



We Serve

District 18-D Bulletin

Gold



Standard

MONTHLY BULLETIN FOR LIONS OF NORTHEAST GEORGIA

December 2008



District Governor Dick Smith

Dear “Gold Standard” Lions of 18-D,

I want to thank everyone who attended the Hall of Fame Dinner, 2nd Cabinet Meeting and District Rally last month!

For the Hall of Fame Dinner we had over 100 Lions and guests in attendance. Following a superb dinner we were entertained by Storyteller and singer Jackie Elsner who sang and told us a remarkable story about a Dahlonge golden cat, Nugget, with six claws, that gave individuals special “gold mining” talents. I’m sure that the Dahlonge Lions will have their eyes open hoping to see and adopt Nugget. Hopefully all clubs in the district will earn the “Gold Nugget Award.” The golden cat will be a Lion.

The 9:00 a.m. cabinet meeting proved to be very interesting and informative. We had several participants provide us with very useful information about the charities we support. In addition, we had the opportunity to be the first district to have our new Georgia Lions Camp for the Blind Director, Kristen Picus, in attendance and express her commitment to the Camp. After a brief break we all

had the opportunity to pose questions to our Lions leadership, which included ID Bill Watkins, PID John Pearce, MD-18 GMT Chair, PCC Sandy Mercer, Lighthouse Board Chair, PCC Mark Miller, Lighthouse 18-D’s new Director, PDG Mike Higgins, Camp for the Blind President, Lion Frank Spinney, and Camp Director, Kristen Picus.

The Rally was super! Lion Herman Jones not only did an excellent job of chairing the Rally Committee, but he raised a good sum of money as our District “Honorable” Tail Twister. Our inspirational speaker was International Director Williams Watkins from Loudon, Tennessee. In addition to his speech, ID Watkins awarded LCI Certificates of Appreciation to Lions Ron Bennetti (Dawsonville Lions Club), Bill Mundy (Dahlonge Lions Club), and Bryson Tanner (Athens Lions Club).

The one event that was not as successful was the afternoon “Mining for Lions” MERL membership training session. In all honesty though, membership is the one thing our district appears embarrassed by. Fourteen clubs have increased their membership, eight clubs have remained stable, and fourteen clubs have seen their membership decrease. This coming month does not look as though it is going to reverse our downward trend. How are the stable and declining clubs going to increase their membership? I am going to offer you this advice. December is a special month. It is a month focused on the emergence of new life. I hope that all of you will celebrate the month and find it exciting. When you see my first next year’s Bulletin comments, there will only be six months left in our Lions’ year. Please be ready to ask your spouse, friends, neighbors, colleagues, and acquaintances to become Lions and join your club. Merry Christmas!

Yours in “Miracles through Service,”

Dick





“Christmas Day is Children’s Day”

During the Christmas season the minds of parents are especially occupied with their children. Everything that will make them happy is planned. What lovelier sight can be imagined than the family gathered ‘round the Christmas tree, the children’s faces aglow with eager interest, their hands full of glittering treasures, their voices, like bells, filling the house with joyous music! In a very real sense Christmas Day is Children’s Day.

On this day when man becomes as a child, and so prepared to enter into the Kingdom of God, examine your thoughts, from which your heart speaketh, and give your children only the thoughts that shall keep their lives sweet, sane and strong.

Helen Keller



District 18-D Rally

Congratulations =

Presidential Certificate of Appreciation to:

Lion Ron Bennetti – Dawsonville Lions

Lion Bill Mundy – Dahlonega Lions

Lion Bryson Tanner – Athens Lions



Melvin Jones Fellow = Lion Peggy Owens



*MD 18 Appreciation Plaque for serving as
International Director = Lion Buddy Ouzts, PID*

Congratulations to the new
Hall of Fame recipients:

Lion Mike Kelly – Clarksville Lions
Lion Bill Synder – Clarksville Lions
Lion John Boshart – Clayton Lions
Lion Dr. Wm E. Walker – Clayton Lions
Lion Mike Higgins, PDG – Forsyth County Lions
Lion James Schwartz – Gainesville Lions
Lion Neal Byrd – Loganville Lions
Lion Ruth Payton, PDG – Toccoa Lions
Lion Ken Fuller – Towns County Lions



Merry Christmas 

CHECK OUT THE EDITOR'S PAGE – There has been many version's - this is the latest.....

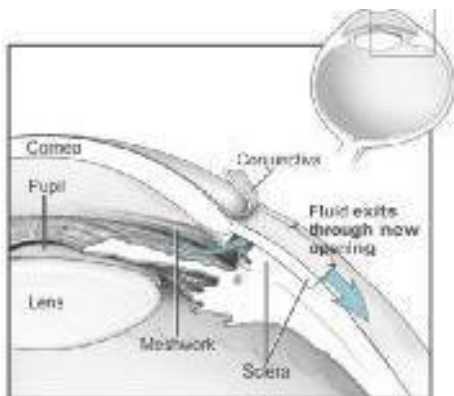
PLEASE, Would you do me the kind favor of sending this to as many people as you can? Christmas will be coming soon and some credit is due to our U.S. service men and women for our being able to celebrate the se festivities. Let's try in this small way to pay a tiny bit of what we owe. Make people stop and think of our heroes, living and dead, who sacrificed themselves for us.

LCDR Jeff Giles, SC, USN
30th Naval Construction Regiment
OIC, Logistics Cell One
Al Taqqadum , Iraq .

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

January is Glaucoma Awareness Month.



To learn more
check out this
web site:

www.aoa.org

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

13 January is Melvin Jones' Birthday



24 January: World Peace Day

Planning Ahead



10-11 January 2009



Council Of Governors Meeting
Georgia Lions Lighthouse Meeting at
Clairmont Presbyterian Church
Decatur, Georgia
Check out page 19

31 January-1 February 2009



Camp For The Blind
Warner Robbins

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



**92nd
International
Convention,
Minneapolis,
Minnesota**

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

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



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 📖?**

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**Glaucoma is the “sneak thief of  
sight.”**

At first, there are no symptoms of [glaucoma](#). If undetected and left untreated, irreversible blindness can occur. Lions can help to preserve sight by promoting awareness of glaucoma and encouraging those at risk to have a dilated eye exam. The month of January is [Glaucoma Awareness Month](#).

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**Important Dates for Lions
Activities**

All over the world, people know of the miracles of service that Lions clubs provide. Clubs and districts may wish to increase their involvement in service activities to promote sight preservation and diabetes awareness. Here are some important upcoming events in 2008 and 2009:

- [Early Discount Deadline On Convention Registration Fees](#) December 31
- [Glaucoma Awareness Month](#) January

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**Hearing Aid Recycling Program**

Few promotional materials are available from LCI to help your club start a hearing aid recycling campaign. A colorful brochure and collection box decal, along with a

sample press release, have been designed to encourage more community participation and to aid your collection efforts. The new box decal can be affixed to the official Lions Clubs International eyeglass collection box; or you can use the decal to design your own box. Hearing aid recycling is a rewarding club activity. Learn more about how you can help to provide assistance to individuals in need through the Lions Clubs International [Hearing Aid Recycling Program](#). Contact the [Health and Children's Services Department](#) to order a supply of the new brochures and labels at a nominal cost. You may download the press release on the association's Web site.

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**New: Award Certificates for
Sight Chairpersons**

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

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**Club Supplies Sales Department**

Please see the attached flyer for **Holiday Savings** on Lions

Clubs merchandise available through the Club Supplies Sales Department at Lions Clubs International. *This discount is available on orders placed from November 15th through December 31st only.* Shop online at [www2.lionsclubs.org](http://www2.lionsclubs.org) or request a free Official Lions Supply Catalog from us today! If you have any questions, would like to place an order or to request a catalog, please feel free to contact us at [clubsupplies@lionsclubs.org](mailto:clubsupplies@lionsclubs.org), by phone at (630) 571-5466 x405 or toll free in the U.S. and Canada at 800-710-7822.

Happy Holidays!

