



We Serve

District Bulletin 18-D



MONTHLY BULLETIN FOR LIONS OF NORTHEAST GEORGIA

December 2010



District Governor
Ron Bennetti

Hi Fellow Lions of District 18-D,

The month of November is now gone and it has been an exciting month for the Lions of 18-D. I only made a one club visit but was extremely busy during this month. I visited the **Carnesville Lion Club**. The month was taken up preparing for the **District Rally** and the **Hall of Fame Dinner**. These were wonderful events and all that attended had a great time visiting with our **International Director Carl Young** and his wife, **Lion Elizabeth**.

The weekend started off on Friday morning, picking up our director and wife at the Atlanta airport. From there we traveled to the **Georgia Lions Lighthouse**, where a tour was given to us by **Victoria** showing us the old facility that now serves the Lions of our state. From there we went to lunch and talked a little about what the **Lions of Georgia** were doing within our state. After a very enjoyable

lunch, we proceeded to visit the new facility that is just about ready for are Lions to occupy. We met **Director Christina Lennon** at the new facility and were given a tour of a lifetime, the painters were busy painting walls, and we were all lucky enough not to get any paint on our clothes. After the tour, we proceeded to visit **Dawsonville** since the director was very interested and a fan of **NASCAR**. After the afternoon was over, we proceeded to our hotel and prepared for the evening festivities. We all met at the Elks club for first official function of the weekend the Hall of Fame dinner. They were six new inductees into the **Georgia District 18-D Hall of Fame**. Our **ID Carl Young** was impressed with the accomplishments of the members being inducted.

On Saturday morning after breakfast, the wife's started off the morning by going antiquing followed by lunch from my understanding a good time was had by all. **Lion Elizabeth, Lion Deanna, Lion Marilyn** and **Mary Anne** had a wonderful afternoon. As for the men, we started off with an informal meeting with some of the Past International Directors, present District Governors, Past Dist Governors and members of our Lions clubs to discuss some of the problems that are District is encountering **ID Young** was quite knowledgeable and was able to answer the questions that were addressed to him. We learned a lot more about what international is doing with the new GMT and GLT teams. After a successful Cabinet meeting, we prepared for the main event are **55th District Rally**. The Rally started on time, and the food was exceptional. After dinner our **International Director Carl Young** was introduced and he gave a wonderful presentation to the **Lions of Georgia**, informing us of some of the goals of our **International President Sid**. **ID Young** had a number of great things to say about our Lighthouse and the leadership that he had seen while here in Georgia. **Two International President Certificate of Appreciation** was presented by **ID Young** one to **Cabinet Treasurer Carl Volk** from the **Dawsonville Lions Club** and the other was presented to **Cabinet Secretary Anne Mundy** of the **Dahlonega Lions Club**. Following the presentation, a number of gifts were given to **ID Young** and **Lion Elizabeth**. **Lion Elizabeth** thanked the Lions of Georgia for the wonderful gifts that she had received and was very proud that she had received a crystal peach, signifying that she was now a true Georgia peach. The last and final item that needed to be taken care of was the drawing for the case of District Governors wine. I had **Lion Elizabeth** draw of the winning ticket and the winner was **President David James of the Dawsonville Lions club**. I guess the wine didn't want to leave the county. After the drawing our DJ started the evening with some great music. The evening finally ended with a good time had by all.

The following weekend, I had to attend the **Council of Governors** meeting in Warner Robins in which a number of items were discussed and decisions made. The judging for the **International Peace Poster** contest took place in Warner Robins and District 18-D won the contest. The winner was **Dominic Deal** and the club that **sponsored** him was the **Lawrenceville Lions Club**. Congratulations to the winner and the sponsoring club. The next contest that we will have to judge will be the **Environmental Photo contest**. **Please submit by December 15th, 2010**.

That this time **Deanna and I** would like to thank all the **Lions of 18-D** for the great work that they have been doing in their community and wish them a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We will be keeping you in our holiday prayers for a safe and prosperous holiday season. Enjoy the holidays with your family and friends and until next year remember **“WE ARE KNIGHTS OF THE BLIND AND WE SERVE”**

Thanks for all you do for Lionism,

Best wishes,
DG Ron





“The only real blind person at Christmas-time is he who has not Christmas in his heart.”

“The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart.”

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”

“When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us.”

“The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision.”

Helen Keller



*Congratulations =
Presidential Certificate of Appreciation to:*



Lion Carl Volk



Lion Anne Mundy

Congratulations to the new **Hall of Fame** recipients:

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Joy Lovell | Clarksville Lions Club |
| W. Henry Lovell | Clarksville Lions Club |
| Dave Lancaster | Dahlonega Lions Club |
| Robert Sauls | Dahlonega Lions Club |
| Elmer Thompson | Union County Lions Club |
| Michael Thompson | Union County Lions Club |

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

13 January is Melvin Jones' Birthday



13-19 January: LCIF Week

24 January: World Peace Day

January is Glaucoma Awareness Month.



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

“Relieving the Hunger” Campaign
ORGANIZE A FOOD DRIVE TO ALLEVIATE HUNGER

See Editor’s Note Page for more information

Planning Ahead

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

21-22 January 2010

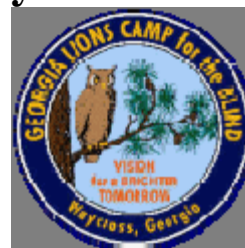


Atlanta

Georgia Lions Lighthouse Meeting

Check out page 20

5-6 February 2009



Camp For The Blind

Warner Robbins

PEACE POSTER WINNER submitted by the Council of Governors on behalf of the Lions of Georgia – gee two years in a row for Gwinnett Lions



Dominic Deal submitted by the Lawrenceville Lions Club

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





Lions Clubs International

President's Service Blog: Lions World Sight Day in Japan

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

HIGHLIGHTS

Calendar of Events

Review upcoming Lions events your club can promote locally.



A Beacon of Hope is the International Theme for the Lions Year 2010-2011.



P2010 COMMEMORATIVE "BEACON OF HOPE" SPECIAL LAPEL TACK



TO: All Districts and Clubs Subject to United States Tax Laws
FROM: Legal Division
RE: Tax Information Available on LCI Website

Lions clubs and districts are required to file tax forms in accordance with the United States tax laws. Information and filing requirements and instructions are available on the Lions Clubs International website in the Tax Information section.

In this section you will find: detailed information concerning the requirements for filing Form 990, 990-N (E-Postcard), 990-EZ; a sample Form 990-EZ, with explanations; a blank Form 990-EZ; guidelines for disclosures regarding non-deductibility of contributions or gifts to Lions districts and clubs; and a summary of provisions concerning possible tax liability for Unrelated Business Income Tax (UBIT). Additional information concerning United States tax laws may be obtained from the IRS website. Please review this information at your earliest convenience. We trust that this information will be helpful to you.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this information, please email the Legal Division or call (630)571-5466, ext. 360.



Every year in October, we celebrate Lions World Sight

Day by sponsoring an international event that focuses on preventing blindness and preserving sight. International President Sid Scruggs traveled to Osaka, Japan to celebrate this year's event on October 7-8, 2010. During the festivities, Lions from District 335-B sponsored several activities, including outreach events at the Nippon Lighthouse for the Blind and inaugurating a new feature for visually impaired visitors at a local zoo. Read the President's Service Blog for a behind-the-scenes look at this inspiring event.

"Engaging Our Youth" Campaign Results



During the Engaging Our Youth Global Service Action Campaign in August, Lions organized projects youth

can relate to - and encouraged their input in the planning process. We're pleased to report that more than 850 Lions clubs in 60 countries took part in this campaign to mobilize youth to help their communities. We received reports of more than 1,200 projects, totaling more than 87,000 Lion service hours that gave local youth a chance to learn valuable life skills while emphasizing the role of service. Learn more information about our Global Service Action Campaigns.

[Register to Attend International Convention in Seattle](#)

Join thousands of Lions from around the world at our 94th International Convention in Seattle, Washington, July 4-8, 2011.

- Exhibits and workshops will take place at the Washington State Convention Center in downtown Seattle.
- Plenary sessions, featuring former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and the gala International Show, will be at the Key Arena at Seattle Center, site of the Space Needle.

Step into "The World of the Lions Clubs International Convention" and enter a place of fellowship and fun when we meet in Seattle, Washington, USA from July 4-8, 2011 for our 94th convention. While in Seattle, visit the Boeing plant, Pike Place Market, wine country or take a cruise around Puget Sound. Exciting journeys to Canada and Alaska also await. [Learn more about these and other tours.](#) Sign up by December 31 to take advantage of the early-bird discount and affordable hotel rooms near the convention center. [Register to attend international convention today!](#)

July is peak tourist season in Seattle, so make your plans to attend now. [Register to attend](#) by December 31 to lock in the lowest registration fee and Lions hotel rates.

[New Club Branch Officer Structure](#)

[The Club Branch program](#) offers individuals who see a need to help

their community, but have less than 20 members, the chance to form a club branch with five or more members. On July 1, 2010, the Lions Clubs International Board of Directors approved an officer structure to help prepare club branches to convert to traditional Lions clubs. The new structure allows club branches to elect a president, secretary and treasurer. For more information, [contact the Membership Programs and New Clubs Marketing Department.](#)

[Take the LQ Viewer Survey](#)

LQ – Lions Quarterly video magazine shares inspiring stories of how Lions are making a difference in communities around the world. We post a new edition of LQ in January, April, July and October of each year, and we need your input! To help ensure that upcoming episodes will continue to have the stories you're most interested in – in a format that you can easily use – [take the LQ Viewer Survey now.](#)

HIGHLIGHTS

[Lions Clubs International Blog](#)
Read our blog to get news updates from Lions Clubs International during the month.

