



We Serve

District 18-D Bulletin



MONTHLY BULLETIN FOR LIONS OF NORTHEAST GEORGIA

March 2010



District Governor
Grace Clower

Dear Lions of 18-D,

I can't believe it is March already. With only four more months in this Lions year, there is still so much work to be done. We have added two new clubs to our district already. The Charter Night Celebration for the new Cleveland Lions Club will be held April 17th. Stay tuned for more information!

I attended District 18-B's convention, and I also attended a seminar on "Rebuilding Clubs". The concept is to have Guiding Lions work with struggling clubs to build their membership. I will be contacting Guiding Lions and clubs with membership less than 20 to work on rebuilding these clubs. We are in need of more Guiding Lions. You can take the training online to qualify as a Guiding Lion. If you are interested in helping, please let me know.

This "Rebuilding Clubs" Seminar will be presented at our Third Cabinet Meeting and District Convention on March 14th at Dawsonville High School. The Seminar will begin at 1:00 p.m., and the Cabinet Meeting and Convention will begin at 2:30 p.m. Each club will be entitled to one delegate for each 10 members as of Feb. 1, 2010. Be sure your club has delegates there.

I have attended the winter meetings of the Lions Lighthouse and the Camp for the Blind. The Lighthouse Capital Campaign is taking off. A large number of clubs have already pledged to the campaign. I hope all clubs that have not pledged, will pledge as soon as possible. This is a great step for OUR Lighthouse. Thanks to all of you who sold raffle tickets for the Camp for the Blind. The winner of \$5000 was a gentleman from Douglas, Georgia. There were 32,000 tickets sold.

Remember, I hope all of you will be sending at least one representative to the Southeast Lions Leadership Institute at Hickory Nob State Park April 15-18. The cost is \$125.00. We have funds set aside in the District budget to fund 10 members to go to the Institute. Let me know if you are interested in attending.

Please mark your calendar for Sunday, April 25th. This will be a great afternoon of fun and fellowship. We will have a BBQ lunch and the First Annual District 18-D Sing-Off. I hope each club will have a group entering the competition. It has been a great year, and we will have the opportunity to celebrate that day!

Four months is not a long period of time, but we can still make a difference in our District. Make a renewed commitment to your Lions Club and invite new members to join you. Every new member we add is another pair of hands to help others. Never forget our motto, "We Serve".

Yours in Service,
DG Grace



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**14 March = District 18-D Convention at
2:30 pm followed by the 3rd Cabinet
Meeting to be held at Dawson County High
School, 1665 Perimeter Road in
Dawsonville**

Take 400 North to Highway 53 turn left and go to
Perimeter Road turn right at Perimeter Road
school is just down the street on the right.

At 1:00PM we will have a "Club Rebuilding
Seminar" given by PCC Mark Miller.

The cabinet meeting will start at 2:30PM
followed by the District Convention.

Club Secretaries – place year-end awards and gift
presentation order with Club Supplies

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

Planning Ahead

Southeast Lions Leadership Institute

PID Beverly Roberts has announced the location
of the next SELLI in 2010. It will be at Hickory
Knob State Park in South Carolina on 15-18 April
2010. Hickory Knob State Park is located on the
South Carolina / Georgia state line, northwest of
Augusta. Additional information will be published
when available. Check out page 19.

This is an excellent resource for anyone who
wishes to advance to club or district leadership.

Now WHO plans to attend next year's
Southeastern Leadership Institute???

Georgia Lions State Convention



**28-30 May 2010
Tifton, Georgia**

Friday: Registration and Exhibits;
Organizational Meetings – Lighthouse and
Camp meetings; Opening Ceremony +Two
seminars – one of which would be Lions
working with LEOS. (Friday Night Meal
Tickets \$20.00).

Saturday: District Breakfasts; First
Business Session; Melvin Jones Luncheon
(\$25.00), State Awards; District
Governor's Banquet +

Sunday: District Breakfast; Necrology
Service; Second Business Session

HOSPITALITY BOOK ORDER FORM

Hospitality Books only 1 December - \$80.00 and
1 April - \$85.00.

**YOU WILL FIND A LETTER AND
HOSPITALITY BOOK FORM FOR THE 2010
GEORGIA LIONS STATE CONVENTION
SCHEDULED FOR 28-30 May 2010 AT
TIFTON ON THE **STATE WEB SITE**.
PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION
WITH YOUR CLUB MEMBERS. THANKS
AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING
YOU THERE!**

Region 3 – Zone 2 = Zone Orientation. Please try to
get all new members (some old members also) to
attend an Orientation to be held from 9-11am on
27 March 2010 at the Garden Plaza at Lawrenceville,
230 Collins Industrial Way, Lawrenceville, GA.



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** 📺

Important Lions Dates this Month

View the [Lions Clubs International Calendar of Events](#) to find out about upcoming events and programs that your club can promote locally.

Club Rebuilding Award

Club health and development is critical to the growth and vitality of Lions Clubs International. See the [Club Rebuilding Award](#) for the criteria you can use to recognize Lions who were instrumental in rebuilding an existing club or bringing a canceled or status quo club back to active and viable status.

Relief for Haiti

Lions Hope for Haiti has mobilized more than US\$2 million in donations to provide relief and hope for victims of the earthquake in Haiti. Lions around the world have responded generously and quickly to the LCIF designated fund for this disaster. You can help by donating online at www.lionsclubs.org/donate.

March is Eye Donor Awareness Month

Lions Eye Banks procure eye tissue for corneal transplants and other medical purposes. During the past fiscal year, they provided 32,000 corneas for sight-saving transplants, and 15,500 eyes for research and education. You can increase awareness of these programs during March 2010 – Eye Donor Awareness Month. [Contact your local Lions Eye Bank](#) to learn how your club can help promote eye donor awareness. You can also visit the [Eye Bank Association of America's Web site](#) for resource materials.

Stay Up-to-Date with New Lions Clubs iPhone App

Stay in touch with Lions Clubs International with your iPhone by downloading our new Lions Clubs App. This App gives you access to the following resources – at the touch of your fingertips:

- Daily news updates from Lions Clubs International on [Twitter](#).
- Videos from Lions Clubs International, and Lions around the world, on [YouTube](#).
- Photos from clubs around the world on [Flickr](#).
- LQ – Lions Quarterly Video Magazine podcasts.
- Lions Clubs International Web site, Club Locator and more!

Best of all, it's free! [Download the Lions Clubs App from iTunes now.](#)

New Peace Poster Theme Announced

The theme for the 2010-2011 Lions International Peace Poster Contest will be "Vision of Peace." Peace Poster Kits will go on sale on January 15 from the Club Supplies Sales Department. See the [order form \(PR 785\)](#) for more details.

April is Leo Club Awareness Month

Leo clubs prepare young people for a lifetime of leadership. During April, Leo advisors and chairpersons can spread the word about the Leo Club Program by working with Leo clubs, districts, or multiple districts to organize a joint Leo-Lion service project:

- **Raise funds to provide aid for Haiti**
- **Plan a tree planting project**
- **Repair a playground**
- **Start a recycling program**

For more information, visit the [Leo Zone](#) or [contact the Youth Programs Department](#).

Growth for Lions Quest

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Lions Quest, and Lions are celebrating by implementing the program in new areas worldwide. At its January meeting, the Lions Quest Advisory Committee approved three new countries to implement the program, Bulgaria, Mauritius and the Philippines. The program also recently expanded into Chicago Public Schools. Now is the perfect time to become involved with Lions Quest and your local schools. To find out more, visit www.lions-quest.org.

Four Stars for LCIF

[An updated review on Charity Navigator](#), an independent charity evaluator, recently awarded LCIF four stars, the highest ranking. On this Web site, which ranks more than 5,400 of America's largest charities, LCIF received higher rankings than the Red Cross and Feeding America. The four star ranking demonstrates LCIF's commitment to using funds as effectively and efficiently as possible, and remaining committed to serving those in need. Donate in confidence at www.lionsclubs.org/donate.

Special LCIF Feature in LION Magazine

The March issue of LION Magazine will feature LCIF, with several pages of overview from the annual report and a photo spread on relief efforts in Haiti. [View the 08-09 annual report online](#).

Lions Missions Web Pages

Visit the new [Missions section](#) of our Web site, which includes resource information to help Lions plan, conduct or participate in a mission. To help build the section and to make these pages as useful as possible, please use the online forms to share information about your upcoming mission and completed mission. With your approval, we will post your information on the site to share with other Lions.

Lion-2-Lion: Resource Assistance Database

Lions are rallying to provide assistance to earthquake victims in Haiti. The [Lion-2-Lion Resource Assistance Database](#) is the perfect place to request or offer assistance.

Service Opportunities through Lions Diabetes Recreational Camps

[Lions recreational camps](#) give those with diabetes a chance to be included – without limitations. Lions can find out how to get involved with diabetes camping programs for children, or improve an existing camp, on the [DECA Web site](#). The "Lions Club" section provides free resources and best practices for improving camp programs, healthcare and administration. To access this information, please visit the DECA Web site and register using the password DECALIONS (type password in CAPS).

Organize a STRIDES Walk

Help your community learn more about diabetes by holding a fun and enjoyable [Strides: Lions Walk for Diabetes Awareness](#) event. Take advantage of pleasant walking weather – or consider holding an indoor Strides Walk. [Contact the Health and Children's Services Department](#) to order your event materials, including the [Lion STRIDES Information Packet](#) that provides step-by-step instructions for organizing a community-wide event, "We Stride" pins for participants and informational handouts.

Lions Again Challenged to be Knights of the Blind

Helen Keller described Braille as "The Magic Wand of the Blind." In keeping with her challenge to be Knights of the Blind, Lions have an important responsibility to support Braille literacy. According to the

National Federation of the Blind (NFB), there is a Braille literacy crisis in the United States. Although Braille is vital to all blind individuals, today only 10 percent of blind children in America are learning to read Braille in school. Braille literacy is the key to employment and full participation in society.

