

District Gazette



District-N

North Carolina Lions



May 2026



Dates On the Horizon

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| May 1-3 | Council of Governors and NCLF Board meetings. |
| May 15 | Tour Miracles in Sight |
| May 24-28 | Session 1 VIP week |
| May 26 | Training on Zoom "LCIF GRANTS" |
| May 30 | Training Zoom and in person "District and Club officer training" |
| May 31-June 4 | Session 2 VIP week |
| June 7-11 | Session 3 VIP week |
| June 13 | Kidsight training at LIB |
| June 25 | Camp Dogwood Raffle drawing |

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

Bringing new Lions into our association is an important job that is the responsibility of every Lion in the district. We all need to make membership a priority. For me the alternative is not acceptable! Here are some small things you can do:

- ✓ Make sure you have literature on your club available at service or fundraiser events.
- ✓ Invite a potential member to your next club meeting.
- ✓ Send out a Facebook post to invite people to your next meeting.
- ✓ Wear Lions apparel whenever possible.
- ✓ Learn a one-minute elevator speech to tell someone what Lions are about.

My favorite activity in the last 10 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.

From your District 31-N Global Membership Coordinator

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo — the Lions Way!

Cinco de Mayo is almost here — that wonderful day when people everywhere suddenly become experts in salsa dancing, sombrero tilting, and debating whether guacamole counts as a vegetable.

But while the world is celebrating with tacos and mariachi music, we Lions have our own reason to celebrate: the joy of serving others and inviting new friends to join us in making a real difference.

This Cinco de Mayo, let’s spice things up. Not with jalapeños — with new members. As of April 24, we are down 29 in District N.

Imagine it: You’re enjoying your chips and salsa, and you casually say, “Hey, have you ever thought about joining our Lions Club? We help feed kids, support our food pantries, fly flags on holidays, and generally make the world a better place — all without needing a mariachi band to follow us around.” (Though honestly, that would be pretty great.)

So, here’s your Cinco de Mayo challenge: Invite one person — just one — to join us in serving the less fortunate. Tell them they don’t need a sombrero, just a heart for service and a willingness to laugh while doing good.

Let’s celebrate with joy, with purpose, and maybe with a taco or two. ¡Viva los Leones!

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

From your District 31-N LCIF Coordinator and SDGE

District 31-N Lions Clubs Serving Our Community Through Vision Care!

District 31-N Lions are proud to continue our mission of protecting and preserving sight by providing vision screenings right here in our community. From checking eyesight to raising awareness about eye health, this is what “We Serve” truly looks like in action.

A huge thank you to our dedicated Lions who give their time and heart to make a difference—and to everyone who participates in the screening process.

Together, we are helping ensure a clearer, brighter future for all.

Kevin M. Toman



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.

**See the link for a flyer at the end of this newsletter
for more information on IRA 2025 Charitable Rollovers**

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

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

District and Club Community Impact Grant Project (DCG)

Exciting news! Beginning with donations made in Lion Year 2025-2026 (July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026) The DCG Program now offers new return on eligible funds levels. The more your club or district gives, the more funding is available to apply for as a grant. Grants do remain subject to LCIF approval.

For clubs, gifts of \$5,000 to \$9,999 qualify for a 15% return on eligible funds, \$10,000 to \$19,999 qualify for 20%, and \$20,000 or more qualify for 30%.

For districts, contributions of \$10,000 to \$19,999 qualify for a 15% return on eligible funds, \$20,000 to \$29,999 qualify for 20%, and \$30,000 or more qualify for a 30%.

Typically, DCG funding is totaled and sent out to qualifying clubs and districts in August/September. Keep that in mind when planning your project. If you want to use funding at the beginning of the fiscal year, your DCG funds might not be updated yet in our system.

All DCG funding is calculated per fiscal year which is July 1 – June 30 for LCIF. Those are the cutoff dates and cannot be amended.

DCG giving levels are based on annual contributions.

Please note that the DCG program is a separate from MJF. A donation can count towards MJF or PMJF and a club or district's DCG balance.

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

AMAZING ATTENDANCE AT The 102nd ANNUAL NORTH CAROLINA LIONS STATE CONVENTION

Attendance of 381 at the convention was a FANTASTIC. Standing ovations were gratefully received by PID Lacy Presnell and his family.

