

District Gazette



District-N

North Carolina Lions



July 2026



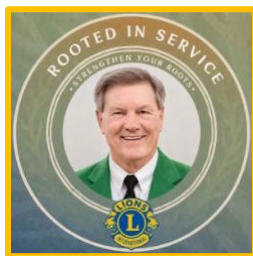
Dates On the Horizon

July 25	District Awards and Installation
July 28	New Lions Training - ZOOM
August 7,8,9	Council of Governors & NCLF board meetings
August 22	MD31-N Brighter Visions Kickoff/1 st Cabinet Meeting
August 29	Leaders Training – In person and ZOOM
October 19-21	NC Lions VIP Fishing Tournament
April 22-25	NC Lions State Convention

Your District Team

District Governor Eddie Chase
First Vice District Governor Earl House
Second Vice District Governor Kevin Toman
GET Coordinator PDG Gene Goetz
GLT Coordinator PDG DeAngelo Jackson
GMT Coordinator Jerry Williams
GST Coordinator Sonya Wilson
Secretary Betty Wooten
Treasurer Betty Shingleton
District Administrator George Holston

Zone 1 Chairperson Pending
Zone 2 Chairperson Pending
Zone 3 Chairperson Scott Stevenson
Zone 4 Chairperson Lorie Thornton
Zone 5 Chairperson Mike McCaskill (temporary)
Zone 6 Chairperson Pending
Zone 7 Chairperson Jerry Williams
Zone 8 Chairperson Pending
Zone 9 Chairperson Tim Byrd



From your District Governor Eddie Chase

District 31-N Lions:

At the time of writing this article for the July Newsletter, I will be attending the International Lions Convention in Hong Kong. I am looking forward to this experience, but not so much the long flight both there and back. It is hard to believe that we are beginning a new Lions year for 2026-2027. Looking back, we have had a great Lions year under the leadership of District Governor Gene Goetz. He has shown great leadership throughout our District as he tirelessly worked with all the Zone Chairs, Committee Chairs, the GAT Teams and all the Lions throughout the District. We can be proud of our District. Great things were accomplished, and we still have great things to do.

Thank you, Gene, for your Leadership!!!! I am looking forward to the 2026-2027 Lions year as your District Governor. I will strive to lead our District in the best way possible. Working alongside with each Lion in all our clubs, I will continue to build on the foundation that we have accomplished throughout the years. In doing this, we will continue to do what we do best. We will serve. To do this, we will need to continue to grow membership, add new clubs, and work on retention of members in our clubs. These things will only make our District stronger and will enable us to do more service for our communities.

So, let's begin strong for this Lions year to continue building a great District for the future. I am excited about getting to visit all the Clubs and meet with our awesome members. Please contact me with any thoughts or concerns. We will work together to make this great District even stronger!

Eddie Chase
District Governor

IMPORTANT

As shown on Page 1 of this newsletter under "YOUR DISTRICT TEAM," you will note that several Zone Chair positions remain vacant. We are in need of District Lions to step up into these positions in order to guide and mentor Clubs and Members within the identified Zone. Training will be available to assist volunteers in learning more about their role as a Zone Chair. Please reach out if you are interested in these key positions.



From First Vice District Governor Earl House Together We Can Make a Difference

District 31-N Lions,

As we begin a new Lions year, I am both honored and humbled to serve as your First Vice District Governor. The start of a new year brings with it new opportunities, renewed energy, and a chance for each of us to make an even greater impact in the communities we serve.

One of the greatest strengths of Lionism is that no Lion serves alone. Every club project, fundraiser, vision screening, membership drive, and act of kindness is accomplished because dedicated Lions come together with a common purpose. When we unite our talents and our hearts for service, there is no limit to what we can achieve.

This year, I look forward to working alongside District Governor Eddie Chase and supporting his goals and objectives for District 31-N. His commitment to strengthening our clubs, growing membership, developing leaders, and expanding our service to others provides a strong foundation for success. I am fully committed to assisting him in every way possible as we work together to advance the mission of Lions Clubs International.

I encourage every Lion to embrace the opportunities that lie ahead. Invite someone to join us in service. Support your club's projects. Participate in district activities. Consider stepping into a leadership role. Most importantly, continue demonstrating the compassion and dedication that make Lions the world's greatest service organization.

Together, we can strengthen our clubs, support our communities, and ensure that District 31-N continues to shine as a beacon of service throughout North Carolina.

Thank you for all that you do. I look forward to serving with you during the coming year.

We Serve.

