



70 Years of Lion Service hmm how can this be? Read pages 22 and 23

SPECIAL NOTE: Beep Ball National Championships will be in Smyrna in mid-June – Volunteers will be needed.

A must watch for Lions = <u>http://www.charlierose.com/watch/60378567</u>

Inform a WWII Vet on the feelings of the Okinawan people – see page 14

 PLEASE – Presidents/Secretaries = send in the name of your Club and the Name and Email address
 only of all club members who have DSL so we can send the StateMag to each of those members. Send to edmclionh@bellsouth.net or lionga@bellsouth.net



Council received reports or comments as follows:

PAST INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT – LION JAMES E. "JIM" ERVIN:

The State will be hosting an International Board meeting in Savannah. Dr. Yamada will be coming to Georgia in March of 2016 for another review of the facilities. Georgia Lions will have a responsibility to host one night. Funds will be needed for this project.

INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR - LION KEMBRA SMITH:

ID Smith stated it was a true honor to represent the Lions of Georgia on the International Board and to be functioning with the other members.

ID Smith brought news from the Board Meeting in Arizona. One of the items pertained to the 2020 Convention Bid. There are ten locations, other than Atlanta, who are submitting bids for this convention: Boston, Calgary, Detroit, Johannesburg, Louisville, Melbourne Australia, Milwaukee, Singapore, and St. Louis. This will be voted on in April, so there should be a decision by the State Convention.

ID Smith stated that she is serving on the Constitution and By-Laws Committee. None of the work gets done at the Board Meeting; it is all done in Committee. The Committee has made three resolution recommendations which were all adopted by the Board and you will see these in the next Executive Summary in the Lions Magazine, and one of those is that the 3rd International Vice President position would be reinstated. Another resolution regarding Board representation and area 1 will be losing representation and there will be more representation out of areas 5 and 6, which are basically Asia and Southeast Asia.

One of the things that came up in the Finance Committee discussions is that office expenses for the District Governor will be eliminated next summer, but mileage will be increased.

The grant was approved for the Lighthouse. Also the Board approved a Faculty Development Institute for North America. The Centennial Planning Committee is no longer the Planning Committee but the Action Committee. Grant money up to \$1500.00 will be available per district.

ID Smith discussed the Join Together Program. This program is an incentive to get Lions Clubs in non-profits, and the Georgia Lions Lighthouse is a leader in that. There is a directive now from LCI to try to get Lions Clubs set up where there are people interested in doing service. There will be extended billing periods for Campus Clubs; bills normally go out when students are not at the school, so this will change with the extended period.

The Lions Magazine will eventually be going digital in 2018.

For incoming First Vice District Governors there is a new position that will be created regarding the Reading Action Program and Multiple Districts and sub-districts are encouraged to appoint someone to serve as a chair for that.

ID Smith stated that the Parade and Plenary Sessions will be moved. The Parade will be moved to 9:00 AM instead of 10:00 AM. The Plenary Sessions will be moved to one hour earlier. Credentials will be allowed to be endorsed by any officer and not just the Secretary.

PAST INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR – HAYNES TOWNSEND:

PID Townsend stated that he had talked with PIP Jim Ervin who could not be present today due to hip replacement surgery several weeks ago. PIP Ervin is doing well, and sends his apologies at not being able to attend. He sends his best wishes and appreciates the job the Governors are doing on membership.

PID Townsend discussed the 2020 International Convention bid. He stated that though there are 10 different places bidding on the convention, he felt Georgia stands a good chance of being chosen. He stated that the Lions of Georgia are fortunate to have Kembra serving on the Board this year. She is doing an excellent job. He thanked Mark Miller for the work he is doing with the forum. He stated it was an honor to serve as Protocol Chair on the Forum.

PID Townsend stated that the International President has appointed him to serve on the Election Compliance Task Force. He stated that their purpose is to try to bring every election throughout the world into some kind of order. They are trying to come up with a standardized set of how we can do the elections. They hope to have a set plan by the end of this year.

PAST INTERNTIONAL DIRECTOR – DR. JOHN PEARCE:

PID Pearce stated it was a pleasure to be in attendance. He shared an observation with the council and told them to expect whatever may happen. He said he had told the Council he would be at the Friday evening meeting, however, when he arrived at the motel, from which he had confirmed reservations, the motel had been sold this week and the new owners did not know who he was. He apologized for not being able to attend the meeting last night.

REPORT OF STATE CONVENTION – LION BONNIE KELLY, DG 18-0:

DG Kelly stated that Georgia Taylor, Convention General Chair for the 2015 Tifton State Convention, could not be present today. She reported that the Convention Pin has been ordered; the Caterers have been contracted with and the entertainment has been decided. Council Chair Newby stated that the Convention Committee is still working with Jekyll Island to try to get the costs down so that it won't be so expensive. He stated he has not heard anything further from the Atlanta Peachtree Lions Club concerning an Atlanta area convention. CC Newby encouraged anyone interested in pursuing a convention for the Lions of Georgia to get preliminary information and submit it to the State Convention Committee for their investigation. He pointed out that the State Convention Committee has worked diligently to come up with Convention sites.

REPORT OF INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CHAIR – LION CHIP NEDZA, DG 18-N:

DG Nedza pointed out that the Southeastern Breakfast will be hosted by Florida this year, and he is still waiting on further information about this event.

The Jamboree will be held on Sunday, June 28th, from 6:00 to 10:00 PM. This will be held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village, which is where the DGE will attend their school. There were close to 800 persons in attendance at last year's event, and he hopes to make it 900 this year.

You can get full details on the International Convention in Hawaii and submit your application on line by going to = <u>http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/news-and-events/international-</u> <u>convention/index.php</u>

2020 Atlanta International Convention Bid:

PCC Richard Brown could not be present for this meeting. He sent an email as follows, concerning the Bid for the 2020 Convention.

I would like to pass along to you that the Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau is diligently working on finalizing our (their) proposal to host the 2020 Convention. That proposal will be submitted to the LCI staff by the deadline (November 15th). After that the International Board will make a determination by next Spring's International Board meeting in April 2015. As we approach that date, the video presentation (including President Carter's clip) will be sent to each Board member for their consideration. The ACVB is meeting all of the requirements set forth in the proposal established by LCI and I will be most happy to forward a copy to the COG by your next meeting. I'm not in a position to do that at this time, however, except to insure you that we will meet all requirements.

REPORT OF MD 18 LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIR – LION PDG MARK RICE:

PDG Mark Rice presented a printed report, as follows: The Long Range Planning Committee has been busy preparing and distributing the survey that was sent out to the Lions of Georgia in October. The results are still being tabulated and will be sent to CC Olin for distribution in November. We have had approximately 150 responses so far to the survey. The Committee would ask all of the District Governors to please encourage all of the clubs in their respective districts to complete the survey as soon as possible. The Committee stands ready to assist with anything the Council needs assistance with. Please let me know how we may be of assistance.

REPORT OF MD 18 LEO CHAIR – LION STEVE HELWIG: Report on page 29.

REPORT OF STATE MAGAZINE EDITOR AND MD 18 LCIF CHAIR – LION ED HASHBARGER, PDG:

PDG Hashbarger distributed copies of the latest Magazine. DG Andrews asked if there was a possibility that the magazine could go all digital. PDG Hashbarger stated that only one copy (black and white) is mailed to each club secretary, since not all of the elderly Lions have access to the internet. DG Kelly stated that she felt it was a good idea, because she still had club presidents and secretaries who do not use the internet.

He discussed the fact that clubs who have Facebook pages or web pages should keep them current. He stated it is an embarrassment to see pages that have not been updated for several years.

He distributed a listing of donations of clubs in each District. He pointed out that there is no reason why a club cannot give \$25.00 to each of the four Georgia Lions initiatives: Lighthouse, Camp, LCIF, and Leader Dogs. He asked each Governor to encourage donations to all.

REPORT OF STATE LION TAMER AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CHAIR – LION RICK MIZELL, PDG:

last year are available for sale. PDG Mizell pointed out that his job may have him working out of State during the time of the District Conventions. He stated that if he cannot be available for a Convention, maybe they could find someone to take the store and handle sales. This could be someone from the State Uniform Committee or an individual from the District involved.

As Technology Chair, PDG Mizell stated that sometimes a Lion will start a web page or Face Book page and expect someone to take it over after they leave a position. This is why some are outdated. On the galions.org, that domain registration was extended for another five years. If you let the registration lapse, someone can come in and buy that registration and then extort.

He asked Governors to remind their clubs that they should keep all their information current with LCI, since he gets information on officers and clubs from the website for the directory.

REPORT OF MD 18 CENTENNIAL CHAIR – LION PDG CATHY THREATT:

Lion Threatt stated that information is available now and some things are already in place. She called on Governors to encourage their clubs to participate in the Global Service Action Campaign and to report their qualifying projects on the website for credit. As more information on the Centennial is available, PDG Threatt will distribute it to the Governors to put in their bulletins and also on the State website.

REPORT OF STATE HISTORIAN – LION CHIP NEDZA:

DG Nedza called attention to a printed report in each file: Much of the success of Lionism in Georgia is due to the stimulus provided by competition for Awards donated by various individuals and clubs. This history began in 1936 and was known as Cup Awards, these were awarded for first place only. The Sponsoring club would bear the cost of engraving the winner's name and year on the Cup. The winning Club would hold on to the Cup for the year then engrave the next winner's name and year on the Cup. Second place winners were given the Shield Awards in 1955. The Cup and Shield Awards were replaced with Plaque Awards in 1976. The Plaque Awards were replaced in 1977 with the Awards as we have today. A listing of all 36 Awards and their winners from 1977 to 2014 has been emailed to all Council Members. If anyone else would like to have an email copy, please contact the State Historian or the State Office.