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**New!!! Strides Walk Banner
Patch**

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

Strides: Banner Patch Award

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

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

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**International Convention Registration**

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

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Leo of the Year Awarded

The [Leo of the Year Award](#) recipients demonstrate outstanding leadership skills, achieve a superior record as a Leo in implementing successful service projects, make an identifiable contribution to the development and growth of the Leo Club Program, achieve distinction in community or school activities outside of Leo club commitments and demonstrate high ethical standards and personal integrity. Congratulations to all the [2007-08 award recipients](#).

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**Two New Club Programs**

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

- [Lions Green Team](#) - Organize a high-visibility environmental project, such as a community clean-up, tree planting or recycling effort.
- [Lions Crew at Work](#) - Invite Lions and other community members to help clean, paint or repair a local facility such as a community center, shelter, camp, playground or nature trail.

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

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Miracles Through Service — 2008-09 International Program
Watch the International Program video, "[Everyday Heroes](#)," online. The video brings to life 2008-09 International President Al Brandel's program "Miracles Through Service," illustrating the everyday acts of Lions that make them everyday heroes. This inspiring video is an excellent resource to share with your club members. The DVD is available to purchase from Club Supplies in all official languages. For additional information, [read the written program](#).

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**New Lions Sought for Magazine Profiles**

THE LION Magazine wants to profile young, interesting and active Lions who have joined an existing club within the last four to eight months. One such Lion will be highlighted each month in the magazine starting in January 2009. Please [e-mail a brief description](#) of

the impact the Lion has made on the club along with person's name, club name, location and contact information (phone, e-mail) along with your contact information for consideration.

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Lions Clubs International Videos on YouTube

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

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**Organize a Lions Environmental Photo Contest**

Organize a club-level contest to select the best photo in the categories of animal, plant, landscape, weather phenomena or special theme, "Lions Environmental Miracle Workers." Submit your winning club photo (by January 15, 2009) to the district competition. Winning multiple district photos will appear at the 92nd Lions International Convention in Minnesota in July 2009. [Read further for contest details and view winning photos from last year.](#)





**PIN TRADERS CLUB OF GEORGIA (PTCGA)**

**SERIES NO. 2**

**CAMPAIGN SIGHT FIRST II PINS**

The Pin Traders Club of Georgia (PTCGA) is assisting the LITPC achieve the Goal \$100,000 to CSFII. This is the second series of Georgia Pins to be sold for the proceeds to go to Campaign SightFirst II. Each Georgia Peach contains a Georgia Coast Lighthouse. With the contribution of \$20.00 plus, shipped postage of \$2.25 per set or a total of \$22.25 per sets.

Send Check and Order Form to: PDG E. Don Wagner, 5853 Frank Gailey Road, Clermont, GA 30527-2038

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO PTCGA or Pin Trader Club of Georgia**

Number of sets of \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$20.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Five (5) pins

Postage & Package @ \$ 2.25 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

for each set \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

There are only 125 sets. I will have them at the Virginia Swap, Pennsylvania Swap and the Southeastern Swap.

**QUESTIONS:** to PDG Don Wagner, Phone 770-983-0984, Cell 678-617-0184 or email:

[wagner5853@bellsouth.net](mailto:wagner5853@bellsouth.net)

**Mall pins to:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address (for possible special future offerings): \_\_\_\_\_

Updated: October 7, 2008

[Home](#)



Thousands of Lions celebrated the successful conclusion of CSFII at the 2008 International Convention in Bangkok, Thailand. LCI has produced a CSFII Celebration video that highlights this great Lions accomplishment. You can go into the following web site to view this video

<http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/lnn/videos.html> .





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

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

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

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

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

### **Collaborative Partners**

Through collaborations with not-for-profits, LCIF leverages its resources and accomplishes much more than it could on its own. Major collaborative partners are:

#### **The Carter Center**

LCIF has awarded the Carter Center more than US\$38 million (and other non-profits US\$5.5 million) to prevent river blindness in Latin America and Africa. So far, 114 million treatments of Mectizan have been delivered. The eradication of the disease in Latin America is possible by 2010. LCIF also is partnering with the Carter Center to battle trachoma in three nations.

#### **The Global Health and Education Foundation (GHEF)**

In May 2008, GHEF gave LCIF the largest donation in its 40-year history. Through Operation Global Vision, GHEF's US\$7.5 million gift will be matched dollar-for-dollar by LCIF to total US\$15 million for cataract surgeries and access to eye care in developing countries. Operation Global Vision will provide the gift of sight to 270,000 people over five years.

#### **Habitat for Humanity International**

In 1999, LCIF began a partnership with Habitat and committed US\$12 million to build homes for people with disabilities. A total of 1,000 homes have been built or approved for construction so far. The program is currently operating on an extension and will last until all of the funding is fully expended. Countries (where Lions-Habitat home constructions have taken place: Canada, Korea, Poland, Australia, South Africa, Kenya, Philippines, Hungary, United States and Romania, to name a few.

#### **Special Olympics**

The Special Olympics-Lions Clubs International Opening Eyes Program began with the approval of a US\$3.28 million grant to Special Olympics in September 2000. A second grant, in the amount of US\$2 million, was awarded in April 2003 to extend the partnership. At the October 2004 Board of Trustees meeting, a US\$3.85 million grant was approved to extend the partnership for 30 additional months. The grant funds 270 Opening Eyes screening events worldwide with volunteer support from several thousand Lions clubs. At the October 2007 Board of Trustees meeting, an additional grant for US\$1 million was approved to extend the partnership one-year to December 2008. Since the program's inception, more than 100,000 athletes have been screened with prescription eyewear provided to more than 44,000 athletes. To date, LCIF has awarded US\$10.13 million to Special Olympics for the Opening Eyes program.

### **Corporate Partners**

LCIF is grateful for the generosity of its corporate partners. They share not just funds but a spirit of humanitarianism and a dedication to improve the lives of the needy. Thanks to these partners, LCIF has been able to expand programs, establish new initiatives and extend its service to others. Major corporate partners are:

#### **Allergan**

Allergan has been collaborating with LCIF for a number of years, with particular interest in glaucoma. Allergan provided US\$50,000 to LCIF for the update of the Lions Eye Health Program materials in 2003. Recently, they awarded US\$75,000 to carry out 10 glaucoma

screenings in high-risk populations in the United States to develop the All Eyes on the Family program with LCIF.

#### **The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation**

US\$150,000 for the Lions' health education activities in Mali and Niger as part of the West African Water Initiative. The five-year grant helps Lions mobilize political will, increase the effectiveness of health education and enhance trachoma control activities.

#### **Eli Lilly and Co.**

Eli Lilly donated US\$225,000 for the Lions Eye Health program to update program materials, support eye screenings and promote eye health public awareness initiatives.

#### **Essilor of America**

Essilor is assisting the Lions with equipment and training for the establishment of Lions lens finishing labs. Essilor will supply lenses and lab equipment at cost, assist in training Lions volunteers on how to make new glasses, help secure frame vendors, and find customers to purchase recycled materials from Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centers.

#### **Johnson and Johnson Asia and Corporate**

Johnson & Johnson has committed US\$1.3 million to help fund Sight for Kids screenings in Korea, MD 300 Taiwan, Thailand, Hong Kong, India, Vietnam, China, Malaysia, the Philippines and Latin America. Sight for Kids involves eye health awareness, education and children's eye screening. The screenings are coordinated by local Lions, Johnson & Johnson staff and local medical personnel.

#### **LensCrafters**

US\$334,550 of in-kind services to Lions to provide eyeglasses to those in need.

#### **Merck & Co., Inc.**

More than US\$1 million of donated Mectizan to prevent river blindness in Latin America and Africa.

#### **Merrill Lynch**

US\$10,000 to help sponsor the 91st Annual Lions Clubs International Convention in June 2008

#### **Rexton, Inc.**

In-kind services and hearing aid contributions for the Lions Affordable Hearing Aid Project

#### **Russell Investments**

US\$10,000 to help sponsor the 91st Annual Lions Clubs International Convention in June 2008

#### **School Health Co.**

US\$13,000 and in-kind equipment and services to develop a public relations campaign for the preschool vision screening program and increase public awareness of amblyopia.

#### **Welch Allyn, Inc.**

US\$25,000 and in-kind services to develop a public relations campaign for the preschool vision screening program and increase public awareness of amblyopia.