The NFB is raising awareness of this issue through a Braille literacy campaign, and the sale of a commemorative 2009 Louis Braille Bicentennial Silver Dollar. This commemorative coin, available from the US Mint through December 11, 2009, would make an ideal gift while supporting Braille literacy. To learn more, visit www.braille.org.

Lions Service through Diabetes Camps

Lions, [learn more about getting involved with diabetes camp programs for children or improving your existing Lions camp](#).

Lions Can Support Braille Literacy

"The Magic Wand of the Blind" is how Helen Keller described Braille. [Braille literacy](#) is vital to all blind individuals, because it is the key to employment and full participation in society. Yet today in America, only 10 percent of blind children are learning to read Braille in school. Lions can help enhance the lives of people who are blind or visually impaired through [our partnership with The Hadley School for the Blind](#).



Greetings Dear Lion,

I am sure that everyone remembers where they were one month ago when news of the devastating 7.0 earthquake in Haiti broke. The past month has truly demonstrated the great need for the humanitarian service of our Foundation. After the earthquake struck the Caribbean nation of Haiti, LCIF and Lions worldwide immediately responded. Through the generosity of multiple districts, districts, clubs and individuals, more than US\$2 million has been mobilized in the past month to ensure immediate needs are being met and long-term reconstruction is a top priority.



I challenge Lions worldwide to join me in our efforts to rebuild the lives, families and communities impacted by the earthquake in Haiti. One of Lions' greatest strengths is the support we give to our fellow members in times of need. When disasters strike, LCIF and Lions from around the world are there to support one another.

By [making a donation](#) to LCIF, you are providing hope to the people of Haiti. We invite all Lions to donate and thank those who have already contributed. Together, we will continue to serve those in the greatest need.

Words of Thanks for Lions' Relief in Haiti



"It has been a day of blessings in that around 9 a.m. the Lions arrived to tell me our soccer areas have been chosen to receive their aid, which includes well formed tents, hot kitchen area, school in a box, dental

and eye care. It is a real shot in the arm for us, as I had begun to accept that our neighborhood would have to move to one of the huge tent areas in order to obtain shelter and food. Since writing this, the initial boxes from the Lions club have arrived. I am glad the neighbors will soon have tents, hot food and everything else promised."

Sister Mary Finnick, Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart, Haiti

Funds Provide Shelter, Food, Water to Victims

Lions provided immediate needs, including water, food and medical supplies on January 22. These supplies were distributed by Haitian Lions and Leos to a hospital and orphanage.

LCIF partnered with the Lions of Sweden to provide 200 large tents to house those who are now homeless as well as relief workers.

Haitian Lions have established three tent cities in Delmas, Blanchard and Carrefour-Feuille, neighborhoods located in Port-au-Prince. Each tent city can accommodate 300 families or 1,200 people. Lions are focusing their immediate relief efforts to support and maintain these tent cities.



Long-term Reconstruction Plans

Lions leadership and local Lions are developing a long-term plan for reconstruction, and a committee made up of Lions from the area was established to oversee relief efforts. A return trip is planned for February 24 to continue planning and deliver additional supplies.

Currently, Lions are focused on immediate needs, such as shelter, food and water. But initial reports from the Lions of Haiti for long-term reconstruction focus on building a school and an ophthalmic clinic. This is similar to what Lions have been done for reconstruction following other catastrophes.



Al Brandel
LCIF Chairperson



Editor's Note

Fellow Lions:

***Sunday, April 25th at 1:30 p.m. at
Trinity Methodist Church,
5622 Clarks Bridge Road,
Clermont, GA.***

***Come one – Come ALL –
bring the whole family –
kids, grandkids,
new members,
prospective members,
etc.....***

***You've done your job
now let's chow down.....***

Mark 25 April 2010 on your calendar



**We will not have the full agenda.
Pledge and invocation and awards
will be presented for cabinet
members after the meal.
4th Cabinet to start at
approximately 1:30 p.m.**

I hope you all are having a great New Year! It has been a busy one in Lionism. There are a few things I wanted to be sure you know:

1. We have mailed the Charter application for the new Cleveland Lions Club. You will soon be receiving an invitation to their Charter Night Celebration! This is our second new club we have formed this Lions year. We are still hoping for the formation of a couple of new Leo clubs and maybe a Campus Club. Please think about this and let me know if you might have the opportunity in your community to form a new club.

2. Remember our 3rd Cabinet Meeting and District Convention coming up on Sunday, March 14th at 2:30 p.m. We will be holding a "Club Rebuilding Seminar" at 1:00 p.m. This will be important information for all clubs who are struggling with low membership and/or attendance at your meetings. This will be led by State Leadership Chair, PCC Mark Miller. Please make an effort to have at least one representative from your club attend this meeting. The seminar, Cabinet meeting, and District Convention will be held at the Dawsonville High School in Dawsonville. If you need directions, let me know.

3. **CHANGE OF DATE** - Our 4th and final Cabinet meeting has been changed. Instead of being held on May 2nd in Helen, this gathering will be on Sunday, April 25th at 1:30 p.m. at Trinity Methodist Church, 5622 Clarks Bridge Road, Clermont, GA. We will have a BBQ lunch with lots of fun and fellowship. The fun continues with the First Annual Sing-Off. Please let me know if your club will have a group of 2 or more Lions to perform in this first ever Sing-Off. We have had a great Lions year, and I would like to finish it with an afternoon of food, fun, and fellowship.

Thank you for all you do for Lionism!
DG Grace

Subject: You're Inquiry Regarding Lions Club International Fundraising Ideas

Dear DG Clower,
Our Legal Division has forwarded your inquiry to Club Supplies Sales. My name is Jim Paparelli and I am the manager of the Club Supplies and Distribution division.

With respect to the email promotion from Ultimate Fundraising Inc. I assure you that it is legitimate and has been approved. This company is an official licensee of Lions Clubs International.

Lions Clubs International may, from time to time, authorize its official licensees to market direct to our clubs and/or members. This authorization is granted when the product or service offered is considered to be of interest to our clubs and/or members. Further, this authorization is granted based on compliance with the Lions Clubs International Privacy Policy.

Regards,
James A. Paparelli – Manager Club Supplies & Distribution
Lions Clubs International



Lions Clubs of Georgia Donate a Brailleur to Monarch Student

On Wednesday, February 10, 2010, members of the Lions Club were at Monarch School to present a Brailleur (and paper) to Allison Mead, a vision impaired student in Ms. Melanie Abad's preschool class. This Brailleur is being donated through the efforts of the 18th District Lions Clubs of Georgia. The Dawsonville Chapter spearheaded the effort. Mr. Greg Hicks, Past President; Ms. Katie Hulsebus, President; Mr. Ron Bennetti, First Vice District Governor Lion of the State of Georgia (18th District); and members Mr. Michael Berry, Mr. Jeff Kelly, and Mr. Jimmy Fields, were all very instrumental in the purchase of the Brailleur. Mr. and Mrs. Mead are very excited to be receiving this piece of equipment for their daughter.

The Lions club was founded in 1917 when a Chicago business leader wondered what would happen if people put their talents to work improving their communities. The Lions Club is the world's largest service club organization. There are more than 1.3 million members internationally. All members act on the same simple idea: "let's improve our communities." In 1925 Helen Keller spoke at the Cedar Point, Ohio Lions Club International Convention. She challenged them to become the "knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness." Since that challenge, the Lions Club has been dedicated to assisting the blind and visually impaired.

The presentation was attended by: Pete Stamsen, Zone Chairperson, Lawrenceville Lions Club; Greg Hicks, Past President, Dawsonville Lions Club; Elmer Moon: Snellville Lions Club; Michael Berry, Dawsonville Lions Club; Carolyn Collins, Snellville Lions Club; Randy Collins, Snellville Lions Club; Allison Mead, Recipient; Stephanie Mead, Mother of recipient and Brailleur Student; and Allison's Aunt, Candice Fountain. Ms. Natalie Hopkins, Assistant Principal of Monarch School; Speech Pathologist Ms. Katie West; Allison's classroom teachers, Ms. Melanie Abad, Ms. Krista Williams, and Ms. Paula Williams along with her classmates were also there to see Allison receive her new Brailleur. Speech/Language Pathologist, Ms. Mary Leonard contacted the Lions and coordinated the presentation.

BASKET SILENT AUCTION

A Tisket, a Tasket, a green and yellow Basket.....a poem of our youth, a song by Ella Fitzgerald, or a project of the Camp Fundraising Committee?

For some fun and to raise some money for our Camp, we would like to have a Gift Basket Silent Auction during the 2010 State Convention. We are requesting each Lions club to brainstorm and pick a theme to use in filling a basket to be included in the Silent Auction. Possible ideas to start you thinking are: a bird basket with a birdhouse, book, food, a bird figurine; a beach basket with suntan lotion, beach towel, shells, maybe a motel room at the beach; a particular food, like Chinese with a cookbook, Wok, rice, etc; fishing; golf; gardening; auto care; football; college; art supplies; booklover; sweet tooth; dog lover; cat lover; etc, etc, etc. Once you start brainstorming, the ideas are endless. Everyone has an interest in something and will bid on the baskets that strike their fancy. If you include a commercial service, please consider a business with locations all over the state. We would like to have baskets of all value. Please put a list of items that are in the basket on the outside so everyone will know exactly what is in it. Also let us know your value. We are thinking a minimum of \$25.00 but we will not turn down any. We know of one basket being collected that will be \$200.00.

We will have a wonderful display on Friday and Saturday at the State Convention for you to come by and place your bid. We will announce Winners Saturday afternoon so the baskets can be picked up before leaving Tifton.

This project can only be successful with the help of your club and its participation. Have some fun preparing yours. We look forward to seeing the results.

The Fundraising Committee consists of Lions David White, District A; Grace Annors, B; Delores Foreman, C; Sylvia Masters, D; John Singletary, E; Doy Barks, F; and Helen Troha, volunteer.

Please participate and help us raise some money for our Camp.



Dear Lion,

I am very pleased to report that we continue to break historic trends this year. Through January, our net worldwide membership was + 15,808, more than double last year at this time and the best results in more than a decade. And the momentum continues in February as we cross the plus 17,000 mark in the first week.

