



We Serve

District 18-D Bulletin

Gold



Standard

MONTHLY BULLETIN FOR LIONS OF NORTHEAST GEORGIA

January 2009



District Governor Dick Smith

Dear “Gold Standard” Lions of 18-D,

Happy New Year! However, as every Lion knows, this means that we are at the half way point in our Lions’ year. You have six months to meet the goals each of your clubs set back in July. What I hope you will do is finish our Lions’ year by making great progress in meeting your goals in the first half of the New Year! The goals that I have for the district are totally dependent on your clubs working together and meeting your goals.

Membership has been the major concern in the district and through out the United States. In fact, I just submitted another report to PCC Sandy Mercer, the Global Membership Team Chair for MD-18, which will get forwarded to IP Al Brandel. The district has not reported a gain in membership for any of the past six months. Although December’s numbers are not yet officially available, I have detected an encouraging trend. Seven clubs are down in members and they have not yet improved, but another six clubs that are down in members have started to recover! Ten clubs have remained stable in membership, and,

most significantly, thirteen clubs have improved their membership! We need all clubs to continue to focus on membership, but this trend is encouraging! Please keep asking people to join your club and keep the Lions you have!!!

We also have a few clubs working to establish Branch Lions Clubs. I’m eagerly awaiting notification of the success in these efforts. This is something I hope all clubs are considering. However, we are going to start the New Year with one very important event! Thanks to the dedicated efforts of our MERL Extension Chair, PDG Beverly Shirley, an organizational meeting is being held on Wednesday, 1/7/09, to start a new Lions Club in Lula, Georgia. As I said earlier, there are some encouraging signs that we might stop the decline in members in District 18-D.

I wish that the economy was such that everyone in our district was financially stable. Unfortunately, that is not the case. Importantly though, the consequences of this economy is that the community service each of your clubs provide is becoming even more important than it has been in decades. In addition to supporting your local communities, we need to jointly support our Georgia Lions charities. It is time to begin making plans for your club’s Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation White Cane Day fundraiser and the Camp for the Blind is going to need your support to cover the costs of the blind campers this coming summer, which includes selling the raffle tickets VDG Grace Clower delivered to you. No wonder we need more Lions!

Some of the presidents and secretaries of the clubs in the district have received telephone calls or e-mails from me in the past few days as I am requesting dates to make my official visit. If you haven’t received a call or e-mail from me, you soon will. Some of you will receive requests from VDG Grace asking whether it would be okay with you if she officially visited your club for me. LCI is encouraging DGs to move their official visits to the VDG and next year we are going to have two VDGs! Need I state the obvious: We are going to need a lot more clubs in the district to give everyone an opportunity to visit several clubs!

Finally, I'd like to report the winner of the district Peace Poster Contest. The winner was Madison Larisey, eleven years old, from Blairsville, Georgia. The club sponsor was the Union County Lions Club. And, no, the district Peace Poster Chair, Louise Little, was not on the committee that selected the winner. Congratulations to Madison!

Yours in "Miracles through Service,"



Dick

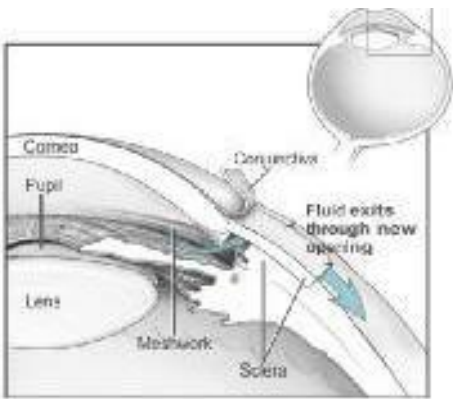
HAPPY NEW YEAR



UPCOMING EVENTS

You know how time flies when you're having fun -- mark your calendars for:

January is Glaucoma Awareness Month.



To learn more check out this web site:
www.aoa.org

Millions of Americans are at risk of losing their eyesight to glaucoma, a leading cause of blindness in the United States. During Glaucoma Awareness Month in January, community leaders and health professionals are encouraged to provide sight saving information to those who are at higher risk. The National Eye Institute (NEI) offers a variety of resources and materials that Lions clubs can use to plan and conduct successful campaign activities.
www.nei.nih.gov

13 January is Melvin Jones' Birthday



24 January: World Peace Day - As Will Rogers said, "There's no trouble writing humor when you have the whole government working for you."

Planning Ahead



10-11 January 2009



Council Of Governors Meeting
Georgia Lions Lighthouse Meeting at
Clairmont Presbyterian Church
Decatur, Georgia

Check out page 19

31 January-1 February 2009



Camp For The Blind
Warner Robbins

March – Prepare Club Elections and PU-101 forms
YOU CAN DO THIS EARLY.



92nd International Convention, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Join with Lions from around the globe as we gather together for LCI's **92th Annual International Convention** in **Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA** - from **Monday, 6 July** through **Friday, 10 July 2009**.

We are the greatest secret in the world and it's up to you to spread the world



Where in the World

Have you ever checked the Lions Web site – click on Lions Newswire or check out = Lions News Network 📺 • LQ-Lions Quarterly 📄?

Glaucoma Awareness Month

Glaucoma is a group of diseases that can damage the eye's optic nerve and result in vision loss and blindness. It can steal sight without warning or symptoms and is a leading cause of blindness throughout the world. Join with other Lions during the month of January to spread the word about the importance of a comprehensive eye exam for early detection and treatment of glaucoma. Clubs or districts are encouraged to collaborate with local healthcare organizations or agencies to [organize glaucoma screenings](#). Learn more about glaucoma from the [Lions Eye Health Program \(LEHP\)](#), the [National Eye Institute](#) or the [Glaucoma Research Foundation](#).

Funding Available for Lions Services for Children Symposiums

Children's symposiums are an effective way for Lions to join

with health care professionals, educators, governmental agencies address and other children's organizations to address the education and/or health needs underprivileged children.

The Lions Services for Children Symposium Program allows for up to US\$1,000 expense assistance for a district or multiple district that holds a children's symposium.

Applications for funding are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis for fiscal year 2008-2009. Four symposiums will be selected in each Constitutional Area. At the present time, funding is still available in Constitutional Areas I, II, III, IV, V and VII. To apply for funding, submit the [official application](#) to the Health & Children's Services Department at Lions Clubs International. All reimbursements will be subject to the [Rules of Audit](#) developed specifically for this program. [Read more](#) about the Lions Services for Children Program.

New! Lions Hearing Aid Recycling Brochure and Collection Box Decal

Lions who wish to collect used hearing aids in the community will be interested to know about the new Lions Hearing Aid Recycling Program (Lions HARP) materials:

[brochure \(IAD17\)](#) is a colorful piece for public distribution that gives a brief overview of the Lions HARP (Hearing Aid Recycling Program); packet of 25 @ US \$1.50.

[decal \(IAD18\)](#) is a two-color, newly designed label that can be affixed to the Lions Recycle for Sight collection box (Item Number G1174DS). 10.5" wide x 6" tall; this attractive decal may also be used to create a collection container; packet of 5 @ US \$2.00.

Please [contact the Health & Children's Services Department](#) to order. All orders will require authorization of a club or district officer.

Hearing Aid Recycling Program

New promotional materials are available from LCI to help your club start a hearing aid recycling campaign. A colorful brochure and collection box decal, along with a sample press release, have been designed to encourage more community participation and to aid your collection efforts. The new box decal can be affixed to the official Lions Clubs International eyeglass collection box; or you can use the decal to design your own box. Hearing aid recycling is a rewarding

club activity. Learn more about how

you can help to provide assistance to individuals in need through the Lions Clubs International [Hearing Aid Recycling Program](#). Contact the [Health and Children's Services Department](#) to order a supply of the new brochures and labels at a nominal cost. You may download the press release on the association's Web site.

New: Award Certificates for Sight Chairpersons

The Board of Directors recently approved two new awards to honor the services of the district and multiple district sight chairpersons. At the end of each fiscal year, the council chairperson and district governor can present distinguished award certificates to the multiple district and district sight chairpersons, respectively. Each certificate will contain Braille imprinting, to provide increased recognition and awareness for Lions' work with individuals who are blind or living with low vision. For fiscal year 2008-2009, the Health and Children's Services Department will mail the certificates to each council chairperson and district governor of record. For more information about the Sight Chairperson's responsibilities and resources.

New!!! Strides Walk Banner Patch

Lions clubs and districts that have organized a [Strides: Lions Walk for Diabetes Awareness](#) may apply to receive the new Strides Walk Banner Patch award. Read more about the [award criteria](#) and download the [application](#).

Strides: Banner Patch Award

Strides: Lions Walk for Diabetes Awareness is an enjoyable event to inform the public about diabetes, the leading cause of new cases of blindness in adults. Every Lions club, district and multiple district can organize a Strides Walk for children and adults in their communities. The walk can also help to raise funds for a district diabetes project, a Lions-sponsored diabetes camp or a local diabetes organization. A Strides Walk can also be held at a district or multiple district convention. [The Strides Information Packet](#) details how to easily plan and organize a Strides Walk.

