

# District Gazette



## District-N

North Carolina Lions



### April 2026



### Dates On the Horizon

<b>April 11</b>	District Training
<b>April 10 – 15</b>	Volunteer week at Camp Dogwood
<b>April 17 – 19</b>	NC Lions State Convention
<b>April 18</b>	Vision Screening in Erwin
<b>April 18 – 26</b>	Environment Week of Service
<b>April 27</b>	Wilmington Poker Run
<b>May 1 – 3</b>	Council of Governors and NCLF Board meetings.
<b>May 15</b>	Tour Miracles in Sight

### 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

The end of the Lions fiscal year will soon be upon us. One of the major tasks expected of the incoming district governor is to compose the district directory. Believe me; this is no small task but you can make the task easier and the directory more accurate by taking the time to update your club's information in the portal.

Clubs will soon begin nominating new Club Officers for Lions Year 2026-2027. Please begin identifying key personnel to step into these positions. Additionally, once the new officers have been identified and voted in by the Clubs, ensure ALL positions and names are input into the Lions Portal. Even if you keep the same officers from the previous year, you still MUST enter the officers for the new year.

It is critical we have the correct information in the portal. The portal is used throughout the year to identify club activities, meeting locations and times, as well as awareness of who the club officers are.

My favorite activity in the last 9 months is having the opportunity to visit clubs. For the clubs I have visited "Thank You" for allowing me to visit. If you would like a revisit or if I haven't visited your club yet just shoot me a text at 414-640-5953 or an email at [ggoetz00@gmail.com](mailto:ggoetz00@gmail.com).

## From your District 31-N Global Membership Coordinator

This message is printed late but the message is still valid and to the point.

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day the Lions Way — Add a member With a Wink and a Smile

St. Patrick's Day is that magical time of year when everyone suddenly discovers they're at least a little Irish, parades take over the streets, and someone inevitably tries to convince you that green cupcakes count as a vegetable. It's a joyful celebration of culture, community, and good-natured fun.

While the world dresses head to toe in green, Lions proudly stand out in Blue and Gold — because nothing says "service with style" like looking sharp while helping your neighbors. And honestly, if anyone can pull off Blue and Gold in a sea of green, it's us—where there is a need, there is a LION.

This season is also a perfect reminder of what community spirit looks like. Just as St. Patrick brought people together, the District N Lions bring our community together through projects that matter. Whether we're marching in a parade or stepping out for a Lions Strides Walk, doing vision screening, or feeding the hungry we celebrate and serve with purpose — and maybe burn off a few of those "vegetable" cupcakes.

Growing your club is a shared responsibility—and an opportunity. By being proud Lions, telling our stories, and extending genuine invitations, we ensure your club remains strong, welcoming, and ready to serve for years to come.

And here's your St. Patrick's Day challenge:

Call up your favorite Irish (or non-Irish) friends and invite them to join the Lions. Tell them we can't promise a pot of gold, but we can promise good company, meaningful service, and plenty of laughs.

Let's celebrate with heart, humor, and blue and gold pride.

Lion Vince Schimmoller

District N Membership Chair

919-935-9937

## From your District 31-N LCIF Coordinator

### **Serving Through Giving: Why Every Club in District 31-N Should Support LCIF**

One of the greatest strengths of the Lions Clubs International family is our shared commitment to service. Every Lions club works hard in its community—conducting vision screenings, supporting food drives, helping schools, and responding to local needs. But there are times when the needs are bigger than any single club or even a district. That is where the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) becomes so important.

LCIF is the global humanitarian arm of Lions. Through the generosity of Lions around the world, LCIF provides grants that allow us to respond to disasters, fight hunger, expand access to vision care, support youth programs, and strengthen communities in ways that individual clubs simply could not accomplish alone.

#### **Because of LCIF, Lions are able to multiply the impact of our service.**

When hurricanes strike, LCIF disaster relief grants help Lions provide immediate assistance and long-term recovery support. When communities need vision screening equipment or access to eye care, LCIF grants help make those projects possible. When districts want to launch large-scale service initiatives, LCIF helps turn those dreams into reality. Simply put, LCIF allows Lions to think bigger.

For our district, supporting LCIF is more than just making a donation—it is an investment in the future of Lions service. Every dollar contributed by a Lion helps fund life-changing projects across the world and here at home. In fact, many districts have benefited directly from LCIF grants that support community initiatives, disaster recovery, and humanitarian programs.