Old Business:

A. Georgia Towels. CC Newby stated that he should have some information on the new towels available shortly and will get this out to the Governors when received.

B. State Pins. The Pins have been ordered and should be here in December.

C. Patches to recognize outstanding Clubs. CC Newby stated that he has heard from one District regarding the number needed. If any other District would like to order the patches to reward outstanding clubs in their District, please let him know the number, and he will see that they are ordered.

New Business:

A. Available Leo Awards. Each folder contained a listing of available Leo Awards. Lion Steve Helwig stated that he and Chris Sumner would be meeting this weekend. Council deferred action on this listing of Awards until a later date.

B. Diabetes Expo. DG Hubbard, 18-I, encouraged Governors to check out the Diabetes Expo information in the State Magazine. This is scheduled for November 22nd.



Garner Andrews

Ball Ground Lions Club



WHERE THERE IS A NEED, THERE IS A LION !!!

Along with the anniversary milestone celebration, we also held an open house and ribbon cutting for our new clubhouse, We will have our meetings at the new clubhouse as well as a variety of community events such as vision screenings, CPR/AED training and blood drives. One of the most exciting things that has developed since working with the City of Ball Ground on the clubhouse is we are now working with them, the Ball Ground Volunteer Fire Department and the American Red Cross on developing a disaster relief shelter for our community.

Thank you all for taking time out of your busy schedules to celebrate these important events with us! Please visit often now that you know where we are located!!

Below are some of the things the Ball Ground Lions Club does within the community – you can try and match what the statements to the pictures – have fun and GREAT JOB Ball Ground Lions Club.

We partner often with Ball Ground Volunteer Fire Department on many projects...late last year we had the pleasure of presenting Chief Robert Dobbs with a check to help with their purchase of a thermal imaging camera. If you aren't familiar with the TICs, please research them and you too will see just how important they are for our firefighters to have. One camera can cost as much as \$10,000 so our small donation didn't do much but we hope to continue fundraising for another camera. If one life is saved, the cost doesn't matter. Also the VFD has a wonderful demonstration showing just how the cameras work....in a smoke filled room with the camera the firefighter can see objects and people very clearly. Truly a life saving necessity!

Angelo, Dan Adamson's alert animal angel! This is one of the things we do....just one!! Lions sorting and boxing food and household goods for the holidays. We also collected blankets and included them in the boxes. Our first summer camper!! He loved all the activities... A labor of love!! Giving back to the Community. All hands on deck!! — at Ball Ground Community Cemetery. Helping Santa makes our hearts smile!

Oh how true this motto is...and yesterday at the community cemetery there were 14 very busy Lions!! Thank you all for coming out in the early morning cold and getting a much needed job done! The cemetery looks manicured and should weather winter well. Thank you all again for the hard work and thank you Kathy Day for being such a good friend to Ball Ground and the Ball Ground Lions Club!!

President Nancy Madden welcomes everyone before cutting the ribbon! — at Ball Ground Lions Club clubhouse. Almost finished....need to get it covered before too many folks see it before the dedication ceremony! Honoring an American Hero - Mr. and Mrs. Edmondson anticipating!

Flags for Ball Ground!! A city with American Flags flying just says so much about the community..... Georgia National Cemetery, Canton, GA....beautiful Wreaths Across America





LaVista Lions Club

Since 1953, the La Vista Lions Club has supported numerous organizations in Georgia that provide essential services to individuals with vision and hearing impairments. In its most recent history, the La Vista Lions Club has dedicated its time and resources in support of the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation, which provides hearing tests, hearing aids, vision tests, eye glasses, and eye surgeries for Georgia residents in need. Plus, the La Vista Lions Club sponsors activities for children with vision and hearing impairments including the Georgia Lions Camp for the Blind and the Mike Glenn Hearing Impaired Basketball Camp.

Lion members help/support/work/donate etc towards = Lions Camp for the Blind, continues to be very active collecting eyeglasses for the Lighthouse, continues outstanding work at our Partner in Education, Sagamore Hills Elementary, they are now the sponsor for Lakeside High School National Honor Society and began by contributing \$250 to the NHS and will fill other needs as they occur, sell brooms an mops at selected Lakeside functions on a co-op basis, we also have a residential gardener who harvested 46 pounds of sweet potatoes from our garden and given to a local food bank and has replanted the garden with brussel sprouts, cabbage and collards which will be donated to the food bank when harvested. They participate in a yard sale at Valley Brook Baptist Church (our regular meeting place) and build wheelchair ramps for the disabled. They sale Pecans and have pancakes, sausage patties, fruit bowl, grits, coffee and juice, mops and brooms are available for purchase. They also hold their club's annual shrimp feast held at the Clairmont Hills Baptist Church hall and also has an annual awards banquet to honor DeKalb County's Fireman of the Year. These are just a few things the LaVista Lions do.

But what has been spectacular this Lions year was the Veterans Day Celebration and New Members Program. Speaker was Command Sergeant Major Gretchen G. Evans (Retired) US Army. She had an amazing career starting out in the Intelligence Field after basic training – attended Counterintelligence Training, basic Airborne and Advance Airborne training, of course stationed in different areas – directly involved in the pursuit and subsequent release of General Dozier from kidnappers all the way to deployment to the Middle East and Afghanistan and earned numerous medals to include the Bronze Star. She also was selected by than Governor Mike Huckabee to head up his drug interdiction program to help rid the state of Arkansas of meth labs. A well round Intell career she now lives in Decatur with her husband Captain Robert Evans, US Navy Chaplain (Retired).

Pictured – Retired Colonel Bob Lansdell awards for his years of service, Submarine Veteran Charlie Amason, European/Pacific Service Ribbons from 2 veterans, war memorabilia from Pacific and Europe, LaVista Lions Club community/service activities and awards. Pictures of Don Smith – Marine Corps vet and Captain Robert Evans and Sergeant Major Gretchen Evans.





Columbus Lions Club

Speakers are scheduled for the Columbus Lions Club Tuesday luncheons at St. Luke Methodist Church Ministry Center during Dates Listed Below. Visitors interested in learning more about the Lions and potentially applying for membership are invited to join us for a good meal, good programs and good fellowship. 2nd and 4th Tuesday, 11:45 AM - St. Luke United Methodist Church Ministry Center 301 11th Street Columbus, GA



The Board will meet on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 12:00 Noon at the St. Luke Methodist Church Ministry Center.



Columbus—Conducted a very successful broom & mop sale at a local fresh produce store called Marvin's Market. A locally owned and very popular business, they were very welcoming to us. This was our first time selling at this location, and we appreciated their support of our fundraising efforts. Lion Val Valenzuela recently transferred to our club from Columbus Muscogee.



President Joe Lacy presents Lion Angie Hollis with a Melvin Jones Fellowship



Dr. David Peed receiving the 2014 Vision Volunteer of the Year Award for his work providing eye exams and care to patients of the vision clinic supported by Columbus Lions Club

Lion Heather Hammond takes instruction from club pro at the International Blind Golf Tournament



Lions bring Christmas cheer to Hamilton House Nursing Home residents





Lions Heather Hammond, Angie Hollis, Tim Hollis & Matthew Hollis enjoy Lions Night at Turner Field



Columbus Lions Club inducted a record FOUR new members. Pictured left to right as they receive their Lion pins from their



Vision Equipment Installation 0060

HELP THE LIONS RECYCLE FOR SIGHT - WE CAN UTILIZE EVERYTHING, NO MATTER THE CONDITION - DROP LOCATIONS FOR EYEGLASSES, CELL PHONES & HEARING AIDS

They have 18 locations presently as drop off points. The club also does their primary fund raising project since the 1920's has been the sale of brooms and mops.



Darien Lions Club = Provided vision services to needy individuals referred individual for a replacement eyeball prosthetic. Wainwright Foundation Concert. Assisted with the fund raising concert. Seven Lions worked selling tickets and dispensing beverages. Service on Better Hometown Board (Dec 2014) One Lion attends Monthly meetings and additional activities in conjunction with the Downtown Development Authority to improve the local community. Member inductions and award presentation. Two Lions visited a district Lions Club to induct 5 new Lions and present a Melvin Jones Fellowship. McIntosh County Family Connection – Volunteer board that assists children and families in need of services.

Two Lions participate in monthly board meetings. Sponsorship of boy scouts / girls scouts troops - Provide meeting facilities, support and charter for scouting programs. Empty Stocking Fund - Collection and distribution of toys for Christmas to needy families.

JEKYLL ISLAND = Salvation Army Bell Ringing (Dec 2014) A total of 86 Hours were logged on Jekyll to benefit the Salvation Army. An outstanding effort on our clubs behalf. Number of Lions: 24 Number of Lion Hours: 253 Number of People Served: 6919. Grand Total JEKYLL ISLAND. At our Christmas Party Lions and spouses enjoyed a great dinner, followed by the White Elephant gift exchange. Fun was had by all. Lions rang bell for the Salvation Army in front of the Local Wal-Mart.

POOLER = Literacy Program - assistance to school Volunteers read to kindergarten classes and individually tutored second graders. Hearing aids were collected for distribution at the Lighthouse. Number of Hearing Aids Collected: 50. A Christmas Tree Lighting - Candy was given out by the Pooler Lions Club at the Pooler Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. Pooler Elementary School - The Pooler Lions were invited to attend the Pooler PTA Meeting on Dec. 18th to present information about our activities in the community and enjoy the holiday concert.