Upon verification of eligibility, Lions clubs, districts and multiple districts that organize a Strides Walk will be issued a one-time banner patch award. For subsequent years in which a Strides Walk is organized, a chevron bearing the fiscal year in which the walk was held will be issued. Send an e-mail to [Health & Children's Services Department](#) for more information.

Louis Braille Bicentennial

January 4, 2009, marks the bicentennial of the birth of Louis Braille, who invented the series of raised dots that can be read with the fingers by people who are blind or whose eyesight is not sufficient for reading printed material. Learn more about the importance of Braille literacy at the [National Federation of the Blind](#) Web site.

Lions can help the blind or visually impaired by helping them to locate helpful resources. The [Hadley School for the Blind](#) promotes independent living through lifelong, distance education, including Braille courses, for people who are blind or visually impaired, their families and blindness service providers. Also,

see the list of Lions sponsored [recreational camps](#) for the blind and visually impaired.

International Convention

Registration

[Registration](#) for the international convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA is now available online — it is convenient and easy to use. You can also use [online registration](#) to book a room at your delegation hotel. Your convention registration and hotel reservation are confirmed immediately via e-mail. Check the [convention pages](#) online frequently for updated information about convention events and logistics information.

Hadley Offers Tuition-Free Programs to the Blind

Lions Clubs International is in [partnership](#) with [The Hadley School for the Blind](#), a distance-education school offering tuition-free adult continuing education, a high school program (U.S. only) and a family education program. The Lions' role in the partnership is simply to refer students to enroll at Hadley. Hadley students live in all 50 states and more than 100 countries.

Two New Club Programs

Two new hands-on club programs have been introduced for the betterment of the environment and beautification of the community:

[Lions Green Team](#) - Organize a high-visibility environmental project, such as a community clean-up, tree planting or recycling effort.

[Lions Crew at Work](#) - Invite Lions and other community members to help clean, paint or

repair a local facility such as a community center, shelter, camp, playground or nature trail.

During these events, Lions are encouraged to post a Lions sign or banner and to wear Lions hats, shirts, jackets to identify the club in the community. Invite the community to join your club's efforts and contact your local media.

Miracles Through Service — 2008-09 International Program

Watch the International Program video, "[Everyday Heroes](#)," online. The video brings to life 2008-09 International President Al Brandel's program "Miracles Through Service," illustrating the everyday acts of Lions that make them everyday heroes. This

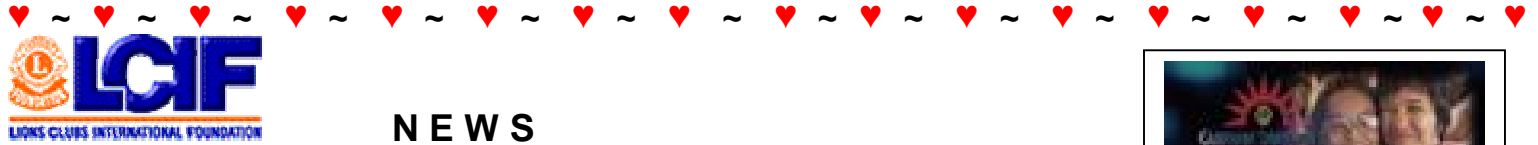
inspiring video is an excellent resource to share with your club members. The DVD is available to purchase from Club Supplies in all official languages. For additional information, [read the written program](#).

New Lions Sought for Magazine Profiles

THE LION Magazine wants to profile young, interesting and active Lions who have joined an existing club within the last four to eight months. One such Lion will be highlighted each month in the magazine starting in January 2009. Please [e-mail a brief description](#) of the impact the Lion has made on the club along with person's name, club name, location and contact information (phone, e-mail) along with your contact information for consideration.

Lions Clubs International Videos on YouTube

LCI's videos are now available on YouTube — the premier online destination to watch and share original videos worldwide. Visit www.youtube.com/lionsclubsorg to see the latest videos about our international convention in Bangkok, club service projects featured in LQ and more. While on YouTube, click the Subscribe button to stay up-to-date on the latest Lions Clubs International videos.



NEWS

LCIF Coordinator

Lions Clubs International Foundation is in a position of unprecedented opportunity to build upon the recent success of Campaign SightFirst. To do so an LCIF Development Plan was created, which was approved by the LCIF Board of Trustees at the May 2008 Board Meeting. This plan is designed to strengthen our Foundation, and a critical aspect of the plan is the creation of an enhanced LCIF volunteer structure, similar to that of CSFII.

This enhanced volunteer structure will provide consistently trained and longer-serving LCIF Coordinators in every district and multiple district. These volunteer coordinators will serve as ambassadors of LCIF in all regards and will be supported in their efforts by geographically assigned LCIF Development staff. This change is being undertaken to better serve the needs of Lions and those we serve worldwide. The efforts of these LCIF Coordinators will help increase both awareness of LCIF's work and donations received, allowing Lions to provide greater humanitarian service when needed locally and globally.

These leaders are being appointed and trained during this Lions year (2008-2009) for a four-year term (allowing for some variation to address local needs). Please note that the new LCIF MD and District Coordinators will fill the role formerly served by MD and District LCIF Chairpersons. This new structure will be effective following International Convention in Lions year 2009-2010.

In the coming weeks, the recently appointed LCIF Multiple District Coordinator will be consulting with leaders in the district and multiple district to select LCIF District Coordinators to promote the work of LCIF.

Please give these leaders full support as they prepare to support our Lions Clubs International Foundation. Working together, Lions have the opportunity to build a stronger Foundation and create a better world.





LCIF: Lions Serving the World Community ... and Your Community

Lions Clubs International Foundation, the official charitable foundation of Lions Clubs International, brings help, hope and healing to the world.

LCIF enables Lions to tackle global problems such as blindness and hearing loss and respond to major catastrophes such as earthquakes and floods. But LCIF also helps Lions serve their local communities by partnering with them to build schools, health clinics and vocational training centers for the disabled.

LCIF helps people to lead healthier and more productive lives. It combats preventable blindness through cataract surgeries, building and equipping eye hospitals and clinics, training eye health care professionals and raising awareness of eye diseases.

LCIF nurtures the potential of youth by building schools and supporting the life-skills program Lions Quest. It also promotes health by building and equipping medical clinics, serves the elderly by constructing senior citizen centers, empowers the disabled by supporting vocational programs and helps victims of disasters through rebuilding projects and short-term relief.

LCIF PowerPoint Presentations

Note: If you do not have a high-speed Internet connection, you may have trouble downloading these files because of their size. You may want to download the file to your hard drive. To do this, if your browser is Microsoft Internet Explorer, for example, right click on the mouse, click "save target as," click save and click ok.

1. Overview of LCIF Program and Grants (updated March 2007)

[Download PowerPoint Presentation](#)

41 slides. A general summary of LCIF. Good presentation for club and district meetings.

2. The New LCIF (shown at DGE School June 2008)

[Download PowerPoint Presentation](#)

35 slides. An overview of LCIF and the future of LCIF. Includes an outline of the new development plan to increase LCIF's funding and train volunteer coordinators.

3. Lions Quest

[Download PowerPoint Presentation](#)

26 slides. A summary of LCIF's schools-based life skills program.

4. Eye Health for Seniors

[Download PowerPoint Presentation](#)

29 slides. An educational overview of eye diseases that afflict seniors and preventative measures.

5. Eye Health for Children

[Download PowerPoint Presentation](#)

24 slides. Eye health habits for children in order to protect their sight before it's too late.

LCIF Videos

The LCIF videos are a powerful way to show the value of LCIF. They can be shown to Lions at club meetings and district conventions as well as provided to local programming television stations or shared with non-Lions to educate them about the impact of LCIF. The programs are available in DVD format in all official languages. (The DVDs will work on DVD players in the United States and Canada and on region-free players elsewhere.)

LCIF: Local Service, Global Impact presents an overview of LCIF's major initiatives with a special focus on SightFirst, Campaign SightFirst II and grants for humanitarian projects more local in scope. Running time: 13 minutes.

Campaign SightFirst II Celebration triumphs the successful conclusion the three-year fundraising initiative and look back at the campaign. Running time: 8 minutes

The videos can be [viewed and ordered](#) online. Or, contact LCIF by [e-mail](#), by fax at 630-571-5735, or at LCIF, 300 W. 22nd St., Oak Brook, IL, 60523-8842, USA, Attn.- LCIF Communications

Upon request, one copy of each DVD will be provided free of charge. For larger quantities, please contact LCIF for charges and shipping prices.



Editor's Note

Fellow Lions:

GUIDE DOGS

“ Although I have lost my sight, with the help of the angel who walks on my left side, I have regained my vision. She not only has guided my footsteps, she guided my heart, my mind & my spirit. ”

The above statement was made by an individual who went thru Seeing Eye school in New Jersey. This is the oldest Guide Dog School founded in 1929 and also was the school that Lion Tom Bingham went to.

Since then, many other Guide Dog Schools have jumped to the challenge of providing Guide Dogs to those in need. At the present time, there are 11 Guide Dog Schools recognized by the International Guide Dog Federation = (First and foremost, membership of the IGDF enables Guide Dog Schools around the world to join a community dedicated to serving the visually impaired. That community needs and wants to share its knowledge and the IGDF facilitates that.)