As your District 31-N LCIF Coordinator, I encourage every club to consider how they can participate in this important mission. Participation can take many forms:

- ✓ Making a club donation to LCIF
- ✓ Encouraging members to become individual donors
- ✓ Recognizing contributions through Melvin Jones Fellowships
- ✓ Hosting a club fundraiser dedicated to LCIF
- ✓ Setting a club giving goal for the year

What matters most is that every club participates at some level.

One of the things that makes Lions special is that we understand the power of collective action. As Margaret Mead famously said, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” That sentiment perfectly reflects the spirit of Lionism. When Lions come together with a shared purpose, incredible things happen.

#### **LCIF is one of the most powerful tools we have to turn that spirit into meaningful impact.**

I challenge every club in District 31-N to take part in supporting LCIF this year. Whether your club contributes a small amount or sponsors a Melvin Jones Fellowship, every act of generosity strengthens our ability to serve.

Together, we can ensure that Lions continue to lead the way in humanitarian service—locally, nationally, and around the world.

Thank you for everything you do as Lions, and thank you for supporting LCIF.

Kevin Toman

District 31-N LCIF Coordinator

“We Serve”

### **A CHALLENGE FROM YOUR DISTRICT GOVERNOR**

I have a special challenge for you. There are presently only 10 clubs contributing to LCIF in District 31-N. If every other club in 31-N contributes \$250 we would make our goal of \$20,000. If your club is low on funds...Give SOMETHING don't allow your club to have a \$0 in the LCIF column! If your club sitting on some extra cash consider DONATING over \$250.

### **From your District 31-N Strides Walk Committee Chair**

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

## **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.

### State Lions News

## The 102nd ANNUAL NORTH CAROLINA LIONS STATE CONVENTION

April 17-19, 2026, Greensboro/High Point Airport Marriott

Join us in showing our appreciation and pride as we honor Lacy Presnell at the North Carolina State Convention! We're placing a group T-shirt order so we can stand united in recognition of Lacy's dedication, leadership, and service. Don't miss your chance to be part of this special tribute - [order your shirt](#) and help us make a strong, visible statement of support and gratitude.

**The shirt is a surprise to PID Lacy so do not give any hints!**

From: Proctor, Riley <[Riley.Proctor@unchealth.unc.edu](mailto:Riley.Proctor@unchealth.unc.edu)>

### *LIONS FIGHT HUNGER at the convention!*

Thanks to the dedicated service hearts of our Lions, we will be collecting item for Greensboro Urban Ministries at our convention. Items needed include: canned tuna/chicken/salmon & canned ravioli with pop tops, any type of breakfast item, any type of healthy, non-carbonated individual drinks such as fruit juice, V8, etc. NO GLASS CONTAINERS! Cash donations will also be gratefully accepted as well as clean, dry grocery store bags. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.**

**See the link for a flyer at the end of this newsletter**

### NCLF News and Events

## KIDSIGHT STANDARD MATCHING FUNDS POLICY

The purpose of the Standard Matching Funds Program is to assist Lions Clubs in helping children who have a financial need and all other means of assistance has been exhausted for eye exams and glasses. It is the responsibility of the Club to establish procedures to determine the need of the child

requesting assistance. NCLF will provide sample forms and materials to assist the Clubs in establishing their policies. KidSight Matching Funds are available for North Carolina residents only who are age 18 and younger. An individual is considered a resident if he/she is in North Carolina voluntarily for at least three months with the intent to remain.

**See the link for a flyer at the end of this newsletter**

## **COG and NCLF meetings**

The next Council of Governors (COG) and North Carolina Lions Foundation, Inc. (NCLF) Board meetings will be held on May 1-3<sup>rd</sup>. The May meeting is special in that it is the annual membership meeting. Voting will be held for various issues and elections for Second Vice President will be held.

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 or use this link or QR code below.

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/nclf-board-and-council-meeting-february-2026-copy>



## **Camp Dogwood Raffle Ticket Sales**

### **Drawing Date June 25, 2026**

The North Carolina Lions are once again selling **Camp Dogwood Raffle Tickets** to support the **maintenance and ongoing operation of Camp Dogwood**. This raffle is a **major source of income** for the camp, and we need every club's help to make it a success.