[Service Activity Report](#)
Learn about the new and improved service activity report.

CONTESTS

[International Contest](#)
Enter your Newsletter, Trading Pin, Banner or Web Site today.

[Environmental Photo Contest](#)
Submit Multiple District photo entries by March 1, 2010.

EVENTS

[Calendar of Events](#)

Review upcoming Lions events your club can promote locally.

[Lions Eye Bank Week](#)

Celebrate the valuable sight-saving services Lions eye banks provide.

LIONS QUARTERLY



Watch [LQ video magazine](#) to see Lions having fun – and preventing diabetes.

CONNECT WITH US ONLINE



Videos



"LCIF Partnering for Service"
5:00 minutes

This video provides an overview of some of LCIF's key partnership programs in the areas of sight and youth. This DVD is available in English-only.

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



Dear Lion,

I once heard an African proverb that I will forever remember: the best way to help someone in need is to wipe their tears. Lions, we do this every minute of every day! Our hands are helping those in need, and the compassion in our hearts is wiping their tears. One way we are doing this is by improving the health and education of children worldwide.

Just last month, Margit and I were in Ethiopia and Madagascar to help launch our Lions-Measles Initiative pilot programs. In these countries Lions helped vaccinate nearly 10 million children. This is truly sensational!

Did you know that measles is the leading cause of vaccine-preventable deaths in children? Over the next three years, 1.7 million children will likely die from this disease, which also causes blindness. Lions, we can and we must stop this!

At a health center in Imersituska, a rural village in Madagascar, I met Marie Louise Razafindrazanana, who brought her nine-month old son, Patrick, to be vaccinated. She knew all too well the dangers of measles, as she lost her daughter to the disease. I truly felt I was wiping her tears, but she gave me something in return – a smile of hope and gratitude. Her story echoes those that I heard in Ethiopia. But these mothers know that we Lions are giving their children hope for a long, healthy life.

Lions have long been committed to improving quality of life for children. Another way we do this is by improving their education and providing them with vital life skills. In meeting with government officials in both countries, they pledged their full support to the measles program. But they were also very interested in starting Lions Quest in their country.

Like so many other leaders worldwide are realizing, Lions Quest can and should be a key component to improving the general well being of our youth. Government can't do this alone. It takes all of us working together to really make an impact.

Moments like these also make me realize the significance of what our Foundation does for people in need, but there is so much more we can do. Please, Lions, let's continue to give hope to our youth for a healthier and brighter tomorrow by wiping away tears through our foundation!

With cordial regards,

Eberhard J. Wirfs
Chairperson LCIF

* * * * *



EW

[The Pediatric Cataract Initiative: A Partnership Program of LCIF and Bausch + Lomb Early Vision Institute](#)
[:00 minutes](#)



EW

[Working Together to Eliminate Measles](#)
[:25 minutes](#)



EW

[Sustaining Lives Through Opening Eyes](#)
[:49 minutes](#)



[LCIF Partnering for Service](#)
[:00 minutes](#)

Have you checked these DVD's out?

* * * * *

Mobilizing Communities to Eradicate Measles

LCIF has joined with the Measles Initiative to launch the [Lions-Measles Initiative](#) pilot program in four African countries. LCIF and local Lions are supporting a worldwide effort to protect children from measles and strengthen routine immunization services. View a video of the vaccination campaign in Madagascar and view photos from [Madagascar](#) and [Ethiopia](#). Vaccination campaigns in Nigeria and Mali will take place in January and February, and help even more children. The program is jointly funded by LCIF and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Launched in 2001, the Measles Initiative is a partnership - led by the American Red Cross, United Nations Foundation, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF and World Health Organization - committed to reducing measles deaths worldwide. The Initiative is currently focused on supporting the United Nations' goal of reducing global measles mortality by 90 percent (2000-2010).

Distribution of Contributing Membership Pins

Become a Contributing Member, Support Someone in Need - What do nearly 100,000 Lions have in common each year? They become Contributing Members by donating at least US\$20 to LCIF. The Contributing Membership program is an annual program that recognizes three levels of support: US\$20, US\$50 and US\$100. Donations support our humanitarian efforts, with 100 percent of every contribution going to LCIF programs. Become a [Contributing Member](#) today and help someone in need.



All LCIF Multiple District and District Coordinators have and will distribute Contributing Member pins to all who wish to donate – please see or contact your LCIF District Coordinator.

President's Service Blog

November 23, 2010

tags: [humanitarian service](#), [eyesight programs](#), [Sid Scruggs](#), [MalTra](#) by Sid Scruggs

We Lions have the drive and responsibility to serve, both in our community and on a global scale. At 1.35 million members strong, we represent a powerful force for change. Lion Judy and I were honored to take part in the fifth MalTra (malaria and trachoma) Week, a combined treatment campaign supported by our partners and Lions that seeks to eradicate [trachoma](#), while also preventing malaria, in Ethiopia and other countries by the year 2020.

Trachoma, a debilitating and contagious eye infection that causes blindness, can be treated easily with antibiotics. In Ethiopia's Amhara region, there are more cases of trachoma than any other place in the world. During this MalTra Week in early November, more than 15,000 community health workers targeted 10 million at-risk people with donated antibiotic treatment – a great example of what Lions and our partners can accomplish together. We also celebrated the delivery of the 225-millionth dose of the antibiotic Zithromax®. This drug, often referred to as “the little pink pill,” is donated by

Lions' partner Pfizer Inc.

It's this kind of action and Lions role as a partner that makes me so proud to be a Lion. More than 85 years after Helen Keller challenged Lions to be “Knights of the Blind,” we continue to reach out to preserve the sight of millions around the world.

In this footage, Lion Judy and I enjoyed the kick-off of the campaign in the village of Zeghie, in the northwest of Ethiopia. Young students sang about preventing malaria and trachoma and performed dances that are popular there.

* * * * *

Q: Are the Lions Quest programs evidence based, quality programs?

A: Absolutely! Curricula are based on strong research and evidence that supports program components, processes and content. CASEL “Select SEL,” SAMHSA “Model” (SFA), and OJJDP “Effective” program (SFA).

Q: How do Lions Quest programs build resilience?

A: Research shows that relationships with caring adults make young people resilient. Curricula facilitate positive relationships and help youth build protective factors while reducing risk factors.

Q: Do Lions Quest programs link with existing school programs and learning standards?

A: Definitely! Curricula provide tools for teachers to meet requirements in social and emotional learning (SEL), prevention, character education, service-learning, language arts and social sciences.

Q: How do we find time for these programs in our busy school day?

A: We can't afford not to! One lesson takes just 20-45 minutes per week and is easily integrated into language arts, social sciences, health, advisory period, or used as a stand-alone program.

Lions Children First is on Facebook Sign up for Facebook to connect with Lions Children First.

New LIONS Children First Facebook Fan Page Lions Clubs International is proud to introduce the [LIONS Children First Facebook page!](#) Become a fan and connect with fellow Lions who share your commitment to bring help and hope to children and youth in need. Visit the page regularly for news, discussion topics and more. [Contact us for more information.](#)



Editor's Note

Fellow Lions:

Lions Children First - a new program for clubs!!!

The Lions Children First program provides clubs with resources and information to organize an effective, hands-on services project that can make a positive difference in the lives of children and youth.

Resources and Materials include:

Club Activity Guide

Program Brochure

Community Posters

Certificate of Appreciation

Sample News Release

Listing of 25 Project Ideas

...and four sample project idea sheets:

- Organize a Food Drive to Alleviate Hunger
- Organize a Children's Clothing Drive
- Collect Suitcases for Foster Care Children
- Organize a hearing Screening for Preschool and School Age Children



ORGANIZE A FOOD DRIVE TO ALLEVIATE HUNGER

Hunger and poverty go hand in hand. Childhood hunger can cause irreversible damage. A lack of proper nutrition can harm a child's mental and physical development. Hungry children have difficulty concentrating and focusing on schoolwork. Impoverished children are more likely to be hospitalized during childhood. Your involvement with a food drive in a community center, office, school or place of worship can help feed the hungry and make a difference in the life of a child.

How Lions Clubs Can Help

Step 1: Select a food bank, food pantry or organization that accepts donations. Check to see if there are any specific requirements, such as the types of food to collect.

Step 2: Select a location for your food drive. Successful places to conduct food drives include schools, office buildings, and places of worship or community centers. Secure permission to hold your food drive in these locations.

Step 3: Begin planning your food drive. Enlist the aid of your nearby Leo club. Contact friends, co-workers, neighbors to help. Choose a name or theme for your food drive and set a goal for how many cans, or pounds of food you want to collect.

Step 4: Promote your food drive. This allows community residents time to choose food from their pantries or buy extra food when grocery shopping.

- Enlist the help of your Club Public Relations Chair to promote this event.
- Decorate collection containers for the food donations.
- Place flyers or posters in highly visible places.
- Use newspaper ads, phone calls and e-mails to promote your food drive.
- Announce your food drive on your club's Web site.
- Remember to send follow up reminders.