I will try and give a few approximate figures that I have found around the internet – remember, these are only approximate figures: **There are 10 million visually impaired people in the USA of which 1.3 million are legally blind and 55,000 are deaf and blind and 65,000 are children.**

That's amazing – and I can say that there is not enough Guide Dog Schools within the country to be able to handle the figures above. Each of the schools receive donations from many sources including from Lions Clubs around the country. Of course, there is only one Guide Dog School that was founded by Lions.

At present, there is approximately **7,000 Guide Dog Teams** (blind person with a dog) out and about around the United States. Many of the Guide Dog Teams have been helped and recommended by Lions like you. It has been a tremendous challenge in trying to help those who are in need. **Also, all the schools are committed in providing Guide Dogs to our Veterans. They work thru the VA system in helping the Vets.**

Now, these figures are in Georgia, **202,747 persons—27,402 aged and 175,345 disabled and blind—** received federally administered SSI payments in December 2005. A total of 51,533 recipients were aged 65 or older, 117,922 were aged 18 to 64, and 33,292 were under the age of 18. Here again, just approximate figures and of course that is from 2005.

Out of the 11 Guide Dog Schools – 8 have provided Guide Dogs within the state of Georgia. In fact, there are approximately **210 Guide Dog Teams from the 8 schools.**

As we all may know, there are two Guide Dog Schools that have provided over 100 Guide Dogs to Georgia recipients. Leader Dogs for the Blind and Southeastern Guide Dogs. We sure have been fortunate to have these two schools to depend on, but we are also thankful for the other schools who have provided Guide Dogs.

It is up to the individual who has lost their sight to pick the Guide Dog School they wish to go to in order to obtain their life partner. It is also the responsibility of a Lion and the Lions Club to be able to find and assist a sightless individual and recommend a Guide Dog that might be able to help the individual in the future.

I know also that during tough times and good, we Lions try and get donations from any source that is available. It's a great challenge as Lions try to find that extra penny, but we always seem to be able to do what has to be done. That is why **MEMBERSHIP** has to be on the RISE so we can be able to help our fellow man.

Yes, we have two MAJOR projects to give to – the Georgia Lions Lighthouse and the Georgia Lions Camp for the Blind. Two great projects founded by the Lions of Georgia.

The Camp for the Blind provides a sightless person to challenge themselves within a recreational

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environment – horse back riding, canoeing, fishing, swimming, ball playing, and the list goes on. We must be able to help support this major project because it provides a start for independence, knowing that they may not have to depend on a family member or friend to get around.

We also must support our other major project and that is our Lighthouse. Besides providing for eye and hearing care, it also takes on the challenge of correcting someone's vision. Eye operations are a costly but beneficial way in providing an individual with hope that they might be able to see again. It also takes a major amount of money to run and support our Lighthouse.

And, I hate to say, but if the Lighthouse is unable to correct an individual's vision to see again, than WE, as Lions, have our last resort in being able to provide assistance to those in need. Can we be able to provide the independence the individual needs to continue to challenge themselves?

For the LAST HOPE is with a GUIDE DOG. Therefore, both the Camp and the Lighthouse should be able to provide the respective Guide Dog District Chair with the name of a prospective recipient that could use a Guide Dog. We have to look at working together for the betterment of those that are seeking independence.

That is why we have to think of new ways to raise the funds to be able to support our major projects like LCIF, the Lighthouse, Camp for the Blind, Guide Dogs and of course your other projects within the community. I have been around the state and have seen Lions Clubs that always find those extra funds to support such projects. They come up with great ideas or they gain new members who have new ideas. It's just amazing what Lions are doing throughout the state.

Remember – the more Lions we have, the more we are able to do. The more we are able to do – also can mean a whole new life for a sightless person.

MEMBERSHIP

I have been fortunate to be able to visit both Leader Dogs for the Blind and Southeastern Guide Dogs.

They both have the same goal – to create a working team – man + dog. Both schools have new President's/CEO's - Gregory Grabowski at Leader Dogs and Titus Herman at Southeastern. I have met both and they have the energy and commitment to get the job done.

You can see a difference between the two schools, but they both have the SAME GOAL – to provide a sightless person to become more independent. Both schools are also cooperating together – giving new ideas, help with training of staff members and much more. In fact, while at Southeastern, I found that Rita (a staff member) was providing assistance to one of the Guide Dog Schools in the northeast – they Need help on training techniques for a sightless person that was in a wheel chair. Southeastern, of course, has succeeded in providing a Guide Dog to a person in a wheelchair. Rita also had made plans to go to Leader Dogs for the Blind so they could assist her with new plans that Southeastern is trying to develop. Cooperation between the Guide Dog Schools are very important, for they both are committed to improve the life style of the sightless.

I really do appreciate all the clubs that support Leader Dogs for the Blind and encourage you to continue your support. Also, we do have another school that other clubs are supporting also and that is Southeastern Guide Dogs. Please continue your support for both Guide Dog Schools and if possible, try to find that EXTRA money and maybe give to both if you can.

Guide Dog Schools are the last resort in helping someone to be free and independent and fulfill their dreams and desires. It's also the Lions Clubs who help with the donations needed supporting the schools and most important maybe finding someone out there who needs a Guide Dog.

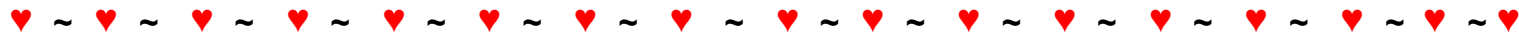


LIONS ALERT BANNER PATCH AWARD

Also, any club, district, or multiple district that submits a Lions ALERT Plan to Headquarters will receive the new Lions ALERT Banner Patch Award (http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/pdfs/lions_alert_award_criteria.pdf). Lions club, district, or multiple district ALERT Committees must fulfill the award criteria below:

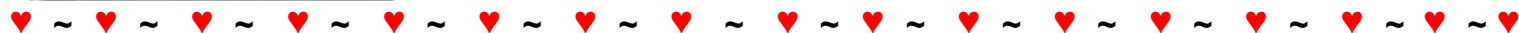
1. Meet with local authorities.
2. Coordinate a plan of action in the event of a natural disaster, man-made disaster, and/or a healthcare emergency such as pandemic flu.
3. Develop a written Lions ALERT plan. Include Lions assistance in the community plan.
4. Submit the plan to Lion leaders for approval and signatures.
5. Submit the approved plan and this signed application to:

Lions Clubs International;
 Program Development Department;
 300 W. 22nd Street; Oak Brook, Illinois 60523-8842; USA
 Fax number: 630-571-1672 E-mail: programs@lionsclubs.org



Georgia Lions All-State Band 2009
 Application for membership
 Go to www.edmclion.com
 find to the left
[State & District Forms](#)

We are glad to announce that the Georgia Lions All-State Band is going strong this year! The band will attend both the State and International conventions. Cost per student is \$950, so these kids really need your support! Please consider making a contribution. I am available to come speak to clubs regarding GLASB.



HOT!!!!!! You Tube



[Videos](#) | [Favorites](#) | [Groups](#) | [Friends](#) | [Subscribers](#)

== NOW – GO TO THIS WEB SITE AND CHECK IT OUT ==

<http://ca.youtube.com/lionsclubsorg>

RETENTION!



**“Membership Retention –
Routine Maintenance,
Not Rocket Science”**

Former Member Satisfaction Survey

Lions Club International believes strongly that doing an Effective Former Member Satisfaction Survey can assist clubs with both their retention and membership. A survey acknowledges to the member, “We care about your experience as a Lion.” A properly conducted survey can be very helpful to the future of a Lions Club.

One thing that I have learned working in the business world is that our associates/members are the most important asset that we have when it comes to conducting our business and Lionism work. It is very important to understand why people leave our association when the majority of us think that we are the best thing around and what we are doing is very important. It is very important that we understand why everyone does not share our thoughts and make the decision to leave our clubs.

Exit interviews are at times hard to conduct. Different reasons may stand in our way. Someone may just not want to do it, it is not convenient and many times we are worried and concerned what we will hear. Having been involved with several exit interviews over the past years I have learned that most are a pleasant, Informative and a huge learning experience. You can improve your Lions Club by doing the surveys.

I encourage you to visit the LCI Web Page, read the guide and start conducting the Former Member Satisfaction Survey. **YOUR LIONS CLUB MEMBERSHIP/RETENTION WILL IMPROVE.**

MD18 Retention Chair
DG Kenneth Moore



*“We're the New Generation of Lions...
Join Us Today!”*

YOU ARE LIONISM

We keep hearing that we need more members; that clubs should go out and get more members; that membership is the responsibility of the District MERL; of the District Governor; etc.

Let's get down to who is responsible—the individual Lion. Each Lion became one because he or she had heard that Lionism meant Service. Yet, how many Lions were told that they had something else to do—to “extend” themselves and invite others to be Lions.

This is addressed to the individual Lion. First, ask yourself why did you become a Lion? Why did you want to join the Lions Club in your city? I hope you can say that you became—you are—a Lion because you want to serve your community. If so, it is time for you to do more. Haven't you heard that more hands make projects easier and faster? This is why we need more Lions in our clubs. Yes, we keep talking building our district membership, but you should be more concerned in building your club membership so that your club's projects can be carried out easier and faster. The more Lions in your club—the more service to your community.