#### **Prizes**

- 1st Prize: \$15,000
- 2nd Prize: \$500
- 3rd Prize: \$400
- 4th Prize: \$300
- 5th Prize: \$200

#### **Ticket Prices**

- \$5 each
- 3 for \$10
- 7 for \$20
- 20 for \$50
- 50 for \$100

## **How to Purchase Tickets**

From any **Lions member** or Online via **Zeffy**

Through the Camp Dogwood website: [www.nclionscampdogwood.org](http://www.nclionscampdogwood.org)

Through Club Participation

All Lions clubs are strongly encouraged to sell as many tickets as possible. Your efforts directly support the care, upkeep, and improvement of Camp Dogwood, ensuring we can continue to serve those who depend on this special place.

**For more information, contact:**

1VDG Eddie Chase

Phone: 252-939-0549

Email: [eddie.chase1953@gmail.com](mailto:eddie.chase1953@gmail.com)

## **VOLUNTEERING AT CAMP DOGWOOD**

VIP Camper sessions 2026

Session 1: May 24-May 28

Session 2: May 31-June 4

Session 3: June 7-June 11

Session 4: June 21 – June 25

Session 5: June 28 – July 2

Session 6: July 5 – July 9

Session 7: July 12 – July 16

**See the link for a code for registration  
at the end of this newsletter**

**District News and Events**

**District 31-N was well represented at the Regional Lions  
Leadership Institute.**

**We are proud of our future as well as our current leaders.**



**Students from left to right:** Sherman McCutcheon-Wilmington LC, Bonnie Johnson-Dunn Mary Stewart Community LC, Lorie Jones-Dunn Mary Stewart Community LC, Lee Ann Vasquez-Grifton LC, Kevin Toman-Shalotte LC, Robert Bolden-Fayetteville Community LC, and Jerry Williams-Grifton LC

**Instructor:** DeAngelo Jackson-Angier LC

**Childhood Cancer grant check was delivered to James and Connie Maynard Childrens Hospital on March 18<sup>th</sup>.**



**From Left to right:** Elise Ironmonger-Director of Programs at ECU Health Foundation, DG Gene Goetz, PDG DeAngelo Jackson, Betty Shingleton-District Treasurer, Kathryn Jarvis-Executive Director of Patient Care Services and Ali Grimes-Director of Pediatric Services

## 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)



## 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 an in-person presentation on the Lions Global Causes April 11th Time and location will be sent out.

To get a zoom link to other training zoom sessions please send an email to PDG DeAngelo Jackson at [m5djack@yahoo.com](mailto:m5djack@yahoo.com)

## Club News and Events

### LEO MCDONALD - LILLINGTON LIONS MEMBER FOR 55 YEARS



Lion Leo McDonald is a charter member of the Lillington Lions Club, which was chartered in 1971. Lion McDonald was presented a Milestone Chevron Award for completing 55 years of service as a member of the Lillington Lions Club. This award, signed by Lions International President A.P. Singh, was presented by 1st Vice District Governor Elect Earl House on March 3, 2026.

Lion McDonald is seated in his home with Lion Earl House on the right. Standing left to right are Lion McDonald's wife Pat McDonald, their son Johnny McDonald, and Lillington Lions Club President Walter Honeycutt.

Article submitted by Lion Geoffrey Patterson of the Lillington Lions Club.

### TWO FROM CLINTON PRESENTED WITH THE W. DON CASEY AWARD

On Monday March 2<sup>nd</sup> the Clinton Lions Club made two special presentations to two people in our community. Brooke Caddis is a young lady born with Spina Bifida. Brooke uses a wheelchair and is very keen on where she can and cannot go. She has the help from her mom and dad who are always by her. Her condition is part of her life but it does not define her as a person. Burke loves her church, Emanuel Baptist Church. She is the 2025-2026 leader of the nursery and in charge of activities for the younger members of Emanuel Baptist Church. Brook loves her family very passionately and keeps up with all their activities both immediate and extended family. Burke is an avid deer hunter. She is a

member of several Disabled Clubs in NC & Sc. her trophy deer is a 140-pound 9 point. She prides showing photographs of this accomplishment.