WAYCROSS OKEFENOKEE = Salvation Army Red Kettle Bell Ringers - Ring bell for Salvation Army Kettle fund Raiser. Club House Management - Keeps club house available for club and community use. Acts as a fund raiser for club - Number of Lion Hours: 75 Number of People Served: 300 Funds Raised: 800. Meals to Elderly, transportation, and other assistance. Provided meals and assistance to elderly to help them maintain their independence. Number of Lion Hours: 110 Number of People Served: 100 Funds Donated: 60

Children's Christmas Party - Provide Christmas for children from families where there will be very little at Christmas due to family hardships. Number of Lions: 14 Number of Lion Hours: 55 Number of People Served: 41 Funds Donated: 1700 Funds Raised: 1550

Grand Total WAYCROSS OKEFENOKEE Number of Lions: 25 Number of Lion Hours: 260 Number of People Served: 541 Funds Donated: 1760 Funds Raised: 2350 Total Activities: 4

WAYNESBORO = Salvation Army kettle drive. CLUB MEMBERS PARTICIPATED IN KETTLE DRIVE 12/13/14 @ WAYNESBORO WALMART. Number of Lions: 4 Number of Lion Hours: 8







Membership = Now is the time for all good quality adults to be asked to join your Lions Club. <u>http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/member-center/membership-and-new-clubs/index.php</u>



Just imagine if every Lion, 1.35 million, asked one person to join their club... Now imagine how much more Lions could do and how many more people they could serve!

Members and clubs around the world are embracing the Ask One campaign and are well on their way to a successful year! In North Carolina, USA Susan Daily, the president of the McLeansville Lions Club, encouraged each member to ask one person to the club's monthly dinner meeting. Did it work? Absolutely!

Nine prospective members attended that evening, and six are returning for another meeting, with one already having filled out an application to join. Keep encouraging your members to invite a friend, neighbor or relative to attend your next meeting. Start today...and Ask One!



All it takes is asking one person...get started today!

Just Ask. Use the <u>Just Ask! Guide</u> to lead your club through the process of recruiting new members and effectively managing club growth.

Promote your next meeting. Spread the word about your club by using this <u>sample press release</u>. It can be quickly and easily customized to include your club's information.

Invitation Made Easy with the Family Membership Program

We understand that inviting others to join Lions can be a challenge. So, we've made it easy to invite those closest to you with the Family Membership Program. When you invite a family member in the same household, they pay only half international dues! Learn more about the Family Membership Program on the LCI website. Participating in the <u>Ask One</u> campaign just got easier! <u>http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/member-center/membership-and-new-clubs/invite-members/family-membership/index.php?utm_source=RealMagnet&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=5804%20Jan%202015%20Membership %20Pulse%20EN</u>

REPORT OF MD 18 GMT CHAIR - LION JANE PRICE, PDG:

All MD 18 districts are actively working on new club development and club re-building. One new campus club was formed during the first quarter in 180. Seven other new clubs are in the process of being formed: 2 in 18L, 2 in 18I, 2 in 18O, and 1 in 18N. The Georgia Gwinnett College campus club was chartered in October. Two new charter celebrations are coming up and I hope attendance will be good in support of these new clubs. The Georgia Gwinnett College campus club charter night is November 14th and the Bartow County Lions club charter night is November 15th.

Club re-building efforts are continuing in all districts. 18L reports 3 clubs that have been assigned Certified Guiding Lions to help with either rebuilding or internal issues. Two clubs in 18 N are also being provided assistance. Newly formed clubs in their first two years are carefully being provided assistance and monitoring to ensure their continued growth and success in Lionism.

The Global Membership team members are all providing training and resources as opportunities arise. The District Governor teams are all very supportive and actively involved with the GMT efforts.

Challenges continue to find willing Certified Guiding Lions to be assigned to new and struggling clubs. Another area mentioned in the quarterly reports from the district GMTs was continued frustration on the lack of communication from the zone chairs. Knowledge of the clubs' viability is crucial in the success of the GMT effort and we need to ascertain how we can improve this line of communication going forward. A few facts for MD 18: first quarter membership results

YTD Adds: 180 YTD Drops: -263 Net Loss: -83

Four Lions clubs were lost in the first quarter, but, remember, we have seven (7) currently in formation. If there is anything I can do to assist in the district GMT efforts, please let me know.

NEW!

Ask One buttons are now available! Click on the image to order your supply!



ASK 1 BUTTON 10/PACK S271

E-mail this product to a friend

As worn by IP Preston himself, this 2" wide by 1.5" high button with pin back fastener is a reminder to yourself and your fellow Lions to "Ask 1" person to join your club. Add to the level of service you can provide to your community and Strengthen the Pride! Sold in packages of 10.

Price: \$7.95

The Extension and Membership Division invites you to attend our free monthly webinars!

Webinars are recorded and posted on the LCI <u>website</u>. Below is the schedule of upcoming webinars.

Save the Date! Space is limited so register today!

Show Your Lions Pride with Awards and Recognition

Lions Clubs International offers many awards to recognize Lions, clubs and district for outstanding efforts. This webinar will review ways to earn recognition in areas of membership growth, years of service, member satisfaction and more!

Register 🔊

Thursday, 29 January 2015 3pm-4pm https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/707964718

CEP Results in New Members and More Service!

The results are in! The Club Excellence Process (CEP) is a big hit with Lions clubs. Last fiscal year alone, over 5,500 clubs participated in workshops, and they are sharing success stories about the difference CEP has made in their club.

Lion Ted Rypma, Secretary of the Paradise & District Lions Club in Canada commented that "consulting with the community and local leaders not only resulted in new service projects, but also resulted in four new Lions for our club. CEP helped us focus on renewing our commitment to service in the community."

New this year! Clubs that complete CEP will be recognized on the Find a Club section of the Lions Clubs International website with a virtual banner patch. Start the Club Excellence Process with your club today!

Invite New Members and be Recognized!

Inviting new members to join your club is an important part of keeping your club healthy. Our Membership Growth Awards recognize members and clubs for inviting new members in October and April.

• Members: Lions that sponsor a member in April, 2105 receive a silver pin, and Lions that sponsor a member in October, April, 2015 receive a silver and gold pin.

• Clubs: Clubs that add new members in October, April, 2015 receive a banner patch and fiscal year patch.



The Global Leadership Team (GLT) Webinar Tutorial – How to Be a Participant

Go to this web site: <u>http://lions.alkonhosting.com/EN/webinar/player.html</u>

Upon finishing this tutorial you will be able to register, log in and actively participate in a webinar

Webinar Description	Dates/Times
Because a Cape Would Get in the Way Become a Lions superhero! Presentation will guide Lions in discovering their superpowers, understanding their mission, considering the right tools, knowing their fatal weakness, and the importance of sidekicks. Join us for this fun and enriching perspective on Lionism. Intended Audience: All Lions	Register for a session: <u>Wednesday, 1/7/15,12:00pm CST</u> <u>Friday, 1/16/15,7:00pm, CST</u>
Project Management Effective project management is one of the foundations of a successful Lions club. Participants will learn the characteristics of effective project managers, review the five phases of service project management and enjoy a case study of a current successful Lions club project. Intended Audience: All Lions	Register for a session: <u>Wednesday, 2/4/15,12:00pm, CST</u> <u>Friday, 2/13/15, 7:00pm, CST</u>
Minding Your Members—Leading Strong Teams Develop confident and creative Lions teams through intuitive leadership that includes self-awareness, self-regulation, motivation, empathy and communication skills. Presentation offers practical scenarios in which Lions demonstrate best team leadership practices in everyday club situations. Intended Audience: All Lions	Register for a session: <u>Wednesday, 3/4/15,12:00pm, CST</u> <u>Friday, 3/13/15, 7:00pm, CDT</u>

Lion leaders from across the Southeast will convene in Eufaula, Alabama, March 12-15, 2015



WILL YOU REPRESENT YOUR CLUB?

Dear Lion Leader:

You are a valued member of the Lions Club International team. Because of your dedication to serving your community and the leadership you have provided to your club, you are invited to participate in the **Lions Leadership Institute of the South**, Eufaula, Alabama, March 12-15, 2015.

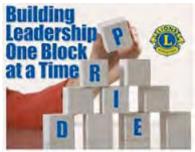
The meeting will be held at Lakepoint State Park Resort. Therefore, space is limited. Please reserve your spot by submitting the registration form in the next few weeks.

Lions Clubs International Provides Professional Leadership Training

Many corporations pay hundreds of dollars for their management team to receive training similar to that which will be provided at the **Lions Leadership Institute of the South**.

Topics to be presented include:

Working As A Team Value of Diversity Public Speaking Time Management Motivating Others Personal Mission Statement Setting and Reaching Goals Fundamentals of LIONS Clubs International



Cost: Registration \$95.00 (includes three breakfast, two lunch and two dinners) **Please Note that dinner on Thursday is on your own.**

Lake Point State Park and Resort has offered LIONS a special rate. Participants are encouraged to find another LION and share a room to reduce the total cost.

Links to the Agenda and Registration Form have been included below.

	STITUTE OF THE SOUTH - AGENDA
LIONS INSTITU	JTE OF THE SOUTH - REGISTRATION FORM
Li	ions Leadership Institute of the South Lakepoint State Park Resort Old Highway 164 Eufaula, AL 36072-0267 March 12 -15, 2015 Registration Form
Name	
Address	
Phone	E-mail Address
Lions Club	Position
Registration Fee = \$95.00/per person	Make checks payable to and mail to: Lions Leadership Institute of the South c/o CC Julia Pacheco 1400 Osceola Street Dothan, Alabama, 36303

REPORT OF SOUTHEAST AREA GLT COORDINATOR – LION MARK MILLER, PCC:

State you are attending the Lions Leadership Institute of the South, March 12 - 15, 2015 or give the

PCC Miller stated that since the first Council Meeting, they have completed the Zone Chairman Training and between the North Georgia Event and the South Georgia event, there were 78 participants. Also included in that is some Certified Guiding Lion Facilitator training. There is a webinar on December 8th, and Lions are encouraged to become a Certified Guiding Lion through an online testing situation. Two districts have already conducted Certified Guiding Lion Training this year.