How can you, a Lion, build your club's membership? First, make a list of people you know that are interested in your community. Now, narrow that list to those who are not yet Lions. Talk to each of them and invite each to your club. Be up front when you invite these people to your club meeting. Tell them that the club's main goal is to serve the community.

I know that I will hear back from Lions that their club says they have projects but all they do is sell brooms, sell raffle tickets, stand in front of Wally World and collect money, etc. Lions—those are not community service projects. Those are fund-raising activities. What is your club—what are you doing to help your community? Not just writing a check for Little League or the food bank. When is the last time you put in some Lions Hours in your community so that people know a Lions Club exists? It is so easy to write that check. When that check goes into the other organization's account, no one sees a Lion in a vest doing anything to help. If you want more members, be more visible in your town. Make sure that everyone knows that the Lions Club is working to make your town better.

Lil Shurtleff, MD Membership Chair



“Change the World”

The **KEY WORD** to all of this is **A S K**
Any further questions – just ask!

Lion's Christmas Ship???

This is a story of the Lions International Christmas Ship. The ship is filled with Lions, laughter, and loads of holiday cheer. This all came into place shortly after World War 11 when a request was received to help deliver Christmas presents to the islands off the state of Washington and British Columbia.

The weather was not always cooperative, access was limited, and there were many children and elderly scattered around the northern isles that would not be able to celebrate Christmas without help delivering presents from the mainland.



The Christmas Ship was born of humble beginnings and lights. As you can see in the picture, it has evolved to deliver a fantastic Christmas voyage.

“Stuff” is stowed by Santa’s gang (Lions dressed as bag pipers, elves, pirates, clowns, animals, and much more) to be buttoned down and organized to be ship shape for the voyage. The ship heads out to open water and Santa’s ‘sleigh’ is on its way. The adventure begins. The arrival of the Christmas Ship is the beginning of the Holiday Season, now a well-established tradition. The two day cruise delivers over 800 gifts and toys to children and seniors.



Dozens of Lions Clubs (at least 37) collaborate to make the event successful. Two nations, Canada and the United States partner to share the project. Every island has a resident Lions club. Every island is a unique experience with unique celebrations.

Christina Lennon wins Woman on the Way Award

Atlanta Woman Magazine Recognizes Christina Lennon for Growth of the Lighthouse Foundation Atlanta, GA – December 10, 2008-

Yesterday, Atlanta Woman Magazine announced its 2009 WOW women and Executive Director of the Lighthouse Foundation, Christina Lennon, was among those named. "These Women on the Way are in the pipelines of Corporate America to be the future leaders of their respected industries," said Atlanta Woman Magazine. Over the last three years Christina has helped the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation nearly triple its budget and increase services in some programs as much as 10 fold. Her leadership and ingenuity are what's earned her a place among 20 other women in Atlanta's business world. She will be honored beside top executives at Coca-Cola, Delta Airlines, Susan G. Komen for the Cure, CNN World-wide, American Cancer Society and AT&T at a ceremony on Jan. 13, 2009, at the Georgia Aquarium. For more information on the ceremony and luncheon visit <http://www.atlantawomanmag.com>.



We congratulate Christina on this award and commend her on all that she has done for the Lighthouse Foundation.

Southeastern Lions Leadership Institute

10th Institute

April 16, 17, 18, and 19, 2009

Beersheba Springs, TN

\$125 each includes Dinner on Thursday, Breakfast, Lunch and dinner on Friday and Saturday and Breakfast on Sunday.

The application package will come out in early January

CLUB REPORTS



This is another way of getting Lions in your club, new members and prospective members interested in doing something new and different. Getting involved is another word for **WE SERVE**.



Certain things can happen when your Lions Club gets involved. If we have to find something new – go for it – because the more we raise – the more we can give. Also, the more members who get involved also create a bundle of fun and more money raised. The information that appears may benefit another club – for here is where we get ideas and we might be able to use those ideas within your own club.

Clermont North Hall Lions Club = An excellent program by Ms. Rebecca Davis, Executive Director of the Children's Center for Hope and Healing. Ms. Davis explained to us the nature and extent of childhood sexual abuse and of her agency's effort to counsel and help in the healing process for the children of thirteen counties of Northeast Georgia. We continued with our parking project at the Georgia Mountain Center. We continued work on our Community Birthday Calendar and maintenance and improvement projects at our building.

Commerce Lions Club = has had two Adopt-A-Road cleanups resulting in 16 garbage bags of trash removed from the environment. We approved the purchase of eyeglasses for 13 individuals. Officers & spouses attended District Rally and turned in 173 pairs of eyeglasses and one cell phone. Hosted a Pancake Supper on 10/30 with major part of proceeds going to Habitat for Humanity. Donated \$60 to Canine Companions, \$500 to Tornado Relief, \$60 to Camp for the Blind, \$60 to Leader Dogs, and \$200 to Boys and Girls Club of Jackson County. Club members gave 186 hours of service to various community activities.

Dahlonega Lions Club = The Dahlonega Lions Club conducted Vision Screening on November 12, 2008. This screening was in partnership with the Community Helping Place Medical Clinic (CHPMC). A total of 33 were screened. Many failed both the risk assessment as well as the acuity testing. Two of the 33 were children. Nine Dahlonega Lions assisted in this project. Training for those who may be interested but have not been trained can be arranged. Mark your calendars for February 18, 2009. This is the next screening date.

Lavonia Lions Club = WE HAVE BEEN BUSY PLANNING FOR OUR 75TH ANNIVERSARY TO BE HELD IN MARCH, 2009.



Jefferson Lions Club = Community Service Projects: The Jefferson Lions Club entered a float in the Christmas parade and helped with crowd control. Fourteen lions contributed approximately 30 hours to the project. **Meetings:** December 1 was a business meeting and a planning session for the Christmas parade and banquet. December 8 was the annual Lions/Rotary Christmas Banquet. **Total donated funds:** \$200 was donated to the Jackson County Holiday Connection for the annual Toy Store for our neighbors in need. The Jefferson Lions Club celebrated the season jointly with the Jefferson Rotary Club on Dec. 8. Both groups contributed toys and stuffed animals for the Jackson County Sheriff's Toy Drive.

1. A photo of the Jackson Trail Christian School Children's Chorus
2. A photo of Jefferson Lions Club President, Lion Mack Cates (L) and Rotary Club President, Mrs. Gina Mitsdarffer



The Lions and Rotary clubs of Jefferson recently held their Annual Joint Christmas Banquet in facilities provided by Jefferson High School. Featured entertainment was an excellent and very much appreciated Christmas program presented by the Jackson Trail Christian School Children's Chorus, under the direction of Mrs. Kelly Jackson, JTCS Principal. Attendance, including guests, was over 140. Jefferson Lions and Rotary members also wish to thank Jefferson High School and The Master's Table which catered the banquet.



The Jefferson Rotary and Lions Clubs recently collected toys as a "Reverse Santa" theme during their recent Annual Christmas Banquet. Seen in the attached photo, with arms full from the truckload of toys that was delivered to the Jackson County Sheriff's Office are "Santa Helpers" Lions Bob Friedlander (L) and Bill Rosenberg (R). This is the third year that the two service clubs have supported the Sheriff's Department's Annual Toy Drive.

Jefferson Lions Club president Mack Cates (2nd from left) presented a \$200 check to Jackson Trail Christian School Principal Mrs. Kelly Jackson. The donation was an expression of appreciation for a Christmas musical provided by JTCS students at the recent Annual Joint Jefferson Lions-Jefferson Rotary Club Christmas Banquet. Accompanying President Cates were past Lions Club Secretary, Edna Briggs (left) and Lions Zone Chair and Past Lions Club President Dot Hunt (right).



Snellville Lions Club - December 4th. Club held their annual Christmas dinner at the Delmar Retirement home. **December 18th**. Club meeting cancel due to the holidays. Club members took part in the lighting of the Christmas Tree at the Snellville City Hall. Vice Governor Grace Clower and Lion Elmer Moon work 10 hours each at the Atlanta Falcons Game with proceeds going to the Camp for the Blind. **Lions Volunteer Hours:** 57 hours.

Lions Randy and Carolyn Collins brought a big smile to Laura Drake, Director of the Southeastern Gwinnett Cooperative Ministry when they presented her with a \$1500.00 donation in the name of the Snellville Lions Club. Laura Drake became the new Director of the Co-op on July 31, 2008. Former Snellville Lion, Beth Moffat, was the previous Director of this worthy organization. The Southeast Gwinnett Coop is part of the Gwinnett Cooperative Ministry. It is working to make a difference for families in the Southeastern part of Gwinnett County.



Members of the Snellville Lions Club participated in the annual lighting of the Christmas tree in Snellville on Monday evening, December 1st. It was a bitterly cold night. Frozen noses glowed everywhere and frosted fingers found refuge in mittens and gloves. The gusty wind caused a cancellation of the lighting of the Christmas candles but all in all it was a fun evening and in spite of the freezing temperatures, a beautiful night. An poignant encounter was enjoyed by those who, with understanding eyes, looked into the perfectly clear sky and found above the tree a slivered moon and bright stars reminiscent of the sky on that first Christmas night.