These are truly gratifying for results and, to me, it's a very clear signal that many of you have embraced the "**double strategy**" – a strategy in which we continue developing membership and forming new clubs while also increasing the average size of existing clubs and rejuvenating 'club life' to keep more Lions from leaving in the first place and to grow our service. By growing and nurturing existing clubs we will soon find out that we no longer have retention problems.

And we now know that increasing the size of existing clubs can be done. Because we have 34 district governors who earned the **Years End Celebration Ginkgo** – an award which recognizes districts that increased the average size of existing clubs between September 1 and December 31, 2009. Some doubted whether any district could achieve it. But these governors proved everyone wrong.

So please join me in congratulating the first 17 district governors (listed right) who earned the award. I will have more District Governors to recognize next month as further results are confirmed.

Meanwhile, we all know that the next five months, from now until June end, will determine if this will be the greatest turn-around year in Lions history – a year in which we become stronger in all constitutional areas. I certainly believe it can be, and that it will be.

But your continued leadership and further actions will be required to make it happen. Consequently, I have decided to initiate a final ginkgo honor - to be called the **Ginkgo Leadership Award** - to motivate our next actions and to bring us to a successful year end. I am emphasizing the word "Leadership" because what I am proposing will require coordinated team work - and action - between DG Teams, cabinet members and club presidents.

I am convinced that because of your leadership, and the strategies we are pursuing, that we can **Move to Grow** our association in new directions and in new ways like it never has before. The success of 2010-11 can indeed shape LCI's future success for years and years to come, but only if we finish what we've started, build on these great results, and don't slow down in the coming months.

Please know that I stand with you and I am here for you. So don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of any personal assistance.

With cordial regards,

Eberhard J. Wirfs
International President



Global Membership Team Update

Communication, motivation and direction - GMT area leaders continue in their commitment to share information, energy, and focus with Lions leaders around the globe.

The District Governor Quarterly Membership Activity Report and the District Governor Quarterly Tracking Report will arrive in early October. These reports were developed to assist District Governors in assessing current membership status and to help guide decisions on whether to continue with current growth plans or rethink and reorganize for more positive results.

Important Information

- See my [Lions in Sight video](#)
- Captain Sullenberger, famed "Hudson River airplane pilot," invited to speak at Sydney
- Watch the [Sydney convention video](#)
- Sign up now for [Lions Day at UN](#)
- View the [New Club Rebuilding Award Info](#)
- Read about [Official Lions Licensees](#)

Move to Grow

Get ready to come out of your dens and roar! **Lions In Sight** is fast approaching.

What is Lions in Sight?

Most people know Lions very well for our work in sight, but too often we are not 'in sight' of the public. Some Lions even say we are a 'best kept secret'. So to increase our visibility, I have asked all clubs and districts worldwide to



organize public awareness events during the last two weeks of January 2010 in a special campaign called Lions In Sight.



It's easy - 3 steps is all it takes for a successful Lions In Sight event:

1. Tell the public about your club by placing an ad in the newspaper, putting club posters in shop windows or public places, or by issuing a press release to your local newspaper or television station.
2. Hold a community open house or set up a Lions information table at a public place where Lions can greet people and inform them about Lions activities and who we are.
3. Organize a project to which the public can be invited to see Lions in action and experience our kind of fun and service.

Above all, be creative and use your network of Lion friends to generate ideas for interesting events and winning promotions.

Let Us Spotlight Your District's Campaign

I am asking district governors to contact the public relations division manager, Dane LaJoye, during the month of November with an overview of your Lions In Sight activities. The most creative and unique activities will be prominently featured on the association's web site, and some will be selected for special public relations support from LCI. [Contact Dane by email](#) or by phone at 630-468-6764.

As an incentive, district governors who achieve over 50% club participation will receive a specially designed Presidential Certificate and will be recognized on the LCI web site.

By raising our visibility in the 45,000 communities we serve during this special campaign, we can introduce our great organization to thousands and thousands of service-minded people like us.

So again, Lions, let's together come out of our dens and roar... as we "Move to Grow".



Move to Grow Special Highlights

Global Youth Music Competition

The Global Music Youth Contest is gaining great momentum. Finalists for Europe and ISAAME have been selected and the USA and Canada are planning an online contest to select their finalists in February with submissions growing each day. Latin America and OSEAL areas will be selecting their finalists soon. So get ready and get excited for LCI's first ever Global Youth Music Contest in Sydney against the backdrop of the world famous Sydney Opera House. View the [latest information](#) on this year's contest or contact Dane.Lajoye@lionsclubs.org for more information.

Important Information

E-Clubhouse

All clubs are being encouraged to develop a web site or update their existing site. Now any club can build a web site very easily using LCI's [E-clubhouse](#) platform, a new service of LionNET and Lions Clubs International. E-clubhouse enables your club to establish a sophisticated Web presence at no cost and with very little effort.

"We need you"

We will need our children to become the members of the future but, in fact, we need your family members right now. ["We need you"](#) is the message that must be conveyed to current and prospective members. We need members to invite their partners and spouses to become Lions Club members and we need these new members to energize our clubs and open-up new avenues of service. The best place to look for qualified members may also be the closest -- right in our own homes.

There are many strategies that can help existing clubs grow, such as:

- Inviting more spouses and women through the We Need You campaign.
- Organizing recruiting campaigns using Lions Clubs International's "Best Practices."
- Forming club branches
- Identifying clubs below 20 members in need of special assistance.

We know there are Lions ready to respond. All we need do is ask.





RETENTION

INCREASING THE ATTENDANCE OF CLUB MEMBERS

At the last Council of Governors' meeting, PDG Ed Hashbarger privately told me that my retention reports were not positive enough. Well, thanks to the report review of Council Chair Ron Zeppieri, I am now in position to provide you with a much more positive retention report. Last month I reported that the loss of members in Georgia at the half way point in our Lions year was 27.4%, but the actual MD-18 loss of members was only 7.5% (455). Although we lost an additional 2.5% (167) of our members in January, which brings the loss up to 10% (622 Lions), the loss has obviously been substantially lower than what I have been reporting each month.

I apologize for my reporting error. I was under the assumption that LCI provided an individual monthly report, but each month's report has been cumulative for the year. Here is my concern about our better MD-18 retention statistics: fewer Lions will consider retention of club members all that significant. What I am going to continue to argue is that lowering our retention losses will substantially help our Lion membership problems. It isn't that we don't attract new members! Unfortunately though, we don't retain enough of our members to avoid a net loss of Lions in Georgia and begin to expand the amount of Lions' service we used to be able to provide.

Based on behavioral science retention research of volunteer organizations, I have discussed three club actions that will reduce the loss of members. That is, I have singled out the following: (1) orientation programs for new members, (2) matching the goals of new members to what they actually do, and (3) increasing the linkage or sponsors and mentors to new Lions. The fourth (4th) action item concerns the attendance of Lions at club meetings, club fundraisers, and club service projects.

Attendance of members used to be a far more club action item than it currently is. In fact, many Lions may recall a period of time when attendance was almost considered a mandatory club requirement. I'm not going to suggest that we return to that level of club attendance and club emphasis, but I will point out that behavioral volunteer research has found that those volunteers who attend club events at the higher levels are the volunteers who remain volunteer members for the longest period of time. Therefore, it is evident that clubs need to encourage their members to participate in all their club events. It isn't just that having a high proportion of club member participating in club events increases the amount of activities a club can accomplish, but it also increases the retention of club members.

Yours in Lionism, Richard "Dick" Smith



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

CHECK OUT THE NEW BROCHURE ON FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

Family Membership. Looking for special programs and activities you can do with your family? A family membership allows relatives to volunteer together at a reduced dues rate. Family members must meet membership requirements, live in the same household and belong to the same club. Children cannot become members, but can participate in age-appropriate activities and attend club meetings. Tell the club you are joining you want to join as a family.

How can my family join a Lions club?

Clubs are always looking for people who want to make a difference in their community. Contact your local Lions club or tell a Lion that you would like to attend a meeting or help out with a service project to learn more. Or, join with family and friends who share your interests and want to meet needs in your community to start a Lions club. Consider starting a club at your workplace or a club of people with similar interests, such as families from your children's school or those who are active in sports or music. If your parents and family members of friends live at a retirement center, consider starting a club there—it will be a great way to get multiple generations to have fun together while helping others.

What will it cost in time and money to be a Lion?

Most Lions clubs meet once or twice a month but many have flexible formats and schedules. Since you will be volunteering with your family, this will be time spent together with your children, parents, brothers and sisters or other family members.

You can commit as much time as you wish and as your schedule allows.

There is a one-time entry fee and modest yearly dues. Lions are the first volunteer service organization to offer a reduced family dues plan. You can learn more on the Lions Clubs International Web site. Young people under the age of majority can't become official Lions members, but family clubs welcome them and provide special activities for children.

Yours in Lionism,

Marlene Humphry
MD 18 Membership Chair



Forsyth County Lions Club =



Tom Curran, president of the Forsyth County Lions Club, presents Vickery Creek Middle School student Affra Mohamed with an award for the best poster as part of the club's "The Power of Peace" contest. Also pictured are her parents, Asani and Annal Mohamed, far left and right.

We serve.

