

District Gazette



District-N

North Carolina Lions



June 2026



Dates On the Horizon

June 7-11	Session 3 VIP week
June 13	Kidsight training at LIB
June 25	Camp Dogwood Raffle drawing
July 3 - 7	International Lions Convention Hong Kong
July 25	District Awards and Installation
August 7,8,9	Council of Governors & NCLF board meetings
August 22	MD31-N Brighter Visions Kickoff

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

As I approach the end of my term as your District Governor I can't help but to reflect on my incredible journey of learning and personal experiences. I would like to send out my deepest gratitude to all members of the Lions Clubs in MD31-N who invited me to their clubs. Visiting your clubs has been the most enjoyable and humbling part of my year. Learning about your service to the communities, as well as the district and state are an inspiration. Being part of the Lions Association assists us, educates us, and even inspires us to serve, but without your relentless giving from your heart we would not succeed. You are what makes the Lions Association GREAT. Thank you for giving your time, donations, and energy to serve your communities.

Soon you will have new leadership to guide you on your quest to serve. We are fortunate in district N to have their total commitment to Lionism. I have been meeting monthly since July of 2025 with the vice district governors Eddie Chase and Earl House, in February we added Kevin Toman who has been doing a great job as LCIF chairperson. All of these Lions are committed to helping you on your journey of service for the next three years. Please welcome them into your clubs.

IMPORTANT

By this time clubs should have elected new officers for 2026-2027. Please be aware that even if you have the same officers they still have to be entered in the portal under FUTURE OFFICERS. As LCI goes paperless this is very important! We need to know who you are.

Words of Wisdom From your District 31-N, Zone 5 Chair

District 31-N Lions,

As we soon close the current Lions year and as we stand on the threshold of a new Lions year, we are presented with something far more meaningful than a change in calendar—it is an opportunity for renewal. Renewal of purpose, renewal of spirit, and renewal of our shared commitment to serving others in ways that truly change lives.

Each of us remembers the moment we first became a Lion. It wasn't just a ceremony or a handshake—it was a promise. A promise to serve selflessly, to uplift those in need, and to be part of something greater than ourselves. Over time, the routines of meetings, projects, and responsibilities can sometimes dim that original spark. But a new Lions year calls us to rekindle it.

Our communities need us now as much as ever. There are families struggling quietly, children who need encouragement and opportunity, and neighbors who simply need to know someone cares. Lions

have always been at the forefront of meeting those needs—not for recognition, but because service is who we are.

As this year's Lions year closes and as we approach the new Lions year, let us challenge ourselves to go beyond the ordinary. Let us not settle for simply maintaining what we've done before, but instead look for new ways to engage, to connect, and to make a deeper impact. That might mean reaching out to new members, strengthening partnerships, or finding innovative service projects that meet today's challenges head-on.

More importantly, let us renew our personal commitment. Service is not just something we do—it is a mindset, a calling. It's found in the extra effort, the willingness to step forward, and the decision to give our time and talents even when it's not convenient. When each Lion recommits individually, the entire club grows stronger collectively.

Volunteerism is the heartbeat of our organization. It thrives when fueled by passion and purpose. For the remainder of this year and as we go into the new Lions year, let us bring fresh energy into everything we do. Encourage one another. Support one another. Inspire one another. Because when Lions are united in spirit, there is no limit to what we can accomplish.

Let us reflect on the principles we pledged to uphold—integrity, service, leadership, and compassion. These are not just words; they are the foundation of our identity as Lions. By living them daily, we honor the legacy of those who came before us and set the standard for those who will follow.

The coming year holds tremendous potential but there is much to do as we finish this Lions year. Together, with renewed spirit and unwavering commitment, we can continue to be a force for good in our communities. Let each of us not only serve—but serve with purpose, passion, and a deep belief in the difference we are making.

Now is the time. Let us rise to it—together. **FINISH STRONG!**

Mike McCaskill, Zone Chair, NC Lions District 31-N, Zone 5

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.

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”

BRIGHTER VISIONS

Thank you for your generous gifts to Brighter Visions

Goal \$95,000

Received \$76, 386 as of May 20

81% of Goal

We still have 12 clubs that have not donated!