PCC Miller pointed out that the first Vice District Governor training event has been completed at the Lighthouse in Atlanta. The second training will be April 10-12, and details on that will be forthcoming.

The Advanced Lions Leadership Institute deadline for registration is December 22nd. The application can be filled in at the LCI website. The Institute is scheduled for March 7-9 in Calgary.

Dynamic Club Workshops will be held in March and April. One will be held in each of the Districts.

PCC Miller discussed Officer Training School in each of the Districts. In 18-L the first VDG is responsible for the training, along with the GLT. He needs to know if this is the same model followed by the other districts. DG Hubbard, 18-I stated that their New Officer Training will be held at their last Cabinet Meeting, May 2nd. DG Kelly stated that 18-O holds theirs somewhere near the end of August. PCC Miller stated he would like to talk to them about developing, as a Lions University event, that it would be a full day event, possibly coordinating so that more than one district could attend that. A University could be offered for L and I in the north and O and N in the south.

He stated that there is some discussion about having a Lions Leadership Institute in South Carolina, June 4-7..

Group Number 2568

Editor's Note

Mentoring least we forget

Dear Lion:

Lions Clubs International would like to thank you for sponsoring Mike Mason and welcoming the new Lion to the ANY Lions Club. Your efforts and dedication to strengthening ANY Lions Club are fully recognized and greatly appreciated. Lions dream big, and in order to accomplish our dreams, we need new members to be active in their clubs.

As a Lion sponsor, you are responsible for helping Mike build a strong foundation as a Lion and for answering any questions that may arise. LCI has created the <u>Importance of Sponsorship Flyer</u> to provide you with more information about your role and responsibilities. If you are not the Lion sponsor for Mike, please notify LCI at <u>memberops@lionsclubs.org</u> immediately.

To help new Lions make the most of their club experience, we encourage them to participate in the <u>Lions Mentoring</u> <u>Program</u>. Please work with your club president to identify a mentor for Mike, which could be you or another seasoned Lion.

You have demonstrated that you understand how important it is to nurture new members, which is critical to strengthening your club, growing your membership and providing quality service in your community. You will receive credit towards earning <u>Membership Key Awards</u> and be recognized for your accomplishment as a Lion sponsor.

Sincerely,

Joseph R. Preston International President

Mentoring Program

Overview = The objective of the Lions Mentoring Program is to help every member achieve the goal of better serving his or her community. It does so through a program of personal development that helps members realize the potential that their unique skills and knowledge offer. The Lions Mentoring Program prepares them for leadership in clubs, in the association and in their personal lives as well. For Lions Clubs International, this means more hands and better service for the people who need it most.

The Lions Mentoring Program is completed in two parts, basic and advanced. Each part is completed in two levels.

Basic Mentoring Program

- Level One, The Responsibility of Being a Lion: The first level of the Basic Mentoring Program is devoted to developing an understanding of who Lions are, their vision of <u>humanitarian service</u>, the traditions, the organizational structure and the responsibility of being a Lions club member. It should be a goal of every club that all new Lions complete the level one in their first three months of membership.
- Level Two, Relationships: The second level of the Basic Mentoring Program is for developing relationships and organizational skills in preparation for leadership at the club level. Level two should be completed in the new Lion's first six months of membership.

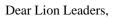
Advanced Mentoring Program

- Level One, Results: The emphasis of this level is upon developing accountability for results by focusing on <u>community projects</u> and programs that provide useful and needed humanitarian service. Completion of this level provides a stepping-stone for accepting a leadership role within the club.
- Level Two, Replication: This level concentrates on the mentee's role in developing others for leadership in the association and for humanitarian service. It ensures long-range growth and can serve as a basis for leadership within the district structure. This phase can be augmented with additional training at district level and at area forums.

How to Participate

- 1. Contact your club president to express interest in the mentoring program. He or she will help you find a mentor or mentee.
- 2. Download the <u>Basic Mentoring Guide</u> or the <u>Advanced Mentoring Guide</u>. The guides can also be ordered from the <u>Membership</u> <u>and New Club Operations Department</u>.
- 3. Complete the mentoring program levels of your choosing.
- 4. Submit the Achievement Forms in the back of the guides to the <u>Membership and New Club Operations Department</u>. Upon completion of the Basic Mentoring Program, both mentor and mentee will receive a certificate of achievement. Mentors and mentees completing the Advanced Mentoring Program will receive a lapel pin.







I'm sharing a message sent to all district governors. I'm asking district governors to continue focusing their efforts on chartering new clubs, inviting new members and increasing membership satisfaction in their clubs. I'm also encouraging leaders to promote service as a way to engage existing members and help find new ones. Please work with your district governor on these important efforts to strengthen our membership in all of our districts.

Together in service,

Joe Preston Your International President

Dear District Governor,

We set out to accomplish great things this year by setting a goal to grow membership in each of our districts. In order to achieve our goals, we will need to keep working hard over the next six months.

I'm asking each of you to stay focused on the key action steps that will help you achieve your goals and earn your recognition in Period 2 of the Lions Pride Award:



Start One is more than a slogan. It's the key to positive growth in your district. It's also the key to maximizing your recognition in the Lions Pride Award. So Start One club to earn a paw for your pin, and we'll share your photo on the Lions Pride website!



Ask One. It takes a great leader to strengthen a district, but it takes active members to strengthen a club. Keep encouraging your clubs to invite new members, and remind Lions that it's the responsibility of all members to Ask One friend or family member to join the club.



Keep One. Inviting new members is critical to club growth, but keeping existing members is just as important. Make sure your clubs are using great tools like the Membership Satisfaction Guide, New Member Orientation and the Lions Mentoring Program to increase membership satisfaction and keep all members happy.

Remember, our year to lead is more than half way over, so do everything you can as district governor to strengthen your

district! *Together in service,*

Joe Preston Your International President

Ask One!

Just imagine if every one of our 1.35 million Lions asked one person to join their club. Imagine the huge impact it would have on membership growth and the amount of service we can provide.

It starts by inviting one friend, one neighbor or one family member to join. Give them the opportunity to be a Lion, and give your club the opportunity to grow. Click the Ask1 image to get the tools you need to invite new members, then Ask One today!



Have you seen this sign around? Let us know what you think

Lions Pride Award

Get the new year off to a great start by maximizing your recognition in Period 2:

- **Membership Growth** Promote **Ask One** and **Keep One** to help your clubs add and retain members. Go for a Gold Paw by achieving positive growth in your district!
- Charter Members Charter One club to earn a paw for your pin, and beat your 5-year average to make it a gold!

Remember, Period 2 is your last chance to earn recognition in the <u>Lions Pride Award</u>, so don't miss out on your opportunity to be recognized!

The Power of Service

We became Lions to serve our communities, and it's service that keeps us coming back year after year. Here are some great ways to remind clubs just how important service really is:

- Champion service as a way to keep clubs active and members happy.
- Encourage clubs to promote their projects through local media and social media to attract new members.
- Remind clubs they can earn recognition in the <u>Centennial</u> <u>Service Challenge</u> by reporting their activities to LCI.

Let's work together to strengthen our clubs through service!

Okinawa

To the Veterans who fought on in the Battle of Okinawa during WWII - the older Okinawan people wish to tell you THANK YOU! The Cornerstone of Peace was built to commemorate those who passed. The names of all the civilians and Allied troops have been engraved on each of the stone walls. I personally talked to many of the survivors and heard some amazing stories.

Now for a brief history - The oldest evidence of human existence on the Ryukyu islands is from Stone Age and was discovered in Naha and Yaese. Japanese Jomon influences are dominant on the Okinawa Islands, although clay vessels on the Sakishima Islands have a commonality with those in Taiwan.

The first mention of the word Ryukyu was written in the **Book of Sui**. Okinawa was the Japanese word identifying the islands, first seen in the biography of Jianzhen, written in 779. Agricultural societies begun in the 8th century slowly developed until the 12th century. Since the islands are located at the eastern perimeter of the East China Sea relatively close to Japan, China and South-East Asia, the Ryūkyū Kingdom became a prosperous trading nation. Also during this period, many Gusukus, similar to castles, were constructed. The Ryūkyū Kingdom had a tributary relationship with the Chinese Empire beginning in the 15th century.

In 1609, the Shimazu clan, which controlled the region that is now Kagoshima Prefecture, invaded the Ryūkyū Kingdom. The Ryūkyū Kingdom was obliged to agree to form a tributary relationship with the Satsuma and the Tokugawa shogunate, while maintaining its previous tributary relationship with China; Ryukyuan sovereignty was maintained since complete annexation would have created a conflict with China. The Satsuma clan earned considerable profits from trade with China during a period in which foreign trade was heavily restricted by the shogunate.

Although Satsuma maintained strong influence over the islands, the Ryūkyū Kingdom maintained a considerable degree of domestic political freedom for over two hundred years. Four years after the 1868 Meiji Restoration, the Japanese government, through military incursions, officially annexed the kingdom and renamed it Ryukyu han. Ryukyu han became Okinawa Prefecture of Japan in 1879, even though all other hans had become prefectures of Japan in 1872.

1945-1965

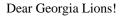
In 1945 the US Army and Marine Corps invaded Okinawa with 185,000 troops. A third of the civilian population were killed, a quarter of the civilian population were killed during the 1945 Battle of Okinawa alone. The dead, of all nationalities, (Allies suffered 14,009 deaths (with an estimated total of more than 65,000 casualties of all kinds). Simultaneously, 42,000–150,000 local civilians were killed or committed suicide, a significant proportion of the local population) are commemorated at the Cornerstone of Peace. After the end of World War II in 1945 the Ryukyu independence movement developed, while Okinawa was under United States Military Government of the Ryukyu Islands administration for 27 years. During this "trusteeship rule", the United States established numerous military bases on the Ryukyu islands.





Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation Providing vision and heaving services to Georgians in financial need

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PCC Clower presented a printed report as follows:

Our Georgia Lions Lighthouse is 65 years old this year. We continue to evolve into one of the best in the non-profit community. Even LCI recognizes how well our Lions organization works with the Lighthouse to serve so many people. This collaboration is unheard of in the non-profit world. This partnership has resulted in a growing branch Lions Club that will soon charter with 20 members.

The application to become a certified LCI eyeglass recycling center has not been approved yet. There is an issue with LCI Legal who feels MD-18 must create a separate 501 C (3) entity and that it should function separately from the Lighthouse. We are still trying to get a clarification on this issue. In the meantime, we will continue our eyeglass recycling program as we have always done. We have, however, received approval of our recently submitted matching \$75,000 LCIF grant. We are excited about our new website. Go to www.lionslighthouse.org and check it out!

Our Governance Committee distributed to the Lions of Georgia a revision to our Constitution. We will be holding a Question and Answer session Saturday afternoon, and the vote on the revision will be held January 31, 2015.

There will be an officer election at the next Board Meeting to be held January 31st at the next joint Camp/Lighthouse Meeting. If anyone is qualified and interested in running for an office at the Lighthouse, they should have their letter of intent to Past Board Chair Kembra Smith by December 1st.

DG Kelly, 18-O, shared the fact that several weeks ago the Poulan Lions Club was approached to ask for help for a couple. The gentleman was a janitor at the elementary school there; the wife has gone blind in the last few months. Poulan Lions Club was put in touch with the Lighthouse. The Lighthouse has contacted the couple and they have a clinic appointment. She thanked the Lighthouse and Lion Roberta Green for their help.

Below is a short summary of other items:

Services and costs:

During the first quarter of this fiscal year, at our 28 clinics, the Lighthouse provided eye exams to 577 clients and furnished 1108 eyeglasses. The Lighthouse provided 273 surgical procedures at a cost of \$71,998.74. The hearing aid program served 221 clients and provided 404 hearing aids at a cost of \$144,612.92. We are excited about a new Public Service Commission grant we have received for pediatric hearing aids. The Optics Lab continues to produce high quality eyeglasses for our clients.

Finances:

The Board of Directors will be receiving at our Board Meeting Saturday the preliminary results of our recent audit. The Development Staff is working hard on fundraisers. The Taste of Chamblee is an example of that hard work. The Lighthouse realized approximately \$20,000 net on that event. Coming up next week is our Gold Dome Charity Challenge Golf Tournament. It will be held November 12th in Newnan with profits from the tournament being shared between our Lighthouse and the Georgia Charitable Care Network. Planning is continuing for the Night of Spectacles being held April 25, 2015. Watch for details to come on a Lions Challenge for the Night of Spectacles. We appreciate very much the support Lions of Georgia have given us, but currently Lions giving is down approximately \$15,000.

Better Vision. Better Hearing. Better Georgia.



Summer Service Numbers 1Jul12014 – 31Dec2014

District L Eye Exams: 408 Eye Glasses: 865 Eye Surgeries: 179 Hearing Aids: 337

> District I Eye Exams: 272 Eye Glasses:638 Eye Surgeries:66 Hearing Aids: 195

District O Eye Exams: 173 Eye Glasses:257 Eye Surgeries:90 Hearing Aids:157

> District N Eye Exams:350 Eye Glasses:540 Eye Surgeries:61 Hearing Aids:137

Fiscal Year Totals: Eye Exams: 1,203 Eye Glasses: 2,300 Eye Surgeries: 397 Hearing Aids: 827

Service Numbers

Service Numbers have hit alltime highs in the past several months! With over 6,500 services projected by year end, our goal for 2014-15 is over 7,000.

"When you give a little, you get a lot." -Lion Bret Wagenhorst, M.D.



Georgia Lions Lighthouse Directory Update:

The GA Lions Lighthouse is in the process of remodeling our Eyeglasses Recycling Center. Listed below is the contact information if you have questions or need information.

Direct Dial Number- (404) 844-0121 Ext #329 Recycle Room Email address- recycle@lionslighthouse.org

Volunteer Manager – Lion Harold Walker – Phone: 404-376-2126 Volunteer Assistant Manager – Lion Albert Green – Phone: 404-861-4371

A Look Ahead: 2015

Pediatric Hearing Program Launch: Backed by funding from the Public Service Commission in September, the Lighthouse's Pediatric Hearing Program will officially launch Jan.1, 2015. We will now accept children birth– 19 years old with family income up to 400% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Frame Kit Growth: Lions clubs and clinic throughout the state are partnering with the Lighthouse to provide low-cost, high quality eyeglasses to people in their communities. Unlike our clinic program, Frame Kits are simply a set of 15 sample frames that a client identified by the Club or clinic can choose from. The Club or clinic facilitates an eye exam for the client, separate from a Lighthouse clinic; the prescription and eyeglass selection are then sent to the Lighthouse where they are produced in line with other orders.

Clinic Expansion: With a growing need and areas with limited access for those who lack health coverage, the Lighthouse will continue to expand the reach of our mobile clinics in 2015. New clinics have already begun in Covington and Dawsonville with 3-4 more expected to launch in 2015.

Grants: Recent grants from LCIF, Kaiser, and Healthcare of Georgia, totaling in \$175,000 will allow the Lighthouse to purchase updated clinic equipment, expand the Recycling Center, fund diabetic eye surgeries, and fund new clinics.

A must watch for Lions.

http://www.charlierose.com/watch/60378567

GLLF Lions Club Museum

To schedule a visit contact: Chip Nedza, Lions Club Historian | chip993@msn.com | 912.756.3215 visit www.lionslighthouse.org

MD 18 SIGHT PRESERVATION AWARENESS & ACTION CHAIR – LION J. C. COEFIELD:

Council Chair Newby moved Lion Coefield's report up on the agenda so that Lion Coefield could take care of other duties he had in connection with the joint meeting this weekend.

Lion Coefield presented a printed report, as follows: 1. **January is Glaucoma Awareness Month** January has been set aside by Lions Clubs International to

focus the spotlight on glaucoma, also known as the "sneak thief of sight". The disease causes damage to the optic nerve. Glaucoma is one of the most common causes of preventable blindness. For more information see: http://www.glaucoma.org

2. Foundation Fighting Blindness

The urgent mission of the Foundation Fighting Blindness, Inc. is to drive the research that will provide prevention, treatment and cures for people affected by retinitis pigmentosa (RP), macular degeneration, Usher Syndrome, and the entire spectrum of retinal degenerative diseases. For more information see: http://www.blindness.org

3. Diabetes Awareness

Diabetes Awareness Month is November; Diabetes Awareness Day is November 14. Diabetes awareness was adopted as a long-term commitment of LCI in March 1984. The primary objective is to reduce the number of new cases of blindness caused by complication from diabetes through education, early detection and treatment, and support of research. For more information see:

http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/membercenter/planningprojects/diabetes/index.php

GOALS:

1. To help educate the public about the importance of yearly eye exams.

2. To help people understand their risk factors associated with various eye conditions and diseases.

Lion Coefield distributed a White Cane Report. He asked Governors to review the information and let him know if there are clubs that need to be removed or added. \$2,600 has been raised in the first quarter of a \$120,000 goal. White Cane is every day in Georgia. He asked Governors to talk with Clubs regarding White Cane donations.

		~ January 2015 ~							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat			
			Relieving the Hunger Global Service Action Campaign	1 New Year's Day	2	3			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Council of Governors Meeting Camp /Lighthouse Meeting Warner Robins			

Sun	Mon	Tue	~ February 2 Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 Fish Fry - Americus	28 Dist O = 3rd Cabinet Meeting/ Convention - Americus

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Eye Donor Awareness Month	2	3	4	5	6	7 Dist I = 3rd Cabinet Meeting/ Convention – Foundry Park Inn, 295 E Dougherty St, Athens
8 Daylight Saving Time Begins / International Women's Day	9	10	11	12	13	14 Dist N = 3rd Cabinet Rally/Convention Little Ocmulgee State Park, Mc Rae
15	16	17	18	19	20 Spring Begins LEO Convention Meeting and Gathering Weekend 20-22	21 Dist L = 3rd Cabinet Meeting/ Convention, Douglasville
22 LEO Gathering Ends	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	Notes:			

▲ Mar 2015		~ April 2015 ~							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	<u>May 2015</u> ► Sat			
LEO Club Awareness Month	Protecting Our Environment	Global Service Action	1 Campaign Month	2	3 Good Friday	4			
5 Easter	6	7 World Health Day	8	9	10	11			
12	13	14	15 Tax Day (Taxes Due)	16	17	18			
19	20	21	22 Earth Day / Administrative Professionals Day	23	24 Arbor Day	25			
26	27	28	29	30 Club Excellence Award ENDS	Notes:				

<u>Apr 2015</u>		<u>Jun 2015</u> ►				
Sun	Mon	Tue	~ May 201 Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 4th Cabinet Meeting/Family Picnic – Fort Yargo State Park, 210 S Broad St, Winder
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Mother's Day	11	12	13	14 Council of Governors Mtg, Tifton, Georgia	15 MD-18 State	16 Armed Forces Day Convention
17 Tifton, GA	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30
31	Notes:					

◄ May 2015	~ June 2015 ~							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	<u>Jul 2015</u> ► Sat		
	1	2	3	4	5	6		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
14 Flag Day	15	16	17	18 International Picnic Day	19	20		
21 Father's Day / Summer Solstice	22	23	24	25	26 98th	27 International		
28 Convention	29 Honolulu,	30 Hawaii	Notes:					





REPORT OF GEORGIA LIONS CAMP FOR THE BLIND – LION SCOTT EISENHART:

Lion Eisenhart presented the following printed report.