Earl House
1st Vice District Governor



A Note from Second Vice District Governor Kevin Toman:

Fellow Lions,

A new Lions year is always an exciting time. It is an opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments, celebrate the lives we have touched, and look ahead to the work still to be done. As I begin my service as Second Vice District Governor, I am grateful for the opportunity to work alongside the outstanding Lions of District 31-N.

Our organization has thrived for more than a century because Lions are willing to answer the call to serve. Whether helping a child receive an eye examination, supporting a family in need, raising funds for worthy causes, or simply lending a helping hand, Lions continue to make a difference every day.

I am excited to support District Governor Eddie Chase and First Vice District Governor Earl House with their vision for the coming year. Together, we will focus on strengthening clubs, growing membership, encouraging leadership development, and expanding service opportunities that will help position our district for continued success. As part of the District Governor Team, I am committed to doing my part to help achieve those goals and to support every club throughout our district.

I encourage each Lion to look for ways to become more involved this year. Reach out to a prospective member. Mentor a new Lion. Volunteer for a project. Attend district events. Every effort, no matter how small, contributes to the success of our clubs and our district.

The future of Lionism is bright because of dedicated Lions like you. Together, we can build upon our proud tradition of service while preparing the next generation of leaders to carry our mission forward.

Thank you for your commitment, your service, and your belief in the power of Lions to change lives. I look forward to serving alongside you in the year ahead.

We Serve!

Kevin Toman
2nd Vice District Governor

Meet Your District Governor's Leadership Team

(First in a series of articles on District Officer Positions)



When Lions think about district leadership, they often hear titles such as District Governor, First Vice District Governor, and Second Vice District Governor. While many members recognize these positions, they may not fully understand the important role these leaders play in supporting clubs and advancing the mission of Lions.

Together, these three leaders form the District Governor Team, the leadership group responsible for guiding the district and helping clubs achieve success.

The **District Governor (DG)** serves as the chief executive officer of the district. Acting as the representative of Lions Clubs International, the District Governor provides leadership, direction, and support to every club within the district. The District Governor works closely with club officers, zone chairpersons, district chairpersons, and Lions leaders to strengthen clubs, promote service, encourage membership growth, and ensure that Lions are fulfilling their mission of serving others.

Supporting the District Governor is the **First Vice District Governor (1VDG)**. The First Vice District Governor works directly with clubs to help improve club health, membership growth, leadership development, and service effectiveness. The 1VDG also prepares to assume the role of District Governor in the following Lions year, ensuring continuity of leadership throughout the district.

The **Second Vice District Governor (2VDG)** serves as an important member of the leadership team by supporting district initiatives, learning the responsibilities of district leadership, and preparing for future service as First Vice District Governor and eventually District Governor. The 2VDG often works closely with clubs and district committees, helping to develop future district goals and priorities.

The **Immediate Past District Governor** serves as a vital senior advisor, mentor, experience leader within the Lions organization. Their primary responsibilities include guiding district leaders, assisting

with supporting community service projects, promoting membership growth, and often stepping in to fill vacancies or serve on key administrative and budget committees.

While each position has specific responsibilities, the District Governor Team functions as a unified leadership team. Together, they focus on:

- Supporting clubs and club officers
- Encouraging membership growth and retention
- Promoting meaningful service projects
- Developing future Lions leaders
- Supporting district programs and initiatives
- Advancing the goals of Lions Clubs International

Perhaps most importantly, the District Governor Team exists to serve the clubs. Their success is measured not by titles or positions, but by the success of the clubs and the impact Lions have in their communities.

Every district project, training event, membership initiative, leadership program, and service activity ultimately supports one goal: helping clubs better serve their communities.

Did You Know?

The District Governor Team represents a three-year leadership progression. The Second Vice District Governor prepares to become First Vice District Governor, who then prepares to become District Governor. This progression helps provide continuity, experience, and long-term planning for the district.

Remember

District leaders are not above the clubs—they are there to support them. If your club needs assistance, guidance, resources, or simply someone to answer a question, your District Governor Team is ready to help.

Together, we strengthen our clubs, expand our service, and fulfill our Lions motto: **We Serve!**

WE DID IT, DISTRICT 31-N!



District 31-N has reason to celebrate—we not only achieved our District LCIF goal, but we also exceeded it! As of the date of this newsletter, we currently stand at 100.8% of our 2025-2026 Goal!

This outstanding accomplishment was made possible by the generosity, commitment, and selflessness of Lions across our district. Every club, every donor, and every contribution played an important role in making this success a reality.

A special thank you goes to our District LCIF Coordinator, **Lion Kevin Toman**, whose leadership, dedication, and encouragement helped inspire clubs throughout the district to support the mission of LCIF.