Marissa Chamison, student of Cruse Middle School, was the Snellville Lions Club Peace Poster 1st place winner. In her mind's eye she interpreted the Peace Poster Contest theme, Peace, Let It Begin with Me to be represented by her love of music. She sketched a saxophone and a musical scale. Her theme is "Music in any language brings people together in harmony." Marissa's entry was sent to the next level of competition.



Our Peace Poster Contest had other winners too. Kathleen Exantus (right) from Snellville Middle School took 2nd place in our contest. Her use of bold colors places emphasis on her theme "If others join hands, peace and cooperation are essential to peace."



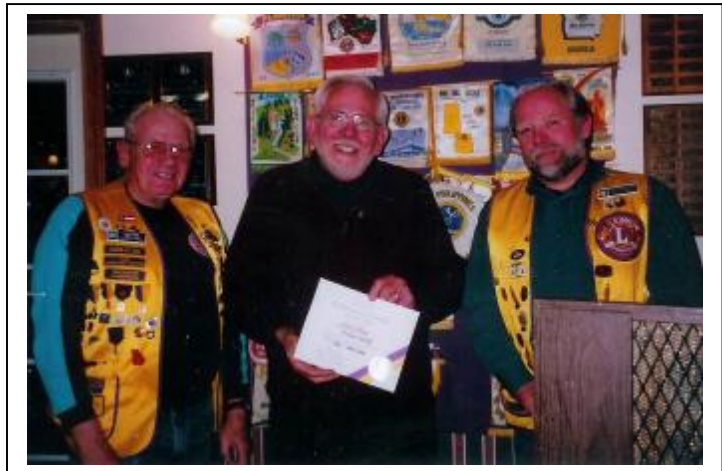
Carly Ramirez (left) gathered 3rd place with her calm and inviting rendering of a serene waters and little things. Portrayed is a sunny day reaching from a quiet sparse Shoreline on one side of the waters to a treed landscape on the other. Her theme is "Peace Is in the Little Things." Thanks to Marissa, Kathleen and Carly for participating in our contest.

Lawrenceville Lions Club = We had a successful Annual Pecan Sale fundraiser. We collected 178 canned food items for the Lawrenceville Co-Op. We donated \$100 to Meals On Wheels. So far we have had a good Lions year. Eyeglasses collected - 164
Volunteer Hours: 198

Norcross Lions Club - We have disbursed money earned at the Norcross Art Fest to LCIF, GA Lions Lighthouse, Children's Eye Care Clinic at Emory, GA Lions Camp for the Blind, Send a Kid to Camp, Leader Dog, Camp Kudzu, Recording for Blind and Dsylexic, Canine Companions for Independence, School Care fund at 5 elementary schools in Norcross cluster, Norcross Cooperative Ministry, Meals on Wheels, Am. Cancer Society, and Special Olympics. The club has begun planning for the next Norcross Art Fest in cooperation with the Norcross Woman's Club. The club held its annual Christmas party and invited long-time Norcross Art Fest treasurer Edna Berkshire. The club hosted the Christmas tree lighting in Thrasher Park providing cookies and hot chocolate.



Towns County Lions Club = Lions "GIVE-A-Christmas" Santa and His helpers are ready for over 135 children.



Past President Lisa Little receives "Diamond" Growth lapel pin and New Lion Bob Wood gets inducted = way to go Union County.....

Union County Lions Club = Sight / Hearing: Two applications for eye glasses and exam approved. **Lion Mints:** 234 rolls dispensed. **Brooms / Mops:** No report . **Collections:** 418 eyeglasses, 102 eyeglass cases, 29 sets lenses, 9 cell phones. **Volunteer Hours:** 273. **Activities:** Members helped with at the Day Retreat – for developmentally challenged adults. Also donated \$250.00 to local Allegheny Lodge to help with their projects in assisting elderly and needy. Lion Carl Buser introduced Executive Director of S.A.F.E. House and presented her with loads of gifts brought by Lion members that S.A.F.E. will be presenting to some 57 children who have come through that special ‘haven’ with their abused mothers throughout the year. All of a sudden Gingerbread Man appeared.(He was Lion Travis Parker) Then Santa appeared (He was Lion Sam Weissberg) and gave out gifts to the 8 day retreat clients and another guest, with assistance of Lion Mary Arnold. Pres. Gene Little gave following information: Lion Jeff Neal made new collection boxes. Also presented Lion Vic Hamburger his 25 year membership Chevron pin. Showed Patch for Club banner that International sent in honor of the three most recent Melvin Jones recipients. Lion Louise Little, current 18D Poster chair, gave report on recent contest. That the district winner is from Union County Middle School and that Poster will be entered into the State of Georgia’s contest!! What an honor. **Induction Ceremony:** Induction of new member, Erica Almond by Lion Jim Wentworth.

Page 10B THE NORTH GEORGIA NEWS December 17, 2008

Union County Lions Club partners with Day Retreat and Georgia Lions Lighthouse

As promised, from a recent Union County Lions meeting, 2,942 letter stuffing for the Georgia Lions Lighthouse, Inc., located in Decatur, GA has been completed by Union County Lion Rosa Mandon doing 1,942 and the Day Retreat Clients with assistance of Lion Mary Arnold doing 1,000.

Now you might ask, what is so special about stuffing letters? Well, to begin with, Lion Rosa Mandon is a retiree, living at Branan Lodge and is a faithful volunteer in several projects for the Union County Lions Club as well as other projects in and about Blairsville and Union County. Lion Rosa has only been a member of Lions for little over a year. Thank you Lion Rosa for your many hours of volunteer service to the Lions as well as other causes.

As for the clients of Day Retreat, you may remember from previous news articles, this is a group of ‘Mentally Challenged Adults’ who are eager to assist in numerous areas of community-service and stuffing letters was certainly a new adventure for them! An assembly line was set up under the capable direction of Lion Mary Arnold, who no assists Kym Szcypanski, Director of Day Retreat. Part of the Day Retreat program is for the clients to take part in community service. Now in addition to the stuffing of envelopes, the Day Retreat clients also painted collection boxes, made by Lion Jeff Neil, to be placed in additional business sites in and around Blairsville for purpose of collecting used eyeglasses, old hearing aids, no matter the condition, and cell phones.

When that project was completed, the Day Retreat clients were so proud of their accomplishment in the painting business that they not only placed the collection boxes, they also wanted to collect the items from the boxes! These special adults are a delight to meet and be with.

Now, in addition to collection sites at Ingles, Blairsville-Optical, Mountain Eye Care, Cochran Funeral Home, Mountain View Funeral Home; here are the new sites: Ace Hardware, Alexanders, Blimpies, Dove’s Indian Crafts, Fran’s Avon & Antique, Library, NAPA, Split Ends Hair Salon, Supplies and Natural Herbs, and United Community Bank. Remember, not only cell phones, hearing aids, eyeglasses, but also store-bought non prescription eyeglasses and sunglasses are now needed.

Thank you Day Retreat, you are indeed a special group

of people. and Union County Lions Club appreciate all you do to assist Lions and in doing so, your assistance goes beyond Blairsville, the State of Georgia, even beyond the United States to throughout the world! Those eyeglasses are cleaned, prescription read and sent out wherever needed. Lions motto: We Serve, as do you!



Winder Noon Lions Club = During past two months collected 1040 glasses, 6 cell phones, 11 cases and a big box of cases (not counted), and 599 loose lenses. Had 6 Lions work the blood drive at Barrow Medical. Paid \$75.00 for a student needing contact lenses. Worked concession at concert to help buy vests for Police Department. Had 3 schools in Barrow County participate in Peace Poster contest. Inducted three new members. Sold out of our pecan and made a profit and also sold \$140.00 of flavoring – hmmm. Had one meeting in December and that was the Christmas party.

We're Waiting = have you ASKed?



Did you submit yours?

E-mail = edmclionh@bellsouth.net or

Go on-line = www.edmclion.com/ or



HOT – HOT 2009 = State Convention Jekyll Island

For June 2009, all rates \$99 per night

Clarion Resorts/Oceanfront Resort

800-736-1046

Villas by the Sea – over flow.

800-841-6262

800-841-6263

Days Inn – 18B and Band

HOSPITALITY BOOK ORDER FORM

Hospitality books for the only \$75.00 each **till 31 March**

\$85.00 from 1 April to 27 May

YOU WILL FIND A LETTER AND HOSPITALITY BOOK FORM FOR THE 2009 GEORGIA LIONS STATE CONVENTION SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 5-7, 2009 AT JEKYLL ISLAND ON **THE DISTRICT WEB SITE. PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH YOUR CLUB MEMBERS. THANKS AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!**

Check out DATES TO REMEMBER on the web site and copy, paste, print your Order Form



GA. Lions Lighthouse
 VP Lion Mike Higgins, PDG
mhpdg@windstream.net

Check out the new **Lighthouse Video**
 Click here to view the Lighthouse Video!
<http://www.eventstreams.com/lighthouse/010fst/>

Dear Lions,

The January Lighthouse meeting will be a celebration of service. We will be providing activities and information for you to learn more about you Lighthouse. Volunteers are the heart of the Lighthouse, and without you we would not be able serve anyone. Please join us as we recognize our star volunteers.

