

# District Gazette



## District-N

North Carolina Lions



### February 2026



#### Dates On the Horizon

**February 6, 7, and 8** Council of Governors NCLF Board meet at Camp Dogwood

**February 14** **Valentines Day!** *Don't forget that special person!*

**February 13, 14, and 15** District 31-O Convention Airport Marriott in Greensboro

**February 24** District training, 7PM Zoom - All about LCIF Grants

**February 26** Zone 5 meeting at Selma Lions Club 203 W. Oak St. Selma

**March 20 - 22** RLLI training at Camp Dogwood

**March 28** Civic Club Day at Boys and Girls Home

#### 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

Everyone had a good time at the District N & S Mid-Winter Convention. This year's Friday fun night was a carnival theme and we completed our third cabinet meeting. At the cabinet meeting the following elections were held:

FVDG Eddie Chase, Kinston LC, elected as District Governor Elect

SVDG Earl House, Erwin LC, elected as First District Governor Elect

Lion Kevin Toman, Shallotte LC, elected as Second Vice District Governor Elect

When you see these Lions, please congratulate them and thank them for stepping forward to lead the district. They will assume their new positions on July 1, 2026 for the 2026-2027 year.

*“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

Hello to all out there in District 31-N during this time of cold temperatures and winter weather.

Hoping all is well and everyone is safe. Time is speeding by, and we have barely packed up Christmas, and we are looking forward to seeing Valentine's Day soon.

We had a great midyear convention with Districts 31 N and S coming together to have a great weekend of fun, learning new things, and engaging with other Lions. Thanks to the Tail Twisters for putting together an awesome, fun night. With our guest speaker ID David Wentworth and his wife, Valerie, we were well informed and updated on current topics of Lionism. A great time was had by all.

Also, our 3rd cabinet meeting of the year was held, business was discussed, and elections for the 2026-27 were held. Thanks to all for the opportunity to serve as your District Governor for 2026-27.

As with anything, we strive to achieve, one person can only do so much. We have a great Team for our district that can accomplish much, much more. As always, let us build on the strong foundation we have in our District and continue to build on what we have. We are always looking for new leaders for our district. Please let us know if you are interested in becoming a part of our great district.

Continue all the awesome things you do for our communities and Lionism. Let's finish this year with great accomplishments and look forward to greater years ahead.

Lion Eddie Chase DGE 31-N

## From your District 31-N Global Membership Coordinator

### NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

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.

### 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 with the next week of service and help drive collective action for a better future!

Environment April; 18-26, 2026

#### REMINDER.....REMINDER.....REMINDER

LCI will no longer send out paper invoices. Invoices are only available online by logging into the portal. Ensure invoices are downloaded and paid online to prevent delinquent payments.

### 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 (HOF) 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. Honorees will be inducted or posthumously announced at the District Governor’s Banquet during the N.C. Lion’s State Convention.

Names have been submitted for this year. The following are some tips for next year:

Seek the advice of your District Hall of Fame Chair, previous Hall of Fame recipients, and PDG Organization. They have longevity and know most of your deserving lions.

Member history for a posthumously HOF award is sometimes difficult to find. Older members may know the history of candidates you are considering.

Ask clubs to research their older lions and review history books. They do not need to be a PDG. It may be that Lion that is unable to attend meetings due to health reason.

Living Candidates need at least 10 years of service as a Lion.

Deceased candidates need to be deceased five years unless they pass during the year of consideration.

# District News and Events

## Districts 31- N and S Mid-Winter Convention Highlights



## Strides Walk

### A great opportunity to help fund the fight against diabetes

Don't miss the Strides Walk on March 28, from 10am to 12pm at the Kinston Community Center 2602 Vernon Ave. Kinston..

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.

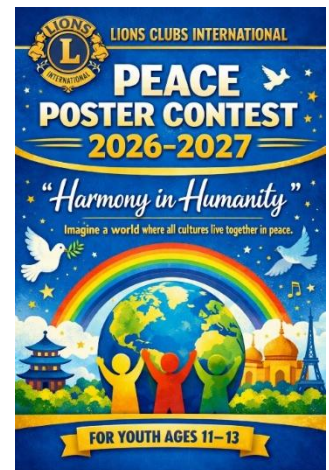
Lion Sharon Axelberg  
District 31-N Strides Chair

## Peace Poster Contest for 2026-2027

Students ages 11, 12 or 13 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. *New this year LCI is offering a way to beat the shipping costs.* Paste this link in your browser to order an electronic kit

[DIGITAL PEACE POSTER CONTEST KIT — Lions Clubs International](#)

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



## Boys and Girls Home From Scott Stephenson

### Christmas gifts:

Things are going well at the Boys & Girls Home of North Carolina. As always, Lions really showed up for the kids at Christmas. The following clubs all visited and / or sent gifts cards totaling \$9,550 to be given to the boys. In addition, some clubs provided gifts and stockings to the Lions cottage. In total, I would estimate over \$12,000 in gifts and gift cards where given.