Most importantly, this achievement means more resources are available to help North Carolina Lions and those in need through vision services, disaster relief, humanitarian assistance, and many other life-changing programs.

Thank you to every Lion and every club for helping make this happen. Together, we proved once again what can be accomplished when Lions unite behind a common purpose.

As we begin the 2026-2027 Lions year, a new challenge awaits us—to meet and exceed this year's goal. Based on what we've accomplished together, there's no doubt -- **WE CAN DO THIS!**

Lions International News and Events

District and Club Community Impact Grant Project (DCG)

While this article was published in the June 2026 edition of this publication, it is worth sharing with the District. 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.



State Lions News

Participant Applications Now Being Accepted for the NC Lions 2026 VIP Fishing Tournament

Applications are now being accepted for PARTICIPANTS to attend the 2026 NC Lions VIP Fishing Tournament that will take place October 19 – 21, 2026 on the beautiful Outer Banks of North Carolina!

This special event offers a fishing competition, fellowship, entertainment, and educational workshops designed for our blind and visually impaired participants. The registration fee is \$150 per person, which includes three nights of accommodations, six meals, fishing, and workshops.

For those attending with a sighted companion, the companion registration fee is \$200. Deadline to register is August 15 and applications, as well as online payment options are available at:

www.ncvipfishing.org

This is an unforgettable annual experience that Lions across the State should witness!

NCLF News and Events

Council of Governors and NCLF board meetings

REMINDER....The Council of Governors (COG) meets on the Saturday preceding the NCLF board meeting 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. The next Council of Governors meeting will be Saturday, August 8 and the next NCLF board meeting will be on Sunday, August 9.

To register for this upcoming event, call 828-478-2135 ext. 229 or use this link or QR code below.

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



District News and Events

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

From the Boys and Girls Home Committee Chair – Scott Stephenson

Just about any day you ask I'll tell you how proud I am to be a Lion. Today I'm extra proud! Over the past 11 months me and several other Lions have been asking Lions Clubs all across the state for their help in getting the boys of the Lions cottage at the **Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina** campus a van of their own to do field trips, get to appointments, and other adventures and activities they are involved with. I am proud to report that on June 26th, I delivered the Van and kept the promise to this young people that we would do whatever was necessary to get them a new Van! Lions from across the state were able to raise over \$44000.00 for the purchase to his vehicle. Thank you to all who listened and stepped up to make this happen! **Roar Lions, We Serve!**



Club News and Events

Liberty Lions Club Performs Service to the Community

During Lions Year 2025-2026, The members of the Liberty Lions Club excelled at serving their community and exemplified the motto of Lions – “WE SERVE!” Their continued partnership with the NC Food Bank, Lion volunteers in the Cumberland and Harnett County areas, as well as members of the Teach All Nations Ministry in Spring Lake, NC provided much needed assistance to those with food needs. Accomplishments in the photo below demonstrates their significant accomplishments for the year.



LIBERTY LIONS CLUB

“GETTING IT DONE”

Liberty Lions Snapshot

Fiscal Year: July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

Global Cause: Hunger



-  **Total number of people fed: 292,057**
-  **Total number of volunteers: 2,430**
-  **Total number of volunteer hours: 13,973**
-  **Total amount of funds raised: \$1,480**



The Liberty Lions Club
We're not waiting, we're getting it done!

Lumberton Lions Club Recognizes Members

Four members of the Lumberton Lions Club were recognized May 7, 2026 by DG Gene Goetz for continual service in Lions Clubs International

Pictured below L-R are:

Lion Jim Kirkland - 60 years, Lion James Martin - 35 years, District 31-N Governor Gene Goetz, Lion George Lawson - 10 years, and Lion Kenny Morgret - 40 years

Lion Gordy Dove - 40 years' service was unable to be at the meeting.



In May and June the club held the "Neighborhood Flag Project", placing over 190 flags over a 10-block area in a Lumberton neighborhood. This project generates nearly \$7,500 profit for the Community Activity Fund. In the photo on the next page, Club members participating in the Neighborhood Flag Project are shown.



Continuing their theme of service to the community, the Lumberton Lions Club had its annual visit to the Lions Cottage at Boys and Girls Homes of NC. A delightful meal was held for the residents and Lions members at Dale's Seafood in Lake Waccamaw.

Following the meal, the residents hosted a tour of the Lions Cottage and the Rogers Memorial Chapel.

Following the visit, Lumberton Lion President Garrett Robinson presented checks totaling one thousand (\$1,000) dollars to be used for the Lions Cottage Van project and for use by the residents of the Lions Cottage.