Step 5: Collect food for the hungry. You may wish to hold your food drive for a few consecutive days to get as much food as you can. Enlist the help of Leos and other volunteers. Make sure to clearly mark your donation boxes.

Step 6: Deliver your collected food; make arrangements to drop off the donated food to the food bank you selected. Your food can then be distributed to hungry families in need.

Step 7: Send "thank you" letters to individuals or organizations who participated and publicize your successful project in the community newspapers.

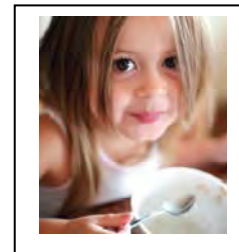
<http://feedingamerica.org/foodbankresults.aspx?state=GA>

What to Donate

Please do not collect fresh fruit and vegetables at food drives. Only collect non-perishable items.

Food Items Most Needed

- 100% fruit juice (cans/bottles/boxes)
- Canned vegetables and fruit
- Chunky soups and beef stew
- Macaroni and cheese
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Powdered milk
- Rice / dry and canned beans
- Pasta and sauce
- "Sugar free," "low sodium" and "no salt" items
- Tuna and other canned meat



Share your success!

Please tell us about your project by visiting the Association's Web site at www.lionsclubs.org Just type "Lions Children First" in the search box to find an easy, on-line survey for your convenience.

Tell Us about Your Project

This year, be sure your club's secretary uses the newly redesigned Service Activities Report to report your club's service activities, especially projects related to the service action campaigns. Clubs that submit projects related to the service action campaigns through the online Service Activities Report are automatically nominated for the Beacon Awards. For more information go to www.lionsclubs.org and keyword search [Beacon Awards](#).

Resources

A number of resources are available to assist you in completing a Lions Global Service Action Campaign project. For materials and campaign updates go to www.lionsclubs.org and keyword search [Global Service Action Campaign](#) or contact the [Service Activities Division](#) at programs@lionsclubs.org.



Dear Lion Leaders,

It takes time to make a Lion. Certainly all Lions, even the newest, share in the responsibilities as every other Lion, but to really understand what it means to be

Even experienced Lions sometimes underestimate the value of our service. That we serve. They fully understand the value of what we do and they will tell us at open hearts.

I can still remember hearing the words, "We can always count on you Lions," w North Carolina delivered holiday packages to families in need of food. I recall t people who received a flu vaccine at the annual health fair my club organized an joy on the face of a child who received her first pair of eyeglasses from a Lion. These were some of the most rewarding experiences of my life and they taught me what it really means to be a Lion.

It is our job as Lion leaders to ensure that all Lions have opportunities to experience the rewards of service. That feeling of accomplishment and connection to another human life is our "secret weapon" in the effort to build and retain our membership. The more moments like those that we provide to our members, the more satisfying their Lions experience will be. And satisfied members are the best ambassadors our clubs can have. They will surely attract other people of good will who are seeking the rewards of service that only membership in a Lions Club can provide.

The next Global Service Action Campaign will provide many opportunities for the kind of one-to-one interaction I have been describing. Please do all you can to ensure that as many Lions as possible participate in [Relieving the Hunger](#), scheduled for December and January.

Thank you for all you do.

Best wishes,

Sid L. Scruggs III
International President



A Beacon of Hope Resources and Activities

Use the following resources to help your club - and our association - be A Beacon of Hope in 2010-2011:

[A Beacon of Hope brochure](#): Read about our international theme, A Beacon of Hope.

[A Beacon of Hope logo](#): Download a logo to use on club communication and promotional materials.

[Awards Program Brochure](#): Find out about recognition programs for outstanding achievement by clubs and districts in the area of service.

[Global Service Action Campaigns](#): Participate in Global Service Action Campaigns to bring attention to the service Lions provide for the environment, youth, sight and more.

[Beacon Awards](#): Find out about the Beacon Awards - and how they will recognize outstanding achievement by clubs and districts in the area of service.

["The Power of Peace" Essay Contest](#): Sponsor a blind or visually impaired student to compete in "The Power of Peace" Essay Contest.

Global Service Action Campaigns

Relieving the Hunger



Hunger happens worldwide. Hunger happens within communities. Most especially, hunger happens to individual men, women and children. In December and January, Lions Clubs International's third Global Service Action Campaign, [Relieving the Hunger](#), will attack the problem of hunger on all three levels.

As a global initiative of all Lions everywhere it will shine a light on the need for sustainable food production and distribution to feed a growing world and will spotlight especially vulnerable populations. As always, Lions Clubs and their members will deal with hunger on a community and individual scale. This multilevel approach offers many ways to get involved.

Organize Community Action

Clubs can:

- organize a food drive to replenish local food bank
- staff a local soup kitchen or homeless shelter,
- plant a community vegetable garden.

Plan for One-to-One Service

Clubs can make it possible for individual Lions to:

- deliver prepared meals to elderly citizens,
- drive elderly citizens to the grocery store,

- prepare and deliver food baskets to families in need.
- To find a local food bank and to learn more about the problem of hunger please visit:

To find a local food bank visit [The Global FoodBanking Network](#) or [Feeding America](#) for potential volunteer opportunities near you.

Beacon of Hope Highlights

Engaging Our Youth

More than 850 Lions Clubs in over 60 countries have participated in 1,215 Engaging Our Youth projects for a total of 87,356 hours. That's enough time to build more than 250 playgrounds or drive around the earth's equator more than 200 times.



In one such project, the Lions Club of Longacres and the Leo Club of Fairview in Zambia brought food, clothing and cleaning supplies to the Green Hill Community School, which provides housing and education facilities for 30 disadvantaged children in the Ngwerere Area.

Sharing the Vision

Lions Clubs participating in the Sharing the Vision Campaign are reporting great successes. In the Philippines, the Dasmariñas Lions Club with the help of Leos conducted a cataract screening for 200 people. Clubs have until November 30 to complete the reporting process. Look for more details and stories in the coming months.

Please visit our [campaign web pages](#) for updates.

Set Your Sights High

Mentoring

No one becomes a shining light alone. A flame must be lit and a fire kindled before it blazes forth to illuminate a path for others. So too, it is with Lions. To nurture the passion for service within each of us Lions Clubs International offers a mentoring program at two levels.

Basic Mentoring is for all members. Mentees will:

- Gain comprehensive knowledge of club, district and multiple district,
- participate in a club service or fund-raising activity,
- introduce a prospective member to the club,
- visit another club and secure a visitation slip, and
- attend a convention, report back to the club.

Advanced Mentoring is for those who wish to help lead Lions to new heights of service. Mentees will:

- thoroughly understand club activities and goals,
- understand their committee assignments,
- complete assigned tasks and participate in service activities.

Lions Clubs International needs experienced Lions to serve as mentors and all members to become the most effective Lions they can be. Read [Lions Mentoring Program Overview](#) to begin your service as a mentor or to learn more about becoming a mentee.

On the Horizon

Make your plans to join thousands of Lions from around the world at the 94th International Convention in Seattle, Washington, July 4-8, 2011. Convention exhibits, seminars and workshops will take place at the Washington State Convention Center - located right in the heart of downtown Seattle. The plenary sessions, featuring former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice as the keynote speaker and gala International Show will be held at the Key Arena located near the iconic Space Needle at Seattle Center.

July is peak tourist season in Seattle, so register by December 31 to lock in your registration at our lowest rate and secure your hotel reservation at our specially discounted Lions rates. [Learn more about the Convention.](#)

Connect With us online





RETENTION

THE CLUB EXCELLENCE PROCESS AND MEMBERSHIP RETENTION

One of the reports I personally deliver is to our District Governors at their Council of Governor's meeting. The latest report I handed out was on Saturday, 20 November. Unfortunately, my report stated that as of the end of October 2010 Lions clubs in Georgia have begun to lose more members than we did last year. Hopefully this loss rate will reverse itself, but I did end my report by encouraging the District Governors to do something I am going to encourage **ALL** clubs to do: participate in the upcoming Club Excellence Process (CEP).

There are several forthcoming Lion changes that our International Leaders approved, but the one that all Lions Clubs are going to be encouraged to adopt is the Club Excellence Process. While I was in Milwaukee this fall, I managed to listen to an overview of this forthcoming CEP change and then during the afternoon, following the Council of Governor's meeting, I attended a CEP Training Session. The training was the initial CEP overview for the District Governors, but it also included a requirement for them to begin the Club Excellence Process this year.

Obviously, you are going to hear and learn more about the Club Excellence Process. As your MERL Team Retention Chair, my concern was whether membership retention is going to be a part of CEP? The main reason I raised this question is my belief that clubs have got to take specific actions to retain Lions for a longer period of time. What you are soon going to be offered are Club Excellence Process Workshops and high on the list of club members being encouraged to attend will be club leadership. Based on the CEP Workshop club attendees and my analysis of the items to be focused on in the Workshop, I believe club retention will be an important part of CEP.

The Club Excellence Process Workshops will give each of our clubs an excellent opportunity to discuss a wide range of things. As I earlier pointed out, initial CEP Workshops will begin to be available this year. You and your other club leaders will be given an opportunity to examine a wide range of things in the Workshop, but the four things I am going to pull out are the following: "Talk about the stumbling blocks that prevent us from excellence," "Discuss how to improve your club effectiveness," AND THEN "Set goals" and "Create action plans."

