

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 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>

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 1-3rd. 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.

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

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

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

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.

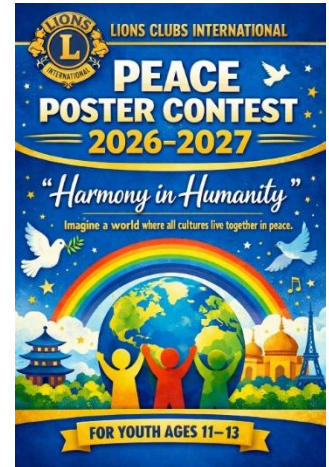
Lion Sharon Axelberg
District 31-N Strides Chair

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 15th, 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



Boys and Girls Home From Scott Stephenson

Save the date: Saturday March 28th 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 28th is cleaning and beautifying the outside of your cottage.

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

Please contact Pamela Young-Jacobs, Chief Mission Officer at pamela.young-jacobs@bghnc.org or Erica Hughes, Director of Community Engagement, for more information at 910-646-3083 or 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 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 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 24th 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 16th 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

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-fo](#)



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



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through employment

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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



www.lionsindustries.org