Lumberton Lions Induct Two New Members

The Lumberton Lions Club is pleased to welcome its two newest members, Zachary Haywood and Murray Pittman. The new Lions were inducted recently by DG Gene Goetz at ceremonies held in Lumberton, NC. Congratulations new Lions! We look forward to having you involved in District and Club activities!



Upcoming District 31-N Training Opportunities Lion Year 2026

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>TRAINING METHOD</u>
July 28, 2026	New Lion Training	ZOOM
August 25, 2026	Reporting Service Projects	ZOOM
August 29 2026	Leaders Training	In Person and ZOOM
September 12, 2026	Leaders Training	In Person and ZOOM
September 29, 2026	LCI Portal Training	ZOOM
October 27, 2026	LCIF Grants	ZOOM
November 17, 2026	Where does the Money Go?	ZOOM



From the District Gazette Editor

I am pleased to assume the role of Editor of the District 31-N Gazette in place of PDG Gene Goetz. This publication has been a labor of love for him and his monthly production of it provided Lions members in the District and across the State with informative content on LCI, NCLF, District, Zones and Clubs. I aim to continue building upon the product that Lion Gene developed. As the old saying goes...."If it ain't broke, don't fix it!"

I would love to see more articles provided by each Club of your activities in your area. You're doing great work---we just need to share what you're doing with others!

Please send any future content for publication in the Gazette along with photos of your projects. If photos have people in them, please identify each member.

Timelines: Because the Gazette needs to be reviewed by the District Governor, I am asking that all articles be sent to me not later than the 20th of each month PRIOR to the next publication. For example, because this is the July 2026 edition, articles should have been sent by June 20th to publish in this month's Gazette.

Feel free to let me know how we can make the Gazette more informative for each of you. Also, please disseminate the Gazette to the members of your Zone and Club so that everyone can stay informed.

Yours in service,

Mike McCaskill

Phone: 910-551-4662

Email: mgm28306@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE

DISTRICT 31-N

AWARDS & INSTALLATION

Banquet



Please join us as we celebrate a year of service and recognize our Lions leaders at the District 31-N Awards & Installation Banquet.



DATE:
Saturday, July 25, 2026



TIME:
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM



LOCATION:
Kinston Community Center
(Lions Water Park)

2602 W. Vernon Avenue, Kinston, NC 28504

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



District awards and recognitions



Installation of incoming district officers



Fellowship with Lions from across District 31-N

Event details and registration information will follow, including meal pricing, guest speaker, and the RSVP-by date.

QUESTIONS / MORE INFORMATION:



Call DGE Eddie Chase at 1-252-939-0549



or email Eddie.chase1953@gmail.com

2026 Awards & Installation Banquet Registration Form

Event Details

- **Event Name:** 2026 District 31-N Annual Awards & Installation Banquet
- **Guest Speaker:** International Director Gary Steele
- **Date & Time:** July 25, 2026, at 1:00 PM
- **Location:** Kinston Community Center, 2602 W Vernon Avenue, Kinston, NC 28504
- **RSVP Deadline:** Sunday, July 19, 2026
- **Registration Cost:** \$30/person

Attendee Information

- **Full Name:** _____
- **District and Lions Club:** _____
- **Email Address:** _____
- **Phone Number:** _____

Spouse/Significant Other Information

- **Full Name:** _____
- **District and Lions Club:** _____
- **Email Address:** _____
- **Phone Number:** _____

Banquet Meal Includes

- Pork Loin
- Chicken Breast, Thigh, or Leg
- Salad w/Dressing
- Twice Baked Potatoes
- Green Beans
- Mushroom Gravy
- Rolls
- Tea or Water
- Strawberry Dessert



Payment Method

- ☐ Credit/Debit Card (Processed securely online) Use QR Code
- ☐ Check (Mail to Betty Shingleton 214 Jessie T Bryan Rd., Kinston, NC 28504)
- ☐ Check from Lions Club

Contact Information

- Betty Shingleton (252) 939-5259 emilysgigi2015@gmail.com



To Live is to Serve





LEAD TODAY. CHANGE TOMORROW.♡

LEO CLUBS
ARE YOUTH
LEADERSHIP
PROGRAMS
SPONSORED BY
LIONS CLUBS



WHY A LEO CLUB AT OUR HIGH SCHOOL MATTERS!



Be a Leader. Be a Helper.
Be a LEO! ♡



BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS



DEVELOP LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Gain confidence, take initiative, and become a leader in school and beyond.