Jefferson Lions Club = **ACTIVITIES: Contributions:** The club voted to donate \$300 to LCIF. The club donated \$100 to a needy individual undergoing cancer treatment. **Eyeglasses collected:** 13 used eyeglasses, 2 pr. Sunglasses, and 40 cell phones. **PANCAKE SUPPER:** Lions John and Jo Longo are this year's pancake supper chairmen. They are doing an excellent job preparing for this annual event. The Jefferson Lion Club invites other clubs to join them on Saturday, March 20, for a delicious meal of pancakes, country ham, biscuits, scrambled eggs, grits, orange juice, coffee, milk. Price is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children ages 2 through 12. Children under 2 eat free. This event will be held at the Jefferson High School cafeteria from 5:00 to 7:30 pm, with entertainment by Crystal River Band – an excellent band led by Lion Dugar Strickland. **FREE VISION SCREENING.** **MEETINGS:** February 8 was a regular meeting with 26 members present, plus 1 guest. Lion Michael Williams (Commerce Lions Club), Director of the Boys and Girls Club of Jackson County, told about current activities at the two locations of Boys and Girls Clubs of Jackson County, Commerce and Jefferson. The Commerce Club currently serves 125 children and the Jefferson Club, 115. The club is a very helpful to our local children, and Jefferson Lions are glad we can assist in this worthwhile endeavor. February 22 was also a regular meeting with 23 members present plus 4 guests: Casey Graham, President, Jefferson City FFA; Jeremy Gee, Vice President, Jefferson City FFA; Greg Gilman, FFA Advisor, East Jackson FFA; and Newt Gilman, Sentinel, East Jackson FFA. This is FFA week. The three young people told us about the FFA and their personal involvement as well as the activities of their local chapter; some activities include showing cattle and swine, competition in livestock judging, competition in speaking and parliamentary procedure. Newt Gilman, a national winner in the agriculture creed speaking contest, told us about the creed and recited the creed. **NEWSPAPER articles this month:** One -- in The Jackson Herald, February 3, "Lions promote eye care" about Dwayne Ansley's presentation on the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation and their Capital Campaign. The article included a picture of Lion Dwayne.



Lavonia Lions Club = LAVONIA LIONS ARE GETTING READY FOR SPRING! CITY CLEAN-UP IS COMING IN MARCH. PLANS FOR WHITE CANE HAVE BEEN FINALIZED. COLLECTIONS WILL BE TAKEN AT THE LAVONIA SPRING FESTIVAL, BALLOONS AND MATERIAL WILL BE HANDED OUT. A DONATION TO FIRST FOUNDATION FOR BOOKS FOR THREE CHILDREN FOR ONE YEAR WAS VOTED ON. SIGHT CONSERVATION: THREE APPROVED FOR GLASSES AND APPOINTMENTS TO BE MADE. 18 MEMBERS ATTENDED THE ZONE MEETING HELD IN HARTWELL ON FEB. 1, 2010. NEW COLLECTION BOXES FOR USED GLASSES HAVE ARRIVED AND ARE BEING PLACED IN PUBLIC AREAS IN THE CITY. WE HOPE TO HAVE A LARGE NUMBER TO BRING TO THE NEXT CABINET MEETING.

Lawrenceville Lions Club = Annual Vidalia Onion Sales April – June Free Vision Screenings District Governor Grace Clower and Christina Lennon were guest speakers at our meeting. We had a membership meeting with 14 guests. We had 2 new members inducted into our club: Will Kleman brought in by Lion Abe Al Azawi. Bonnie Brown brought in by Anna Herrington. Also Lion Laverne King has returned to our club as a member. We participated in Phoenix High School's Health Fair and did 71 vision screenings with 14 needing to follow up with eye exams. We had 6 volunteers assisting. Three members attended the 3rd Zone meeting in Snellville. We collected 74 used eyeglasses.

Loganville Lions Club = The Loganville Lions also gave around \$100 to the Shepherd's Staff, a local food pantry, in December as well as 175 pairs of glasses, 30 pairs of new contacts and 24 cell phones at the Jan 27 Zone Meeting. The Loganville Lions were treated to an informative evening by guests Lions Judy and Pete Stamsen. Pet is Zone Chairman and discussed recent and upcoming activities for local Lions and Judy spoke about the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation and the services provided in the State the past [year.to](#) the needy across Georgia. During 2009, the Lighthouse provided services in 152 out of 159 counties, facilitating nearly 300 eye surgeries, providing over 4,400 eye glasses and exams for 2,854 people. In addition, 933 people received 1700 hearing aids. Pictured are Pete and Judy Stamsen along with Loganville Lions President Ben Johnson. Also, Lion Gene Brooks was inducted as the newest member of the Loganville Club by Zone Chair Pete Stamsen. Pictured are Brooks, his sponsor Lion Gene Knight and Stamsen.



Norcross Lions Club = Lion Warren Anderson has moved from Norcross and Lion John Spencer has moved from first Vice President to President of the Norcross Lions Club. John is also our Sight Conservation Chair. The Norcross Lions Club will continue to keep Lion Warren on our rolls for now until he is ready to transfer to a club in South Carolina. Lion Lisa Phillips of Suwanee has resigned from the club. So currently our membership is 20. Much of our time has been involved with planning for the Norcross Art Fest in October. Things have changed. While we still expect to receive money from the festival and to maintain our food booth there, we will not be sponsoring nor running the festival. We are looking for another fundraising opportunity for the spring. DG Grace Clower attended our meeting and presented Lion Warren Anderson and Lion John Spencer with Melvin Jones Fellowships. We enjoyed speaker Jane Stewart, Operations Manager from the GA SPCA.

Snellville Lions Club = Twelfth Annual Golf Classic at Summit Chase Country Club, Snellville, GA. 3May10 Club hosted Zone meeting with Zone Chair Pete Stamsen. 5 clubs present and all reports on club activities were made. Guest speaker Mr. Gene and Patricia Brinkley from the Quinn House in Lawrenceville. Club still collecting food items for the Snellville and Lilburn food banks at each meeting.

Toccoa Lions Club = Dear Fellow Lions: Want to do something crazy? Have you ever played a golf course backwards? The Toccoa Lions are playing their golf tournament backwards this year. Our Toccoa Lions sight conservation program is always in need of funds, and our Chilly Open golf tournament will help provide money for that program. The golf outing is the third Saturday in March, the 20th at the Pines Golf Course in Toccoa. There will be a shotgun start at noon. It is a best ball team golf with Mulligans and ten feet of string available to each team. The cost per person to play is \$62.50 or \$250.00 for the team. We need players, so please muster a team and drive over to Toccoa. We will have free chilly to eat before, during and after the golfing. After all it is the "Chilly Open" at the Pines in March. We will have door prizes beyond the first place cash prize.

We are playing the golf course backwards which makes the challenge and fun even more interesting. You will start on tee box for hole one and hit towards the ninth green. Then you will tee off the ladies tee box on the first hole and drive up into the ninth fairway and play the eighth green. Then you will tee off the eighth tee box and play the seventh green. So on and so forth. The last hole is tee off the second tee box and plays back to the clubhouse using the practice putting green. That stretches the hole to 553 yards as a par five. Attached is a forward map and a backwards map of the Pines Golf Course. We play this nine hole course twice for an eighteen hole score.

If you read the article in the Toccoa Record on Thursday, February 4th, the Open Arms Clinic is in dire straights on their finances and are NOT taking any new patients. They are in need of our support. The last time we did a pancake breakfast for the benefit of the Open Arms Clinic, October 2008, we raised approximately \$2,500.00. If we can raise \$2,500.00 this time that will mean we will have provided two weeks of services at the clinic.

We appreciate everything you have done and continue to do to make the world, Georgia and your community a better place to live. Bryan the Lion, 619 Scenic Drive, Toccoa, GA 30577, Home 706-886-5787, Cell 267-307-0441

Lion Ray gave a report on the Peace Poster for the coming year. Material has been delivered to Lion Bev. Lion Ray gave a report on the Calendar fundraiser. Most of the money has been accounted. There remain several who have not paid. Lion Ray will make contact to close this fundraiser by the end of February.

Lion Russ has the tickets for the Pancake Breakfast and will deliver or mail the tickets to the members. The board voted to bill each club member for 10 tickets. Members can sell their tickets gives them away. \$50.00 will be billed to each member for the fundraiser. Lion Ray made the motion seconded by Lion Bryan. The board agreed. Lion Bryan advised that Lion Dave Stancil is putting together the details of the Chilly Open. Assignments are being made.

Lion Bev has put together our Valentines party which will be on Thursday Feb. 11th at Ga. Baptist Conference Center at 7:00pm. Lion PDG. Ruth has challenged the board to bring a new member in between March and June 2010. The Board accepted the challenge and challenges the membership to take part in this effort. Lion Bryan advised that Lions Forrest and M.C. are in charge of our White Cane project this year. It is worth noting that last year our club was hard pressed to find enough members to do the job. We could not cover all posts.

Lions Kid's Day Puppet Show - Over 400 children and adults attended the Lions' Kid's Day Puppet Show at the Schaefer Center on Sunday, January 31st in Toccoa. Two shows were performed. Lee Bryan, "The Puppet Guy" from Atlanta thoroughly entertained the kids with his antics and escapades on stage. Twenty-four kids went home with door prizes including stuffed lion cubs. "Bryan the Lion" did an outstanding job MC'ing the show and "Roary the Lion" made an appurtenance and entertained the children. Deputy Sheriff Jim Davis gave a safety talk to the kids before each performance. The Toccoa Lions are grateful to 650 businesses and individual patrons who made this show possible. A good wholesome family outing was had by all!



Union County Lions Club = Sight Conservation: 2 applications for eye glasses & exams approved. **Lion Mints:** No report. **Social Concerns:** 11 cards sent, this includes 2 B'day, 1 sympathy, 2 get well. **Lion and friends and family volunteer hours:** 199 hours. **Membership:** Lion Gene Little will get together with membership chair, Lion Sam Weissberg and work on a membership drive putting to use some of techniques used in recent membership drive in Cleveland, GA. **Donations:** \$100.00 to White Cane Fund in memory of deceased Lion Neil Gillooly and \$50.00 to Georgia Lions All State Band. **February 11, 2010** Annual Lions Valentine meeting with 8 guests present, one of which was prospective Lion member. There were 21 Lion members present for attendance % of 60.0. First VP Mildred Thompson presided and is also co-chair with 2nd VP Mary Arnold for Lion meeting programs and this WAS a different type of Valentine program/meeting! Names were draw of all present and whoever's name you drew, you were to decorate & write message on big white Valentine within certain amount of time. Time up, each person was to stand, read message, and present Valentine to the person who's name they drew. Of the 29 people who participated, there were plain Valentines, sweet Valentines, funny Valentines, & Valentines that rhymed. The very best ones, believe it or not, were the ones where a man drew a another man's name! It was truly a fun time. Several prizes were won as well as Lion Les Myers, the Sight/Hearing applications' Chair, was presented a very tiny pair of wire glasses and Lion President Lisa Little was presented 'throw blanket' by 1st VP Mildred Thompson as a token of appreciation as well as a stuffed lion [she collects them] for all she does as club President. A good time was had by all present!