#### **Women's Eye Health.org**

In-kind services to develop eye health educational materials aimed at women, children and seniors

### **LCIF GRANTS**

1. **Standard Grant** - Are matching grants specifically for equipment, renovation and construction for up to \$75,000.
2. **Core 4 Diabetes Application** - Grants used to expand already established diabetes education and outreach programs and activities. Funding is typically used for education materials, outreach, project expansion into underserved communities, limited equipment and supplies and operational costs (limited personnel costs). Single districts can apply for up to \$75,000 and Multiple Districts can apply for up to \$200,000.
3. **SightFirst Diabetic Retinopathy Information** - Grants to strengthen the screening and infrastructure for diabetic retinopathy screening and treatment programs where diabetic retinopathy is a significant cause of blindness.

The Lions are only able to apply for one grant at a time, and we must check on the status of the current open LCIF grants for your district or MD before the Lions are able to apply. Please let me know what questions you have in regards to the following programs and I or the appropriate program coordinator can respond to your inquiries. Check our web site under LCIF for applications



### **Southeastern Lions Leadership Institute**

10th Institute

April 16, 17, 18, and 19, 2009

Beersheba Springs, TN

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

**The application package will come out in late December or early January**





## *Editor's Note*



Fellow Lions:

### A Different Christmas Poem

The embers glowed softly, and in their dim light,  
I gazed round the room and I cherished the sight.  
My wife was asleep, her head on my chest,  
My daughter beside me, angelic in rest.

Outside the snow fell, a blanket of white,  
Transforming the yard to a winter delight.  
The sparkling lights in the tree I believe,  
Completed the magic that was Christmas Eve

My eyelids were heavy, my breathing was deep,  
Secure and surrounded by love I would sleep.  
In perfect contentment, or so it would seem,  
So I slumbered, perhaps I started to dream.

The sound wasn't loud, and it wasn't too near,  
But I opened my eyes when it tickled my ear.  
Perhaps just a cough, I didn't quite know, Then the  
sure sound of footsteps outside in the snow.

My soul gave a tremble, I struggled to hear,  
And I crept to the door just to see who was near.  
Standing out in the cold and the dark of the night,  
A lone figure stood, his face weary and tight.

A soldier, I puzzled, some twenty years old,  
Perhaps a Marine, huddled here in the cold.  
Alone in the dark, he looked up and smiled,  
Standing watch over me, and my wife and my child.

"What are you doing?" I asked without fear,  
"Come in this moment, it's freezing out here!  
Put down your pack, brush the snow from your  
sleeve,  
You should be at home on a cold Christmas Eve!"

For barely a moment I saw his eyes shift,  
Away from the cold and the snow blown in drifts..  
To the window that danced with a warm fire's light  
Then he sighed and he said "Its really all right,

I'm out here by choice. I'm here every night."  
"It's my duty to stand at the front of the line,  
That separates you from the darkest of times.  
No one had to ask or beg or implore me,

I'm proud to stand here like my fathers before me.  
My Gramps died at ' Pearl on a day in December,"  
Then he sighed, "That's a Christmas 'Gram always  
remembers."

My dad stood his watch in the jungles of ' Nam ',  
And now it is my turn and so, here I am.  
I've not seen my own son in more than a while,  
But my wife sends me pictures, he's sure got her  
smile.

Then he bent and he carefully pulled from his bag,  
The red, white, and blue... an American flag.  
I can live through the cold and the being alone,  
Away from my family, my house and my home.

I can stand at my post through the rain and the  
sleet,  
I can sleep in a foxhole with little to eat.  
I can carry the weight of killing another,  
Or lay down my life with my sister and brother..

Who stand at the front against any and all,  
To ensure for all time that this flag will not fall."  
"So go back inside," he said, "harbor no fright,  
Your family is waiting and I'll be all right."

"But isn't there something I can do, at the least,  
"Give you money," I asked, "or prepare you a  
feast?  
It seems all too little for all that you've done,  
For being away from your wife and your son."

Then his eye welled a tear that held no regret,  
**"Just tell us you love us, and never forget.  
To fight for our rights back at home while we're  
gone,  
To stand your own watch, no matter how long.**

**For when we come home, either standing or dead,  
To know you remember we fought and we bled.  
Is payment enough, and with that we will trust,  
That we mattered to you as you mattered to us.**



# LIONS ALERT BANNER PATCH AWARD

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

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

Lions Clubs International;  
Program Development Department;  
300 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street; Oak Brook, Illinois 60523-8842; USA  
Fax number: 630-571-1672 E-mail: [programs@lionsclubs.org](mailto:programs@lionsclubs.org)



## Georgia Lions All-State Band 2009

Application for membership

Go to [www.edmclion.com](http://www.edmclion.com)

find to the left

[State & District Forms](#)

**APPLY TODAY!** The Georgia Lions All-State Band is a great opportunity for musicians from across the state to enjoy a regarding musical experience with some of the most dedicated directors in Georgia who donate their time to this cause. Participation also affords members the opportunity to visit sites across the country and experience cultures from around the world.

## HOT!!!!!!

## You Tube



Videos | Favorites | Groups | Friends | Subscribers

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

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

# RETENTION!



## **"Membership Retention – Routine Maintenance, Not Rocket Science"**

A strong active membership is the foundation of our association and its mission is to serve our communities around the world. As club membership grows so do resources necessary to maintain our numbers. Therefore our focus on membership growth needs to be a 365 day a year activity. Why does the membership in Lions clubs continue to drop? We do a good job of recruiting members in our existing clubs and we have started many new clubs throughout our state. However, the total number of Lions continues to drop. RETENTION, retaining members in our existing clubs is the major causes of membership loss. Many Lions drop out for perfectly understandable reasons but most leave for reasons that could have been prevented by the club. With a strong membership development and retention program many of these losses could be prevented.

Effective Membership Retention goes back to basics – back to the reason we all became Lions. People I join our clubs because "WE SERVE" and will stay for that very reason. I believe that clubs should take a managerial approach to service. By this I mean, clubs should seek out new service opportunities and experiment with new methods of meeting their community's most pressing needs. Clubs that follow this approach will be effective and their retention rates will improve.

Providing members with a positive experience is an also an excellent way for clubs to improve retention numbers and increase membership. Members do not just come to us. Many times countless hours are spent attempting to recruit a quality member. Once this person has decided to become a member, they want and need to feel that they are needed and appreciated. All club members should remember:

1. Retention begins the moment an individual is asked to become a Lion.
2. Retention is a process that involves all Lions at all levels within a club.
3. Retention is every Lion's responsibility
4. Individual Lions need to develop action plans to ensure that all club members are proud to be Lions.

The first thing a Lions Club should do if it is losing members is to analyze losses and then take the necessary measure to overcome them. Listed are some of the most mentioned reasons for dropped members:

1. No meaningful club projects
2. No participation or involvement
3. Lack of friendship or fellowship
4. Poor club leadership
5. Poor orientation of the new member
6. Improper induction ceremony
7. Boring meetings

These are just a few of the reasons why Lions leave our clubs. Think about these and evaluate your own club. RETENTION must take place at the CLUB level, just as MEMBERSHIP takes place at the CLUB level. Set a goal to never drop a member until you have contacted that Lion and found out why he/she no longer wants to be a Lion. You might be surprised what you learn.

DG Kenneth Moore, MD18 Retention Chair



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

## **YOU ARE LIONISM**

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

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

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

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

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

Lil Shurtleff, MD Membership Chair



**"Change the World"**



## Campus Club INFO

I am pleased to update you on the successes Lions Clubs International has seen with the Campus Lions Club Program and the Student Member Program.

**New Campus Lions Clubs:** Fiscal year 2007-2008 ended with a total of 169 new Campus Lions clubs. This amounts to eight times the number of campus clubs chartered in fiscal year 2006-2007 and a total of 291 campus clubs in good standing. Way to go! Let's keep up the momentum as we're already into the second quarter of a new fiscal year.