I can assure you that "Retention of Members" is going to be one of key items you will be focused on as a part of the Club Excellence Process! As I said at the outset, I am going to encourage **ALL** clubs to participate. What I am going to also encourage you to do is take the list of club retention action items with you to the CEP Workshop to discuss them and add them to your club goals and action plans.

Yours in Lionism,
Richard "Dick" Smith
ME-18 MERL Team Retention Chair



Thriving Club Retreat:

Dear Lions Leader,

Many folks may remember the Dynamic Club Workshops that were held a few years ago. Well, think of the Thriving Club Workshop as the Dynamic Club Workshop on steroids. Below is a draft schedule for the two day event. This workshop will focus on the Lions Club. Whether you have a strong or weak club, this workshop will help Club Leaders develop their personal leadership skills to build and strengthen their club. No, this is not just an officer training school: this course is about the dynamics of building a quality club program...and sustaining that club by building and keeping quality members. As of this printing, the dates and logistics are subject to change.

That said, here is what we hope the arrangements to be:

Dates: 2-3 April 2011
Location: Kingwood Resort, Clayton, Georgia
Costs: Rooms (put to 4 per room) \$89 per night
Registration of \$30

SCHEDULE

Saturday, 2 April 2011

12:00-1:00 Registration
1:00-1:45 Is Your Club Hanging By A Rope?
2:00-2:45 Dealing With Change
3:00-3:45 Club Meetings
4:00-4:45 Managing Speakers
5:00-5:45 Handling the Business of Your Club
6:00-7:00 Dinner
7:00-9:30 WE SERVE: more than a motto
9:30-10:15 Vision Experience

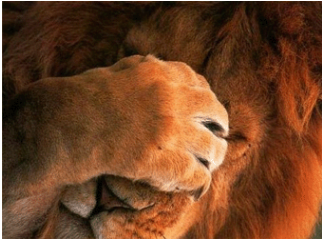
Sunday, 4 April 2011

7:00-7:45 Breakfast
8:00-8:45 Winning in Conflicts
9:00-9:45 Community Image
10:00-10:45 Recruiting New Members
11:00-11:45 Keeping the Lions You Have
12:00-1:00 Lunch
1:00-1:45 You are Our Beacon of Hope.

CLUB REPORTS



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



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

Clermont North Hall Lions Club = We spent most of the month coordinating and planning a project that will occur in December. We also performed a service project for a 99-year old member of the community. We spent a Saturday morning cleaning leaves from her yard and around her house and doing other fall cleaning jobs. We made contributions to different organizations during the month. We made a donation to the local Secret Santa program. We also made contributions to meet the DG's goals and made our pledge donation to the Lighthouse Capital Campaign. We also continued our parking project at the Georgia Mountains Center, parking cars for an event there. We are also preparing for a Christmas meeting to enjoy the fellowship and excitement of the season.

Buford Lions Club = In November the Buford Lions Club had as Guest Speakers Shaemae Crosswhite and Jwanita Core from the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation. They gave a very good and informative talk about the Lighthouse and all the different programs and things that are done there. They also gave us an update on the new building, in Chamblee, Ga. where they will be moving in a few weeks. The Buford Lions Club was also able to send back with them 660 pair of glasses, 271 cases, 29 frames, 963 lenses and 11 cell phones. The Buford Lions Club also had five members attend the District 18-D Cabinet Meeting in Gainesville, Ga. along with the Associate Directors Mtg. that followed four of our members were also able to attend the 55th 18-D District Rally. The meetings were very informative and enjoyed by all.

Dacula Lions Club = Holiday time is almost here! There couldn't be a better time to order a bag of fresh Georgia Pecans - selling fresh 16oz bags of shelled pecans for \$8.00 per bag. Please visit our web site to learn more - <http://daculalions.org>

Dawsonville Lions Club = Old-Fashioned Christmas Potluck, Monday, December 13, 2010, From 6:30 - 9:30 p.m., At the Community Room - Community and Southern Bank, (Food Lion Parking Lot) Hwy 53 Dawsonville, GA. - Lions Club members: please bring a new unwrapped toy Please bring guests and potential new members. Tea, water and coffee will be provided. Casual dress - Please R.S.V.P. by Wednesday, December 8. What dish you will bring and number of guests. **Katie Hulsebus:** galionkatie@hotmail.com
Dawsonville Lions Cookbook are here Recipes from local cooks All for only \$10

Jefferson Lions Club = **ACTIVITIES:** **Leo Club** started at Kings Bridge Middle School in September; officers elected October. Next meeting will be the first Thursday in December at 9:20 a.m. Anticipate applying for charter soon. **Collected:** 8 pairs of used glasses and 2 phones. **Community Birthday:** are ongoing. Profit expected to be \$2800. **Awards:** Congratulations to both Lion Bill Legg! He received a plaque & chevron for 40 YEARS OF SERVICE and Lion Dot Hunt who received a certificate and chevron for 10 years of service. **Donations:** Made to all Lions projects – LCIF, Lighthouse, Camp for Blind, RFB&D, Camp Kudzu, Leader Dogs for the Blind.

MEETINGS: Dr. Karen Canupp, Optometrist at Vision Source, Winder, was featured=speaker at a recent meeting of the Jefferson Lions Club. Introduced =y Lion Bill Legg, the topic of her talk was diabetes -- a major cause of vision problems. Dr. Canupp stated that there are an estimated 18.2 million diabetics in America, but only about 13 million have been diagnosed; Treatment for diabetic-related vision problems, she said, includes regular and consistent monitoring, controlling sugar intake, and Focal or Gri= Laser procedures among others. Pictures of various related eye afflictions were shown and helped to reinforce the principal message of diagnosis as early as possible followed by regular and consistent treatment under = doctor's supervision. Control of blood pressure and cholesterol is =especially important, she noted. The Lions Club celebrated **Ham Riddle's 93rd birthday** with a cake and candles and sang "Happy Birthday." Peace Posters were on display and a winner was selected. **November 22 was a** regular meeting with 23 members present plus 4 guests. The program was presented by Kevin Montford, Director, "The Potter's House" a Ministry of Atlanta Mission, and Counselor Intern, Tony Pridgen. The Potter's House (TPH) is a long-term Christ-centered, residential discipleship program for chemically addicted men. Located on a 550 acre working farm near Athens, GA, it is also home of The Mission's Thrift Ministry and Industrial Complex. Since its inception in 1967, over 10,000 men have had the opportunity to leave addictive lifestyles for healthy, functional relationships with God, themselves, and others. The Potter's House provides full care for clients and leadership training for graduates. Donations should be made payable to The Potter's House and noted for Community Center Project. An Achievement Award and a \$50 check was presented to Claire Altman, age 12, for winning the local competition in the 2010-2011 **Lions International Peace Poster Contest.** (\$25 was given to the school visual arts department as appreciation for their participation.). Lions and Rotarians will celebrate **Christmas together with a banquet** on December 7th. Toys will be collected for distribution in Jackson County. Kings Bridge Middle School Band will entertain. Lions will donate canned goods to the local food pantry at the December 13th meeting. District 18-D Rally: Eight (8) attended the District Rally on November 13.

Fly-in and Aviation Day at Jackson County Airport, November 13:

Lions were visible at the **Annual Fly-In** on November 13 at the airport. The Lions camper was used as control center, and the event raised \$1000 for the Boys and Girls Club.



Dr. Canupp has recently opened another office, "Total Vision Source!" in Jefferson

Lawrenceville Lions Club = We performed 27 vision screenings. We held a Poker Game as a fundraiser. We held our Annual Pecan Sales as a fundraiser. We participated with the 5 other Gwinnett County Lions Clubs to provide an upgrade to a Pac Mate and provided a new talking calculator to a 17 year old blind student in Gwinnett County with all 6 clubs providing the funds. We entered a Christmas Tree in the Aurora Theater contest along with businesses in Lawrenceville. It was decorated with used eye glasses and White Canes and red bows. Eyeglasses Collected 575, Lenses Collected 178

Loganville Lions Club = In honor of Veterans Day, Loganville Lions recognized local military personnel recently returned from active duty in the Middle East at a recent meeting. Pictured are Rey Martinez - US Navy Reserve, Randy Broner Jr. - US Army Reserve, Brian Herbert - US Army-active. Also pictured are Michelle Lynch, wife and Chuck Lynch, father representing Mike Lynch US Army and Loganville City Council member, currently on active duty in the Middle East and Chris Galman, father representing his son, Alex Galman, US Air Force - active who recently just completed flight training in Columbus, MS where he received his wings. Also honored was the grandson of Lion Richard Woodall, currently stationed with the US Coast Guard on drug interdiction duty in Galveston, TX. In addition, Lions Wendell Geiger and Gene Brooks were recognized for their past military service. Rey Martinez and Michelle Lynch recently won seats on the Loganville City Council and will be taking office in January, 2011.