I would like to report on the condition of your Georgia Lions Camp. First off, the camp is still in operation! We have rental groups using the facility on a regular basis. Mike and Gail have been doing an exceptional job in keeping the camp up and running. I believe we of the board are in agreement on the job description/requirements for our Executive Director. I have been working closely with various members of the Personnel Committee as well as the board and I believe we have a job description that we can all agree on. It is planned this weekend to present the job description to the Board for approval. We are looking at having someone on board as soon as realistically possible.

The Trust Fund is doing well, With the amount of donations having slowed down tremendously, we are not in a position to return any additional funds to the trust fund, however once funds do begin to come back in, we will take another look at returning additional funds.

DG Vicki Hubbard, 18-I, made a motion that Council draft a letter to the Camp, asking questions that the Council and Task Force decide on that need to be answered. DG Garner Andrews, 18-L, seconded the motion, and motion carried.

International Paper, Augusta Plant has been very good to us for many years. I know that for at least the last 8 years they have funded different projects at the camp. I'm pretty sure they funded the concrete sidewalks between the buildings and either the Athens or Gainesville clubs provided the work. I do know that they funded the signs on the Nature Trail and for the last several years, they have provided camp scholarships for campers from the Augusta area.

I hope you're well. I wanted to share this photo from the Foundation Grant Breakfast. I'm also providing some information on the IP Foundation and IP, so you'll have it on hand in case you want to publicize the grant. Please send anything that runs either internally or externally my way. I don't need to approve them – but I'd love to see! We do an Annual Global Giving Report and I would love to submit it for inclusion. Thanks so much!

In the past five years, International Paper's Augusta Mill the Augusta Mill has awarded more than \$250,000 in IP Foundation grants to non-profit organizations and schools throughout the CSRA. The International Paper Foundation's primary focus areas are environmental education and literacy. The foundation also provides support for organizations within the communities where International Paper has operating facilities and for organizations – outside the focus areas – where its employees actively volunteer. The **International Paper Company Foundation**, which was founded in 1953 as a philanthropic grant-making organization, primarily addresses existing and emerging educational needs, as well as civic needs within the communities where International Paper has operating businesses. The foundation also supports those organizations where employees actively volunteer.

If you are a State of Georgia or Federal employee, you can donate to the Georgia Lions' Camp by using a payroll deduction. The camp is listed as Georgia Lions' Camp for the Blind and the account number for the State SCCP is 141000 and the Federal CFC is 65792.

The Board of Directors for the Camp is in the process of naming an Executive Director. We hope to have a Director in place to present to the Lions of Georgia at the January 31st meeting. We are having a winter meeting in Warner Robins at the same location that we had the fall meeting. I would like to invite all in District I to attend the meeting and support the camp.

The Leo Gathering will be March 20th,21st and 22nd.

The first work weekend will be March 27th,28th and 29th.

The second work weekend will be May 1st,2nd and 3rd. The reason that we are not having a work weekend in April is because we have rental groups coming to the camp every weekend.

I encourage each club consider making a donation to the Georgia Lions Camp at this time and try to have a special fundraising project for the camp this year. Thanks for what you do to SUPPORT the Ga. Lions Camp.

Olin Newby District I Vice President

New expenditures concerns are:

1. Electricity looks like it might end up over budget.

2. Office supplies is already over budget for the year due to having to purchase stamps and new checks and envelopes. As discussed before, the Maintenance HVAC and General accounts are already over budget for the year due to several major equipment failures and bulk purchase of gasoline (which should reduce the Vehicle - Gasoline account.)

The MAIN CONCERN is that Income is under budget by \$44,700 mainly due to Club Contributions. We are \$31,390 behind from last year's Clubs contributions.

A summary of the Clubs Contributions are:

July 1 to Dec. 31, 2014 18-L: 18 Clubs for \$19,625 18-I: 24 Clubs for \$13,597 18-O: 24 Clubs for \$19,134 18-N: 21 Clubs for \$13,506 Total MD 18: 87 Clubs for \$65,862 for July 1 to Nov. 2013

18-L: 21 Clubs for \$29,818 18-I: 23 Clubs for \$19,759 18-O: 22 Clubs for \$12,516 18-N: 25 Clubs for \$22,860 Total MD-18: 91 Clubs for \$84,953

If you wish to get more information – check with your District Camp Vice-President

GEORGIA LIONS CAMP LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

The LRPC is seeking input from the Lions of Georgia in preparation for developing a Long Range Plan for the Georgia Lions Camp. Please send your suggestions, comments, opinions, and recommendations to Dave Forrest – Chair of the LRPC. We, the committee, are considering the future years of 1, 3, 5, and 10 as our targets. Please consider the present condition of the camp and expand your thoughts. Thank you for your input in the future planning of the Georgia Lions Camp.

Dave Forrest, LRPC Chair Email: <u>forrestfamily@winstream.net</u> Phone: 706 472 3862



Margaret Ayers

I've always heard, "If you want something done ask a busy person." This can definitely be said about Margaret Ayers of Lavonia, Georgia. Her dedication to work, community, family and friends is well known.

Margaret Lee Ayers was born on 25 May 1927 to Odis and Fred Lee. Margaret, sister Jean Lee, and brother Freddie Lee grew up in Lavonia where Margaret has lived all her life. Lavonia is a small town, but Margaret is not a small person. After graduating from Lavonia High School in 1944, she went to work for the Northeast Georgia Bank where she has been employed for 70 years. Margaret has held just about every position in the bank but president. She is now Vice President for Public Relations. Does she plan to retire any time soon? "No way!" She plans to make 75 years and set a new record. She loves her job, loves people, and loves giving to her community.

Margaret and the late Herman Ayers were married in February 1953. They have one daughter, Stephanie Ayers who is a paralegal in Greenville, S.C. Margaret's husband was mayor of Lavonia for 22 years, making Margaret Lavonia's "First Lady." Margaret has had a lot of firsts in her life.

Margaret's firsts include: First woman president of Franklin County Chamber of Commerce; forst woman president of Lavonia Chamber of Commerce, receiving The Native Citizen Award in 1998; first woman member and president of Lavonia Lions Club.

Margaret joined the Lions in April 1986. She has served as president, treasurer and zone chair more than once, as well as on many committees and projects. She was elected to the Lions Hall of Fame, and is a Melvin Jones Fellow. Before Margaret became a Lavonia Lions member, she was in the Lavonia Lioness Club. That club was dissolved when women were allowed to be in Lions. At one point, the Lavonia Lions had only eight members. Through Margaret's dedication, it has grown to 24 members, Margaret has sponsored a number of those herself.

One of Margaret's favorite projects is the Lions Birthday Calendar. She is very proud of the fact that the calendar was started when her husband, Herman, was president in 1956 and is still here today. A copy is given to WLHR, the local radio station, and they announce the birthdays and anniversaries every day. The Lavonia Lions celebrated their 80th anniversary this past year and Margaret was presented a Presidential Certificate of Appreciation, signed by International President Barry Palmer, by guest speaker Lion Dr. Eugene Spiess, Past International Director, from Spartinburg, S.C.

Margaret's awareness of Lions Clubs began in 1944 when she went to work for Northeast Georgia Bank. Her boss, Mr. Walter Harrison, was president of the Lavonia Lions Club. She helped with Ladies Night and hosted booths at the local fairs. In 1945, her father joined the Lions Club and she became even more involved when he was elected president. Later when her husband, Herman, became president, Margaret pitched right in helping with events and fundraisers. She remembers a time when her husband was president, they had a Ham and Egg Supper. It was so successful it sold out. She and Herman had to go to the Waffle House that night for their supper.

The Toccoa/Lavonia Clinic named an award in Margaret's honor, The Margaret Ayers Award for Civic Health. This is the 9th year of the award which is voted on by the community. This award honors those who, like Margaret, give back to the community.

Margaret is Chairman of the Lavonia Historic Preservation Commission; President of the Franklin County Historic Society; a 63 year member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy; a 75 year member of the First Baptist Church of Lavonia; 64 year member of the Order of Eastern Star; a board member of The Department of Children and Family Services; a board member of Franklin County Habitat for Humanity; a board member of Franklin County United Way; Franklin County Remarkable Woman of the Year in Business; a member of Friends of the Lavonia Carnegie Library; a member of Circle of

Hope, a cancer support group; a member of The Lavonia Hospital Authority. The Community Bankers Association of Georgia presented Margaret with the Lifetime Service Award.

Aside from work and her extensive community involvement, Margaret enjoys working in the yard and baking. She loves to bake for friends and coworkers. If you are new in the community, you will probably receive one of her delicious pound cakes, which she is famous for.

Margaret loves to eat out with friends as she says, "It is no fun to cook for yourself." She is an avid Waffle House fan and is often teased about how much she can eat and never gain an ounce.

How does she do it all? "I love to help people, do things for people, and make them feel special. One thing I've learned is, you have to be friendly for people to be friendly to you."

When asked why Lions has been so important to her, she said; "I like that we work with sight. Being near-sighted and wearing glasses most of my life, I am very aware how important sight is. I like that we help those in our community that can't afford glasses and I like that as an International organization we can make a difference world-wide. Lions do a lot of other things, too. Our Club works with the Lavonia Police Department in "Night Out Against Crime" every fall; we maintain a fountain and flowers downtown, and provide computers for elementary students who don't have one in their home. I like being involved with an organization that truly serves others."



PDG MC Stowe giving Melvin Jones Fellowship



PDG Steve Hart giving District Hall of Fame



PID Spiess presenting Presidential Certificate of Appreciation



Lion Margaret at work



Lion Margaret welcoming Lions and guests as always



Lions Priscilla and Cindy with with Lion Margaret and original Lavonia Lions Club Charter



Tribute to a Dog



George Graham Vest represented Missouri as a United States Senator from 1879 to 1903. While he was practicing law in a small Missouri town, he represented a man who sued another for the killing of his dog. When his turn came to address the jury, Vest made the following speech and won the case.