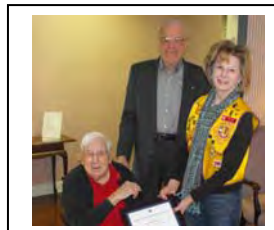


Lion Karen Clark who is Unit Manager in GA. Dept. of Labor for Vocational Rehabilitation Services at Deaf Services. Lion Karen is also a certified interpreter for the Deaf. She works with the Deaf/Blind of adult age. Lion Karen is the appointed Chair for International Recommended Committee on Hearing & Speech Action/ Work with the Deaf.

Mr. John Nishimuta and Mr. Nigel Rajadural. Both are with the 2010 U.S. Census Bureau.. Nigel a Partnership Specialist working out of Suwannee, GA. and John with our local census.



Winder Lions Club = LONG TIME LIONS RECOGNIZED BY WINDER CLUB. Membership Director Linda Canup presented a 65 year certificate to Lion Larry Jones (standing) and a 60 year certificate to Lion R.D. Crook, honoring their years of service to the Winder Lions Club. 125 years of service in Lionism. Winder Lions members R. D. Croof (seated) and Larry Jones (center) are congratulated by Lions Membership Director Linda Canup, on receiving Certificates of Appreciation for their years of service to the Winder Lions Club. A member since 1945, Jones received a 65-year award while Crook received a 60-year award recognizing his membership since 1950. The Winder Lions Club is Winder's oldest affiliate for Lions Clubs International having been chartered in 1942.



Winder Noon Lions Club =



We're Waiting =
have you ASKed?

Did you submit yours?

E-mail = edmclicionh@bellsouth.net or

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

First Annual District 18-D Sing-Off

Message from Dist Gov Grace Clower

I know that we have some talented singers in our district. I would like to hold a competition at our final Cabinet Meeting and Picnic in Helen in May, 2010. Clubs may enter the competition by forming a singing group of two or more Lions. They will perform one song at the Cabinet Meeting in May. We will have donation jars for each group. The Lions attending the Cabinet Meeting will contribute to their favorite group, and the group with the most money collected will win the First Annual District 18-D Sing-Off. Start now forming your group and practicing. I think we can really

Southeastern Lions Leadership Institute

10th Institute

Southeastern Lions Leadership Institute: The institute will be held **15-18 April 2010** at the Hickory Knob State Park is located on the South Carolina / Georgia state line, northwest of Augusta.

Cost will be \$125 per person but includes all lodging, meals (dinner On Thursday, Breakfast, Lunch and dinner on Friday and Saturday and Breakfast on Sunday), and materials. The institute is open to Lions who have not served as VDG and will include topics such as goal setting, meeting management, group dynamics, team building, personality, leadership style, problems solving, conflict resolution, delegation, mobilization of volunteers, diversity, protocol, mentoring, and public speaking.



For more information contact Past International Director Dr. Beverly Roberts at 706-592-2982 or email at pidbroberts@bellsouth.net . Only 60 spots are available, so send in your registration now! Club Presidents & Secretaries - Please share this with your club members, as you never know who might be interested. You may also wish to encourage Vice Presidents to attend.

The application package will come out in early January

* * * * *

TO ALL LIONS CLUBS: Georgia Lions State Awards Program

A copy of the 2009-2010 Georgia Lions State Awards Program is attached in .pdf format. If you cannot open the attachment or need the program sent to you in MS Word, please let me know. A copy of this program is also included in the State Directory. The deadline for awards applications to be in the committee's hands is May 22, 2010.

Every Lions Club in the state of Georgia should look through the State Awards criteria and apply for all of the awards for which they are eligible. If you have questions or need help, contact your district's State Awards Committee member.

REMEMBER....you can't win an award if you don't apply!

For State Awards Chair, Bryson Tanner Copies of criteria for the Anne Sullivan Award, Outstanding Blind Award and Outstanding Deaf Award are attached in a .pdf file. If you are unable to open the attachment, please contact the State Office and copies will be sent in MS Word. Please note that the deadline for submission of applications for these awards is April 15, 2010.

* * * * *

Lions on YouTube, MySpace, Twitter and More

Did you know Lions are all over the Web? Social networking is a great way to contact and keep in touch with Lions around the globe and to share what Lions are doing to make the world a better place. [Visit the online community](#) to connect with other Lions on MySpace, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube and Flickr.





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/>

Lighthouse Foundation Kicks Off Capital Campaign

The Lighthouse is fully focused on serving more people who are in desperate need of vision and hearing services that no one else provides. We recently launched a \$2.75 million capital campaign to bring this brighter future into focus by providing the space and equipment for enhanced programmatic capacity, including:

- A 14,000 square foot facility that will more than double the current space. A portion of the facility will be leased for three years, providing earned income and the option for future growth;
- A fully-equipped onsite eye clinic with two exam lanes;
- An optical shop that will give the Lighthouse the ability to fit, adjust, and dispense eyewear, reducing the cost of eyeglasses from \$35 to \$5 per pair; and
- A second mobile eye clinic van to significantly increase vision services.

As a result of the campaign, it is anticipated that program volume will increase by 67 percent by 2013, from a total of 4,317 to 7,200 people each year. If you



Service Numbers

From July to December 2009:

2854 Georgians received **4448** points of service through our mobile clinic program.

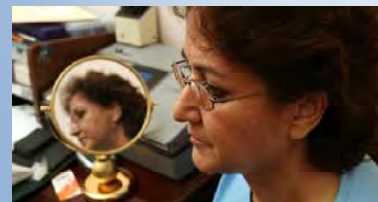
1454 people have better vision after receiving a pair of **glasses**.
54 recipients were from **18-D**

853 Georgians have received a **free eye exam**, **38** were from **18-D**

295 eye surgeries were performed. **13** were from **18-D**

933 Georgians received hearing aids through the dispensation of **1700** hearing aids. **92** were from **18-D**

Demand for all services is up **30 percent** over last year.



White Cane Butter Mints
45.00 per 1000
 Miniature Plastic White Cane
65.00 per 500
 Punched Card
14.00 per 500
Order from Lions of Michigan
(517) 887-6640



Lighthouse Launches New Website

The Lighthouse Foundation launched a new website in January. It is still at www.lionslighthouse.org but it has been redesigned and reorganized to be easier to navigate for clients, donors, and volunteers.



Help Us Use our Recycled Glasses

District D
 Judy Stamsen
 770-995-9274 eskiemom@bellsouth.net

White Cane Days are Upon Us!

White Cane Days are in full swing! We would like to thank the many clubs who have already hosted White Cane events to help fund your Lighthouse's eye surgery program. The goal this year is to raise \$167,500 through the program.

So far, we have received White Cane goals from eight of 18D's 43 clubs. We use The White Cane goals to help set the surgery budget for the year, so it would be Very helpful if they were submitted as soon as possible. You can submit your club's White Cane chair and goal online at www.lionslighthouse.org/lions (then click on "White Cane" on the left).

Go Green with Your Fundraiser!

Support the Lighthouse and help clean up your community with recycling drives. Fundingfactory.com will buy your businesses' used ink cartridges. Pirkle, Inc buys and recycles aluminum cans and used appliances. They can be reached at 404-525-1464 or online at pirkleinc.com. You can also recycle used electronics and jewelry at www.greenrecycling-fundraiser.org

Need Help with a Grant or Press Release?

If you are writing a grant request or press release, and you would like service numbers or success stories from your area, please contact Kim at kfletcher@lionslighthouse.org. Thank you for all you do for your Lighthouse!



Sandy Mercer, Cataract Surgery

White Cane: It's not just bucket drives anymore!

Curtis Thompson lost his job as a skilled craftsman due to his deteriorating eyesight. He later discovered his vision problems were caused by cataracts, but he could not afford surgery unless he returned to work, and he couldn't return to work until he had the surgery. Seemingly trapped, Curtis turned to the Lighthouse for help. He was back to his job soon after the surgery was complete.

More than 1,500 Georgians lost their health coverage each week of this year, and your Lighthouse is one of the few places they can turn for sight-saving surgeries. We rely on the White Cane fundraisers held by the Lions clubs of Georgia to support the eye surgery program.

The traditional method of fundraising through bucket drives is becoming more difficult each year. Fewer people are out buying, and those who are shopping don't carry cash as often. A number of clubs have found alternative ways to fundraise. They are recycling soda cans and bottles, writing and hand-delivering letters to small businesses, hosting pancake breakfasts and barbecues, putting on car shows, and ushering at local sporting events. The Tifton Lions Club put in a lot of work and pulled off a very successful male beauty pageant (see previous page).

Not only do White Cane activities help the Lighthouse, they also provide an avenue for spreading the word about the amazing work Lions do in the community. In addition, they are a great opportunity to get new club members actively involved in Lionism.

WHITE CANE EMPHASIS IS APRIL,

but don't wait until then to start planning your club's participation. A few clubs report they are too small, or they are rebuilding, or not sure how to hold a White Cane Drive. NO club is too small (or too large) to participate. A White Cane Drive can be a terrific incentive for a rebuilding club. So, how about some ideas on how to begin or improve your club's efforts.

Here are some ideas:

- * Place plastic jars on check-out counters of convenience and fast food stores. This could be done 4-6 weeks in April and can be handled by 1 or 2 Lions. Special jar lids and decals are available through White Cane Days, Inc.

- * Write letters to businesses of your community soliciting donations. Then follow up with a personal visit.

- * Hold a pancake breakfast, chili supper, chicken BBQ, or other project designated for White Cane.

- * Get publicity through having a community leader (mayor, administrator, or commissioner) sign a proclamation declaring your club's White Cane Drive and publishing it in your local newspaper.