The theme was C.H.A.N.G.E.

Change Has Arrived Now Get Energized.

Mystery auction raised \$1,000 for Camp Dogwood and VIP

Live auction Raised \$6,900 for Brighter Visions and LCIF

Thanks to all who put on a fantastic convention

SAVE THE DATE

Next year's convention date is **April 23-25**

The convention theme will be the 60-year anniversary of Camp Dogwood



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 1-3rd. 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 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.

How to Purchase Tickets

From any **Lions member** or 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

VOLUNTEERING AT CAMP DOGWOOD

A heartfelt THANK YOU to all of our incredible Lion volunteers! Volunteer Week has wrapped up, and what an amazing impact you made at Camp Dogwood.

Lions from across the state traveled from near and far, giving their time, energy, and dedication to help prepare the camp for our VIP guests this summer. From mulching and weeding, to sealing benches and swings, cleaning fences and sidewalks, refinishing patio tables, and so much more—you truly poured your hearts into every project.

Because of you, Camp Dogwood is more beautiful, welcoming, and ready than ever. This week, 44 Lions from 18 clubs contributed an incredible 635 volunteer hours!

Breakdown by district:

- District L – 8 Lions, 163.5 hours
- District I – 14 Lions, 132 hours
- District O – 4 Lions, 70.5 hours
- District N – 3 Lions, 20.5 hours
- District S – 14 Lions, 249.25 hours

Your hard work, long hours, and unwavering commitment to service truly embody what it means to be a Lion. Because of you, we are ready to welcome our campers for a summer full of joy, connection, and unforgettable experiences.

Thank you for making a difference!

Thank you for all you do,
Tammy MacLean
Director of Operations

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 TRAINING

Don't miss these training sessions on.

May 26 at 7PM. "LCIF Grants"

May 30 "District and Club officer training"

This training will be in person at three locations; Western Harnett, LIB and Wilmington.

Contact DeAngelo for details on the locations or to request a link to the zoom training.

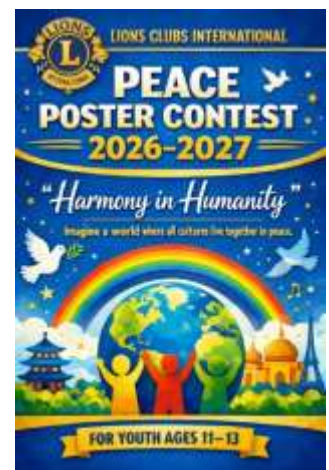
DeAngelo Jackson
m5djack@yahoo.com

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



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., 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”

Help support Boys and Girls Home with a new van!

The Boys & Girls Homes of North Carolina provides a safe, nurturing place and brighter futures for children and youth in need. A new van will help ensure safe, reliable transportation for daily needs, school, activities, and life-changing opportunities.

The goal is \$50,000 and we are close with \$37,250

Donate \$500 or more and your club will receive an attractive banner patch.

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

Kidsight training

KidSight USA Screener Certification Training District 31-N

Saturday, June 13, 2026 from 10am to 2pm

Lions Industries for the Blind (LIB) 4126 Berkley Ave, Kinston, NC

Club News and Events

Clinton Lions Club screens HEARING!

Recently the Clinton Lions Club in conjunction with the North Carolina Lions Foundation performed 16 audio screenings at New Life Christian School in Clinton, NC. One of the screenings indicated the need for full medical evaluation and treatment.

The group picture includes the Lions who assisted in the screening



Pictured left to right:

Gene Goetz, District Governor
Jon Snellings, Statewide Chairperson/Mobile Screening Programs Committee
Kay West, Sec., Clinton Lions Club
Ann Byars, Secretary at New Life Christian Academy
Bryan Hoover, State Director, Vision Screening Programs, NC Lions Foundation
Lee West, Clinton Lions Club

The Importance of Vision: A Personal Reflection

Embracing Our Role as Guardians of Sight

Understanding the Gift of Vision

Vision is something that most of us take for granted. It is woven into our daily experiences, so much so that its significance can often be overlooked. We rarely pause to consider its value— until we are faced with the possibility of losing it. For many, vision is a silent companion, always present and dependable. But for those who have experienced vision loss, even temporarily, this sense of security is quickly replaced with uncertainty and vulnerability.