Gentlemen of the jury:

The best friend a man has in the world may turn against him and become his enemy. His son or daughter that he has reared with loving care may prove ungrateful. Those who are nearest and dearest to us, those whom we trust with our happiness and our good name may become traitors to their faith. The money that a man has, he may lose. It flies away from him, perhaps when he needs it most. A man's reputation may be sacrificed in a moment of ill-considered action. The people who are prone to fall on their knees to do us honor when success is with us, may be the first to throw the stone of malice when failure settles its cloud upon our heads.

The one absolutely unselfish friend that man can have in this selfish world, the one that never deserts him, the one that never proves ungrateful or treacherous is his dog. A man's dog stands by him in prosperity and in poverty, in health and in sickness. He will sleep on the cold ground, where the wintry winds blow and the snow drives fiercely, if only be may be near his master's side. He will kiss the hand that has no food to offer; he will lick the wounds and sores that come in encounter with the roughness of the world. He guards the sleep of his pauper master as if he were a prince. When all other friends desert, he remains. When riches take wings, and reputation falls to pieces, he is as constant in his love as the sun in its journey through the heavens.

If fortune drives the master forth an outcast in the world, friendless and homeless, the faithful dog asks no higher privilege than that of accompanying him, to guard him against danger, to fight against his enemies. And when the last scene of all comes, and death takes his master in its embrace and his body is laid away in the cold ground, no matter if all other friends pursue their way, there by the graveside will the noble dog be found, his head between his paws, his eyes sad, but open in alert watchfulness, faithful and true even in death.

REPORT OF MD 18 REPRESENTATIVE TO LEADER DOGS FOR THE BLIND – LION PAM SCHLOEMER:

Lion Schloemer stated that she agreed with PDG Hashbarger, every club in the state should make at least a \$25.00 donation to each of the four initiatives.

Lion Schloemer stated that she has had the privilege and honor to serve as MD 18 Leader Dog Representative for the last four years. She stated that she will not offering to serve again in 2015-16. She believes others should have the opportunity to bring ideas and energy to the position. She asked for Council permission to start now reaching out and seeking a replacement that she would feel comfortable recommending to the Council.



Jennifer and Galion

Dear Friend,

While traveling to compete in a college basketball game, Jennifer was involved in a

car accident and sustained a spinal cord injury. Now, over ten years later, Jennifer works as a speech-language pathologist at the Shepherd Center in

Atlanta helping others who have sustained life-changing injuries. "I'm always looking for new ways to motivate patients, and have always been amazed to watch how patients at the Shepherd Center respond to Canine Companions Facility Dogs Frosty and Bentley," explains Jennifer. "After I began my interview process with Canine Companions to add another facility dog to the team, I learned that an assistance dog could also assist me in my everyday life."

Thanks to supporters like you, Jennifer received Galion, who is a unique assistance dog with two jobs. "As a service dog, Galion is able to assist me in situations that may be dangerous or difficult. He has made life less stressful, knowing that he is available to help," says Jennifer. "If I drop an item on a steep sidewalk, it becomes dangerous for me to take my hands off my wheels to bend down to pick the item up. With Galion, he easily retrieves the item without a problem."

Donations from people like you made it possible for Canine Companions to give Galion to Jennifer free of charge.

As a facility dog, Galion's job can be as simple as bringing a smile to the face of a patient who is trying to cope with a catastrophic injury. Other times, his job is to motivate patients and help them participate in challenging therapy tasks. "Galion's assistance is difficult to quantify, because it's so far reaching," explains Jennifer. "He has added an element to our unit that couldn't be achieved through any other method. When patients shut down to human therapists, they often continue to be welcoming to Galion."

One such patient was refusing all therapy exercises, despite encouragement from her therapists. So Jennifer brought Galion to see her. When he displayed his usual excitement of tail wagging and brought his favorite toy to the patient, a smile broke out across her face for the first time. Then Galion helped her work on standing, throwing and speaking by playing fetch. "The patient didn't complain once," recalls Jennifer. "And when the therapy session was over, the patient was eager to work with Galion again the next day." Galion gladly obliged!

"I feel unbelievably blessed that I not only have a faithful companion that makes my life easier, but that I also get to share him with patients," says Jennifer gratefully.

We're proud that today there are over 4,600 people with disabilities whose lives have been enriched and transformed because of our amazing dogs. Teams like Jennifer and Galion, and the bond they share, are made possible by friends like you.

But, there are so many more people we can help, especially as demand for our assistance dogs is skyrocketing.

That's why we need your support. **Right now there are 430 people on our waiting list** hoping that you will make a donation to help them receive their own life-changing assistance dog.

We rely on supporters like you to make this all possible. Your gift changes someone's life forever. Please return the enclosed form or give online at cci.org/holidaycheer.

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State RFB&D Chair Lion Fred Smith lionfredsmith@gmail.com

How One Teacher Transformed Dyslexia Education in a **Georgia Town**

The small city of Gainesville, Georgia, is much like other southern towns. They love the outdoors, sports, family and friends. However, students in this town have an opportunity that is not available everywhere - a specialized K-12 school specifically for children who learn differently. It's all thanks to the heart of a former public school teacher – Ava White.



As a special education teacher, White sat through many IEP (Individualized Education Plan) meetings. She was also the first line of contact for parents who were becoming frustrated trying to navigate state and federal education code. When financial or political roadblocks prevented some students from getting the help White felt they needed, she "just got tired of telling people 'no we can't do this. No, we can't do that.""

So, she did something radical. She stopped saying no. And started saying yes.

"The idea just kind of evolved. I thought 'wouldn't it be so nice to be able to say yes!' I had no business plan, but I started to tutor students with learning disabilities, and it grew from there." She started small, just helping a few students on the side. As word got around, her tutoring business grew, and she was able to hire additional help. White now had a full fledged tutoring career!

"We did it all - reading, math, science and spelling," says White, and the kids were thriving in almost every subject. However, the smaller class size allowed her to notice a huge key to the mystery of her students' learning patterns - spelling. "They would memorize the words long enough to pass a test, but then those same words were misspelled the next week. I knew I needed a new way of teaching spelling."

Enter Wilson Language Training

While looking over professional development workshops, one caught her eye due to one specific word in the title – spelling. Knowing nothing more than that, she registered for the Wilson Reading and Spelling program.



She made a decision. "Not only did I want myself certified in this system, but I also wanted all of my other tutors certified in the Wilson system as well!"

The ones who do need it, however, really take off in a short amount of time." Most of her students come to her after years of falling behind. On average, it takes her 2-3 years to close the gap and get them back on grade level in reading.

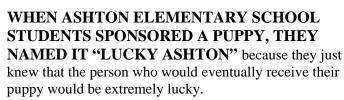
However, she does have a few exceptions. "When it clicks, it really clicks. I have one 3rd grader who came to me in August reading at a kindergarten level. Here it is, mid-November, and he is reading on grade level. It's like he was just waiting for someone to teach him in a way that made sense."

After seeing the success of her tutoring business, White decided to take on a new challenge. In 2007, thanks in part to the new Special Needs Scholarship Program in Georgia, the Ava White **Academy** opened its doors with 4 full-time students. Today (2014), it has grown to serve 29. All have different needs, but the common ground is that each child learns differently.





Jazmin & Lucky Ashton



They were right.

Meet Jazmin Coll-Serrano, whose guide Lucky Ashton has helped this former military nurse regain her independence after losing her vision to a virus. Lucky and Jazmin travel from coast to coast as she competes in the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic in Snowmass, Colorado, as well as the National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic in San Diego. Lucky has swum in both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans; he has traveled to the mountain where Jazmin competed in cross-country and downhill skiing; he has perched in the boat during many rowing competitions; and has even earned a certificate for the "Longest Wave" award in a surfing competition!

"Lucky guided me through airports without any difficulty," she shares. "He's perfect on the bus, and at the hotel he guides me through everything. Everyone on my team loves Lucky. He's social, alert, and friendly to everyone."



The Disease Many Americans Don't Know They Have

Laura Tedesco November 19, 2014



An alarming number of Americans are suffering from diabetes, a potentially deadly disease, without even knowing it.

Editor's Note: The data in this study did not permit the researchers to separately analyze type 1 and type 2 diabetes, though 90 to 95 percent of cases are known to be type 2. Although type 1, or insulin-dependent diabetes, may be better diagnosed and more prevalent among young people, distinguishing the two diseases would not significantly alter the findings or recommendations, the researchers say.

You'd think a disease that can cause blindness, leads to amputations, and is the seventh leading cause of death in the United States would incite mass panic. Yet Americans — and even some doctors — don't take diabetes very seriously. (Did *you* even know it's American Diabetes Month?) "Sometimes, people think 'serious' means things that kill you right away," said Dr. Carlos del Rio, chair of the Emory University Department of Global Health,

"But, the reality is, I would be more concerned about diabetes than Ebola."

This lax attitude toward the disease may explain why nearly 30 percent of Americans who have diabetes don't realize it, according to a new study in the <u>Annals of Internal Medicine</u>, conducted by del Rio and other Emory University scientists. They analyzed health data for 29,353 people from the National Health and Nutritional Examination Survey, identifying those with diabetes based on levels of fasting glucose and <u>hemoglobin A1C</u> (an indicator of blood-sugar control).

Overall, about 12 percent of all U.S. adults had diabetes, which translated to 28.4 million people in 2012. Among those, nearly 8 million hadn't been diagnosed — a stat that's made all the more alarming by the fact that most regularly went to the doctor: Two-thirds of undiagnosed diabetics had seen a health care provider at least twice in the past year, the study found.

Going undiagnosed — or even just delaying the process — is asking for internal trouble. The longer diabetes goes untreated, the worse the outcome tends to be. "Once the disease sets in, it's really progressive," study co-author Mohammed Ali, an assistant professor of global health at Emory University, told Yahoo Health. "It may be slow in some cases, but it leads to really disabling and often fatal complications." Common but scary outcomes include vascular disease, kidney disease, or eye disease, which can lead to blindness.