Although performing tasks differently and maybe with a few added steps, Brooke is just a regular girl that is very much in touch with this crazy world in which we live. Her days are full, meaningful and uniquely her own. Spina Bifida shapes some of her decisions but it does not limit her identity. She is determined to live a normal life.

NC Lions District 31-N Zone 7 was proud to present Brooke Caddis with the W. Don Casey Award for exemplifying the Courage of Lionism.

Kay West is the secretary of the Clinton Lions Club She has worked many years at this position and is the glue that holds our club together keeping the local club in contact with the zone, district, state and international activities. Interestingly it was revealed at the presentation that Kay actually taught Brooke in the 3rd grade 20 years ago.



Pictured left to right; Kay West and Brooke Caddis

NC Lions District 31-N Zone7 was proud to present to Lion Kay West the W. Don CASEY award for exemplifying the Spirit of Lionism.

Article submitted by Lion Steve Cox of the Clinton Lions Club

## **WILMINGTON LIONS CLUB**

### **\$\$ POKER RUN \$\$**

### **RIDE FOR SIGHT**

**Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Registration and First Hand 9:30 to 11:00**

## **At Shipwreck, Harley-Davidson**

*Best hand \$500 Second Place \$250 Raffle Prizes, 50/50,*

*Live music food and drinks*

**See the link for a flyer and QR code for registration at  
the end of this newsletter**

### **Come One Come All**

**FREE Vision Screening, Diabetes test, Color Blind test and  
information on new equipment for the blind**

**April 18, 2026**

**9:30am – 2:30pm**

**810 South 16<sup>th</sup> Street Erwin, NC**



**Sponsored by Erwin Lions Club**

**Chartered June 1, 1948**

**Help our town celebrate 100 years since the name  
changed from Duke to Erwin**

## **Congratulations New Members**

### **Welcome to the Family**

***CHERYL HOWE***

New Bern LC  
Joined: 03/11/2026  
Sponsor: Nancy Sibley

***CARLOS A VASQUEZ***

Selma LC  
Joined: 03/01/2026  
Sponsor: Mike Elmore

***AGNIESTKA K NAVARRETE***

New Bern LC  
Joined 03/11/2026  
Sponsor: Tracy Derby

***TIM MESSER***

Bensen LC  
Joined 02/25/2026  
Sponsor: Matthew Smith

***MARILYN SHUPING***

Beaufort LC  
Joined: 03/10/2026  
Sponsor: Patricia Castagna

***MIKE SHUPING***

Beaufort LC  
Joined:03/10/2026  
Sponsor: Peter Crumley

***DELIAH G. REGISTER***

Dunn Mary Stewart Community LC  
Joined: 03/02/2026  
Sponsor: Lorie Jones

***CAROL VANESSA JONES***

Anderson Creek LC  
Joined:02/19/2026  
Sponsor: John Uplinger

***TIM BIGGERSTAFF***

Pikeville LC  
Joined 03/01/2026  
Sponsor: William Wiggs

***GEORGE E MILLER***

Jacksonville Host LC  
Joined: 02/19/2026  
Sponsor: John Uplinger

***LAURA A. MONROE***

Grifton LC  
Joined 03/02/2026  
Sponsor: Jerry Williams

***DAVE ATWOOD***

Prinston LC  
Joined: 02/09/2026  
Sponsor: Donald Rains

***LINDA DULUDE***

Western Harnett  
Joined 2/2/2026  
Sponsor: Ladonna Schimmoller

***ROGER DULUDE***

Western Harnett  
Joined: 2/2/2026  
Sponsor: Ladonna Schimmoller

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, form a nomination committee. Start now to identify key personnel to fill the roles to guide your club in the next year.

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



[KidSight Matching Funds Policy Standard Form Approved 12.11nt-Special Request for KidSight Special Ma](#)  
[KidSight-Matching-Funds-Grants-Policy-Standard-Form-Approved-12.11nt-Special-Request-for-KidSight-Special-Ma](#)  
[KidSight-MF-Regular-Matching-Funds-Grants-Policy-Standard-Form-Approved-12.11nt-Special-Request-for-KidSight-Special-Ma](#)  
[North-Carolina-Lions-Club-Flyer-letter-size-sc26 flatpdf](#)  
[food-flyer-letter-size-sc26 flatpdf](#)



[Poker Run.docx](#)



[Volunteer Application- June 7-1](#)

# District Gazette



## District-N

North Carolina Lions



March 2026



### Dates On the Horizon

- March 12** Buies Creek Membership event 5pm-7pm
- March 20 - 22** RLLI training at Camp Dogwood
- March 28** Kinston Host Strides Walk
- March 28** Civic Club Day at Boys and Girls Home
- April 10 – 15** Volunteer week at Camp Dogwood
- April 17 – 19** NC Lions State Convention
- April 18 – 26** Environment Week of Service
- May 1 – 3** Council of Governors and NCLF Board meetings.