A Lion's Duty: Service Without Expectation

As members of the Lions Club, we are committed to serving our communities and supporting those in need. Often, this service takes place quietly, without personal involvement or direct connection to those we help. We may contribute to vision initiatives, participate in screenings, or support the visually impaired, sometimes without deeply considering the impact of our actions. Our service is noble and selfless, but it can become routine unless we take a moment to reflect on the true meaning behind our efforts.

Personal Experience: The Power of Empathy

My own perspective on vision changed drastically when I temporarily lost sight due to a cataract. The world grew dimmer, and daily tasks became challenging. This experience was humbling and unsettling. When surgery restored my vision, I felt immense gratitude—not just for the recovery, but for the reminder of how precious sight is. This personal journey awakened my empathy, deepened my understanding, and reaffirmed the importance of the work we do as Lions.

Helen Keller's Call: Becoming Knights for Vision

Helen Keller famously challenged the Lions to become "Knights for vision," urging us to champion causes supporting those with visual impairments. Her words inspire us to serve with passion and purpose, not just out of duty, but from a place of genuine compassion. It is a charge not merely to assist, but to advocate, educate, and protect this vital sense for all. As Lions, we must honor her legacy by continuing to be vigilant stewards of sight—never taking vision for granted and always striving to make a difference.

The District Governor will not tell you and your club how to perform this service. He expects each club to know what is best for their community. While many clubs have arrangements with local Doctors you should consider if you have service providers such as Stanton Optical or America's Best as they provide exams and glasses for a low price that may allow your club to aid more people in need.

One major consideration to our aiding the community is ensuring that we all observe HIPAA and protect the privacy of our community members who have come to us for assistance. The information that we temporarily obtain must be kept confidential. This should be shared only with the Club treasurer, who pays the bill, and the Chairman of your vision committee. No one else in the club has a need to know this information. Not even the Club President. Using the Social Worker at DSSB, when available, to help screen your clients will help ensure that the person applying for assistance is in need. Remember that Medicaid benefits are available for some clients. The LCIF has resources available for children to get assistance at times. There is also the North Carolina Educational group that could provide assistance with children who need assistance.

Each club should have a procedure plan that lists the criteria for assistance from the Club. It should also provide the appropriate members that are the contact point for the club. It should include the budget approved by the Board of Directors and what is expected if something unexpected occurs. This procedure should be reviewed each Lion year to see if changes are needed. Even if no changes are required still review so that transparency is maintained.

Conclusion: Embracing Our Mission

Vision is a gift that must be cherished and protected. Through both personal experience and our service as Lions, we are reminded of its profound impact on lives. Let us carry forward Helen Keller's charge, serving as true Knights for vision. Our empathy, dedication, and advocacy will help ensure that others can experience the world with clarity and hope. In doing so, we not only fulfill our mission but also enrich our own lives and communities.

Lion Jefferson Thompson
District MD31-N Vision Chair

Beaufort NC Lions Club Builds Bocce Ball Courts

Community outreach and building of partnerships continues to be a proven means to spread the Lions message of service. The Beaufort Lions Club is proud to have been part of a collaborative effort, with Leadership Carteret, to build two regulation size Bocce Ball courts, along with the purchase of equipment that meets NC Special Olympics standards, at the Camp Albermarle Boundless Horizons facility. Why this project matters, many of the Boundless Horizon "different Abilities" participants actively compete in Special Olympics bocce ball events, thus regulation size courts and proper equipment are essential for meaningful practice and competition readiness. These courts will provide athletes with a true training environment, which will allow for confidence building, skill development and dignity in competition.

On April 15th, Beaufort Lions Peter and Dot Crumley attended the official bocce ball court dedication. At this event, BLC President Peter, who is blind, competed against one of the Boundless Horizons clients, as a first-time player Peter performed well, and looks forward to a rematch. This collaboration with Boundless Horizons has proven to be an uplifting experience, where the BLC is planning to host events for our local Blind and Low-Vision community in the future. So, this partnership represents more than a set of bocce ball courts, as a place has been created where those living with "Different Abilities", including the Blind and Low-Vision, along with Special Olympians can come to train, play and belong today and tomorrow.

Kindness Matters!