**Student Member Program:** As of October 1, 2008, 3,812 students in campus clubs and another 1,012 students in non-campus clubs have been certified to receive the special student dues reduction. If you have students between the age of legal majority and through the age of 30 that haven't been certified, please complete the attached certification form (stu5) and submit to Lions Clubs International. More information on the Student Member Program is available at the following link:

[http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/programs\\_mem\\_student.shtml](http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/content/programs_mem_student.shtml)

**Student Dues:** I have received several inquiries about how the Student Member Program dues rate works for Campus Lions clubs. Therefore, the chart below will help guide you.

**Campus Lions Club  
International Dues Structure**

| Charter Fee                                                          | Entrance Fee | International Dues | Certification Required |                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Students between the age of legal majority and through the age of 30 | US\$0        | US\$0              | US\$19.50 (prepaid)    | Student Member and Leo to Lion Certification Form (STU-5)                      |
| Students over the age of 30.                                         | US\$10       | US\$10             | US\$39                 | Special Entrance/Charter Fee Form for College and University Students (EX-542) |
| Non-student faculty, staff, alumni, community members, etc.          | US\$30       | US\$25             | US\$39                 |                                                                                |

Additional Information:

- A** Campus Lions club members pay international dues in addition to club, district and multiple district dues.
- A** Campus Lions clubs, and club with a majority of students, must prepay one-year international dues at the student member rate at the time of charter.
- A** Campus Lions clubs are billed semi-annually in July and January and must be paid to the international office no later than July 21 and January 21 respectively. The semi-annual per capita tax is based upon membership of each club as shown by its membership report of June and December respectively.
- A** Campus clubs have through April 15 for the January per capita billing and through October 15 for the July per capita billing to amend the club roster. Lions Clubs International will give credits to campus clubs for roster adjustments submitted within this time period without penalty.

**Do you have a Dynamic Campus Lions Club and/or Student Member in your District?** We want to hear about the unique and successful Campus Lions clubs and students in your district. Tell us about them and they may be featured in an upcoming issue of THE Lion magazine or other publication.

## **Campus Club INFO** Con't

**Did we Mention Photos?** We are looking for photos of Campus Lions club members to feature in THE Lion, on our Web site, in publications, etc. Follow these two aspects for a good photo and you members may be featured:

**1. Logistics:** The photo should be in RGB, TIF, JPG or RAW file format, and larger than 1MB in size. (Preferably, we like photos between 5MB and 10MB).

**2. Content:** The photo should have good focus, balance and light, but more importantly, the subject matter should also be interesting. We like action photos--pictures of people having fun doing an activity or participating in some way. We prefer they not look at or appear to be aware of the camera, unless it is an artistic shot that communicates a certain theme.

Finally, if you're shooting photos at a public event, please make sure to get the subject's permission. Please send to [campusclubs@lionsclubs.org](mailto:campusclubs@lionsclubs.org).

Best wishes as you continue to build and encourage Campus Lions clubs to reach their community and the world.

Sincerely,

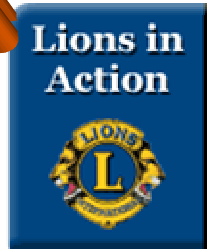
Becca Pietrini, Marketing Assistant, New Clubs and Marketing

Bonnie Martin, President of Thomson Camellia City Lions writes: "A good idea for membership that a member gave to me from her church bulletin." (It came from the church bulletin and replacing Club for Church this is a summary of it). A couple visited several clubs and their experience has enabled them to come to an understanding that some clubs are much more welcoming to visitors than others. It's not that the members in the less friendly clubs are "not good members" it's just that "often they don't help visitors to feel welcome." Newcomers may decide whether they are going to return to the club in the first ten minutes of contact. That's before the club meeting starts. The opportunity to connect with newcomers begins in the parking lot and extends for the next ten minutes and beyond. Welcoming is not the task of a committee or an individual, but rather a lifestyle shared by each member of the club. Welcoming others is just part of who we are as Lions. Two welcoming tools that can be used at each meeting.

A. Circle of Ten: Greet anyone, member or guest, who comes within 10 feet of you. Make a special effort to greet the people you don't know within your circle of Ten.

B. Rule of Three: Try not to talk to other members (special friends) for the first three minutes after the club meeting. Talk only to those you don't know, and to people that you know are new members or guests. It takes guests about three minutes to exit the club after the meeting so it's important to make sure someone has made contact with them before they leave.

# CLUB REPORTS



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



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

## **Auburn-Carl Lions Club =**

They are having a recruitment campaign, including a cook-out where prospective members are invited. They will host a Senior Citizens Dinner in December.

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

**Dahlonega Lions Club =** Pancake Breakfast at the Park & Recreation Bldg. on Saturday, 6 December. The Dahlonega Lions Club collects used glasses, hearing aids, and cell phones. Please donate these items to the Club. In Lion year 2007-2008, the Club contributed 1656 recycle items (used glasses, Cell phones, hearing aids) to the Ga. Lions Lighthouse. This year to date 657 items have been contributed.

**Forsyth County Lions Club = DID YOU KNOW?** The Forsyth County Lions Club helped over 100 local folks with eye exams and eyeglasses this past year! We continue to collect used eyeglasses, hearing aids and cell phones for the Georgia Lions Lighthouse. Coaches and Buddies are needed for the Miracle League teams. Visit the website at [www.cfcmf.com](http://www.cfcmf.com)



**Lavonia Lions Club =** WE HAVE BEEN BUSY PLANNING FOR OUR 75TH ANNIVERSARY TO BE HELD IN MARCH, 2009. WE HAVE PROVIDED 4 PEOPLE WITH GLASSES THIS MONTH 30 COMPUTERS ARE READY TO BE DONATED TO THE ELEMENTARY STUDENTS IN 3RD -5TH GRADES. WE ARE STILL ACCEPTING USED COMPUTERS FOR THIS PROJECT. CONTACT PERSON IS DAVID SEWELL, 706-356-8765. 150 GLASSES, 74 CASES, 7 CEL PHONES AND 2 HEARING AIDS DONATED AT THE NOVEMBER CABINET MEETING 65 BAGS OF CANDY WERE GIVEN OUT AT THE HALLOWEEN CONTEST IN DOWNTOWN LAVONIA VOLUNTEER HOURS TOTAL 180 .



**Dawsonville Lions Club = We are now meeting at Lorena's on GA 400.**

Dawsonville Lions officiated at the Annual Georgia Special Olympics event that was held in Statesboro, GA. There were 1300 contestants from all over our state competing in Bocce, Softball and Golf. Competitions took place on 3,4 and 5 October. All contestant were either physically or mentally challenged.



Dawsonville Lions President Chip Sweatte (left) presented a *Certificate of Appreciation* to long-term member K.K. Turner (right) in appreciation of his continued support during Dawsonville's Annual Fall Moonshine Festivals.



**Peace Poster contestants:** 1st Place Hana Faille (middle), 2nd place Jade Perry, 3rd Place is India Pagels.

The gentleman in the picture is the Principal, Dr. Mark Merges.



Collection locations include United Community Bank(2 locations), Chestatee State Bank(2 locations), BB&T, Ingles and Kroger at Highway 53 and 400, Etowah Water Office, the Dawson County Courthouse and the Post Office in Dawsonville



**Jefferson Lions Club = Community Service Projects:**

We conducted our annual Peace Poster Contest and named Courtney Galendez as our winner. **Sight Services:** Collected 14 used glasses, 1 sun glasses, 6 cell phones and 9 chargers. 41 pair of eye glasses have been purchased thus far. **Meetings:** Nov 10 was our annual Friend's Night. Vice District Governor Grace Clower spoke to us on the service that Lions perform around the world and around our community. The director of the Jackson county Emergency Service gave us an overview of all of the services they perform. Nov 24: the program was Mrs. Amber Casper who gave the club some insight into the Work Based Learning Program, Jackson County School System.