Norcross Lions Club = District Rally attendees PDG Ed Hashbarger, PDG John Rudert, Secretary Trudy Rudert. Published in Nov/Dec. Norcross Times and also in Inside Gwinnett. Article and photo with Pete Stamson and others in our Zone published in the Gwinnett Daily Post. Donations made to LCIF, Lighthouse, Camp for the Blind, Leader Dogs for the Blind, RFB&D, Camp Kudzu, Norcross Co-op Ministries, Elementary and Middle Schools in Norcross Cluster, Norcross Meals on Wheels, St. Jude. Our November speaker was Lion Sid Stein who spoke about his brothers who were soldiers in WWII and who died in battle. Both received Purple Hearts. His story was published in the *Jewish Times* and also in the *AJC*.

Oconee Lions Club = Oconee Lions Club recently donated a bank of magnifiers to help students with low vision. Club President, Gene Lyon (left), presented the magnifying kit to Mrs. Kristie Brooks (center), Oconee County Director of Special Education, and Mrs. Ginger Schmidt, NEGA, RESA Teacher of the Visually Impaired. Mrs. Schmidt noted that “students who have access to this kit are more likely to consistently use a magnifier in school because they have been empowered to make educated, experience-based choices about what is right for them.”



Oconee Lions making chicken mull. The Lions are President Gene Lyon, Tailtwister Bernie Amiot, and Second Vice President Chuck Whitmire. The club makes 300 quarts, and uses the funds raised for scholarships at Oconee's two high schools.

Snellville Lions Club = Service Projects: Club still collect food items at all meetings for the Snellville and Lilburn Food Banks. 4 Lions build a wheel chair ramp for lady in need total hours worked – 12 hours. Following items turned into the Lighthouse – 48 used glasses, 23 cases and 4 cell phone. **Fund Raisers:** Snellville Baptist Church Fun Night good turnout of members – used concession trailer total volunteer hours 36. Club sold Belk's discount coupons last few weekends.



Toccoa Lions Club = Old Business: We are still working on getting the IRS fines reduced. Report on Flower Bulb Sales: Five people had sales. Total sales were \$486, Profit \$243. **New Business:** Harvest Festival: The event is this coming weekend. The weather will be cooler than last year. We may sell more coffee, tea and hot chocolate than cold drinks. We will not be able to sell water this time. Festival of Trees: We received a letter from the city inviting us to participate this year in the Festival of Trees December 3-4 in conjunction with Christmas Fest. We will decline since participation from club members would be minimal.

Union County Lions Club = Sight Conservation: Lion Sarah Chumbley sent 5 Birthday cards & 4 Anniversary cards for total of 9. **Lion Mints:** No report. **Social Concerns:** Lion Sarah Chumbley sent 5 Birthday cards & 4 Anniversary cards for total of 9. **Lion and friends and family volunteer hours:** 347 hours. **Membership:** No applications. **Donations:** approved as follows: \$100.00 to local Meals on Wheels; \$25.00 to purchase 'brick' for new Library 'walkway' with UCLC name on it. and \$100.00 to Union-Towns Volunteers for Handicap. **Sight/Hearing Conservation:** no applications, however, a review of one 'on delay' from last month, was discussed & determined the applicant needed eye surgery and applicant was put in contact with GA. Lions Lighthouse. **Meetings: November 6.** Lions Club yard sale held with 20 Union County Lion members working total of 97 & 1/2 hours that included hours 'setting up' the evening before. Huge success with all proceeds going to our Activity Fund. Note of interest: a friend AND prospective member, Debra Hupp worked 7 & 3/4 hours at our Lions yard sale! **November 11.** Regular Lion meeting with 8 guests and 22 Lions with attendance % 70.9. Program for evening was Dr. Gary Hunt who provided interesting & informative information on leading causes of death and what services United Hospice offers to help not only the ill person but the family members and others who are trying to provide care for their dying loved one. A 'folder' was given to each Lion member with info about services and how to get in contact with United Hospice. **November 12.** Following Union County Lions attended 18-D Hall of Fame banquet in Gainesville, GA.: Mildred & Michael Thompson; Gene & Louise Little; Elmer Thompson & Lisa Little, Lions Elmer & Michael Thompson were inducted into the Hall of Fame.[Father & Son!!!] **November 13.** 18-D Cabinet meeting in Gainesville, GA attended by Lions Gene & Louise Little and Lion Lisa Little. **The following items turned:** 195 pair used eye glasses; 20 single lens; one eye glass frame; 81 pair shade glasses; 84 eye glass cases; 101 cell phones; and 21 pair of reading glasses. These same three Union County Lions also attended the 18-D Annual Rally that evening.



Diamond Pageants collects for Lions

Diamond Pageants is pleased to announce that contestants have collected a total of 272 items for The Union County Lions Club!

Locally at this years Green Bean Festival Pageant, Miss Bean Sprout and Mister Leather Britches contestants collected items and again at our Miss Sorghum / Miss Union Pageant.

Our winners Carter Spencer & Ashlynn York Blackwell received special awards for their Community Service efforts. I believe it is never too early to start teaching children to "give back" to the community in which we are blessed to live in. Carter Spencer enjoyed sharing that she had a lemonade stand to raise money and collect items at. Ashlynn York Blackwell may only be 4 yrs old but she got up in front of the congregation at her church to ask everyone

to bring items to her and tell them about our Lions Club. Runner ups at the Miss Sorghum pageant that also collected items were: Mackenzie Jordan-Mae Baldwin & Lexi Shaye Davenport.

Items collected were delivered to our District Rally in Gainesville in which they will be taken to The Georgia Lions Lighthouse in Decatur, GA. They will then be cleaned, prescriptions read and ultimately distributed to those who otherwise might not be able to afford to purchase new glasses.

Union County Lions Motto is "We Serve". I am proud to say as director of Diamond Pageants, we are teaching our contestants about Community Service and showing their inter-beauty as well as their outward beauty.

We will again be collecting at our



Christmas Pageant on December 11th at the Gainesville Civic Center. If you are interested in joining the fun, registration forms are on my website www.diamondpageants.org or call Lisa Little 706-374-3228.

The Gwinnett County Lions Clubs (combined our resources) presented a gift to a local blind musician, Timothy Jones, of two needed pieces of equipment; an enhanced voice prompted laptop computer and voice calculator. provide a Orion Talking Scientific Calculator and a much needed upgrade to a PAC Mate OMNI unit which basically allows a computer to talk to a very deserving young man Timothy Jones. The computer prints text in Braille to give Timothy the ability to read e-mails etc. He is the Blind Piano Player that will be Performing at the Lions Ga. State Convention next June. All this was put together by Pete Stamsen, President of the Lawrenceville Lions Club. See attached photos



Official Lions Pocket Calendar

18 month calendar, January 2011 through June 2012. Durable, attractive dark blue vinyl cover includes pocket for money or other valuables and Lions emblem imprinted in gold.



[Pocket calendars](#) (Item G540) - \$3.95/each

[Calendar refill only](#) (Item G540R) - \$1.95/each

[Personalized Pocket Calendars](#) (Item G540GS) - \$4.25/each

(Special area on the covers for your club's name to be imprinted in gold, if desired. Unless ordered online, club name must be provided in writing exactly as you would like it to appear on the calendars. Minimum 25 calendars. Allow two weeks for delivery.)

Visit our online [Lions Shop](#) to order these and other fine Lions products.



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

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




Call for Hearing Aids!
 Did you know that the Lighthouse collects hearing aids?

We don't just distribute hearing aids to qualified Georgia residents—we collect them too!

*This September, we received **\$5,832** from Starkey Laboratories Inc. in exchange for approximately 400 recycled hearing aids collected by Lions Clubs and other volunteers. These funds go directly towards eye and ear services.*

Talk to your club about running a hearing aid recycling drive today! To learn more, go to www.lionslighthouse.org/get_involved/recycling_drive or contact Laura Griffin at 404-325- 3630.




Service Numbers
 From July to October 2010

346 people have better vision after receiving a pair of glasses. 30 recipients were from 18-Dat a cost of \$1,186.

35 eye surgeries were performed. 2 were from 18-D at a cost of \$39,678. – Lighthouse cost - \$8,520.

77 Georgians received hearing aids through the dispensation of 77 hearing aids. 4 were from 18-D

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




Dates Set for 2010-2011 Meetings and Conventions

Lighthouse Winter Meeting:
January 22, 2011

Lighthouse Awards Deadline:
April 30, 2011



Help Us Use our Recycled Glasses

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

The Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation provides vision and hearing services for the underinsured in Georgia. Our vision services include vision clinics, eye surgeries, vision screenings, and a worldwide eyeglass recycling program. When we initiated our hearing program in 1977 the Lighthouse only provided refurbished hearing aids; we now offer new digital hearing aids and follow-up care.

For every dollar you give to the Lighthouse, our volunteer doctors provide \$4 in medical services.

When you give:	A person in need receives:
\$20	A new pair of glasses
\$50	A dilated eye exam
\$500	A digital hearing aid and follow up care
\$1000	A sight-saving surgery

Vision Clinics

We conduct eye clinics at 13 sites throughout Georgia. The clinics are located in Albany, Athens, Atlanta (2), Augusta, Brunswick, Decatur, Fayetteville, Macon, Rome, Savannah, Tifton, and Waycross. The clinics are free for qualified patients; glasses and follow-up care are also available as needed.

Eye Surgeries

We partner with optometrists and ophthalmologists who volunteer their services to the Lighthouse and/or work at reduced rates. If a doctor discovers an uninsured patient who needs sight-saving surgery, the Lighthouse can often handle arrangements and expenses. The most common procedures include:

- Cataract removal
- Diabetic retinopathies
- Corneal tissue transplants
- Detached retina correction

We also have specialized services including prosthetic eyes and keratoconus lenses.