- * If you have a Wal-Mart, K-Mart, Kroger's, or some other large retail outlet, approach management about a matching grant for White Cane.

- * Utilize your White Cane efforts to educate your community about the Georgia Lions Lighthouse in general, and your club in particular. You may be able to recruit a few new members.

Saving Lives: Bruce Lynn's Story

Bruce Lynn is determined to work, against all odds. He had worked in construction for two years, despite rapidly developing cataracts. Although he could eventually only see a few feet in front of him, Bruce kept working until his company was downsized and he was laid off.

Bruce found another job, in a restaurant, although it paid much less than he had earned in construction. He lost his home and moved in with his mother. By this time, his vision was so bad that co-workers had to clock him in and out, and driving in daylight had become impossible. So Bruce worked the night shift.

"Like Dracula, I had to race home before the sun came up. I kept six pairs of sunglasses in the truck. To be able to stay on dark roads, my route included a one-lane bridge. One night, the bridge was being repaired and I couldn't see that it was closed. I finally heard a policeman running after me and hollering for me to stop. When I pulled over, he came up to my widow to tell me to make a U-turn. If he'd given me a ticket, I wouldn't have been able to sign it. Another time I came up on a lane closed for construction and drove right past the worker with a sign telling cars in my lane to stop. Suddenly cars were coming straight at me and I had to drive into a ditch. That guy with the sign is probably still blessing me out. After that, I knew I had to stop driving. And I thank God I didn't kill someone."

Bruce's only hope for continued employment was cataract surgeries. He went to a Medicaid office, explaining that he wasn't looking for a handout and would pay back the cost of surgeries.

"They said they don't loan money. And that I didn't qualify for Medicaid because cataracts aren't a permanent disability. Then I heard about the Lighthouse. I knew the Lord touched the blind so they could see. Through the Lighthouse, the Lord touched my eyes."

Now Bruce drives himself to work and back, even in daylight. He also looks forward to returning to construction, when the economy recovers. In addition to changing his life, Bruce credits the Lighthouse with saving his mother as well. Bruce was at home after his surgery when he heard banging on the table behind him. He turned to see his mother choking on a piece of steak. He says if he had not been able to see, he would not have known she was in trouble. Instead, as he puts it, "Because of the Lighthouse, because I could see, I was able to do the Heimlich maneuver and save her life. She's fine right now, and it's all because of the Lord and the Lighthouse and all that you all do. And I surely do thank you."

To hear Bruce's story in his own words, go to www.lionslighthouse.org/lions, then click on "Lighthouse Meetings" on the left.

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GEORGIA LIONS LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

For the past 60 years, the Lions of Georgia have served low income Georgians by providing vision and hearing services through our Lighthouse. Over the past year, applications for Lighthouse services have increased by 30% and all services now have a waiting list. The Lighthouse is in a pivotal period of growth and I am excited to share with you just how the Lighthouse is planning to meet the rise in demand and how you can help your Lighthouse grow.

If you have been in the Lighthouse office recently, you have seen just how cramped the space is. The current home in Decatur houses 8 full time staff members, three Americorps VISTA volunteers and 3 interns in less than 4,500 square feet. Every possible space is utilized. There simply is no room to utilize new volunteers and staff in order to allow the Lighthouse programs to grow. After an extensive search, the Lighthouse has found a new home that will allow for a new permanent clinic, provide space to increase Americorps and volunteer participation and create a Lighthouse optical lab to allow the Lighthouse to cut cost by producing our own glasses. The new building will allow the Lighthouse to increase services from over 4,000 people a year to over 7,000 by 2013 by providing space for volunteers and staff as well as cutting the cost of eyeglasses from \$25 a pair to \$5 a pair. This opportunity is the only solution to allow the Lighthouse to expand services to aid more Georgians in financial need.

The Lighthouse needs the full support of the Lions of Georgia in order to make this growth happen. You have a once in a lifetime opportunity to support your Lighthouse and respond to Georgians in need.

David Sargent, PDG
Past President, Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation
District D Campaign Chair





GA. Lions Camp for the Blind
Thois Masters, PDG
tstmasters@windstream.net



To Our Fellow Lions:



"RIPE FOR CHANGE"

Recently I have been thinking a lot about this coming summer, and I am so excited! I have been thinking about the new adventures and skills we are going to teach through geocaching. I have also thought about how excited every camper will be when painting their projects to decorate the cafeteria. I have thought about the moments that will surely come this summer when sleep will elude me, and my tired body will crave a "long winter's night." I imagine what it looks like to take a visually impaired camper onto our new low ropes course and allow them to get acquainted with the wires. I envision seeing their smiles, and hearing their roaring laughter. However, what I look forward to the most, are the after camp stories that trickle in all year long. I love hearing how some brave action or life change was sparked at camp and then was acted upon when campers returned home. In those moments, you know that what you invested in another person mattered, and it changes lives. As we start the 2010 camping season this year, we are ready to face new challenges head on; we are "Ripe for Change."

Forward,
Kristen

Why are we the best camp built for the visually impaired?

The Georgia Lions Camp for the Blind is like no other camp in Georgia. Here, disabilities fade into the background. We empower those who are struggling; we encourage the pursuit of dreams. We play like there is no tomorrow while providing a physically and emotionally safe environment at all times. We do it because we are the Georgia Lions Camp for the Blind, and together, that's our mission.



THE GEORGIA LIONS CAMP for the Blind

We are looking forward to seeing each of you for this very special weekend! Please call with any questions, or visit our website at www.glcb.org for further information and a schedule of events.

Upcoming events are:

Work Weekend - March 26-28, 2010



Work Weekend - April 16-18, 2010

Project List

1. Dining Hall Exterior siding work
2. Clean up for ropes course
3. Walking line to climbing wall & fish pond
4. Paint inside gazebo walls and take up carpet
5. Fix all torn shingles on all buildings
6. Take up and put down new staging area fence
7. Sand and paint swing sets
8. Replace 1x4 porch on staff lounge
9. Paint girls sitting area
10. Dig up clay and put down 1x4 border on back left side of office
11. Paint all benches for ropes course
12. Build four 5gallon water stands
13. Fix clothes line (tighten line)

Please let us know if you are planning to attend. We need to know the days you are actually planning on being here as well so that we can make sure we have enough food and beds

Dear Lions,

Work Weekend is right around the corner (Mar. 26-28), and I'm looking forward to working together with everyone again. As you can see from the list above we will be quite busy. The dining hall will require most of our attention since the bottom two feet of the old siding will be removed, and that entire area will be prepped for new siding to be attached. If you have any tools (i.e. hammers, skill saws, battery-powered or corded drills, extension cords, etc.), please bring them in case extras are needed. Be sure to have all your items identified so they aren't mistakenly lost. Also encourage as many Lions as possible to come since this will be a huge undertaking.

Please fill out the attached reservation form, so that we can ensure we have enough food as well as sleeping accommodations. We are all looking forward to having a busy and rewarding weekend!

Respectfully,
Bobby Willis



2010 Schedule

Session 1: Family Camp (age 4-9) June 13-18, 2010

Session 2: Pre-Teens (ages 10-13) June 20-25, 2010

Session 3: Young Adults (ages 18-25) June 27-July 5, 2010

Session 4: Adults (ages 26-50+) July 9-16, 2010

Session 5: Teens (ages 14-17) July 19-30, 2010

The Board Meeting itself was well attended and very informative. Kristen and her Team did an outstanding job in presenting the Camp as it is moving from “The Flip Side” to “Ripe for Change”. After hearing her presentation we are indeed “Ripe for Change”. One of our Counselors for the last three years, who is now a teacher at the Academy for the Blind, was our guest speaker. Alison shared with us just how important our Camp is to her and to those she teaches. We are excited about her bringing some of her students to our Camp for the first time. **Alison – THANK YOU for being so special!**



The Gator Raffle went very well this year. We sold 32,000 tickets and off course that means we made about \$25,000.00 profit on the Gator Raffle for our Camp. **GREAT JOB!** Thank you to PDG David Forrest, VP from 18-E for heading this up for us. We will be doing this same project next year, so please be prepared to beat this year's achievement next year.

*The Grand Tour of Georgia was introduced. This is an event that lasts from April 1st until the end of September. Folks like me that ride motorcycles will purchase a passport book for \$35.00 to 18 locations throughout Georgia. We'll have that time frame to ride to at least 15 of those locations to be successful and obtain a pin/year tab for our vests. We have budgeted \$35,000 worth of revenue from this event. **The flier for this Event will be out in March and we will need all the Lions of Georgia to get those out to Motorcycle Shops and Groups/Clubs throughout the State or even in other States. Please stay tuned.***

Also at our Meeting Lion Doy - the Board Secretary, Lion Jon – The Treasurer and I got elected for another two years. I am so thankful for both Lions Doy and Jon. They make my job so much easier. With my health as it was last Fall; I was not going to seek a second term as your President. I am so very blessed that the Cancer seems to be all gone and my strength has returned.

I am ready for my Second Two Year Term at the Helm! I am excited about what we have accomplished and the opportunities we have ahead of us. The opportunity to grow the amount of Visually Impaired Campers “We Serve” and opportunity to open our Camp up to external organizations for use. Opening our Camp to external Groups allows our Camp to serve the citizens of Georgia while not putting the burden of that service on our backs. They would use our Camp but provide their own staff and facilitate their own needs. We provide the facility. Examples of this type of service are Camp Kudzu and other organization that serve. Girl Scout and Boy Scout Troops are another option for taking advantage of our Camp. There are so many more.....

As you can tell, I am excited about our Camp and where it is going. I could go on for another three pages but will stop here. I look forward to seeing many of you again at the upcoming District Conventions and at the Work Weekends at the Camp.

Take Care and God Bless!

Frank





Leader Dog Chair Lion Diane Wall
liondianewall@bellsouth.net

Fellow Lions:

Local Dog Wins Award For Helping Owner

By [Barclay Bishop](#) | WJBF News Channel 6 Anchor/Reporter

Evans, GA—It's her first year in school, but Bijou is already making an impression. Wednesday, she won the Casie Ritchhart Award, given out by the Augusta Humane Society.