**Lawrenceville Lions Club =** We are having a very profitable Pecan Sale fundraiser. We donated to the following to meet the District Governor's Monetary Goals: Leader Dog, Canine Companion, Southeastern Guide Dogs, LCIF (Melvin Jones), Camp Kudzu, Georgia Camp For The Blind, Georgia Lions Lighthouse for Tom Bingham, Georgia Lions Lighthouse for Emory Children's Eye Care Center, Recording For the Blind & Dyslexic. As a Community Project we donated: \$300 to Lawrenceville Co-OP and \$500 to Beacon Place. Eyeglasses collected-428, Lenses-95, Hearing Aids-8, Cell phones-9. **VOLUNTEER HOURS: 296**

**West Jackson Lions Club = Activity Report:**

They have received a grant and will be doing the Dictionary Program again this year. They have worked Concession stand for their communities "Movie in the Park" as a fund raiser. They entered a float in the Hoschton Fall Festival, and will be doing the Dictionary Program again this year. They donated money for water, food, and supplies for the victims of Gulf Coast hurricane.

**Norcross Lions Club -** The club honored the Norcross High School Student of the Month with \$100 gift card and a framable certificate. He and his parents attended a club meeting to receive his award. The message board at the school also announced the award. Through the work of Sight Conservation chair Lion John Spencer and Gwinnett School Board member Louise Radliff, 18 students received free eyeglasses from Walmart. The club collected food for the Norcross Cooperative Ministry and candy for Santa to distribute at the Norcross tree lighting ceremony. Speaker Amy Filipek shared The Bigger Game with the club and got us thinking about our lives. The club donated \$300 to the GA Lions Camp for the Blind and is in the process of deciding how to distribute the rest of the money received from the Norcross Art Fest.



**Winder Noon Lions Club = Fund Raisers:**

Ongoing sales of Mops & Brooms and flavoring. Pecans will be here on November 8 for our yearly fundraiser. **ACTIVITIES:** Collect glasses, frames, cases, hearing aids, cell phones. **WE HAVE MET THE GOVERNOR'S GOALS.**

**Oconee Lions Club** - members preparing for our chicken mull fundraiser yesterday, 11/8/08.





**Union County Lions Club = Sight / Hearing:** Three applications for eye glasses and exam approved. **Lion Mints:** 263 rolls dispensed. **Brooms / Mops:** No report. **Collections:** 17 eyeglasses, 16 eyeglass cases, 4 sunglasses, 2 sets lenses, 9 cell phones, 1 battery, 3 chargers and 1 cell phone case. **Volunteer Hours:** 224. **Activities:** Members helped with at the Day Retreat – for developmentally challenged adults. Also donated monies to the Wilderness Scouts. **Membership:** Have 2 applications for 2 new members approved by majority of Board members present. **Induction Ceremony:** Our newest member, Mr. Robert Wood was inducted into the Union County Lions Club by Lion Jim Wentworth. The Membership Committee with Lion Jim Wentworth as Chairman has been hard at work getting together a bunch of good ideas to recruit new members. The Committee has put together a good list to include a Proposed Membership drive from Nov. to Jan. 2009 with current members to provide names of prospective members to the committee, to staff information table at local businesses and newspaper ad to generate prospective members, have a membership meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in January, 2009 and in place of a program w/speaker have a meet and greet for prospective members with brief presentation, displays on club service projects, entertainment and fun, fun and more fun. Along with other ideas, have project display at all Club's public events. Also have Community Service Proclamation by County Commissioner to feature all local Service Clubs. **Donations:** Approved by Bd. To make a monetary donation to the Union County Food Bank with the Ninth District Opportunity at next club meeting along with members bringing non perishable items for the Food Bank. **Other business:** As previously discussed, letter stuffing for Lions Lighthouse has been completed with Lion Rosa Mandon doing 1,942 of them and Day Retreat Clients with assistance of Lion Mary Arnold doing 1,000 of them.

**We're Waiting = have you ASKed?**

**Did you submit yours?**

E-mail = [edmcionh@bellsouth.net](mailto:edmcionh@bellsouth.net) or

Go on-line = [www.edmcion.com/](http://www.edmcion.com/) or



**HOT – HOT**

**2009 = State Convention Jekyll Island**

**For June 2009, all rates \$99 per night**

**Clarion Resorts/Oceanfront Resort**

**800-736-1046**

**Villas by the Sea – over flow.**

**800-841-6262**

**800-841-6263**

**Days Inn – 18B and Band**

**HOSPITALITY BOOK ORDER FORM**

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

**\$85.00 from 1 April to 27 May**

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

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

The **KEY WORD** to all of this is **ASK**

**Any further questions – just ask!**



GA. Lions Lighthouse  
VP Lion Mike Higgins, PDG  
[mhpdg@windstream.net](mailto:mhpdg@windstream.net)

Check out the new **Lighthouse Video**  
Click here to view the Lighthouse Video!

<http://www.eventstreams.com/lighthouse/010fst/>

Dear Lions,

## Lighthouse Reminders for Lions Clubs

- **Non-prescription reading glasses and sunglasses** are needed for mission trips and Lighthouse homeless initiative
- **Keep the cell phones, hearing aids and eyeglasses coming — we need them!**
- **Holiday Mailing from the Lighthouse** — Keep an eye out for a holiday message from the Lighthouse
- **Mark your calendars for the Lighthouse January Meeting**, January 10th in Atlanta!

### January Meeting Details:

The January Lighthouse meeting will be a celebration of services. We will be providing activities and information for you to learn more about you Lighthouse. Come tour the Lighthouse, wash eyeglasses for our mission to Ghana this summer or learn more about White Cane. You will also have the opportunity to visit a vision clinic and attend Dialog in the Dark.

When: January 10th 10am to 4pm

Where: Clairmont Presbyterian Church; 1994 Clairmont Road; Decatur, GA 30033

Rooms are being held at: Emory Inn for \$99 a night Reserve by calling 1-800-93-Emory and mentioning the Lighthouse or Wingate hotel for \$89 a night. Reserve by calling 404-248-1550 and mentioning Lighthouse Foundation.

**Christina Lennon**  
**Executive Director**

## The Georgia Lions Lighthouse Needs Reading Glasses!

Most of us over the age of 40 have experienced it. Our arms just don't seem to be long enough. We try to stretch as far as we can to hold brochures, programs, and books far away from our eyes. If you have experienced these symptoms you are probably suffering from Presbyopia. You have probably given in and bought yourself a pair of reading glasses to cure this condition. The sad fact is that many can not even afford readers.

At Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation eye clinics they give reading glasses to those who need them. But lately the lighter strengths have run out. In addition the Lions Lighthouse has received several requests from homeless shelters in Atlanta to provide reading glasses for their residents. Unlike prescription eyeglasses readers are legal for anyone to distribute.

Consider having your club take a collection of reading glasses at your next pancake breakfast or even at local churches and schools. It is a great way for you to have jumping off point to talk about the other good work you are doing in your community. Please make collecting readers a top priority for your club. If you have questions about this please call the Lighthouse at 404-325-3630.

## FLASHBACK: LAILA, FIRST DIGITAL HEARING AID CLIENT

Drops and eardrum replacement surgery failed to restore Laila's hearing, and a prescription for hearing aids went unfilled for years because she could not afford them. After almost 20 years of gradual hearing loss, Laila was grateful for relief from the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation's digital hearing aid program. Now, without frustration she is able to communicate with family, friends and co-workers.

"It's been wonderful, I have my hearing back." said Laila, the first recipient of the Lighthouse Foundation's new digital hearing aid program.

During its first year the digital hearing aid program provided over 1300 hearing aids.



## Digital Hearing Program has one year anniversary

*Program has helped over 850 people in first year*

The digital hearing program officially kicked off on November 1, 2007. In its first year the program helped over 850 people. The program was created in partnership with the Georgia Public Service Commission, Unitron hearing, EM-Tech and over 100 audiologist and hearing aid dispensers throughout the state to help people living on a fixed income have access to the hearing care they desperately need.

The Lighthouse Foundation partners with hearing aid professionals throughout the state who volunteer their time and services to Lighthouse clients to ensure a broad reach and helping many. "Our hearing program has improved the accessibility of hearing aids for Georgians," said Hearing Services Director, Sharifa Peart. "Partnerships with hearing care providers throughout the state of GA allow us to have an impact in communities throughout the state."

The expanded program has been funded in part by a grant from the Georgia Public Service Commission as a result of provisions in HB 655. This bill, sponsored by Rep. Bob Smith (R-Watkinsville), added "other hearing technology" to the list of acceptable uses of the Telecommunications Relay Fund (TRS), which already included relay service, reading services for the blind, and distribution of telecommunications equipment. Supplemental funding is provided through small co-payments made by the hearing aid clients, private donations and other grants.