Eyeglass Recycling Program

Every year the Lions Lighthouse recycles over 100,000 pairs of donated eyeglasses. The usable glasses are shipped to developing countries with mission trips. Broken and scratched glasses are donated to fashion design schools in Georgia that craft them into wearable dresses for our annual Night of Spectacles fundraiser. Donations of individual lenses are given to optical schools where students learn to cut them. Glasses with gold in them are set aside, and the gold is melted and sold. All proceeds from the sales are used to help support our vision and hearing programs. We also accept donations of used cell phones and hearing aids.

Vision Screenings

Our vision screening program addresses the “prevention” portion of our mission. We have nine screening machines that can be checked out for community events. Anyone borrowing a screener must first complete a training session on how to use it. If we need to ship a screener to you, we request that you or your organization pay the return shipping.

Hearing Program

In 1977 our Board of Directors approved the addition of hearing conservation to our mission. Today the Lighthouse helps distribute new digital hearing aids and gives follow-up care to Georgians in need. Last year, more than 850 patients received hearing aids through our digital program.



Santa's List: are you naughty or are you nice?

About the list:

- Visit www.checkittwice.org to get started!
 - Nominate someone for our Naughty or Nice list for \$20.
 - The nominee will receive an email to inform them of their nomination.
 - The nominee's name will be listed on our website.
 - All nominees will receive a letter from Santa.
 - People on the "Nice" List will automatically get a special pin (pictured below).
 - Send a gift-wrapped lump of coal to your "Naughty" List nominee for an extra \$5.
 - "Naughty" nominees can move themselves to the Nice List by matching your donation.
 - Include a personal note to your nominee.
 - All donations are 100% tax deductible.
- Each \$20 donations pays for a pair of glasses this holiday season.



Santa's List

The Lions Lighthouse is looking for elves, industrious ones such as yourselves, to help the great eater of cookies and milk decide who's been naughty, and who's of nice ilk.

You know there are many fine people out there more helpful than any of Nick's nine reindeer. On the Nice List they can be recognized as one of the region's best and most prized.

On the other hand, there are those who deserve a lump of coal to be reserved as their holiday gift from Santa Claus for some great wrong, or "just because."

To add to the list, we request a donation to help another's holiday celebration. A new pair of glasses, they would receive from what you would give, this Christmas Eve.



Clearing the Fog: Ronald McLaney's Story

Ronald McLaney of Trenton, Georgia is good with his hands—he's a construction man through and through—but when a cataract in his right eye began clouding his vision, he found his livelihood at stake.

"Everything was foggy. I had decent sight in my other eye, but it's very hard on you if even one eye goes bad," says Ronald. "I called the state [department] to see if there was anything they could do—I told them that I was going to end up on disability if I went blind and asked, what was I supposed to do? Thank God the state referred me to you."

Working through the Lighthouse sight surgery program, Ronald received cataract surgery this March from Dr. Brian Kim, a partner of the Lighthouse. Ever since, Ronald was surprised to find everything to be literally brighter, since the surgery cleared the dimness from his vision.

What he found most surprising, however, was the quality of care he received during his treatment. "Everyone treated me with respect," he says. "It's humbling to receive charity, but I was treated like a regular patient. The Lighthouse understands that bad things can happen to everyone, even the best people, and it helps you get through that. Thank you for all that you do."





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



To Our Fellow Lions:



From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more. Luke

Dear Friends of the Camp,

Over the last few years, I have come to love this time of the year. Pumpkin cookies, fleece, hot chocolate, and the spirit of gratefulness that permeates my family and friends, are just a few reasons why I am falling in love with fall. As I began to consider this month's newsletter article, I decided to make a list of some of the things that I am grateful for in regards to this job...So here is a small list of things I am grateful for:

1. Frank- I am grateful for a boss who loves the camp as much as I do. I am grateful he pushes me to achieve excellence.
2. Counselors- They readily and cheerfully accepted me into their group and allowed me to lead their ranks.
3. Lions- I am grateful that many, many people see the value of investing in the visually impaired. I am grateful for the opportunity to be your director.
4. Susan- Taught me how to love people blindly.
5. Ms. Carolyn- I am grateful that I know my secretary would do this job for free. She is devoted to not only this wonderful place, but me as well!
6. My Family- I am grateful that they believe in me and they make that evident.
7. The Campers- They have challenged, encouraged and accepted my leadership since day one. They have changed my life, and I am all the better for it! Kristen

Kristen



Dear Friends of the Camp,

Things are starting to pick up at our Camp and it is indeed an exciting time. I can't think of a better way to give you the data than to share my Report to the Council of Governors with you. So here goes...

Report of the Georgia Lions Camp for the Blind, Inc.
November 20, 2010

It is a quiet time at our Camp but that is getting ready to change. Here are a few things that have been going on in Waycross and beyond:



Bobby submitted his resignation just after the Fall Joint Meeting. We then started the process on finding his successor. We posted the position in the local media and the response was just what you would expect in our current economy. Kristen and Carolyn were flooded with applications. Kristen narrowed it down to the top five and on October 16th, Carey VanLandingham (Building and Grounds Committee Chair), Kristen and I interviewed those five. The outcome is what we believe will be a fine Building and Grounds Manager for years to come. His name is Mike, and Kristen will introduce him in depth in the upcoming newsletter.

On Friday following the interviews mentioned above, Carey went into surgery for a personal health issue. I am happy to say the surgery went well and that he is now home and recovering nicely. Please keep Lion Carey in your thoughts and prayers. I do know what the Lions Family and their support can do to help one get better.

I have been on the road giving presentations on our Camp, and the Lions Clubs I have been to are very excited about what we got going on at their Camp!

I think it is a good time to talk about the upcoming elections that will happen at our District Conventions. They are not that far away!

District C will need to elect a new Vice President to the Camp. Lion Carey is wrapping up his second term in that position. Per the Constitution the term limits are two terms of two years each.

District D will either need to re-elect Lion Thois Masters to another term or elect a new VP.

District F will either need to re-elect Lion Helen Troha to another term or elect a new VP.

These are very important positions and play a big role in whether your Camp is successful or not. Please get this process out in front of your respective Districts and ensure it gets the attention it deserves. The requirements for the position (from the Constitution) follow:

SECTION 4. A candidate for Vice-President shall be a Lion or Lioness in good standing and shall be elected from within each Sub-District in the same manner as the District Governor. Each Vice-President must have served at least one full term as a Regular Director/Officer or as a Region/Zone Chairman and Associate Director of the Corporation. Each Vice-President will be elected for a two-year term and will be eligible to succeed himself/herself for one additional consecutive term. Only three Vice Presidents shall be elected each year on a rotating basis.

**DISTRICTS A, B, & E- 1st rotation
C, D, & F- 2nd rotation**

Also Districts C and D will need to either re-elect their current Trustees to the Camp or elect their replacements. District C's Trustee is currently Lion Jim Lapham and District D's Trustee is Lion Joe Hirsch. The requirements for the position (from the Constitution) follow:

SECTION 4. A Candidate for Trustee shall be a Lion or Lioness in good standing. Each Trustee must have shown an interest in, and actively supported the Camp. The Trustees shall be elected from within each Sub-District in the same manner as the District Governor. (Rev. 6/9/6) Each Trustee will be elected for a three-year term with two of the Trustees terms to expire each year. The Immediate Past President shall be Chairman unless unable to serve, then the Trustees shall elect a Chairman from their own members.

So we are starting to pick back up. It is exciting to get back into the mix with Camp activity.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frank Spinney

President, Georgia Lions Camp for the Blind, Inc.

As always – Thank you for all you do for our Camp and those “We Serve”. I’ ll see you soon.

Take Care and God Bless!

Frank

* * * * *

John Deere Gator Compact CX Series

**Ideal for turf, property tasks, and easily fits in tight spaces. You could win this Gator or \$5,000 Cash. Drawing to be held on February 5-6, 2011 at Warner Robins, GA. You do not have to be present to win. Funds from this raffle will help send blind children to camp and benefit. The Georgia Lions Camp for the Blind, Inc. in Waycross, GA. The Georgia Lions Camp for the Blind, Inc. is a 501(c)3 corporation. Must be 18 years of age or older to purchase a ticket. Contact any Georgia Lion for tickets. The GA Lions Camp for the Blind. www.gacftb.org
A MAJOR SERVICE PROJECT OF THE LIONS OF GEORGIA, MULTIPLE DISTRICT 18.**



Leader Dog Chair Lion Diane Wall
liondianewall@bellsouth.net

Annette & Dixie



Retirement.

For Leader Dog Dixie this word means enjoying long naps on the porch. For Annette Bateman, Dixie's retirement meant saying goodbye to a trusted companion of ten years—her first Leader Dog, her 24/7 best friend.

"Dixie changed my life," Annette says with fervor. As a matter of fact, Dixie saved her life.

The friendship began when Annette traveled from her Texas home to Leader Dogs for the Blind. She was a shy 19 year-old girl who relied on sighted friends and a cane to navigate, though she didn't find canes very trustworthy. "Canes don't tell you when there's a car coming your way," she says. But Leader Dogs do.

