

# District Gazette



## District-N

North Carolina Lions



January 2026



### Dates On the Horizon

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

**January 10**, District training (in-person only) 9am to 12:00pm, 110 West F. Street Erwin, NC 2833

**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



## 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

It is my hope that all of you had an opportunity to celebrate this holiday season with family and friends.

Along with your contributions and the 5K run for Childhood Cancer, "Brave LIL Steps", in Greenville we were able to raise \$10,000 in matching funds to qualify for the \$20,000 grant from LCIF. The project to install new diversion equipment for James and Connie Maynard Children's Hospital will get underway soon. Many **THANKS** to all the Lions and community members who purchased donor pins. A special thanks for club donations from Angier, Raleigh Host, Beaufort, Kenansville and Zone nine, MD31-N.

**"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much".**

Lion Gene Goetz District Governor 414-640-5953 [ggoetz00@gmail.com](mailto: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

## NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

Yes Lions, it is that time of year again when we spend time dreaming and agonizing about how we begin the New Year with great promises about how we are going to make better use of our time and to improve our lives. Do these sound familiar?

1. I am going to lose 10 pounds
2. I am going to exercise regularly and get into better shape
3. I am going to read a book each week

After 1 month, or even 1 week, we admit defeat and are back to doing what has been our practice over the past year.

As Membership Chair I have noted that District N is down 44 members at this time. DG Gene is asking for our help.

Well, fellow Lions, I have a New Year's resolution for you that I bet most of you have not put on your list before.

1. For the next 3 months, I am going to ask a friend, neighbor or co-worker to join your Lions club to SERVE others through our efforts.
2. Invite someone to join in a service project to help someone that is hungry, needs clothes, needs eye glasses. Impress upon them that the motto of the Lions, WE SERVE.

If all of the District N Lions get behind this effort, we can make a difference and turn the negative number into positive. I am confident that each of you are up to the challenge. Make this New Year Resolution one that you can be proud of following through with. Come March you can proudly say YES, I brought 2 new members into my club.

Vince Schimmoller,  
District N Membership Chair  
919-935-9937

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

**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!

Hunger January; 3-11, 2025

Environment April; 18-26, 2026

## NCLF News and Events

### **COG and NCLF meetings**

On February 6, 7 and 8 the Council of Governors (COG) and North Carolina Lions Foundation, Inc. (NCLF) Board will hold the third 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. Submit reconditions to the district Hall of Fame Chair by Dec 15<sup>th</sup> so it can be sent on to the district Governor by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> if you plan to donate any items or volunteer. Contact 1VDG Eddie Chase at 252-939-0549 Email: [eddie.chase1953@gmail.com](mailto:eddie.chase1953@gmail.com) As always, thank you for all you do to help.

Hospitality room: #243 Open Times: Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup>: 2:00-4:30 / 9:30-10:30 Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup>: 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](mailto: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 15<sup>th</sup>, 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](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 [lionsstephenson@gmail.com](mailto: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.

Our next training session will be in person at, 110 West F. Street Erwin, NC 2833 from 9am to 12:00pm. The topic will be CLUB OFFICER TRAINING

Secretary PDG DeAngelo Jackson

Treasurer Lion Betty Singleton

President 2VDG Earl House

Potential Leadership PDG Ana Elliott

Snacks will be provided! Important Notice: Limited internet availability — **this training will be in-person only**

## Club News and Events

### 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

Jeremy M. Bradford  
Anderson Creek Joined  
11/01/2025

Richard Hudson Coats LC  
Joined 11/17/2025

Mary Brazier Beaufot LC  
Joined 12/08/2025

Oscar J. Lopez Kinston LC  
Joined 12/02/2025

Carmel C. Rogers Kinston  
LC Joined 12/02/2025

Tracy R. Grant Western  
Harnett LC Joined  
09/24/2025

Trisha King'Meszko Western  
Harnett LC Joined  
09/24/2025

Mary T. Tiernan Wilmington  
LC Joined 11/19/2025

Jan Allison Fayetteville  
Community C Joined  
10/02/2025

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?jsessionid=B7EE896230575CC47F77746B28EB7BB5>

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

## From the Beaufort Lions Club



The Beaufort NC Lions Club hosted the John Costlow Memorial Train Show, in partnership with the NC Maritime Museum, on December 12/13/14, in Beaufort at the Harvey Smith Watercraft Center. This is the 31st year for this event, and the 10th year that the Beaufort NC Lions Club has participated as the hosting organization.

This year 15 model railroaders brought their trains and enthusiasm for the Hobby of Model Railroading to the public. While not a train station, the wooden interior of this boat building facility provided the perfect atmosphere to take visitors

back in time to their childhoods. The show is always a favorite at Christmas time, this year 860 visitors walked through the show, with a special guest being Santa, who we are sure took a number of requests to place a train set under the tree this year. The BLC raffled off a train set, and took donations for donated train equipment and memorabilia, raising a total of \$1,576 during this show.

As an outreach to the Blind and Low-Vision of Carteret County, the BLC hosted a Lunch at Queen Ann's Revenge, that was followed by a group visit to the Train Show, to allow our local Blind and Low-Vision community to interact with the presenters prior to opening the show to the Public. The Blind and Low Vision participants were introduced to NaviLens technology, as each display included a posted NaviLens code to allow associated information to be stated through capture and the magic of VoiceOver on the individual's phone. So not only was this group provided an outing to enjoy

established friendships and attend the show, they had a chance to learn of some of the new possibilities available to the Blind and Low Vision through assisted technology applications to enhance personal independence. This is just one of the many established partnerships that allow the BLC to "Serve", and is just another example of how by leveraging the uniqueness of your locality, both Membership and the Mission of Lions will grow.

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



NC Lions Hall of  
Fame Recommendation

[District N&S Registration Form](#)



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[www.lionsindustries.org](http://www.lionsindustries.org)