BUILD STRONG CONNECTIONS

Make new friends, work as a team, and build relationships with peers and mentors.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Participate in meaningful service projects that create a positive impact.



ENHANCE COLLEGE & CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Strengthen resumes, earn service hours, and stand out in applications.



GROW PERSONAL SKILLS

Improve communication, problem-solving, and organization skills that last a lifetime.



BENEFITS FOR OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY ♡



STRONGER, MORE CARING SCHOOL

LEO members lead projects that support students, staff, and those in need.



POSITIVE SCHOOL CULTURE

Encourages teamwork, kindness, and student involvement.



INCREASED SCHOOL PRIDE

LEO Club activities showcase our school's commitment to service and leadership.



STRONGER COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Collaborate with local organizations to address real needs and build lasting connections.



LASTING LEGACY

LEO Clubs create a ripple effect of service that benefits future students and our community for years to come.

ONE CLUB.
ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES.
BE A LEO! ♡



JOIN.
SERVE.
LEAD.
INSPIRE.
TOGETHER
WE CAN! ♡



IN OUR SCHOOL.



IN OUR COMMUNITY.



IN OUR WORLD.



#LEOPROUD



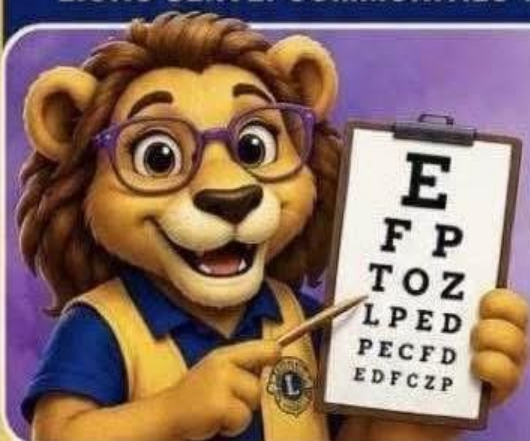
WEEKS OF SERVICE

THREE WEEKS.
THREE POWERFUL CAUSES.

2026-2027



LIONS SERVE. COMMUNITIES THRIVE.  TOGETHER, WE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD!



VISION

OCTOBER 8-18, 2026

Opening eyes. Changing lives.

Promote eye health and support sight-saving initiatives in your community and around the world.



YOUTH

FEBRUARY 13-21, 2027

Empower today. Lead tomorrow.

Invest in our youth through service, mentorship, and programs that build brighter futures.



ENVIRONMENT

MAY 29-JUNE 6, 2027

Protect today. Preserve tomorrow.

Take action to care for our planet through sustainability, conservation, and clean community initiatives.



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION

LCIF DONATIONS

*Together, We Serve.
Together, We Make a Difference.*



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



**DONATE
ONLINE**

It's quick, secure
and convenient!



VISIT
lionsclubs.org/lcif

Your gift supports life-changing
grants and humanitarian
service around the world.



VISION



YOUTH



DISASTER
RELIEF



HUMANITARIAN
EFFORTS



**DONATE
BY MAIL**

TO MAIL IN YOUR DONATION:

- ✓ In the U.S., it is best to send personal or bank checks.
- ✓ Checks sent from outside the U.S. should be in U.S. dollars drawn on U.S. banks, which expedites processing and reduces costly international bank collection charges.
- ✓ Checks should be sent to LCIF's **lock box address**, not LCIF's physical address.
- ✓ In countries where LCI or LCIF has bank accounts, funds may be deposited in local currency in amounts equivalent to the required U.S. dollars, using the association's official exchange rate shown on monthly club statements.
- ✓ A copy of the bank deposit receipt must be sent to LCIF along with completed donation forms.
- ✓ Fax or mail documentation to LCIF Donor Services at **donorassistance@lionsclubs.org**.



Mail USD checks drawn on a U.S. bank account,
payable to LCIF, to:

Lions Clubs International Foundation
Department 4547
Carol Stream, IL 60122-4547 USA



Every gift—of any size—helps LCIF empower Lions to serve more people,
in more places, in more ways. **Thank you for your generosity!**



District 31-N

BRIGHTER VISIONS KICKOFF



FIRST CABINET MEETING

*We Serve
We Lead
We Brighten
Lives.*



**SERVICE
IN ACTION**



**LEADERSHIP
WITH PURPOSE**



**VISION
FOR TOMORROW**



**TOGETHER
WE IMPACT**



SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2026



11:00 AM – 3:00 PM



LIONS INDUSTRIES FOR THE BLIND



KINSTON, NC



WE SERVE