Once, a car backing down a driveway nearly struck Annette. "The driver didn't look. And Dixie took me back four gigantic steps. Had she not done that I probably would have been hurt, or maybe even worse."

Annette credits Dixie with increasing her independence and confidence. "I just had my little group of friends that I hung out with, but once Dixie came along, it changed my life. People approach you. They want to talk to you, to ask you questions about your dog," Annette says. "That broke me out of my shell."

Dixie was at Annette's side when she returned to college to work on a teaching degree, and soon after Annette realized that Dixie might be ready for a change. "She was starting to slow down a bit, but she'd still do her job," Annette says, thinking back. But an observant, dog-loving instructor noticed other things. "She asked me, 'Do you think the floors too hard for Dixie, 'cause I notice she moves a lot.' The next day when I went to class, there was a blanket by my chair for Dixie to sleep on."

Retiring Dixie, her best friend, was hard for Annette, especially knowing that her home was not big enough for both Dixie and a new Leader Dog. Luckily, she had two good friends who opened their hearts and their home to Dixie. Knowing that Dixie is well taken care of and has other dogs to play with helps to ease Annette's loss. Dixie's new family lives nearby so Annette can visit her and maintain the friendship that has been an important part of both their lives.

Annette will always treasure Dixie, as she treasures those whose donations helped give her the confidence she enjoys today.

"I really would like to thank everyone for their help and donations," she offers, "because without them, Leader Dog wouldn't be possible. Leader Dog wouldn't be here; these dogs wouldn't be able to be trained; and this helps not only me, but thousands of other individuals that come to get dogs for their independence."

This is especially important to Annette as she returns to Leader Dog to receive her second dog. However, this time she goes not as a shy 19 year-old girl, but as a confident, self-sufficient woman—a wife, a mother, a student.

For over 70 years Leader Dog has assisted people in taking charge of their own lives. Please donate today to provide people like Annette with Leader Dogs throughout their lifetime, ensuring that "retirement" doesn't mean the end of independence.

Lion Diane Wall

With deep appreciation,

Annette Bateman

Dear Leader Dog,



August and I are doing fine. We already made a short trip out of the city and it went well. He is a great Dear Leader Dog, dog and he is also becoming famous! At work we did an interview that was published in the paper. We also participated in a video and in a talk for the new employees. August has done a really good job at adopting himself to my life. Please send my greetings to all the Leader Dog staff including the resident advisors, the instructors of team 1 and the kitchen staff.

Thanks for everything.



Our 2010 holiday card, featuring a Labrador retriever named Blackjack, is on sale at leaderdog.org/holidaycards for \$22 per 20 card/22 envelope box.

All proceeds benefit Leader Dogs for the Blind

Thank you to Avanti Press, Inc. of Detroit for donating the card design and production.

[Buy your holiday cards today »](#)



When Pam PARKER was diagnosed with a rare case of juvenile macular degeneration



at age ten, she didn't let it stop her from becoming a powerful little dynamo of a cheerleader. Cheerleading became Pam's passion, and she pursued it to the top by scoring a position as a professional cheerleader for the World Football League's Birmingham Vulcans. She turned down an offer from the Miami Dolphins to pursue another dream: starting a family. Three grown boys and three grandchildren later, she has no regrets. But the road from there to here wasn't without pitfalls, as her vision progressively deteriorated.

Pam recently shared a vivid memory of discrimination: Misinformed childhood teachers refused to teach her, simply because she was visually impaired. But today, Pam's face brightens as she shares her plans to visit schools with her new guide, Avery. She wants to educate children and help them get comfortable with people who have disabilities. She and Avery have already planned their first speaking engagement at her granddaughter's school back in Alabama.

"I remember being little and being afraid of someone in a wheelchair," she explains. "Parents don't seem to think about it or talk about it unless they are personally affected. My kids grew up with it and are better for it. They are helpful, understanding, and compassionate."

Pam also plans to volunteer at St. Jude's hospital in Memphis, taking Avery to cheer up children with serious illnesses. Longing to be able to travel independently, Pam is hoping to take a spring trip to Orange Beach, Alabama. "I can't wait to take Avery to the beach!" Go for it all, Pam. We're cheering you on!



From the desk of State RFB&D
Chair Lion Fred Smith
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NASA Internship Opportunities for

Summer 2011

For Students Pursuing Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Careers



NASA is offering internships for college students (rising freshmen through doctoral) who are pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM).

Internships will run at NASA locations nationwide for ten weeks from May 31 through August 5, 2011. If you have a GPA of at least 2.8 and are working toward a degree in STEM fields, a NASA internship extends a great opportunity to enhance your education and potentially launch your career.

Apply now through **February 1, 2011**. [Read the prerequisites and requirements and complete an online application.](#) [View this flyer \(PDF format\) showing an example of internship activities \(Download a free version of Adobe Reader\)](#)

Q: What are the prerequisites/requirements - age/grade limit, GPA, etc.?

A: Students must be accepted as freshmen at an accredited institution of higher learning, i.e., a college or university at the time of the internship. This is what we call a rising freshman. We have internships for rising freshmen through doctoral students in STEM fields. A minimum GPA of 2.8 is required to apply; however, applicants must understand that the competition for internships is keen. The age limits for interns are eighteen years and up.

Q: What is the location (demographic) of the internship?

A: Internships are available at all NASA centers nationwide. Students can select a particular center by applying for an opportunity or opportunities at said center. For example, an opportunity having to do with the Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO) will be at Goddard in Maryland because SDO is here. If students simply apply without choosing any opportunity, their applications will be available for mentors to view at all NASA centers nationally. However, not applying to any opportunities may result in no mentors even looking at their applications because they will not have asked anyone to by not specifying specific internships.

Q: What is the time period of the internship?

A: Internships run for ten weeks from May 31, 2011, through August 5, 2011.



Judy Stamsen CCI Chair
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Dogs, Doctorates, and ...

Don has a lot to be thankful for, not the least of which is the independence that his Service Dogs from Canine Companions have helped create for him.

Expo was Don Weller's first assistance dog.

"Expo went to college, graduate school and off to complete a clinical internship program with me," Don explains.

"Expo gave me confidence and helped me to be independent in the dorm. But, more than that, he helped me see that I could be independent on my own. I realized that if I could take care of Expo, then I could take care of myself," says Don.

Now, Don has his second Canine Companions for Independence assistance dog, Luna.

With Luna by his side, Don received his doctorate, got married and settled into a good personal and professional routine as a licensed psychologist.

Don has three different places where he works and Luna is always by his side. Whether working at the College Internship Program which provides post-secondary support to individuals on the autism spectrum, his private psychology practice supporting children and families, or the community correction center where he works with individuals identified with chronic mental health issues.

"The individuals I work with seem to experience a different level of comfort and acceptance from Luna than I, or anyone else, can give. I too find myself being calmer to care for her and because she is by me," Don continues.

Having a Canine Companions for Independence service dog by Don's side through the years has supported his personal and professional development as a confident and independent individual.

"I'm proud everyday that Canine Companions entrusted me with the care of this exceptional dog. And I'm proud to be an ambassador for Canine Companions for Independence and people with assistance dogs when I'm out with Luna," Don says.





Lion Kathryn Higgins
 Diabetes Awareness Chair
Klhiggins07@windstream.net

NATIONAL DIABETES EDUCATION PROGRAM

Tips to Help You Stay Healthy



There are many good reasons to take action to manage your diabetes.

- Each day you are likely to feel good and have more energy.
- In the future, you are likely to stay healthy and prevent or delay problems that can involve your heart, blood vessels, eyes, kidneys, and nerves.

Step 1:

LEARN ABOUT DIABETES

Follow this four-step action plan. It will help you live a long and healthy life.

Diabetes means that your blood glucose is too high. Glucose comes from the food we eat. An organ called the pancreas (PAN-kree-as) makes insulin (IN-suh-lin). Insulin helps glucose get from your blood into your cells. Cells take the glucose and turn it into energy.

In type 1 diabetes, the pancreas does not make any insulin. In type 2 diabetes, the body does not make enough insulin or use it very well. As a result, glucose builds up in your blood and cannot get into your cells. If the blood glucose stays too high, it can damage your body. Adults most often get type 2 diabetes. Gestational (jes-TAY-shon-al) diabetes occurs when a woman is pregnant. Having it raises the mother's and her child's risk for getting diabetes, mostly type 2, for the rest of their lives.

Step 2:

KNOW YOUR DIABETES ABC's

- A1C measures your average blood glucose level over the past three months.
- High **B**lood pressure (BP) makes your heart work too hard.
- LDL, or bad Cholesterol, builds up and clogs your arteries. HDL, or good cholesterol, helps remove cholesterol from your blood vessels.

Test	Goal*	Check How Often?
A1C	below 7	Twice a year
BP	130/80	Each doctor's visit
Cholesterol	LDL below 100 HDL above 40	At least once a year

*For most people with diabetes

Step 3:

MANAGE YOUR DIABETES

- **Know your ABC's** and blood glucose targets. Learn how and when to test your blood glucose, and how to use the results to manage your diabetes.
- **Ask for a diabetes meal plan** to help you choose healthy foods.

Healthy food choices include:

- fruits, vegetables, fish, lean meats and poultry, dry peas or beans, and low-fat or skim milk and cheese.
- whole grain foods — whole wheat bread and crackers, oatmeal, brown rice, and cereals.