### 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

The following is an excerpt from the district 31-N zone #5 newsletter by  
Lion Mike McCaskill

### HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN

The question wasn't written on the agenda.

It didn't come with a motion or a second.

It came quietly, but it settled over the room with weight:

**“Have you forgotten why you joined the Lions Club?”**

The room was full. Every chair taken. Bright yellow Lions Vests were being worn. Name badges straightened. Plates of food prepared and shared with care. From the outside, it looked like a strong club.

But service isn't measured by how many seats are filled.

Somewhere along the way, the work had narrowed. The club had a sufficient number of members, yet when it came time to serve, it was the same few Lions who showed up. The same few unloading supplies. The same few staying late. The same few carrying the responsibility of service while others believed their attendance alone was enough.

At meetings, meals were prepared and enjoyed. And when the last bite was finished, some members rose, satisfied—as if their service ended when their plate was empty. Folks, that isn't a Lions Club...that's a supper club!

But Lions were never called to serve the table alone.

Many remembered mornings in a school gym, long before service became complicated. Children lined up nervously, backpacks clutched tight, unsure of what to expect. Lions stood beside tables, gently guiding each child through a vision screening using a PlusOptix device. No white coats. No intimidating exams. Just caring volunteers and a simple tool that could identify a problem before it became a barrier.

Some children passed with smiles of relief. Others didn't.

Those children were referred—sent forward to opticians for full eye exams and, when needed, new glasses. Exams and glasses funded not by families who were already struggling, but by Lions through service projects built for this very purpose.

For many parents, there was quiet gratitude mixed with disbelief. They had known their child was struggling in school but couldn't afford an exam. Couldn't afford glasses. Couldn't afford the solution.

The gift of glasses changed more than eyesight.

- It changed grades.
- It changed confidence.
- It changed the way a child saw themselves and their future.

**And Lions made that possible.**

In one of our Zone Clubs, in a rarity of action, a newer member asks what many were already thinking.

“We have a club full of Lions,” the new member said carefully. “But it really seems service has been minimized. I expected more when I joined. We’ve become a ghost in our own community. If only a handful of us keep doing the work, what happens when those members are gone? If we don’t show up in our community, who will?”

The room fell quiet because the members knew that he had made a correct observation.

**If Lions don’t do the work—who will do it in the future?**

**Who** will stand in those gyms?

**Who** will screen those children?

**Who** will step in when families can’t?

The Lions Club was never meant to be easy...It was meant to be impactful.

It exists because needs exist. Because children can’t learn if they can’t see. Because communities depend on people willing to do more than attend meetings and share meals.

That night, something shifted. Service stopped being something a few Lions carried and became a responsibility the whole club remembered. Meetings became preparation. Meals simply became fuel. And the work—real work—returned to where it belonged: the community.

Because being a Lion isn’t defined by a chair at a meeting.

It’s defined by standing in a school gym, serving without applause, and changing lives quietly—one child, one family, one act of service at a time.

So, the question remains:

**Have you forgotten why you joined the Lions Club?**

And now that you remember—

**What will you do next?**

**From your District Governor Elect**

Lions of District 31-N,

2026 is starting fast and eventful. Lions throughout our District are working very hard. As volunteer chair for our District, I wanted to remind everyone of the opportunity to serve at our annual Volunteer Week at Camp Dogwood this spring. Volunteer week is April 10-15 for Spring Clean-up Days. This year is being led by State Chair Nathan Medlin Jr. Please contact him at 252-701-3341 or email him at [misterclean803804@yahoo.com](mailto:misterclean803804@yahoo.com) Also, you can contact Tammy Maclean at Camp Dogwood For more information.