It's an award given only to a very deserving animal. Wednesday, the Augusta Humane Society awarded a very luck pup at Lakeside High School. WJBF News Channel 6's Barclay Bishop reports.

Elizabeth Moretz Britt, Augusta Humane Society: "We would like to present now, your dog Bijou, this award."

Cassandra Gentry, Lakeside High School chemistry teacher: "When Bijou came into my life, it was like the whole world opened up again. My passion for my career is so much different now because of her. And, I really didn't know I had changed so much in my career."

Bijou is Cassandra Gentry's guide dog. She teaches Chemistry at Lakeside High. It's been 4 years since Cassandra was diagnosed with Retinitis Pigmentosa, a disease that has already taken part of her vision, but will eventually take it all.

Gentry: "She's incredibly deserving. She's already saved me from walking off a cliff. She stopped me in front of a moving car, that was going to hit me."

Dr. Jeff Carney, Lakeside High School principal: "He's like one of the family now."

Dr. Jeff Carney is the high school's principal.

Dr. Carney: "It's helped her tremendously. I think it's given her more confidence, even when it comes to speaking with the kids. And the improvement in her, before, even when she would go down the hallway, and the class change time with 1,700 kids. She'd have to stay against the wall and pretty much have to wait and let the kids get around her. With Bijou, she's right in there with them."

Bijou is more than just a dog, she's the eyes for an inspiring woman who has given more than a decade to teaching students. And although she doesn't know what the future holds, Gentry says she's sure of one thing, Bijou will be right there with her.

Gentry: "I really just focus on today, I can see today, and that's all that matters."

Cassandra says she wants to compete in a dualathlon and a triathlon. She will complete both in March and April. She's looking for sponsors and will donate all of the money given from sponsors to the organization that gave her Bijou, Leader Dogs For The Blind. To donate, you can email Cassandra directly at gentry@knology.net.

* * * * *



Chuckie poses with a few of the children that attend The Block Institute. Along with his brother Chester, the dogs have been a positive influence on both the students and the staff.

Chuckie, Chester and The Block Institute

Two Career Change Dogs That Will Make a Big Difference

Many people haven't heard of Exercise Induced Collapse (EIC). EIC is a genetic disease that is seldom fatal, but can cause a dog to weaken and become uncoordinated when physical exertion is combined with extreme excitement. Dogs with EIC are not candidates for guide work.

2009 marked the first time that a test for EIC was available, and Leader Dog's entire breeding colony was tested to see if they carried the EIC gene. Several of the dogs did. Consequently, any litters that were the result of two parents that had EIC had to be career changed.

Two black Labradors, Chuckie and Chester, belonged to one of the career changed litters. And though they were not destined to be Leader Dogs, both Chuckie and Chester had an important job ahead of them.

Through a collaboration with The Block Institute in New York City, a school for children and adults with developmental disabilities, Chuckie and Chester are training to be therapy dogs for the students.

"We have already seen a significant change in the children who interact with or see the dogs," says Gina Maranga, director of program operations at Block and "mom" to Chester. "Everyone just lights up when they see the dogs, some of the adults in particular. They know their names and call to them. Some of the children that don't speak very often are vocalizing more and are given to very spontaneous reactions when the dogs are present."

The students are not the only ones who have been positively affected by Chuckie and Chester. "They've had a remarkable impact on the staff," reports Gina. "The dogs put everyone more at ease and have made everyone more approachable."

* * * * *

The Story of Fernando & Finn

If you haven't already read the story of Fernando Benitez, his Leader Dog "Finn," and Finn's puppy raisers, the McBrides, on our website, we encourage you to do so. Their touching story is just one example of the importance of our mission, our volunteers and our supporters.

You can read the story and view video and a photo scrapbook at

<http://www.leaderdog.org/finn&fernando/>



* * * * *

Helen Keller and the Lions

On June 30, 1925, Helen Keller addressed the Lions International Convention. Her compelling speech set the Lions on course to work tirelessly to aid people who are blind and visually impaired.

Helen ended her address with the following appeal. Would you have been able to resist her request?

"Will you not help me hasten the day when there shall be no preventable blindness, no little deaf blind child untaught, no blind man or woman unaided? I appeal to you, Lions—you who have your sight, your hearing, you who are strong and brave and kind—will you not constitute yourselves Knights of the Blind in my crusade against darkness?"



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

Free Inspirational Breakfast

The Georgia Unit will hold its fourth annual Dream Builders Free Fundraising Breakfast at the Holiday Inn in Athens, Georgia on 3/18/10 at 8:30 a.m. for exactly one hour. Brad Held, who is dyslexic, will be the inspirational RFB&D student member speaker. Athens Regional Medical Center is sponsoring the event.

Record-A-Thon Plans on a Roll!

While all three studios in the region have planned festivities around our national Record-A-Thon, with the April 19th event fast approaching. The Georgia studio will have Sherri Goggin (Mrs. Georgia 2006, Athens Banner-Herald columnist, author, and the founder of "The Bundles of Joy" gift bag program for families in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) as their honorary chair, while celebrity readers join the committed volunteers to fill the recording booths to capacity. The Tennessee studio is having a birthday theme this year and will celebrate all the volunteers' birthdays with cake and treats during the week. All three studios, including Florida, will feature door prizes and donated food for the volunteers, with the goal of raising \$50,000 at each studio.

The Spirit of Giving

Embodying the spirit of giving back at holiday time, an anonymous donor with a vision-impaired child "goes the extra mile" to help an RFB&D recording studio in the region. More than two years ago, RFB&D Southeast Regional Executive Director Lenora Martin received a generous check from a donor, and wanted to thank him in person. She subsequently discovered that he was a new volunteer, reading law books for three hours a week, while driving 90 miles each way to report for "duty"!

Lenora discovered that this committed donor, who prefers to remain anonymous, has a child who is vision-impaired and uses RFB&D's audio books to excel in school.

This selfless volunteer and donor later agreed to join the board, and then doubled the size of his original gift to RFB&D! Lenora, along with RFB&D's student members, is extremely grateful for this role model exemplifying the spirit of giving back.



Judy Stamsen CCI Chair
eskiemom@bellsouth.net

Paralympics Athletes Assisted by CCI Facility Dog Morrow



Betsy Alison, a five-time US SAILING Rolex Yachtswoman of the Year and two-time Yngling World Champion, has been working with athletes of the US Disabled Sailing Team

for several years, accompanying the U.S. Paralympic Sailing Team to the 2000 and 2004 Paralympic Games. She has been a staff coach of the US Disabled Sailing Team since March 2006.

After observing the sailors with their pets, Alison thought that a "team dog" could act as a stress reducer and psychological motivator for athletes. Alison consulted with several sports psychologists who agreed with her concept.

In May 2007 she added a new member to the sailing team -- an exceptional Facility Dog when she graduated from Canine Companions for Independence with Morrow II.

Thanks to his training at Canine Companions Morrow can assist the sailors with tasks like picking up dropped tools and carrying lifejackets and dry bags. He is currently learning to help pull wheelchairs up the dock. Additionally, Morrow is a constant professional. He is not distracted by common sounds aboard the coach boat like air horns and whistles or by waves and other boats.

The team includes eighteen disabled athletes -- many with spinal cord injuries of varying severity, about half in wheelchairs. The sailors range in age from 22 to 72 and come from all backgrounds. Alison noticed that when a sailor makes errors or performs poorly on the water, they often internalized the stress and their mental state suffers. "Morrow provides stress reduction. You can't help but smile at his unconditional love and regain a positive outlook," says Alison.

Facility Dog Morrow will not be traveling to China for the Paralympics with the team, but he will certainly be there in spirit.

"I'll bring some pictures of Morrow along with his well wishes for the team, that will undoubtedly put smiles on our athletes' faces," explains Coach Alison.



Lion Kathryn Higgins
Diabetes Awareness Chair
Klhiggins07@windstream.net

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Interactive entertainment for the whole family. Learn more about healthy living and diabetes through active play and organized activities.

Faces of Diabetes

Diabetes does not discriminate—it impacts people of all ages, races and ethnicities. Look for areas within the exhibit hall featuring information that is tailored to meet the specific needs of you and your family.



Make Healthy Food Choices

- Cooking demonstrations
- Healthy food sampling
- Tasty and healthful recipes

Get Active

Visit our "Active Living Area" and learn how to work fitness into your everyday life.

- Fitness demonstrations
- Exercise tips

Free Health Screenings

While supplies last take advantage of free health screenings. Most EXPOs offer:

- A1C (A measure of estimated average blood glucose.)
- Cholesterol
- Blood Pressure
- Foot Screenings
- Diabetes Risk Assessment
- Eye Screenings
- BMI

Ask the Expert

Come armed with questions for health care professionals from our community who will answer your diabetes questions one-on-one and help you learn more about how to manage your diabetes and prevent its devastating complications.

Getting to the EXPO

For directions to the Expo, visit: www.gwcc.com

Location:

Georgia World Congress Center
Building B, Hall B-2 Lower Level
285 Andrew Young Intl Blvd. NW Atlanta, GA

Parking:

Red Parking Deck
(At the end of Andrew Young Intl. Blvd.)

RSVP

For pre-show announcements and additional information, RSVP online at DIABETES.ORG/EXPOATLANTA.

However, an RSVP is not required. If you don't RSVP, simply join us at Georgia World Congress Center on Sat. March 27, 2010.

More Information

For more information, call us at 1-888-DIABETES ext 3166 or log onto our website at DIABETES.ORG/EXPOATLANTA





"Peace Begins
With Me"
2008-09 Grand
Prize Winner

New Peace Poster Theme Announced: The theme for the 2010-2011 Lions International Peace Poster Contest will be "Vision of Peace." Peace Poster Kits will go on sale on January 15 from the Club Supplies Sales Department. See the order form (PR 785) for more details.