Lion Peter Crumley
Special Projects /
Blind Perspective



CONGRATULATIONS TO PDG DON EGGERT

Lion John Causey VP of the Shallott Lions Club presented Lion Don Eggert with a Lifetime Membership to LCI.

SAVE THE DATE

INAUGRAL "SWINGING FOR SIGHT"

CHARLIE DIXON MEMORAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

AUGUST 15TH 2026

CYPRESS LAKES GOLF COARSE

FAYETTVILLE MASSEY HILL LIONS CLUB

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

CLUB OFFICER ELECTIONS

Clubs will soon begin nominating new Club Officers for Lions Year 2026-2027. You should have already identified 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.

WOMEN'S EYE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Vision impacts all aspects of life and women have a higher risk of eye health and vision problems that can affect their quality of life. Glaucoma, dry eye syndrome, and age-related macular degeneration affects women at a higher rate than men.

Hormonal changes during pregnancy causing fluid retention can cause blurry vision and other pregnancy-related eye problems. These usually subside after birth. Menopause and the associated hormonal shifts can cause dry eyes which is a significant problem for peri-and postmenopausal women.

Women are more likely to have gender or financial barriers that can create problems accessing eye care, such as being able to afford eye exams and eyeglasses.

Did you know that 2/3 of people with vision loss and blindness in the U.S. are women? The good news is that nearly 80% of visual impairment and blindness can be treated or prevented.

TIPS FOR ENHANCING EYE HEALTH

- Get regular comprehensive eye exams. Women between 18-64 should ideally have eye exams every 2 years. For 65 and over, eye exams are recommended annually.
- Eat a healthy diet. Eat foods that are good for eye health such as fish, lean meats, whole grains, brightly colored fruits, and dark leafy greens. Limit processed foods and foods high in refined sugars.
- Stay active. Exercise is good for the whole body and can reduce the chance of developing diabetes which can cause diabetic eye disease.
- Use protective eyewear when needed. Protective eye wear such as safety glasses and goggles can protect your eyes from potential dangers.
- Wear sunglasses. The sun emits UV rays that can damage your eyes even on cloudy days. Make sure your sunglasses block 99% - 100% of UVA and UVB rays.
- Quit smoking or never start. Smoking can damage your eyes and raise your risk for eye health problems such as age-related macular degeneration and cataracts.

Women often juggle many responsibilities, including work and caretaking, along with many other activities. Getting regular eye exams can help ensure your eyes are healthy and that you can see clearly. The investment in your health can pay off today and, in the future,

Congratulations New Members

Welcome to the Family

MI-YANG PHILLIPS

Anderson Creek LC
Joined: 04/13/2026
Sponsor: Nathan Phillips

JOSHUA HUDSON

Coats LC
Joined: 04/01/2026
Sponsor: Richard Hudson

JOSEPH SCOTT SR.

Grifton LC
Joined 04/06/2026
Sponsor: Scotti Clements

CHARMAINE T VANDIFORD

Grifton LC
Joined 04/06/2026
Sponsor: Jerry Williams

STEVE STOLEROW

Wilmington LC
Joined: 04/06/2026
Sponsor: George Holston

ROY F YOUNG

Fayetteville Massy Hill LC
Joined: 03/19/2026
Sponsor: Scott Stephenson

ROBERT LAVERICK

Fayetteville Massy Hill LC
Joined: 03/19/2026
Sponsor: Michael McCaskill

JACKSON T FUNKE

Fayetteville Massy Hill LC
Joined: 03/26/2026
Sponsor: Edward Samuelian

LAURA A. MONROE

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

DAN MCCLINTOCK

Jacksonville Host LC
Joined: 03/19/2026
Sponsor: John Uplinger

EZRA M. HAGAR

Kinston Host LC
Joined: 03/26/2026
Sponsor: Sharon Axelberg

DENNIS GERALD JACKSON

Pikeville LC
Joined: 03/23/2026
Sponsor: William Wiggs

JEFFERY HAMILTON

Selma LC
Joined: 02/23/2026
Sponsor: Ronald Hester

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

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-fu



North-Carolina-Lions-KidSight-Special-Ma



KidSight long Dist N June 13 Flyer.pdf



Volunteer Application- June 7-11



New Van Flyer png



LCF 1.jpg



Massey Hill Golf 1.jpeg



Massey Hill Golf 2.jpeg



Massey Hill 3.jpeg



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