You will also be able to tour the Lighthouse, wash eyeglasses for our mission to Ghana this summer or learn more about White Cane. You will also have the opportunity to visit a vision clinic and attend Dialog in the Dark.



Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation Winter Experience

JANUARY 10, 2009

8:30 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

- TOUR THE LIGHTHOUSE**
- LEARN ABOUT NEW LIGHTHOUSE PROJECTS**
- VOLUNTEER AT AN EYE CLINIC**
- WASH RECYCLED EYEGLASSES**
- PLUS: EXPERIENCE BLINDNESS AT DIALOG IN THE DARK**

Choose How You Want To Spend Your Day!

8:30 A.M. TO 10:00 A.M.



Coffee Social & Open House

Visit the Lighthouse and meet with fellow Lions and tour the Lighthouse.

OR

8:30 A.M. TO 11:00 A.M.



Volunteer at a Vision Clinic

There's nothing like helping someone in need pick out their glasses. We need volunteers for our downtown Good Samaritan clinic.**

10:30 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.



Brunch o' Fun

Enjoy a Brunch for only \$10 at Clairmont Presbyterian Church. Dr. Tim Olsen, head of Emory Eye Center joins as featured speaker.

OR

11:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.



Volunteer at a Vision Clinic

There's nothing like helping someone in need pick out their glasses. We need volunteers for our downtown Good Samaritan clinic.**

Meetings at Clairmont Presbyterian Church

- 1:00 Trustees meeting
- 1:00 and 2:00 Introduction to Luminary Society and Planned Giving
- 2:00 White Cane Meeting
- 3:00 Snack break



1-3:30 Eyeglass washing at the Lighthouse

4pm Dialog in the Dark (at Atlantic Station)...we have specially half priced Tickets for \$16 but you must reserve a spot **



*NOTE: The Brunch takes the place of what was known as the Board Meeting that has traditionally been held on Sunday. THERE ARE NO ACTIVITIES SET FOR SUNDAY --EVERYTHING TAKES PLACE ON SATURDAY. It is at the Brunch that elections for the coming Lions year will take place, as well as the service report, etc. -- everything that used to happen at our Sunday morning meetings will take place at the Brunch. Yes, the RSVP deadline has passed, but there is still time to get your name on the list -- please call Tasha White at the Lighthouse at 404.325.3630 to make reservations or [click here to register online](#). If you wish to visit Dialog in the Dark at Atlantic Station on Saturday afternoon, you may do that with Tasha as well.

Sincerely,

Mark Miller
Board Chair
Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation

I hope this edition finds you well. If you are planning to put out your January Newsletter before January 10th. Please put in the reminder January Meeting information I submitted last month plus the article below. If it's coming out after the 10th please just include the article below. Also, if you are planning to attend the January meeting, and haven't registered or made your hotel room reservation please do that today by visiting www.lionslighthouse.org.

The Georgia Lions Lighthouse Needs your Help!

The Lions Lighthouse has been getting more requests than ever, especially for surgeries, which is where most of your Lions Club donations go. Times are tight for everyone, and we know that. However, the Lighthouse wants you to know that we need your help more than ever, because we are providing more surgeries than ever. Please consider the facts below and plan to fundraise for the Lighthouse in the New Year.

State of Georgia's Uninsured Statistics

Georgia has recently gone from having the 7th highest uninsured rate in the country to going to the 6th Georgia has 1.6 million people who lack health insurance. According to the AJC 4.5 % of jobs (about 100,000) in the metro-Atlanta area will be lost before 2010. People who lose their job, will lose insurance. Currently 33 percent of people below the age 65 in Georgia are uninsured.

The Lighthouse's Need

With an increase in uninsured rates comes an increase in demand for services. The eye surgery program is in high demand and receives little grant funding. More donations from individuals, corporations, and Lions Clubs are needed to help Lighthouse programs

What You Can Do

Make an individual donation. Plan a White Cane Fundraiser (This does not have to be a bucket drive.) Sponsor the Lighthouse's Night of Spectacles (visit www.nightofspectacles.org) . Ask a corporation you have a relationship with to sponsor a Lighthouse Special Event or your White Cane.

Thanks so much for all that you do! It helps create Better Vision, Better Hearing, and a Better Georgia.

Sarah Epting

Marketing Coordinator

Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation

Better Vision. Better Hearing. Better Georgia.

404-325-3630 x 306

www.lionslighthouse.org

HB 340 AIMS TO MAKE VISION CARE AN OPTIONAL PREMIUM FOR PEACHCARE RECIPIENTS

HB 340 sponsored by Glenn Richardson, Rich Golick, Earl Ehrhart, Jerry Keen, Mark Burkhalter in the Georgia House of Representatives and Greg Goggans in the Georgia State Senate attempted to lower the PeachCare eligibility income level from 235 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines to 200 percent of the FPG. One of the hidden issues in this bill was that it also purposed a cut to all vision and dental as a mandatory element of PeachCare and proposed that the vision and dental coverage be an optional premium.

At the Lighthouse we rely heavily on PeachCare to cover the state's children's eye care needs so that we may help more adults with no where to turn. The bill is now dead because the Senate and the House are no longer in session. Please stay posted on this issue and consider writing you representative and let them know why you think vision care for children should not be an optional premium for children eligible for PeachCare.



GA. Lions Camp for the Blind
VP Ken Thurmond
eyebank@alltel.net



From Kristen Picus, Camp Director:

I am so happy being on board to provide any and all assistance to this wonderful Camp for the Blind. We now have a Secretary by the name of Carolyn and Maintenance /Groundskeeper Bobby. I enjoyed being at your District Rally in Gainesville. As requested, please find attached a picture of the Gator we are raffling off to raise funds for our Georgia Lions Camp for the Blind. Thank you so much for helping our Camp and those "We Serve". The Georgia Lions Camp for the Blind is going to hold a drawing on 1 February 2009 for a John Deere Gator utility vehicle.



At District 18-D's Rally, we brought tickets for each Lions Club within the District in hopes that every member will have ten tickets to be able to sell. Actually every Lion in the state of Georgia will have ten tickets to sell or buy for themselves.

The tickets are \$1.00 each.

Best Regards,

Lion Frank Spinney, President, GLCB, Inc.
and Kristen Picus, Camp Director



On Tuesday, November 18. Camp Director Kristen Picus gave a presentation to a joint meeting of the Wilmington Island and Port City Lions Clubs. The picture above is the presentation of a new Laptop Computer and Printer to the Camp for Kristen to use. The gift of the Laptop was from the Port City Lions Club. The laptop includes all of the software needed for presentations and other office work. Presenting the Laptop to Camp Director Kristen was PDG Rick Mizell.



Leader Dog Chair Lion Diane Wall
liondianewall@bellsouth.net

Brian Celusnak

From Leader Dog to Campus



Photo caption: Brian and Armor are nearly inseparable on Western's campus. Armor now stays behind when Brian attends football games because he was bothered by the cannon shots that are fired when a touchdown is made. After taking his father to a football game, Brian had to admit that Armor is better at guiding him around the bleachers and sidewalks than his own dad.

"I really like being on my own for the first time. It's such a big change that it can be shocking at times, but it's exciting. The dorm is okay, but the phone in the room is so old it actually has a cord."

Talking with Brian Celusnak is like talking to any college freshman. They're enjoying their first taste of freedom from Mom and Dad, getting into the swing of classes and schedules, and telling you about last weekend's football game. Brian is no different. Like many other freshman, he's rooming with one of his best friends – his Leader Dog "Armor."

"In many ways, Leader Dog was just as important as high school in getting me here," Brian explains. "I spent a lot of time at Leader Dog. After receiving my varsity letter for wrestling, my parents wanted me to stop because I was getting injured; shortly after I went to Leader Dog for orientation & mobility training to increase my cane travel skills. When I told Harold Abraham, tech services director at LDB, that I was bored because I had stopped wrestling, he told me to 'get a job.' So I began volunteering in LDB's tech services department."

Brian took advantage of everything Leader Dog has to offer. In 2007 he attended Trekker Camp and learned how to use an auditory GPS device to navigate new environments.

During his senior year of high school he interned in the tech services department. Brian returned to Trekker Camp in 2008, this time as a counselor helping other teenagers have a positive experience while at LDB. He finished his dog guide training with Armor just months before starting at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo.

The skills and independence Brian gained at LDB came in handy at Western. "The first few days on campus were a bit like going through a corn maze, I'm really glad I had my Trekker. It allowed me to navigate campus and input the buildings my classes are in as 'points of interest.' This way I could quickly find my way around campus on my own." As for Armor, after just a few weeks into the semester, he patterned himself to Brian's class and work schedule.



Photo caption: Brian takes notes on a Braille Writer during his biology lecture. While he learns, Armor is content sleeping under the seat next to him.

