ _____
District Governor Banquet – Vegetarian	\$35	\$38	_____	\$ _____
District Governor Banquet – Gluten Free	\$35	\$38	_____	\$ _____
Total:				\$ _____

MEAL REGISTRATION DEADLINE – JANUARY 7, 2026

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE to: Districts 31-N&S Lions Mid-Winter Convention

MAIL TO: Lion Joelle Lynde (Ph: 919-219-1724)
 1003 River Dee Court
 Apex, NC 27502-4153

OR ADD DEBIT/CREDIT CARD INFORMATION – Visa or Master Card

INCLUDE: DEBIT OR CREDIT CARD NUMBER: _____
EXPIRATION DATE: _____ **SECURITY CODE:** _____ **ZIP CODE:** _____
 (\$3 Fee Charge for use of Debit/Credit Card)

Hotel Information: Call – Holiday Inn, 203 SW Greenville Blvd., Greenville, NC 27834 at **PH: 252-355-8300** to make reservation by **December 19, 2025**. Room rate is \$110.00+tax for Queen or King ---Call Early!!!!

Lions Industries for the Blind, Inc.

(252) 523-1019



Independence Through Employment

Providing Quality Products & Services for Over 40 Years

**Now offering
LIONS CLUB
apparel!**