Avoid a \$0 next to your club's name and help us have 100% participation

SAVE THE DATE

The MD31-N Brighter Visions kickoff is scheduled for August 22.

Watch for more information in the next newsletter.

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

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

Council of Governors and NCLF board meetings

The following was copied from the NCLF By-Laws Revised May 4,

2025 ARTICLE V Section 1:

The Board of Directors shall meet in August, November, February, and May. These meetings shall be on the second Sunday of said designated months, at a time and place designated by the Board of Directors, with the exception of the May Meeting which will be held on the first Sunday in May.

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.

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

Don't forget to send in your tickets

District N contributions as of May 20 is \$18,335. We are a bit behind our last year's sales of \$25,457

Camp Dogwood Raffle Tickets 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.

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.

Make checks payable to North Carolina Lions Foundation Inc. for Brighter Visions, Camp Dogwood Raffle and Memorials and Honorariums and mail to:

North Carolina Lions Foundation, Inc.

PO Box 39

Sherrills Ford, NC 28673

Note the club's name and purpose of the check in the memo section.

VOLUNTEERING AT CAMP DOGWOOD

We are still in need of volunteers to help out for the VIP weeks!

Please contact Tammy at C

Tammy MacLean

Director of Operations

tammy@nclf.org

828-478-2135 Ext. 229

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

SAVE THE DATE

Please join us as we celebrate a year of service
and recognize our Lions leaders

District 31-N Awards & Installation Banquet.

Saturday July 25 at 1PM – 4PM

Kinston Community Center (Lions Water Park)

2602 W. Vernon Avenue, Kinston, NC 28504

- ❖ *District awards and recognitions*
- ❖ *Installation of incoming district officers*
- ❖ *Fellowship with Lions from across District 31-N*

Guest Speaker: International Director Gary Steele

RSVP Deadline: Sunday, July 19, 2026

Registration Cost: \$30/person

QUESTIONS / MORE INFORMATION:

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

or email Eddie.chase1953@gmail.com

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

Banquet Meal Includes:
Pork Loin
Chicken Breast, Thigh, or Leg
Salad w/Dressing
Twice Baked Potatoes
Green Beans
Mushroom Gravy



Kinston Lions Club went to work on the Neuseway Nature Park for their Week of Service Environment Project.

Lions who worked on the project - Brandon, Ronald, Mark; Ezra, Horace, Betty S, Betty W, Janis, Oscar, Carmel, Sharon, Wynona, Rochelle and DGE Eddie.

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

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.

KidSight USA

Screeners Certification Training

District 31-N

Lions from clubs using their own camera are encouraged to attend, Welch Allan or PlusOptix

Saturday, June 13, 2026

**Lions Industries for the Blind Graphic Solutions
4126 Berkley Ave. Kinston**

Arrive by 9:30 for registration & refreshments.

Class is 10:00 to 2:00 (break included BYO Lunch) beverages at a slight cost.

Class size is limited to 30 people.

Agenda

- 1. KidSight USA Screener Certification Overview**
- 2. Training Manual Overview**
- 3. Dr. Edward Cordes, KidSight USA, videos**
- 4. Review of Certification Multiple-Choice Test**
- 5. Photorefractive Camera (PlusOptix Training)**
- 6. Conclusion: How to become involved in Lions screenings**
- 7. Submission of Certification Test Answers Online (optional)**

Please register to:

DG Gene Goetz, 414-640-5953 (text or voice) or ggoetz00@gmail.com

Club News and Events

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 must be 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.

Congratulations New Members

Welcome to the Family

DAMON RITZ

Fayetteville Massy Hill LC

Joined: 05/14/2026

Sponsor: LARRY MCINTOSH

ZACHARY HAYWOOD

Lumberton LC

Joined: 05/04/2026

Sponsor: KENDRA ROBINSON

MURRAY B PITTMAN

Lumberton LC

Joined: 04/01/2026

Sponsor: GARRETT ROBINSON

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



2026 A & I

Registration.pdf



2026 A & I Flyer.pdf