A few things have proven a challenge, like the sloping sidewalks on campus. Brian has cerebral palsy and stopping on a down slope can be quite an effort. “But Armor’s there to help me navigate campus,” Brian explains, “He helps me keep my pace steady which increases my stability.” And there’s the time he locked himself out of his dorm at 6:30 a.m. on a Sunday morning when taking Armor to relieve himself. “I just knocked on the door and yelled until someone came to let us in. I was probably the only student on campus awake at that time. I can guarantee I’ll never forget my key again,” he laughs.

Like many freshman, when you ask Brian about his college goals, you get an answer that goes way beyond the college years. He is majoring in Interdisciplinary Health Services and plans a master’s degree in Blindness and Low Vision Studies with the ultimate goal of teaching others who are visually impaired. “I want to teach people to advocate for themselves so they can succeed in life.

I’m doing it, I’m living it, why not help someone else succeed.”

Do not forget = 70 for 70:

In celebration of Leader Dog’s 70th anniversary, Lions Clubs making a donation \$70 more than your regular club contribution will receive a commemorative “70 for 70” patch for the club banner and a pin for each club member.



Garlic Cheese Canapes Dog Treats

Makes 24 servings

- 1 ½ cups whole wheat flour
- 1 ½ cups biscuit mix
- 2 teaspoons garlic powder
- ½ cup American cheese powder
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 egg
- 1 ½ cup milk

Blend all ingredients in mixing bowl with electric mixer until stiff dough is formed. (Can use food processor). Roll or pat dough out to ¼ inch thick. Cut with desired cookie cutter. Place on ungreased cookie sheet and bake at 350 for 20 to 30 minutes depending on size of cookie cutter. Let dry thoroughly.

For mix, layer all dry ingredients in jar and label with instructions.



From the desk of State RFB&D Chair Lion Steve Helwig lion.swampthing@gmail.com

Have You Heard?

The latest events, activities and other items of interest to RFB&D® members

RFB&D Hits the Social Networking Scene on

Facebook: RFB&D launched its national page on the social networking site [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/rfband) in June 2008. Since its inception, over 100 "fans" (as they are called on Facebook) have supported RFB&D by joining our page, and we're moving toward having more members join in the coming months.

The RFB&D Facebook page is a hub for the wide range of people whose lives are touched by our services, including members, volunteers, donors, parents, teachers and supporters. We maintain an active online community in which site visitors will learn more about RFB&D, keep up-to-date with current events and news, and view our latest videos and photo galleries. The page gives new, longtime and potential members a sense of our mission and the organization at large.

[Visit our page](#) and become a "fan" by clicking on the "Become a Fan" link. You can also share the RFB&D page with friends by clicking on the "Share" button. Once you join, you have access to regular updates and can engage in discussion boards. If you have any questions or ideas for the page, contact media@rfd.org.

New features Added to RFB&D's Educator Website

Check out the exciting new features on our educator's website at www.learningthroughlistening.org:

"More Household Sounds" listening activity

"Keyword" and "topic" search capability in the Lesson Plan area

Journeys and challenges are the lesson plan themes prepared from our Summer reading list

New RFB&D Online Membership Registration:
Online registration is now available to both

individual and institutional members

at www.rfd.org, RFB&D's accessible website. To begin the online registration process, prospective members simply need to click on the "Join Now" button at www.rfd.org, and then follow the prompts.

This is great news for people and schools new to RFB&D, or for students currently served by a school's membership, who wish to join as individual members.

NEW! [Download Your Favorite Audiobooks from RFB&D with AudioAccess!](#)

[Read a Letter to Members About RFB&D's](#)

[AudioAccess](#) AudioAccessSM is an exciting new choice that enables members to download RFB&D® audiobooks and literature directly to a Microsoft Windows®-based computer — and sync them with a compatible portable media player.

RFB&D continues to work on developing accessible audiobooks to meet the evolving needs of our members. RFB&D is looking forward to launching a downloadable DAISY format in the near future which will play on the latest generation of DAISY players. In addition, our playback device vendors are expanding the range of accessible devices compatible with Windows Media and will play AudioAccess audiobooks. We will keep you updated on products and services as they become available, and you can check www.rfd.org at any time for the latest product updates.

Here are some other important details about our new service.

AudioAccess is fast and easy to use

No specialized playback equipment is required

Most people already have everything that is needed, including:

Microsoft Windows XP or Vista

High-speed Internet connection

Compatible media player with common functionality requirements, such as a Microsoft Windows Media Player, version 10 or higher. (RFB&D audio textbooks are not compatible with Apple® Macintosh computers and iPods at this time.)

**RFB&D LAUNCHES RENEWED
VETERANS OUTREACH CAMPAIGN
NATIONAL NONPROFIT RECORDING
FOR THE BLIND & DYSLEXIC EXPANDS
EFFORTS TO SERVE NATION'S
VETERANS**



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vCk0byfhDt8>

For further information, call toll-free 866-RFBD-585 (866-732-3585) or visit www.rfbd.org/vet.

Lion Fred Smith
Production Director
RFB&D Georgia Studio
706-549-1313



Robinson, PDG, SE Guide Dog
706-548-8719
bobcat8233@aol.com

On 12 June, the staff of Southeastern Guide Dogs enthusiastically embraced the school's new, 5-year strategic plan, committing to uncompromising quality and excellence in every aspect of our work.

Over the next weeks, months and years, we will make steady progress toward our strategic goals by practicing the Kaizen principles of daily continuous improvement.

Kaizen is a Japanese philosophy that focuses on continuous improvement throughout all aspects of life. When applied to the workplace, Kaizen activities continually improve all functions of a business from management to service delivery and from the CEO to the "front line" workers.

Titus Herman
CEO



To be effective, we will apply the following three principles:

*We will consider the process and the results (*not results-only*) so that we can identify specific actions that will achieve the desired effects.

*We will think systemically of the whole process and not just of what's immediately in view (*i.e. big picture, not solely the narrow view*) in order to avoid creating problems elsewhere in the organization; and

*We will learn through a non-judgmental, non-blaming approach, encouraging the re-examination of the assumptions that resulted in the current operation.

These are exciting times at Southeastern Guide Dogs. Thank you for your continued support.



Judy Stamsen CCI Chair
eskiemom@bellsouth.net

A Boy's Best Friend

"Cory and his dog Melly are an inseparable pair," says Maurice Harrison, Cory's father. Ten year-old Cory was injured in an automobile accident six years ago that rendered him paralyzed from the neck down.

Prior to Melly, Cory's classmates would frequently focus all of their attention on Cory's wheelchair and tracheotomy tube. But now, the attention has shifted away from his disability and towards his partnership with Melly.

"Now kids don't look at the trach tube, but instead notice Cory and Melly as a pair. They wish that they had a dog like Melly for themselves," says Maurice.

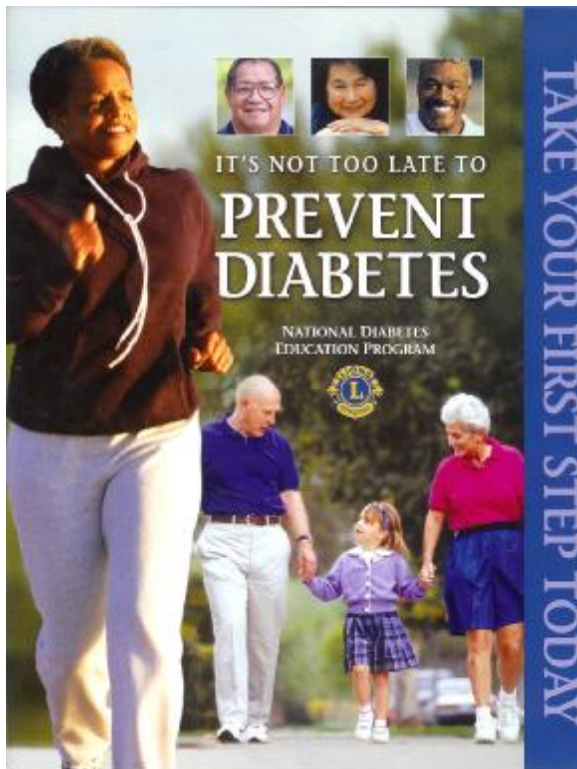
Cory's favorite part of having a Skilled Companion? The kisses, constant love and attention. While Cory has no feeling from the neck down, and generally hates getting his face wet, he makes an exception for Melly. Cory's dad marvels, "The joy in Cory's face when Melly lavishes him with kisses is delightful to watch."

As the Chair person for Lions Project for Canine Companions for Independence for 2008-2009, I am available to be a guest speaker at your club for a presentation.

Judy Stamsen



Lion Ron Bennett
 Diabetes Awareness Chair
rbennettisr@windstream.net



Prevention

Public and professional awareness of the risk factors for and the symptoms of diabetes are an important step towards its control and prevention.

Diabetes prevention can be categorized into two groups:

- **Primary prevention**
- **Secondary prevention**

Primary prevention identifies and protects individuals at risk from developing diabetes. It therefore has an impact by reducing both the need for diabetes care and the need to treat diabetes-related complications.

While there is yet no conclusive evidence to suggest that type 1 diabetes can be prevented, primary prevention of type 2 diabetes is potentially possible.

Lifestyle changes aimed at weight control and increased physical activity are important objectives in the prevention of type 2 diabetes. The benefits of reducing body weight and increasing physical activity are not

confined to type 2 diabetes; they also play a role in reducing heart disease, high blood pressure, etc.