The client cost of hearing aids provided by the Lighthouse Foundation is based on a sliding scaled determined by household income. The cost to the client includes the ear-mold, impressions and four visits to the hearing provider. Co-payments for the program range from \$60 to \$205 per hearing aid, making the aids some of the most affordable for Georgia residents, and the Foundation's program like few others in the country.

"The Lighthouse Foundation has been one of the only low-cost hearing aid solutions for Georgians on a fixed income for more than 30 years," said Executive Director, Christina Lennon. "Through this expansion, we have been able to provide Georgians in need with a higher quality hearing aid with digital technology, instead of the analog aids offered before, improving the quality of life for hundreds of people throughout the state."

The demand for hearing aids continues to grow, which demonstrates the critical need for programs like the Lighthouse Foundation's. According to the Hearing Aid Association of America, one in every 10 Americans – or 28 million Americans – has hearing loss. As baby boomers reach retirement age starting in 2010, this number is expected to rapidly climb and nearly double by the year 2030.

Individuals interested in applying for the Lighthouse Foundation Hearing Aid program may apply by downloading an application at [www.lionslighthouse.org](http://www.lionslighthouse.org) or calling 404-325-3630.





GA. Lions Camp for the Blind  
VP Ken Thurmond  
[eyebank@alltel.net](mailto:eyebank@alltel.net)



**From Kristen Picus, Camp Director:**

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



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

The tickets are \$1.00 each.

Best Regards,

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

Following is a message from Lion Bob Hennessey, 18A VP for the Georgia Lions Camp for the Blind.....please contact him to volunteer -- his contact information is listed at the end of the message:

**COME OUT AND SUPPORT YOUR CAMP** I have arranged a project with Lion Jay Taylor along with support from my club to work the Falcon's game on December 14th. We will be able to raise over \$1,000.00 per 20 persons working to support our camp by giving just a few hours of your time. We will need to meet down at the GA Dome on December 14th at 9:00 AM and should end around 5:00 PM. We will be taking up tickets, ushering and other jobs but will not be working any food booths. They do have an earlier ending shift but that is limited and I will need to know so I can let Jay know upfront who needs to leave early. You will need to wear black pants, shoes and belt along with a white shirt. They will then give as a white Event Staff shirt to wear over while we are working. You may wear your lions pin only due to the GA Dome regulations. Please ask your entire club members to come out and support our camp like we did a few years ago by working the Blue Angel's show at Dobbins Air Force Base. Please email your names, phone numbers and email addresses of those willing to support our camp by December 1st so I can turn in the list to Lion Jay. Please contact me at [bobhennessey@bellsouth.net](mailto:bobhennessey@bellsouth.net) or you may call me to ask questions at 404-660-6284.

Thanks again,

Bob Hennessey, Camp VP District 18-A

**Christmas Camp will be held on December 5-7 at the Camp in Waycross**

Please make every effort to attend both of these events so you can meet your new camp staff and they meet the greatest district. Yours in service.



**Leader Dog Chair Lion Diane Wall**  
[liondianewall@bellsouth.net](mailto:liondianewall@bellsouth.net)

## Message from the President

### A New Perspective: Leveling the Playing Field



Recently, while traveling on Leader Dog business, I had the opportunity to meet some of our graduates. Though I have spent time with many of our students on campus, this was the first time I met graduates in their home environments. I was impressed by their accomplishments – a corporate vice president, a Washington DC policy executive, a sales representative who travels the U.S. extensively, a retired New York State administrator navigating the streets of New York City; and was amazed at how adeptly they work with their dogs.

I was discussing my trip and the people I met with Mike Cox (a Leader Dog graduate field representative), telling him how proud I was to be a part of Leader Dog, how impressed I was by what these people had accomplished. He responded, “Greg, remember Leader Dog is about helping people gain the tools to be equal.” As I reflected on Mike’s comment, I realized that I shouldn’t be impressed with these folks because of what they have accomplished even though they are blind; I should be impressed by them regardless

of their visual impairment.

The people I met found the means to put themselves on equal ground with people who are visual and were able to succeed in competitive work environments. I’m proud that Leader Dog played a part in helping them attain equality. In this issue of Update you will meet two people who have also accomplished this, Brian Celusnak and Tim Foster. Their stories remind us that we can level the playing field between non-visual and visual people. Once this ideal is reached, it’s “let the best man win.”

Like you, Leader Dog has been affected by the recent fluctuations in the world economy. Since we operate on 100% donations, the end of the year giving season is especially important to us. During these uncertain times, I’d like to thank everyone in advance for their continued support of Leader Dog. Our students still need us, and we still need you.

May you have a warm and loving holiday season,

Gregory Grabowski  
President & CEO

## Revolutionizing Dog Guide Training with Technology

“One of the overriding themes we hear from our students is the anxiety and apprehension of travel in a new environment. For many, the first time using a dog guide combined with travel in a new city creates a situation that makes learning difficult and stressful. We believe we can really enhance the way we provide services by placing a GPS device in every student’s hand while in our training program,” says Greg Grabowski, president and CEO of Leader Dogs for the Blind. “By including a talking navigational device in training, we are revolutionizing the art of dog guide training.”

The “we” Grabowski is referring to is Leader Dog and HumanWare, makers of the GPS Trekker Breeze, an audible device that gives step-by step directions for a programmed route and notifies the user of upcoming streets and landmarks. Together they are launching a completely unprecedented, state-of-the-art approach to dog guide training that fully integrates a talking GPS navigational tool into dog guide classes for people who are blind. “We are pleased to partner with Leader Dog in this initiative that will bring GPS technology benefits to an even wider portion of the visually impaired population,” says Gilles Pepin, CEO of HumanWare. “This program is a new chapter of this success story.”

In August 2008, Craig Hall returned to Leader Dog to train with his third Leader Dog “Theo.” He agreed to test the dog guide/GPS training concept. “I found that I was much less worried about getting lost and could pay more attention to what I was learning. The last time I came to the school I spent a lot of time trying to memorize roads and really focusing on how I would get to places. Using the Breeze in class made me a lot more relaxed and I really enjoyed the experience,” reports Hall.



The first entire class to be trained in the use of the device during dog guide training at Leader Dog will arrive on November 15, 2008. After the students complete the 24-day program, 14 of the American students will return home with the Trekker Breeze (several students in the class are from Guatemala and Mexico). These students have been selected to participate in an ongoing study to determine the long-term usability and assess the functionality of the GPS device in their home environment.

“We are sure our newest initiative will dramatically enhance the ease and pleasure of travel for people who are blind and visually impaired. Once we are able to secure funding, we plan to offer every student who comes to our school to receive a Leader Dog a free GPS unit to complete their mobility package,” says Grabowski.

## Gingerbread Men Dog Treats

Makes 24 servings

- 1 ½ cups whole wheat flour
- 1 ½ cups biscuit mix
- ¼ teaspoon ground ginger
- ¼ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- Ground cloves (just a pinch)
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 egg
- ½ cup milk



Place all ingredients in bowl of electric mixer. Mix well until stiff dough forms. Roll out on floured surface to ¼ to ½ inch thick. Cut with gingerbread man cookie cutter. Place on an ungreased cookie sheet & bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Allow to dry thoroughly. Decorate with white icing if desired. For mix layer all dry ingredients in 1 quart jar. Add directions. Attach gingerbread man cookie to jar with ribbon.





From the desk of State RFB&D Chair Lion Steve Helwig [lion.swampthing@gmail.com](mailto:lion.swampthing@gmail.com)

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

**October 3, 2008 (Princeton, NJ)** - Returning to its roots, the national nonprofit Recording for Blind & Dyslexic® (RFB&D) is vastly expanding its outreach efforts to our nation's veterans. The effort comes as the organization celebrates its 60th Anniversary — and as many young veterans are returning home with serious combat injuries that affect their ability to read standard print.