If possible, sign up for whatever time you have available; any time would be a great help. Our Camp season for our VIP’ S starts Memorial Day weekend. Please encourage the VIPs in your area to be a part of this great experience. We are also looking forward to our new year beginning July 1st. If you would like to be more involved within our District, please let me know. I am sure we could find an area

that you could possibly work in. We have Cabinet positions, zone chairs, and committee chairs that need to be filled. So, if you have an area you are interested in please let me know.

Thanks,

DGE Eddie Chase 252-939-0549, eddie.chase1953@gmail.com

**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.

## State Lions News

### **The 102nd ANNUAL NORTH CAROLINA LIONS STATE CONVENTION**

**April 17-19, 2026, Greensboro/High Point Airport Marriott**

Join us in showing our appreciation and pride as we honor Lacy Presnell at the North Carolina State Convention! We're placing a group T-shirt order so we can stand united in recognition of Lacy's dedication, leadership, and service. Don't miss your chance to be part of this special tribute - [order your shirt](#) and help us make a strong, visible statement of support and gratitude.

**The shirt is a surprise to PID Lacy so do not give any hints!**

From: Proctor, Riley <[Riley.Proctor@unchealth.unc.edu](mailto:Riley.Proctor@unchealth.unc.edu)>

## NCLF News and Events

### **KIDSIGHT STANDARD MATCHING FUNDS POLICY**

The purpose of the Standard Matching Funds Program is to assist Lions Clubs in helping children who have a financial need and all other means of assistance has been exhausted for eye exams and glasses. It is the responsibility of the Club to establish procedures to determine the need of the child requesting assistance. NCLF will provide sample forms and materials to assist the Clubs in establishing their policies. KidSight Matching Funds are available for North Carolina residents only who are age 18 and younger. An individual is considered a resident if he/she is in North Carolina voluntarily for at least three months with the intent to remain.

**For detailed information on this new and exciting program see the link at the end of this newsletter.**

### **COG and NCLF meetings**

The next Council of Governors (COG) and North Carolina Lions Foundation, Inc. (NCLF) Board meetings will be held on May 1-3<sup>rd</sup>. 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.

# **Camp Dogwood Raffle Ticket Sales**

**Drawing Date June 25, 2026**

The North Carolina Lions are once again selling **Camp Dogwood Raffle Tickets** to support the **maintenance and ongoing operation of Camp Dogwood**. This raffle is a **major source of income** for the camp, and we need every club's help to make it a success.

## **Prizes**

1st Prize: \$15,000

2nd Prize: \$500

3rd Prize: \$400

4th Prize: \$300

5th Prize: \$200

## **Ticket Prices**

\$5 each

3 for \$10

7 for \$20

20 for \$50

50 for \$100

## **How to Purchase Tickets**

From any **Lions member**

Online via **Zeffy**

Through the Camp Dogwood website: [www.nclionscampdogwood.org](http://www.nclionscampdogwood.org)

Through Club Participation

All Lions clubs are strongly encouraged to sell as many tickets as possible. Your efforts directly support the care, upkeep, and improvement of Camp Dogwood, ensuring we can continue to serve those who depend on this special place.

**For more information, contact:**

1VDG Eddie Chase

Phone: 252-939-0549

Email: [eddie.chase1953@gmail.com](mailto:eddie.chase1953@gmail.com)

**District News and Events**

## **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.

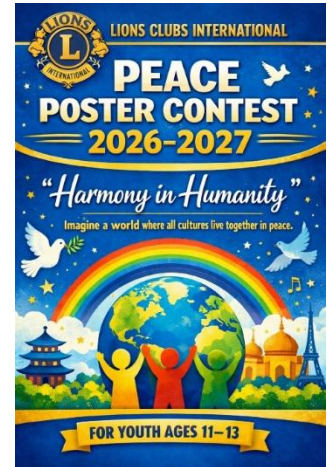
Lion Sharon Axelberg  
District 31-N Strides Chair

## 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

**Save the date: Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 2pm EST**

Welcome to our Lions, Rotary, Kiwanis and Jaycee club and chapter members! If you will attend our Spring Civic Club Day 2026 at Boys and Girls Home in Lake Waccamaw, NC on March 28, please tell us what you will bring from our Campus Needs list of the items specifically needed for all cottages. Please also note how many of each item you will bring, and we will have an area in the Chapel for giving to your cottage. Please also note your specific club. Thank You!