Secondary prevention involves the early detection and prevention of complications, therefore reducing the need for treatment.

Action taken early in the course of diabetes is more beneficial in terms of quality of life and is more cost-effective, especially if this action can prevent hospitalization.

There is now conclusive evidence that good control of blood glucose levels can substantially reduce the risk of developing complications and slow their progression in all types of diabetes. The management of high blood pressure and raised blood lipids (fats) is equally important.

Prevention in developing countries

As the developing world is expected to bear the brunt of the escalating diabetes epidemic in the future, diabetes prevention is proving especially urgent and difficult in developing countries.

In most developing countries, health policies and services need to put more emphasis on non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, but in many of these countries (as well as in developed ones) decision-makers lack awareness of diabetes and the political will to invest in prevention.

The resources required for future research need to be found. Standards in diabetes monitoring and surveillance need to be set in countries where progress has been limited.

For those who might be interested: **WORLD DIABETES CONGRESS**



The 20th World Diabetes Congress will take place on 18-22 October 2009 in Montreal, Canada.

Registration is now open. Find out more at www.worlddiabetescongress.org.



Fellow Lions,

The LEO Gathering committee invites LEOS, prospective LEOS, Advisors, chaperones, and Lions to meet at the Georgia Lions Camp for the Blind in Waycross for our annual LEO Gathering. This year we have also invited LEOS and Lions from Alabama, Florida, and South Carolina to join us and make it a regional event!

Those attending will have fun. work hard (projects benefiting the Camp), meet and get to know other service-minded people, and maybe even learn a little something! Our special guest will be Ms. Vicki Connell, Coordinator for the Future Problem Solving program. We are encouraging clubs (LEO and Lion) to bring with you a project idea that you'd like help with implementing or have had difficulty with so we can address them! Lions - if you are considering starting a LEO club in your area this is an excellent opportunity for you to see young people in action!

If you have not received your Registration Packet please contact your LEO District Chair or me. The packet has the information and forms needed. This year's Gathering is being held earlier than in past years and the registration deadline is January 25, 2009 so make your plans NOW!

You can also get your application from our web site www.edmclion.com and look for LEO Gathering under LEO's in Action to the left of the web page.

SEE YOU IN WAYCROSS!

--

Steve Helwig
District 18-D Leo Chair
State Leo Gathering Coordinator
MD-18 Leo Clubs Chair



Youth Programs

Numerous programs exist to assist Lions in fulfilling the needs of the youth in their communities.

Lions participate in a wide variety of [services for children](#), as well as programs that offer young people opportunities to learn, grow, serve and earn [awards](#). These programs include the:

- [Leo Club Program](#)
- [Lions International Peace Poster Contest](#)
- [Lions International Youth Camp and Exchange Program](#)
- [Lions Quest](#)

Many Lions clubs also sponsor [Scouts](#) (Lions sponsor more Scout troops than any other non-religious organization) and the association upholds [partnerships with other youth organizations](#).

For news and information on Lions youth programs, read "[Opportunities](#)," the biannual youth chairperson newsletter. Multiple district and district chairpersons are encouraged to read the [Lions Opportunities for Youth Guidelines](#).



100 WAYS WE AS LIONS CAN HELP CHILDREN (AND OURSELVES FOR THAT MATTER):

- *Tell your children you love them at least once a day, every day.
- * When you put your child into bed at night, say at least one thing about them that made you proud that day and stress that they should be proud of themselves.
- * Help a child start a collection of something—postage stamps, coins, books—to develop an interest and provide a recreational focus.
- * Take your child or a disadvantaged child out for a special day and let the child pick where to eat and what activity to enjoy.
- * Form a music band in which all are “stars.”



Lions / UNICEF School-in-a-Box: UNICEF, Lions Clubs, and LEO Clubs can team up to ensure the continuation of children's education when earthquakes, hurricanes, civil unrest, and other disasters suddenly disrupt daily lives. For information, visit www.lionsclubs.org and click youth Programs / Services for Children / UNICEF. Banner patches are available from Lions International for sponsoring UNICEF School-in-a-Box.



Update on LEO Marketing/Branding Project

At the Board meeting the Lions Clubs International Board of Directors approved the creation of two Leo club tacks: one program for Alpha Leos and one program for Omega Leos – both designed to address the characteristics and needs of each of its members – but connected through a larger Leo community united by its common purpose to Leadership, Experience and Opportunity. **29**

Additionally, the Board finds merit in an on-going Leo/Lion Advisory Panel composed of Leos and Lions who would work in an advisory capacity to help shape the future of the Leo program.

The two-track program is in development! As more information becomes available, we will share it with you. If you have any questions regarding the marketing/branding project or would like to provide input on these plans, please e-mail leo@lionsclubs.org

Training materials – As part of the Leo marketing/branding project we are currently training tools for Leos. In the interim Leos can access the training tools currently available on the Resource Center. Lions Clubs International is proud to provide Leos with the opportunity to develop leadership skills through online learning courses!

We encourage Leos to use these online courses to develop their leadership skills. After taking a course, look for opportunities to use the skills you learned in your daily activities!

To access the on-line training courses and other training material visit www.lionsclubs.org and click: Resources/Learning Center.

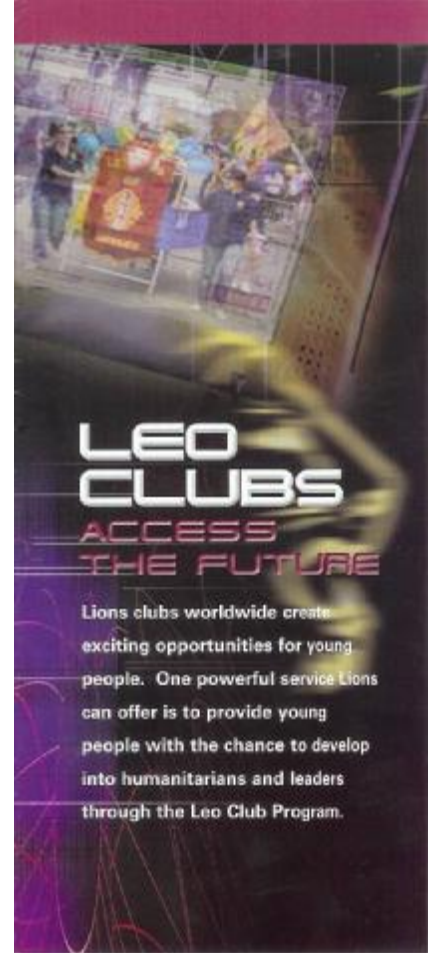


Lions International has a partnership with Youth Services America through the Youth Opportunities division. The following is from the YSA website at ysa.org.

5 Simple and Unique Ways to Serve Your Community this Holiday Season:

- 1) Turn off the lights! - We use a lot of energy around the holiday seasons. Don't forget to turn off the decorative lights during the day.
- 2) Talk to a bell ringer! - Thank the Salvation Army volunteer outside the mall for serving and helping others. It will brighten their day.

- 3) Invite a family to your home for the holidays! - Opening your home to guests is a great way to spread joy.
- 4) Bake cookies for your friends and neighbors! - You never know the value of a simple gift of friendship might mean.
- 5) Think ahead! - 2009 is almost here. Begin thinking about how you can help your community on MLK Day on January 19 or plan a project for Global Youth Services Day on April 24-26.



The Lions International Exchange program has merged with Youth Camp this year through Lions International. Our Exchange o program allows and encourages youth from other countries to come and experience America while our American student can visit and learn foreign cultures. Youth Camp brings together youth from all over the world to experience learning and exchange of ideas on a more short-term basis. The closest Lions Youth Camp is held in Alabama.

TO ALL LIONS OF GEORGIA,

Greetings Lions,

NEED YOUR HELP! Please take a moment and consider being a host parent/parents to an Exchange Student for the month of July, 2009. There are two Turkish students who would like to visit and experience our culture in the U.S. They will have their own spending money and medical insurance. Host family will provide meals and home.

The Youth Exchange Chairman in Turkey has contacted me with this request and will provide necessary paperwork.

You will find this to be a rewarding experience. I have hosted seven students from six countries and found it to be educational, fun and a lifetime of great memories.

Please e-mail or feel free to call me with questions or comments you may have. My telephone number is 770-683-0038.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Best regards,

Lion Faye Smith
State Youth Exchange Chairperson



Lions-approved host families are an important component of the *Lions International Youth Camp and Exchange Program*.

Host families share their home with a young person from another country and include the participant in the daily customs of their culture.

Understanding different customs helps participants learn to accept the ways of others. At the same time, host families learn about the customs of the participant.



GLASB Mission

The Georgia Lions All State Band is a Georgia Lions supported youth activity with the goal of providing a great opportunity for middle and high school musicians from across the state of Georgia to enjoy a rewarding musical experience with some of the best directors in Georgia.



Participation allows the student the opportunity to showcase their musical talents with other gifted musicians from across the state. The band each year performs before the Lions of Georgia each year at its State Convention and travels to the Lions International Convention (US Convention).

For an 2009 application form – check the District web site and scroll down and look for GA Lions All-State Band below RFB&D.



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