Intending to increase public awareness of the need of many returning, wounded veterans to have access to printed material, such as textbooks, RFB&D has distributed a 30-second television Public Service Announcement (PSA) in time for Veterans Day. The PSA features RFB&D member Cpl. Michael Jernigan USMC, Ret., who was blinded by a roadside bomb while serving in Iraq. Still recovering from his devastating wounds, Jernigan is rebuilding his life and attending college using RFB&D audio textbooks.

"It's been a long, hard road," says Jernigan, emphasizing that he couldn't attend his classes at Northern Virginia Community College and, most recently, Georgetown University without RFB&D's audiobooks. "RFB&D is here to further our lives...plain and simple"

The PSA may be viewed at [www.youtube.com/record4bd](http://www.youtube.com/record4bd).



Founded in 1948 to help WWII soldiers who were blinded attend college via the GI Bill of Rights, RFB&D now serves more than 185,000 people nationwide with

various print disabilities, including visual impairments and dyslexia. Members at every grade level from kindergarten through graduate school rely on RFB&D's unique accommodation to access the printed page and to achieve educational and professional success. All of RFB&D's accessible titles are recorded by volunteers working in 29 RFB&D recording studios nationwide.

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, more than one million U.S. veterans have either a visual impairment or another type of print disability. Due to impressive medical advances, today's soldiers are increasingly surviving, but returning home with serious combat injuries.

RFB&D wants veterans with print disabilities to know that it has never lost sight of its founding purpose. The organization has a history of helping veterans since 1948, and it stands ready to help them now.

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

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



Southeastern Guide Dogs  
Harness the power of freedom™

**Robinson, PDG, SE Guide Dog**  
**706-548-8719**  
[bobcat8233@aol.com](mailto:bobcat8233@aol.com)

The foundation of every Southeastern program is respect and trust. Southeastern Guide Dogs is dedicated to the loving and humane training of dogs to become eyes for visually impaired individuals. Adaptability through flexible programs ensures Southeastern's guide dogs will always meet the ever-changing needs of our applicants.



**Judy Stamsen CCI Chair**  
[eskiemom@bellsouth.net](mailto:eskiemom@bellsouth.net)

## A Mother's Pride, A Child's Love, An Exceptional Dog

When Ryan was eight months old, he was diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy, an often fatal genetic condition that causes the body's muscles to deteriorate rather than grow. Now eight-years-old, Ryan is an energetic young boy filled with life and joy. While he is sharing his joy, his CCI Skilled Companion dog, Java is by his side, helping to fill Ryan's life with unconditional love and companionship.



"I'll never forget Ryan's pure joy as Java responded to 'lap' and Ryan fully embraced her. As tears rolled down my face, Ryan said, 'Oh, I love this dog!'" Holly, Ryan's mother, explains.

Since returning home with Java from Canine Companions Team Training February 2008, the love fests haven't stopped.

"I can't count the number of times a day that Ryan strokes Java's head and says, 'I love you, Java.' Ryan talks softly to her and tells her things that he may not say to others," Holly continues. "I'm so proud to watch Ryan's independence grow with Java."

Ryan's independence and confidence grow as Java responds to Ryan's commands. Additionally, Ryan's sense of responsibility is increasing as Ryan continues to take on more responsibility regarding Java's needs. Beyond that, Java's companionship has brought a sense of calm to Ryan as they rush about their daily lives, including frequent doctor visits for Ryan.

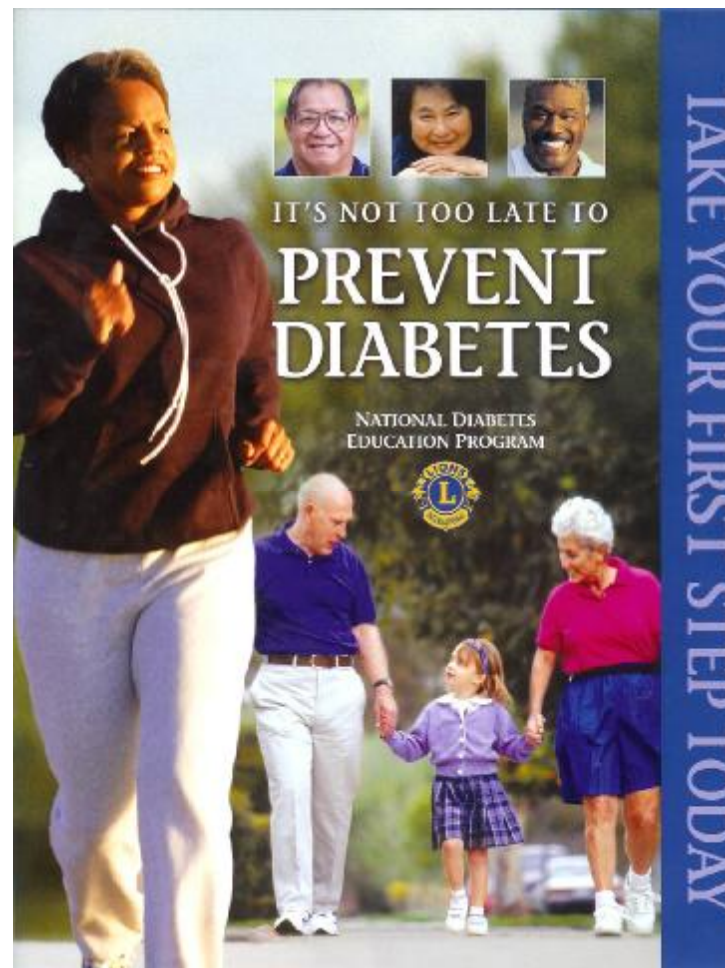
The Cottor family graduated in 2008 from the Southwest Regional Training Center with Skilled Companion Java VI. Java was raised by Patricia Bird.

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

**Judy Stamsen**



**Lion Ron Bennetti**  
 Diabetes Awareness Chair  
[rbennettisr@windstream.net](mailto:rbennettisr@windstream.net)



Dear Lions,

**You can go onto our District web site and get the 4 page AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION LIBRARY PROGRAM FOR LIONS.**

Sincerely,  
 Health and Children's Services Department  
 Lions Clubs International  
 Marilee Kadar, Manager  
 Ph: 630-468-6867  
 Debbie O'Malley, Coordinator  
 Ph: 630-468-6768  
 E-mail: [programs@lionsclubs.org](mailto:programs@lionsclubs.org)



As you get older, your risk for type 2 diabetes increases. If you are age 60 or more and overweight, you are at risk for type 2 diabetes or pre-diabetes. Take these small steps to prevent or delay the onset of the disease. Lose a modest amount of weight (10 to 14 pounds for a 200-pound person) by moving more and making healthy food choices.



## **START NOW** to get moving and have fun!

Physical activity can improve your strength, flexibility, and balance. Set small goals to start. Add a little more activity each day until you reach at least 30 minutes a day, five days a week.

**WARM UP.** Warm-ups get your body ready for physical activity. Shrug your shoulders, tap your toes, swing your arms, or move in place. Warm up for a few minutes before any activity.

**STRETCH.** Stretching can help you be more flexible. It can make it easier for you to tie your shoes or look over your shoulder when you back up the car. Stretch when your muscles are warm. Don't stretch so far that it hurts.

### **FIND AN ACTIVITY YOU ENJOY:**

- Brisk walking is a great way to be active. Be sure you have proper walking shoes. Walk in safe places, such as indoor or outdoor walking paths, a shopping mall, or a community center.
- Dancing is also a fun way to be active. Get off the couch, turn on the music, and move.



## EASY STEPS

to increase daily activity!

- Put away the remote control — get up to change the TV channel. Stretch during commercial breaks.
- Walk around the house while you talk on the phone.
- To take more steps, park the car farther away from stores, movie theaters, or your office.
- If it is safe, get off the bus or train one stop early and walk the rest of the way.

## GET YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY INVOLVED!

- Show the younger people in your life the dances you enjoy.
- Teach your grandkids how to plant and take care of a garden.
- Go for a swim together. Moving about in the water is a great activity that is gentle on your joints.
- Enjoy a walk with friends or family around a museum, zoo, or nature park.



## EAT RIGHT

to prevent type 2 diabetes!

Reduce the amount of food you eat to help with weight loss.