Participating Clubs: Anderson Creek, Massey Hill, Kinston, Asheboro, Wake Forest, Mary Stewart, Beaufort, Clarkton, Clinton, Goldsboro Downtown, Hampstead, Hanover, Jackson and Sanford. In addition, I was informed by Southport and Wilmington that they were going to wait until after Christmas and provide gift cards since so much had already been given at Christmas time.

### **Teen Mom's Cottage:**

The Anderson Creek Lions provided new clothing and much needed baby supplies to be used in the teen mom's cottage. This is an ongoing project.

### **Keys to the Van Fund Drive:**

To date, over \$28,000 has been raised to purchase a new van for the Lions cottage residents to use. The estimated van price is \$48,000 so we still have a way to go. I'm confident we will reach that goal and have a new van purchased by the end of this Lions year. Join the challenge "Keys to the Van" 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.

### **Cottage update:**

The cottage renovation fundraiser from last year still has excess funds thanks to the generosity of HK Jordan & Company donating the majority of the construction cost. In October the Boys & Girls Home campus had a serious security incident which accelerated the need to upgrade the security system in the Lions cottage. I authorized the use of \$22,000 out of the renovation fund to install new electronic keypad locks and an upgraded camera system with fire monitoring that connects with all other cottages into a centralized security station on campus.

### **Boys and Girls Home Personnel:**

The home is close to finding a replacement for Tom Lamont, Director of Community Engagement, who resigned to pursue other interests. Until that position is filled, Clubs should go through Pamela Young-Jacobs, Chief Missions Officer, to schedule any visits or answer any questions. Clubs can also reach out to me and I will assist in any way that I can.

### **Events:**

Civic Club Day at the home is set for Saturday, March 28th. There will be a service project to complete after the meeting. Please add it to your calendar and plan for someone from your club to attend. Lion Scott Stephenson will provide more info on this as soon as he has it.

On a side note, I accepted a position on the Boys & Girls Home of North Carolina Board of Trustees and will serve a term assisting other board members and the home.

If you should need any clarification on any information provided, please give me a call.

Lion Scott Stephenson                      [lionsstephenson@gmail.com](mailto:lionsstephenson@gmail.com)                      phone: 910-494-0809

D31N Boys & Girls Home Chairperson

## **Tour to Miracles in Sight - May 15th, 2026**

***Join North Carolina Lions for a tour of the new Miracles in Sight facility in Clemmons, NC***

The Sight and Hearing Conservation committee has scheduled a tour of Miracles in Sight at 4750 Commercial Park Ct., Winston-Salem, NC. Any Lions wishing to join us in visiting this facility should contact Lion Glenda Grant at [grgrant28@gmail.com](mailto:grgrant28@gmail.com) or TEXT her at 919-306-4430 to reserve your spot. 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.

**“SPACE IS LIMITED SO RESERVE YOUR SPOT”**

## **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 a zoom presentation on LCIF grants February 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

## **North Carolina MD 31 Regional Lions Leadership Institute (RLLI)**

RLLI will be held on March 20-22, at 2026 Camp Dogwood, Sherrills Ford,

RLLI prepares Lions and Leos who are ready to pursue leadership roles at the club, zone, district, or multiple district level. The core plus the elective curriculum offers a consistent foundation while allowing flexibility to meet local leadership development needs.

The deadline to submit this application is February 27, 2026 and registration is limited to 25 participants so don't delay in submitting your application. The bulk of the cost of this event is being covered by Lions Clubs International and the Multiple District. The participant cost is only \$25.00 which includes lodging, materials and meals at the Institute.

Please submit your completed application along with your check (made payable to NC Lions MD 31) for the participant fee (which is non-refundable) to: Barbara Thompson 5409 Woodleaf Drive Greensboro, NC 27406 lionbthompson@outlook.com 336-339-6943

***SEE THE END OF THIS NEWSLETTER FOR A LINK TO THE REGISTRATION FORM***

**In addition, please send an email to your District Governor letting them know you have submitted your application!**

## **Food Drive at N & S Mid-Winter Convention**

Once again, Lions from across District 31 N/S heard the call to service and responded generously to the annual food drive held during the Greenville Mid-Winter Convention. This was our best Mid-Winter food drive to date as we collected 510 pounds of non-perishable food items and personal care items. We also collected \$560.50 in cash donations.

A special shout out to the Kinston Host Lions Club who donated \$250 and made a generous food donation as well. Fourteen other clubs signed our Thank You Sheet and many individuals also contributed with significant food donations. Louisburg club is pictured with their donation. We are sincerely grateful for the generosity of all. Lions who helped us with cash donations include Jim Tobolski, Amy Swaim, Lorraine Dixon, Anne Joyner, Steve McLaurin, and Glenda Grant.