* * * * *

Lions Family Cub Program — A frequent question is: How do we keep the children interested and involved? The answer is the Lions Family Cub Program which comes complete with a [30-page activity guide](#). The guide offers complete, step-by-step procedures that will help make Lion Cubs an integral part of your club. The [Lions Family Cub Program](#) will be an important part of making family membership a positive experience for parents as well as children. Please consider it as a part of our responsibility as Lion Leaders to serve our members and put their needs first. Remember that our Lion Cubs are the greatest potential source of Lions Club members in the future.

* * * * *

Leo Facebook Fan Page

The Leo Club Program announces its new Facebook Fan Page. Become a fan of the official Leo Club Program fan page at www/facebook.com/leoclubs and get updates from LCI and talk with other Leos from around the world!

Leo Club Program Debuts on Facebook

The Leo Club Program announces its new Facebook Fan Page. Become a fan of [the official Leo Club Program Fan page](#) to get updates from LCI – and network with other Leos from around the world.

Grant Funding Available for Leos

The Leo Leadership Grant Program provides financial assistance to a Lions multiple district, sub-district or single district (not part of a multiple district) to help finance a Leo leadership conference. The goal of the program is to further develop Leos' leadership skills, specifically in the areas of:

- Project management
- Communication
- Teamwork
- Creativity/innovation
- Planning community service projects

Lions Clubs International will award a maximum of two US\$2,000 grants per constitutional area each fiscal year and will approve eligible grants on a first-come, first-served basis. Grant applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until May 1 of each fiscal year.

For more information about the grant program visit the Leo Zone. To find out if there is still funding available in your constitutional area e-mail leo@lionsclubs.org.

* * * * *

10 WAYS TO ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD'S SENSE OF HUMOR (AND OUR OWN FOR THAT MATTER):

- _ Maintain a warm, supportive atmosphere in your home. When your child feels comfortable, he'll be more willing to risk making a joke.
- _ Be playful. Incorporate physical and verbal humor when you're together.
- _ Build self-esteem. A confident child will attempt and appreciate humor.
- _ Help her tune in to the needs and pleasures of others. In order to engage and communicate with her peers, she needs to understand her audience.
- _ Use humor yourself. Model how introducing a light touch can help reduce stress.

April is Leo Club Awareness Month

Leo advisors and chairpersons: Spread the word about the Leo Club Program—work with your Leo clubs, districts, or multiple districts to organize a joint Leo-Lion community service project.

Raise funds to provide aid for Haiti
Start a tree planning project
Repair a playground
Start a recycling program

Leo clubs prepare young people for a lifetime of leadership. Visit the Leo Zone for more information or contact the Youth Programs Department at leo@lionsclubs.org.

* * * * *

Young Ambassadors of the 21st Century

MD-18 Council of Governors determined that the Lions of Georgia will continue with the Young Ambassador's Award (even though LCI Board of Directors dropped this program).

The Young Ambassadors Award is open to candidates of either sex having reached their 15th birthday but not their 19th birthday, on or before 30 June. No previous winner of our MD-18 final judging is eligible to be a candidate for the Award.

A "Young Ambassadors Contest" application format will be distributed by email to each District Governor prior to 6 February. Each District Governor will have the responsibility of identifying a Young Ambassador Contest chairperson.

Any questions concerning this program are to be directed to PDG Joe Hirsch, 706-216-1055.

* * * * *

Young Leader Service Program

This program continues as before. An award earned by young people ages 12-18 who have completed 50 or 100 hours of community service. Lions Clubs in each District are encouraged to provide Leo Clubs, local schools and other community organizations with the program's criteria (has been distributed to Council). Club may present Silver Seal certificates to candidates who have performed 50 hours of community service and/or a Gold Seal Certificate to those who have completed 100 hours of community service. Informational kits are available from: Youth Programs Department, Lions Clubs International (Tel: 630-571-5466 Ext 324 or 330).

* * * * *

101 Ways to Teach Youth How to Cope with Stress (and these will help adults as well)

- ** Teach a kid to fly a kite.
- ** Walk in the rain.
- ** Schedule play time into every day.
- ** Take a bubble bath (or just a hot shower).
- ** Be aware of the decisions you make.
- ** Stop saying negative things to yourself.
- ** Visualize yourself winning the gold.
- ** Develop your sense of humor.

* * * * *

ATTENTION ALL SCOUT LEADERS

Did you know that Lions who are Scout leaders—Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts—can qualify for the Lions Club Scouting Service Award?

This honor is to recognize an individual Lion who acts as a role model and renders distinguished and dedicated service to Scouting through active service, leadership or other exemplary contributions to the Boy Scouts of America or the Girl Scouts USA as an active Lion.

The requirements are simple. "Keeping with the objectives and principles of both Lions International and Scouting, the nominee must have encouraged character development, leadership, citizenship, and personal growth for scouting youth."

- The Lion must be in good standing with his/her local club, a current registered Lion for five years, and be nominated by the current president of the Lions Club and/or the District Governor.
- Be registered in a Scouting position at a unit, district, or council level for a combination of five years.
- Be fully trained in his/her scouting positions and his/her Lions Club/district leadership positions
- Have strengthened the relationship between local Lions Clubs and Scouting
- Assisted Lions Clubs in forming new units
- Exemplifies the BSA/Girl Scout Law and Lions Motto

For more information and the nomination form, go www.lionsclubscoutingserviceaward.com

LEO STATE GATHERING:

The LEO State Gathering was held January 29-31 at the Georgia Lions Camp for the Blind. This was the 5th Annual LEO Statewide Gathering and in all, 82 Leos and 19 Lions from all across Georgia attended this year's event. The purpose of the Gathering was for Georgia LEOs to meet, learn, work, and have fun together. 18-C's Seminole County LEOs were named Club of the Year for the 2009 Gathering so C. J. Jackson of the SC LEO Club Chaired and worked with Leos designated from each club who served on the Leo Gathering Committee and presided over individual sessions. Attending LEOS were from the Seminole County and Colquitt County LEO Clubs in 18-C, Pickens Middle and High Schools from 18-A, and Clarke Middle School from 18-D.

Sarah Epting came from the Georgia Lions Lighthouse (with her mother) and brought boxes of non-Rx sunglasses and reading glasses. The Leos sorted and washed them. The Georgia LEOs assisted the Camp Staff with several work projects aimed at preparing the Camp for its special campers. The LEOs learned what the Camp is all about and why it is such an important project for Georgia Lions. LEOs learned that the Camp provides a safe, educational, fun outdoor experience for visually impaired campers who might otherwise never experience the wonders of camping, fishing, climbing and nature.

As part of this year's Gathering, the LEOs participated in the LEOlympics. Participants were involved in a variety of fun, Olympic style competitions in which they competed wearing glasses that simulated assorted vision impairments. LEOs competed by Clubs / teams and earned points for each medal. Based on this competition, the Colquitt County LEOs were named the winner and the LEO Club of the Year from the Gathering.

The attendees at the 2010 Statewide Leo Gathering also discussed and formed a LEO Multiple District 18 for the State of Georgia, which will work to unite, educate, and grow LEOs in Georgia. All of the LEOs elected for the new MD-18 LEO Council were from 18-C including: President-Samantha Turner (Seminole County), Vice-President-Johnelle Simpson II (Seminole County), Secretary-Gabby Harrell (Seminole County), Treasurer-Stephan Rolle (Seminole County), Membership-Victor Trejo (Colquitt County), and Chaplain-Alex Gay (Colquitt County).

The LEOs also approved the Standard LEO Multiple District Constitution from Lions Club International, amended to include Officers listed above. The newly formed LEO MD-18 Council will meet at the State Convention in Tifton and hold an Organizational Meeting. In addition to the Officers, each District Chair will appoint one LEO from each district to sit on this Council (Catherine Sumner - Early County).

Plans are already underway for next year's 2011 LEO State Gathering. We encourage all Lions and Clubs to participate

in Youth & Children's Activities and in the LEO Club program.



Dear Mr. Tuttle and Dr. Castlin-Gucatan,

Thank you for your efforts regarding Operation Christmas Soldier. My son is one of the soldiers for whom a care package was made by the Clarke Middle School LEO Club. He has been serving his first deployment in Iraq and it has been difficult for him. The soldiers, Marines, sailors and airmen appreciate all that is done for them. My son has told me that random acts of kindness have touched him.

God bless you.

Karl Kline, Athens Orthopedic Clinic



Welcome to Liberty Day!

Liberty Day is a program for our youth. It is a way to strength citizenship in our youth through a program based on the Constitution of the United States. This is a program started by the Lions Clubs of Denver. Georgia adopted this program in the late 1990s.

There are several ways a Lions Club can sponsor a Liberty Day program. The first way is through a school program. Lions Clubs should arrange a speaker who would be interesting to the students. This speaker could be an elected official or someone who could speak on the rights and responsibilities of citizens as granted by the Constitution.

Once you have your speaker, you can receive permission of the school system to sponsor a Liberty Day event to a class or a group of students. I have found that 8th grade and up is ideal. Then order the number of Liberty Day booklets you need from me. The cost is \$.60 each and includes shipping.

Also work with the teachers) so that they reinforce what the speaker has said through an essay or other classroom work. The students could even write a letter of thanks to the speaker / Lions Club on the subject. Another project is with a Boy Scout troop. Boy Scouts must earn the Citizenship in the Nation merit badge as a requirement for rank promotion. Again, use the speaker and the booklets. The Liberty Day project has been endorsed by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America. A third project is when a group of youth work a project in a public place to promote the Constitution. There are a series of questions that they can use. They would ask an adult the question-- whether it is right or wrong, the adult receives either a flag pin or flag sticker. The booklets are used to coach the youth on the Constitution so that they are more confident in asking the questions as they know the answers themselves. They should work under the guidance of adults and in a place that has given permission for them to be there.

If your Lions Club is interested in sponsoring a Liberty Day project with a Scout group, please contact your District Liberty Day Chair or Lil Shurtleff, MD Liberty Day Chair.



**LIBERTY DAY GEORGIA
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE/U.S.
CONSTITUTION**



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).



Georgia Lions All-State Band 2010
Application for membership
Go to www.edmclion.com

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