Avoid foods that have a lot of sugar, salt, and fat.

Eat smaller portions of meat, fish and poultry, and larger portions of fruits and vegetables.

- **Get 30 to 60 minutes of physical activity**, such as brisk walking, on most days of the week.
- **Seek help if you feel down.** You may feel better if you talk with a mental health counselor, friend, or a support group, clergy, or family member.
- **Stop smoking** — seek help to quit.
- **Take your medicines** even when you feel good. Ask if you need to take a low-dose aspirin to prevent a heart attack or stroke.
- **Check your feet every day.** Call your health care team if a cut, sore, blister, or bruise on your feet or toes does not begin to heal after one day.
- **Brush your teeth and floss every day** to avoid problems with your mouth, teeth, or gums.
- **Report any changes in your eyesight** to your doctor.

Step 4:

GET REGULAR CARE

Avoid problems by seeing your health care team at least twice a year to:

- Get your ABC tests, other exams, and yearly flu shot.
- Have your blood pressure, weight, and feet checked.
- Review your record of blood glucose self tests, your ABC numbers, and your action plan.

If you have Medicare, ask what diabetes services are covered. To learn more go to: www.medicare.gov.



**"The Power of Peace"
2009-10 Grand Prize
Winner**

Yu-Min Chen, a 13-year-old girl from Multiple District 300 Taiwan

FOR THE LEOs (AND LIONS) WHO THINK SCHOOL IS HARD TODAY... This was part of an 8th grade Final Exam from 1895:



U.S. HISTORY (Time: 45 minutes)

1. Give the epochs into which U.S. History is divided.
2. Give an account of the discovery of America by Columbus.
3. Relates the causes and results of the Revolutionary War.
4. Show the territorial growth of the United States.
5. Tell what you can of the history of Georgia.
6. Describe three of the most prominent battles of the Rebellion.
7. Who were the following: Morse, Whitney, Fulton, Bell, Lincoln, Penn, Howe?
8. Name events connected with the following dates: 1607, 1620, 1800, 1849, and 1865.



Connect with Us Online

- Facebook - facebook.com/leoclubs & facebook.com/lionsclubs
- Leo Zone - lionsclubs.org click: Member Center/Planning Projects/ Youth/ Leo Zone

How Lions Clubs Can Help

Your club can organize and implement a successful children's service project in your community. The **Lions Children First Program Kit (KITCF)** includes materials and resources to implement successful Lions Children First projects.

Lions Children First Program Kit (KITCF):

- [Materials Order Form \(IAD 251\)](#)
- [Activity Guide \(IAD 252\)](#)
- [Program Brochure \(IAD 253\)](#)
- [Community Poster features photo of small girl at mealtime \(IAD 254A\)](#)
- [Community Poster depicts child in need of shoes and clothing \(IAD 254B\)](#)
- [Certificate of Appreciation \(IAD 255\)](#)
- [Sample News Release \(IAD 256\)](#)
- [25 Project Ideas to Serve Children \(IAD 257\)](#)

In addition, Lions may also download the following **project idea sheets**:

- [Organize a Food Drive to Alleviate Hunger \(IAD 258\)](#)
 - [Get involved in "Relieving the Hunger" - Global Service Action Campaign for December and January!](#)
- [Organize a Children's Clothing Drive \(IAD 259\)](#)
- [Collect Suitcases for Foster Care Children \(IAD 260\)](#)
- [Organize a Hearing Screening for Preschool and School Age Children \(IAD 261\)](#)

To place an order for the Lions Children First Program Kit please [contact us](#).



SERVICE LEARNING for LEOs, YOUTH, and CHILDREN (and these will help adults as well)

*** How is Service-Learning different from community service, internships, and cooperative education?

- 1) Service-learning uses community service as the vehicle for the attainment of students' academic goals and objectives
- 2) Community service fills a need in the community through volunteer efforts. Service-learning also fills that need, but it uses that need as a foundation to examine ourselves, our society, and our future.

Further, service-learning provides students with opportunities to use newly acquired skills and knowledge in real-life situations...

(Check back each month for the 411.)

* * * * *

101 THINGS TO SAY TO ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILDREN (AND COMPLIMENT ADULTS):

- Beautiful!
- I'm so proud of you!
- Very impressive!
- You're sharp!
- You're a winner!
- Hot Dog!
- Spectacular work!
- You're very kind!
- You're really growing up!
- What a great listener!
- Thanks for helping!

* * * * *

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.

* * * * *



Youths grow into solid citizens when they learn how to make responsible decisions, communicate effectively and avoid drugs. That's where Lions Quest fits in. Lions Quest is a schools-based life-skills program for children from kindergarten to 12th grade. The program has drawn rave reviews from educators and high ratings from government agencies. Lions Quest programs meet all 10 guidelines for effective prevention programs issued by the U.S. Department of Education. Studies have shown improved achievement test scores; change in knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs regarding substance abuse and violence; lower rates of disciplinary problems; lower risk of dropping out of school; as well as decreased use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. Lions originally partnered with Quest International to nurture youth in 1984. LCIF acquired the rights to Lions Quest in 2002 to increase the program's reach and offer greater support and visibility for the Lions who work with their local schools and communities on the program. Lions Quest is currently active in 24 countries, in 20 languages, and continues to grow in North America.

* * * * *

Young Ambassador – “The time is now to start looking for potential Young Ambassadors! Contact your schools, Churches, and Leo clubs for outstanding High School Seniors who might be interested in competing. *“Being a Young Ambassador in 2011 - A Beacon of Hope.”*”

* * * * *

Lions Children First Program

Lions Children First provides suggestions for hands-on service projects in three key areas:

Food/shelter: to ensure that children have safe and healthy places in which to live and receive adequate nutrition to fight off illness and develop healthy minds and bodies. Club projects can include:

- Organize a monthly food drive for the neighborhood food pantry.
- Volunteer at a homeless shelter or orphanage.
- Assist with a school lunch program.

Health: to provide children in need with adequate health care, to ensure their future growth and development. Club projects can include:

- Work with healthcare professionals to provide free hearing or dental screenings.
- Volunteer at camps for children with special needs.
- Collect soft toys for a children’s hospice or hospital.

Education/Literacy: to ensure that children receive their right to education. Education transforms lives and breaks the cycle of poverty. Club projects can include:

- Supply Braille or large print books for children who are blind or visually impaired.
- Develop a reading program or “story day” for pre-school and elementary grade school children.
- Team up with a youth organization to mentor at-risk youth.

Program Resources

Lions Children First can help your club to organize service projects that will benefit children in need, while providing rewarding experiences for your members. Program resources include:

- Activity Guide
- 25 Project Ideas to Serve Children
- Project Idea Sheets
- Community Poster
- Certificate of Appreciation
- Sample News Release
- Materials Order Form



Liberty Day is for ALL

INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERING

With its wide array of exciting programs and initiatives, Liberty Day doesn't just partner with organizations; oftentimes, Liberty Day projects take place because an individual—an attorney general, a mayor, a parent—took it upon him- or herself to make a difference in the lives of kids.



The beauty of Liberty Day's Individual Volunteering project is simple: grade school-aged kids normally don't experience visits from outside speakers. When an attorney, elected official, community member, or anyone else takes the time to talk to the kids, it adds value to the learning experience and really underscores for the kids the importance of the documents they're learning about.



When a guest speaker instructs children, it's not only teachers telling them about something from 230 years ago—it's someone else who cares enough to come in and teach. Want to open up the hearts and minds of young people to what it

means to be an American? Talk to them about your own passion and pride.

Lion Heather Hulsebus
Liberty Day Chair
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Improving Local Communities and the World

Bayport-Blue Point Community Lions Club's [BLUE POINT BAYPORT, NEW YORK](#) Lions Club Helps Provide Service Dogs for Military Veterans

About VetDogs

To help those who have served our country honorably live with dignity and independence.

America's VetDogs® – The Veteran's K-9 Corps® is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization founded by the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind and serves the needs of disabled veterans and active duty personnel. Since 1946, the Guide Dog Foundation has provided guide dogs and training at no cost to people who are blind or visually impaired, including veterans.

In 2003, the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind recognized the need for an overall assistance dog program for veterans that would incorporate guide dogs, service dogs, and state-of-the-art mobility devices – especially as our nation's veteran's age and as our country's wounded warriors return home from active conflicts aboard.

America's VetDogs was created and incorporated to give veterans easy access to the best services possible to improve their lives.

We have worked hard to build cooperative relationships with the military and the Department of Veterans Affairs, and today, we are the premier organization providing assistance dogs and training to disabled veterans and active service members. We set the standard by which the military and the VA measure assistance dog schools. We continually strive to increase the options and services for veterans to ensure that they receive all the tools they need to once again be self-reliant.

Our dogs have touched thousands of lives – from disabled veterans, to service members deployed overseas, to their families.

We have been honored with the Secretary of the Army Public Service Award, the second-highest level award given to civilians “for exceptional service that makes a substantial contribution to the accomplishment of the Army's missions.”



America's VetDogs is our way of honoring the sacrifice made by our men and women in uniform, and our dedication to America's veterans is stronger today than ever before. We will do our part to see that a guide or service dog will help a veteran live independently again.

All of our services are provided at no cost to veterans, the military or active duty personnel. America's VetDogs relies on voluntary public contributions to fund its efforts.

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