### CHOOSE HEALTHY FOODS:

- Whole grain foods such as whole wheat bread, crackers, and cereals, and brown rice, oatmeal, and barley.
- A variety of colorful fruits and vegetables.
- Small portions of heart-healthy fats such as nuts, seeds, and vegetable oils.
- Low fat or skim milk, yogurt, and cheese.



### TRY THESE TIPS:

- Eat three ounce servings of meat, poultry, and fish — about the size of a deck of cards.
- Choose fish and lean meat and poultry without the skin.
- Choose foods that have been baked or broiled instead of fried.
- Limit sweets and desserts. They usually contain a lot of fat as well as sugar. Have a small serving at the end of a healthy meal — and not every day.
- Share large portions when eating out.
- When your grandkids visit, offer them healthy snacks such as fruit instead of cookies and chips.
- Choose water to drink.
- Eat breakfast every day.





## REMEMBER

- Ask your doctor or health care team if you are at risk for type 2 diabetes. Let them know you want to be more active. If you have limited physical ability, ask which activities will be safe for you.
- Make healthy food choices and reduce the amount you eat.
- Your goals are to get 30 minutes of physical activity five days a week and to lose a modest amount of weight.
- Medicare offers a free blood glucose test for people at risk for diabetes. Visit [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) or call 1-800-MEDICARE to learn more.

It may not be easy to make these lifestyle changes, but you can do it!

## TAKE YOUR FIRST STEP TODAY

To learn more, go to the:

- National Diabetes Education Program at [www.ndep.nih.gov](http://www.ndep.nih.gov). Click on the **Small Steps. Big Rewards. Prevent type 2 Diabetes.** link for a free copy of **Your GAME PLAN to Prevent type 2 Diabetes.** You can also call 1-800-438-5383.
- Weight-control Information Network (WIN) at [www.win.niddk.nih.gov](http://www.win.niddk.nih.gov) or 1-877-946-4627.



[www.ndep.nih.gov](http://www.ndep.nih.gov)

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' National Diabetes Education Program is jointly sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with the support of more than 200 partner organizations.

Carolyn Leontos, M.S., R.D., C.D.E., Nutrition Specialist, University of Nevada, Reno, Cooperative Extension and Linda Hoas, Ph.D., R.N., C.D.E., Endocrinology Clinical Nurse Specialist, Department of Veterans Affairs Puget Sound Health Care System, Seattle Division, reviewed this material for accuracy.

Revised May 2007 NIH Publications No. 08-5526 NDEP 75

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Fellow Lions,

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

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

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

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

SEE YOU IN WAYCROSS!

--

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



## Youth Programs

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

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

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

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

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



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

- \* Be a good listener whenever you talk with a child so that they feel heard and worthy of your attention.
- \* Offer to babysit for a single- parent so they can become involved with community service.
- \* Read to children often.
- \* Take a child outside and show them the wonders to be found in a patch of grass, garden, or yard.
- \* Teach children a skill they will have for a lifetime, such as drawing, swimming, or dancing.
- \* Arrange for local churches, schools, and other facilities to serve as shelters for children and families.
- \* Help instill service.



## Update on LEO Marketing/Branding Project

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



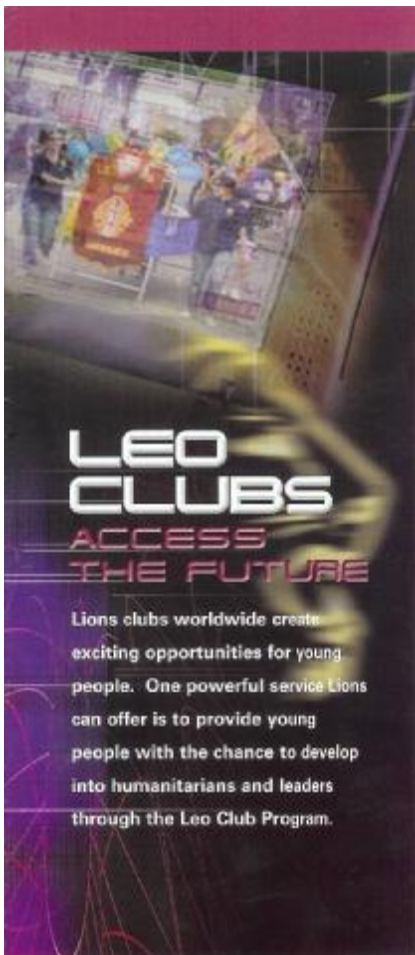
Additionally, the Board finds merit in an on-going Leo/Lion Advisory Panel composed of Leos and Lions who would work in an advisory capacity to help shape the future of the Leo program.

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

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

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

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



## GLASB Mission

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



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

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



## Information Technology News

Rick Mizell, PDG, Information Technologies Chairperson. At the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum in Saskatoon, LCI Information Systems Manager, Lion Wayne McPherson made the following announcements.

For the Lions year 2008-09, the following improvements have been approved; Upgrading or replacement of all computers at Oak Brook, upgrading of the financial system and upgrade of the membership system. The WMMR system will be upgraded as follows; Club officer update pages will be made more user friendly. District Governors will be able to define region and zones. Region and Zone chairpersons will be able to access membership data in their area. I.D. and passwords will be distributed by letter.

**Cabinet and Club Treasurers will be able to view bills on-line and make E-Payments as well. This will reduce postage costs. Club Secretaries will be able to print Membership Cards on-line.**

**A new WMMR web site for LEO Clubs will be on-line soon. Leo Club officers (not Lions) will be able to record and maintain Leo membership information. This system will allow LCI to have name information of Leos and track the progression of Leos who become Lions. In order for officers to receive their login information, you will need to submit your Leo Club Officers and Membership Report form (Leo 72) to Lions Clubs International Headquarters. Once all Leo 72 forms are processed and the site is live, we will send club officers a letter with their login information and instructions on how to access and use the site.**

In early 2009 the LCI web site will be updated to improve appearance and ease of use.  
For more information, email LCI at [wmmr@lionsclubs.org](mailto:wmmr@lionsclubs.org).



**Information Technology Division (630) 571-5466 Ext. 237 [it@lionsclubs.org](mailto:it@lionsclubs.org)**

The Information Technology Division plans, organizes and controls the overall activities of computer equipment throughout the entire organization. This includes hardware, software, systems analysis, programming, data entry, and the preparation of various financial, statistical, inventory and membership reports. The division handles all membership reports and is responsible for maintaining all club and officer records on computer equipment.

### Departments

#### **Division Administration** [it@lionsclubs.org](mailto:it@lionsclubs.org)

Roster of membership – multiple district/district – Ext. 237  
Lions International Stamp Club – liaison – Ext. 237

#### **Information Systems** [wmmr@lionsclubs.org](mailto:wmmr@lionsclubs.org)

Online reporting – Ext. 722  
Passwords – Ext. 722

#### **Club Officer & Record Administration** [stats@lionsclubs.org](mailto:stats@lionsclubs.org)

Address changes/club officers & chairman – Ext. 588  
Address labels – Ext. 233  
Officer Reporting Forms (PU-101) – Ext. 238  
Deceased membership – Ext. 312  
Eulogies – Ext. 312  
Honorary/Privileged members – Ext. 588  
Life membership – Ext. 234  
Address change - club members – Ext. 248  
Certification of convention delegates – Ext. 312  
Member lists/member status – Ext. 312

Club histories – Ext. 250  
Magazine - address change/non-receipt – Ext. 312  
Magazine – special subscriptions – Ext. 312  
MMR reports (completed) – Ext. 588  
Membership register requests – Ext. 249  
Reinstatement of Lions – Ext. 249  
Roster/club – Ext. 312  
Roster/disbanded club – Ext. 588  
Necrology service – 312  
Voting list, District & MD conventions – 312

**District Governor**

Lion Dick Smith (Marilynn)  
706-224-0676  
[volvo12@hotmail.com](mailto:volvo12@hotmail.com)

**Cabinet Secretary**

Lion Angela Helwig  
770-725-7422  
[angelahelwig@yahoo.com](mailto:angelahelwig@yahoo.com)

**Vice District Governor**

Lion Grace Clower  
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[graceclower@bellsouth.net](mailto:graceclower@bellsouth.net)

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