Schedule for the day:

9:30am Registration at the Chapel and donation drop-off.

10:00am Brief welcome in the Chapel

10:30am Walk to your cottages with Cottage Ambassadors and children for tours.

11:00am Meet in quad with other clubs for games (Rain plan is to meet in Thomas Academy gym for games).

11:45am Walk to Thomas Academy gym for lunch.

Noon-1:00pm Lunch, check presentations and thank you from President Marc Murphy.

1-2:00pm Service project at your cottages. Cottage Ambassadors will lead service projects. The service project plan for March 28<sup>th</sup> is cleaning and beautifying the outside of your cottage.

Please contact Pamela Young-Jacobs, Chief Mission Officer at [pamela.young-jacobs@bghnc.org](mailto:pamela.young-jacobs@bghnc.org) or Erica Hughes, Director of Community Engagement, for more information at 910-646-3083 or [erica.hughes@bghnc.org](mailto:erica.hughes@bghnc.org)

Please contact Pamela Young-Jacobs, Chief Mission Officer at [pamela.young-jacobs@bghnc.org](mailto:pamela.young-jacobs@bghnc.org) or Erica Hughes, Director of Community Engagement, for more information at 910-646-3083 or [erica.hughes@bghnc.org](mailto:erica.hughes@bghnc.org)

**Cut and paste the following link in your browser to access the registration form.**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0845A5A928AAF4C16-61923815-spring#/>

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 the Lions Global Causes March 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

## Club News and Events

### **Come One Come All**

**FREE Vision Screening, Diabetes test, Color Blind test and information on new equipment for the blind**

**April 18, 2026**

**9:30am – 2:30pm**

**810 South 16<sup>th</sup> Street Erwin, NC**



**Sponsored by Erwin Lions Club**

**Chartered June 1, 1948**

**Help our town celebrate 100 years since the name changed from Duke to Erwin**

## **Congratulations New Members**

### **Welcome to the Family**

***MATTI F. EASTON***

Lake Waccamaw LC  
Joined: 12/25/2025  
Sponsor: Patricia Medlin

***EARL HOYT***

Southport LC  
Joined: 08/15/2025  
Sponsor: Roger Albizu

***WANDA M. DAIL***

Kinston Host LC  
Joined 02/10/2026  
Sponsor: Betty Shingleton

***GERARD GINGRAS***

Anderson Creek LC  
Joined 02/09/2026  
Sponsor: Mary Fedele

***ELIZABETH GREENE***

Beaufort LC  
Joined: 02/10/2026  
Sponsor: James Greene

***JUAN LOPEZ***

Anderson Creek LC  
Joined:02/09/2026  
Sponsor: Mary Fedele

***SOPHIE TAGLIATELA***

Anderson Creek  
Joined: 02/09/2028  
Sponsor: Scott Peterson

***RALPH TAGLIATELA***

Anderson Creek LC  
Joined:02/09/2026  
Sponsor: Scott Peterson

***REBECCA M. FREEMAN***

Kinston Host LC  
Joined 02/10/2026  
Sponsor: Brandon Shingleton

***DYLAN RILEY***

Beaufort LC  
Joined: 02/10/2026  
Sponsor: JONATHAN PARKER

***AMANDA GOFF***

Grifton LC  
Joined 10/05/2026  
Sponsor: Charlie Goff

***CHARLIE GOFF***

Grifton LC  
Joined: 10/05/2026  
Sponsor: Jerry Williams

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, form a nomination committee. Start now to identify key personnel to fill the roles to guide your club in the next year.

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



[KidSight-Matching-Funds-Policy-Standard](#)



[KidSight-MF-Regular-Form.Approved-12.1](#)



[Matching-Funds-Grant-Special-Request-form](#)



[North-Carolina-Lions-KidSight-Special-Mat](#)



# INDEPENDENCE

*through employment*

PROVIDING VIP JOBS

252-523-1019

## Lions Industries for the Blind, Inc.

*Kinston, NC*

Contact your NC Lions Promotions Chair

for customized Lions Club apparel.

Contact LIB Graphic Solutions directly

for laser engraved Name Tags.



Lions Industries for the Blind, Inc.

(252) 527-3499 ★ (919) 252-5050



 **KINSTON HOST  
LIONS CLUB**  
Joe Smith  
Kinston, NC



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