Food insufficiency continues to be a problem throughout the state of North Carolina. It has a negative effect on children, adults, and seniors in our communities. Hunger is more than an empty stomach. Food insufficiency and hunger act as a barrier to employment, education and medical care.

Please mark your calendar for April 17 - 19 as we plan for the Lions District 31 State Convention food drive benefitting the Greensboro Urban Ministry.

Items most in need include:

CANNED TUNA/CHICKEN, CANNED RAVIOLI, INDIVIDUAL PORTION NON-CARBONATED CANNED FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DRINKS, and BREAKFAST ITEMS

Please NO GLASS! POP TOPs where you can! NO #10 CANS

We are also planning to build a CEREAL TOWER with donated boxes of breakfast cereal. Stay tuned for more information!!!!

ALL DONATIONS ARE GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED. We will be set up to accept cash, checks as well as debit and charge cards.

Submitted by Bob Christensen, Hunger Chairman, District 31-S

## Club News and Events

### Welcome New Members

**GARY GRUBER**

Beaufort LC  
Joined: 01/13/2026  
Sponsor: Patricia Castagna

**CINDY HARDEE ADAMS**

Benson LC  
Joined 11/01/2025  
Sponsor: Jimmy Wilkins

**WALLY BENGSTON**

Clarkton LC  
Joined 11/01/2025  
Sponsor: Sonny Jones

**MIKE ALBERTSON**

Fayetteville Massey Hill LC  
Joined:01/15/2025  
Sponsor Joshua Scott

**PAMILA A. CULBRETH**

Kinston LC  
Joined 01/07/2026  
Sponsor: Sharon Axelberg

**JULIE M. SANDERSON**

Kinston LC  
Joined 01/05/2026  
Sponsor: Betty Wootan

**BRENDA FELDER**

Smithfield LC  
Joined 12/16/2026  
Sponsor: Sonya Wilson

**L. CURTIS HYMES**

Southport LC  
Joined 10/08/2026  
Sponsor: Ronald Clark

**SUE S. PRITCHARD**  
Western Harnett LC  
Joined 01/02/2026  
Sponsor: Rosemarie Smith

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)

## REMINDER.....REMINDER.....REMINDER

This is a great time for clubs to begin considering who their next years officers may be, maybe form a nomination committee. Start now to identify key personnel to fill the roles to guide your club in the next year.

### **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>

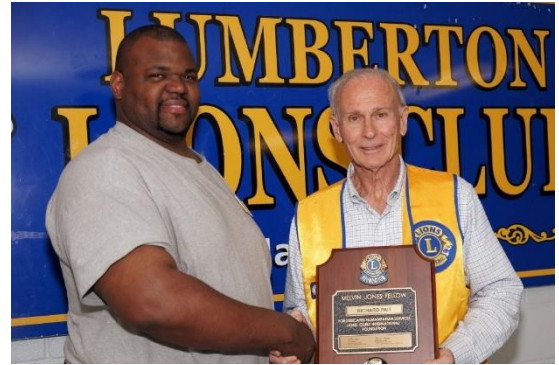
<https://www.vspvision.com/eyes-of-hope/get-help.html?jsessionid=B7EE896230575CC47F77746B28EB7BB5>

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

## From the Lumberton Lions Club

The members of the Lumberton Lions Club have had a busy first half of Lions year 2025-2026 serving the people of Lumberton and Robeson County. A core group of nine Lions members have performed SPOT vision screenings at twenty-seven (27) elementary schools, charter schools, and day care centers in Robeson County. A total of **2,997** children were screened. Of those screened, 514 were referred to an eye care specialist which represents a 17 percent referral rate. Lion's members gave a total of **239** volunteer hours serving the young people of Robeson County. Even though the bulk of screenings are completed, more vision screenings are scheduled in 2026.

In November 2025 Lion Kevin Toman, district 31-N LCIF Committee Chairman, spoke to the club members. A 1,000-dollar donation was sent to Lions Clubs International. In January 2026 Lions Club member Richard Pait was named a Melvin Jones Fellow in honor of his over 44 years of service in the Lumberton Lions Club.



In January the club submitted a check to NCLF-Camp Dogwood Raffle Sales in the amount of \$2,475. This added to the online sales makes the total Camp Dogwood Raffle Sales for Lumberton Lions total \$2,525 for the first half of Lions Year 2025-2026.

Sadly, in December long time Lions Club member Brooks Baxley passed away following a brief illness. Lion Baxley had been a serving Lion for 48 years.

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



2026 RLLI  
Application.pdf



# INDEPENDENCE

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