On the flip side, if you catch and control diabetes early, "patients are very likely to do well, in terms of delaying the onset of all these horrendous complications, preserving their quality of life," said Ali.

Unfortunately, the nature of the disease means that patients who should be undergoing blood tests often slip through the cracks: Diabetes is typically asymptomatic until people develop serious complications, so doctors don't necessarily have clear cues to prompt them to suggest testing early on (although weight, family history, and lifestyle should be a consideration). "Diabetes is the silent killer," said del Rio.

And because the U.S. is a nation of episodic care — that is, we seek medical attention for specific symptoms, rather than as a matter of routine — doctors aren't necessarily thinking about performing preemptive blood tests on high-risk people. Instead, they're usually focusing on, say, the patient's back-pain problem, and not his or her overall care.

However, doctors are only one part of the equation: Patients may not be proactive about seeking care, Ali said, perhaps as a result of a low perceived risk of diabetes, poor insurance coverage, or even just time constraints. In the study, young people (ages 18 to 44) were especially likely to go undiagnosed, probably because they seek care only if they feel sick. "With diabetes, you don't feel bad per se," said Ali. "There's a whole lot going on inside you, but you don't feel it."

Even after patients are diagnosed, they aren't necessarily controlling their diabetes. "We may not link them to care properly or maintain them in care," said del Rio. "It's a whole 'cascade of care' issue." In the study, only about 1 in 5 diagnosed diabetics refrained from smoking and had achieved the targets for hemoglobin A1C, blood pressure, and LDL "bad" cholesterol.

An estimated 75 percent of those with known diabetes also had high blood pressure. "It's a double whammy," del Rio said. "High blood pressure impacts your blood vessels, and diabetes impacts your blood vessels. And it's blood vessel disease that leads to stroke and heart disease." In fact, diabetics are 1.5 times more likely to be hospitalized for a stroke and about 1.7 times more likely to die of heart disease than people without the disease, according to the <u>American Diabetes Association</u>.

"Basically, the guidelines say, 'Don't just focus on sugar,'" said Ali. "Do the whole ABCD: the A1C is the sugar measurement that we use, B is blood pressure, C is cholesterol, and D is do not smoke." So how can our health care system ensure diabetes is caught, as well

as treated? The first step: Increasing the emphasis on primary care, so patients regularly see doctors who monitor their weight, cholesterol, blood sugar, and vital signs, while also assessing their family history. "Chronic diseases are not controlled by episodic care," said del Rio. "You need to have somebody that monitors you regularly."

And patients who are diagnosed shouldn't be shy about voicing their concerns about the prescribed treatments — for example, side effects of diabetes drugs or a lack of time to exercise. That way, doctors can help devise solutions that patients are more likely to comply with.

It's not entirely up to the patient to halt diabetes in its tracks, though. "We need to start focusing on [figuring out] the interventions we need to do in order to improve outcomes," del Rio said. "I envision doing more testing, and not only in the health care settings." He sees workplaces, community centers, churches, and even local fairs as potential diabetes testing sites, and once people are flagged for the disease, he believes insurance companies should consider getting involved.

Saluting MD 18 Lions who participated at the Diabetes Expo Event – Vision Screening Cobb Galleria Center, November 22, 2014

Special thanks to GA Lions Lighthouse Foundation, Marsha Marshall, Outreach Director for co-coordinating this event with Lion Kary Wright- Jonesboro Lion and board chairman for American Diabetes Association. The Lighthouse Foundation provided six vision-screening machines, brochures, and free sunglasses to attendees who had their vision checked. Lions' volunteers worked various shifts and were onsite from 8:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. This was a wonderful opportunity executed by dedicated multi-district lions to ensure close to 200 attendees had their vision checked! It was great to see multi-district lions come together to fulfill our international motto of WE SERVE!

Atlanta Metro Lions: Jason Johnson, Drucilla R. Hayworth, Shelia Morrow, and Menora Scott East Cobb Lions: Bob (Debbie) Hennessey, Club President Georgia Tech Campus Lions: Brooke Beisner and Garrett Cashwell Griffin Lions: Max (Claudette) Gallman Jonesboro Lions: Ann Singleton (Club President), Stephen Singleton, and Kary Wright, board chairman for American Diabetes Association.

Social Circle Lion: Dede deMarks (Club President) South Cobb Lions: Reese Munch (Club President/MD L -Zone 2 Chair), Carol Fox, and Charles Jones





"Peace, Love and Understanding"



MD 18 winning entry of the 2014 Peace Poster Contest. It was drawn by Je' Mazin Roberts, "Peace in the Midst of It All" - 6th grade of Georgia Military College and submitted by the Milledgeville Lions Club, District N.

Other entries are below -



LIONS INTERNATIONAL ESSAY "Peace, Love and Understanding"

Education Brings Peace, Love, and Understanding By: 8th Grade Olivia Phillips of Ben Hill Middle School in Fitzgerald, GA – Fitzgerald Lions Club, District 18-O

Education and knowledge are the keys to peace, love, and understanding. It seems that people today are searching for these qualities in their lives, but they just can't find them. The more education I: have the more 1 understand that if we would just educate ourselves on the lives of others, there would be more peace, love, and understanding worldwide.

I have been educated about love and peace by seeing my parents help others, help each other and help my sister and me. My parents have taught me the importance of making good choices and of giving to others. As I helped my parents, I learned at a very young age that if I made the choice to help others I changed inside and became a better person. My understanding about others even changed and t began to see their lives differently.

When I started elementary school and later middle school, my classes taught me that the biggest problems around the world are caused by a lack of understanding, love, and peace. It is easier for people to fight and argue instead of learning to communicate and compromise. I realize it is almost impossible to reason with terrorists overseas, but our American problems and problems with our allies could often be solved by people talking, researching solutions, trying to understand each other, and desiring peaceful resolutions. Love, understanding, and peace cannot be reached just through laws set down by our government, but by our people understanding the problems that cause so much pain.

I have always attended church and my Sunday school classes, mission activities, and my youth group have educated me on the need to show love and understanding, not just voice it. I have joined extra-curricular activities at school like Y Club and 4-H Club that have taught me how much suffering is taking place around the world. This means understanding the difficulties people go through daily because of a lack of food, water, money, education, and health services. I have learned that although I may not be able to do a lot, I can do what I can and that amount will make a difference. I had to be educated on the needs of people, no matter who they are or where they live. I have learned that small things make a difference: donating even a small amount of money, giving canned goods to needy families, dropping off my old glasses at a vision center, picking up litter, or donating a new toy at Christmas can help. Serving others has allowed me to love, understand, and to seek peace in my daily life.

Education is the most important road to travel when learning about peace, love, and understanding. Understanding does not happen overnight and it means doing something to help others. Then love of mankind will begin to grow and this gives a person peace. I have learned so much by getting up and trying to promote these words instead of just voicing them.

REPORT OF MD 18 LEO CHAIR – LION STEVE HELWIG:

Lion Helwig called attention to a printed report in each file: As I stated in my last report the Leo program continues to grow in Georgia! I will be attending the Charter Night ceremony for the new Monsignor Donovan High School (Athens Classic City 18-I) club 11/13. The Mountain Education Charter H.S. (Toccoa 18-I) has submitted for their charter with 26 Leos. THANK YOU to Thomas Davis and Bill Graham respectively for their hard work and dedication getting these new Leo clubs established! I was contacted last weekend at our (18-I) Cabinet meeting by members of the new Oglethorpe Lions club about how to get a Leo club there and Woodstock and Baxley are still working on theirs.

I am continuing to work with the Leo Council to get current information for all Leo clubs so that we can have a Leo Directory and would appreciate anything the Council can do to help. The best way for us to have good information is for the Leo clubs to submit their Leo-72 Officer Reporting form no later than May 15 each year.

Did you know there is a MyLCI for Leos? Did you know that Leo clubs can/should submit Leo-MMR's monthly? Did you know that each Lions district in Georgia is eligible and encouraged to appoint an Associate District Leo Chair? This position is for a dedicated Leo and is appointed by the District Governor and District Leo Chair. Do you know a Leo in your district who could serve in this position?

I am pleased to report that there are now two courses on the LCI website specifically tailored for/to Leos (Leadership and Team Building)! These are the courses LCI Youth Programs asked me to present at last year's Gathering/Conference and report input/ideas/suggestions from myself and the Leos.

I want to give a special shout-out/THANK YOU to the Towns County Leo club! During this year's Georgia Mountain Fall event they held a 4-hour fundraiser/collection at two of the intersections on the fairgrounds and collected \$700.00 that is earmarked for the Camp! They plan to present it at this year's Gathering/Conference.

I am exploring the possibility of holding a Services for Children Symposium as part of this year's MD18 Leo Gathering Conference. Tentative dates for the 2015 event are 20-22 March 2015 at our Camp in Waycross. I will be working closely with my fellow committee members and the Leo Council to determine a theme and schedule of seminars, projects for the Camp, and fun activities. As you visit clubs that sponsor a Leo club and write your monthly newsletter articles please mention this and encourage your Leos to attend. I will be sending information packets to each club (that I know how to reach). In that packet will be the MD18 Leo Officers list, Candidate form, and authorization/permission form. I would like to see greater representation on the Leo Council from all four districts so would ask you to encourage your Leos to apply. As more details become available I will keep the Council informed.

I will also continue to encourage our Leo clubs to apply for any and all awards for which they are eligible. I am in the process of refining/streamlining the Georgia Leo Club Service Award and will send out with a listing of all other awards by the first part of next year. The Leo of the Year applications must be received by LCI no later than April 1st so if you have Leos in your district that would like to apply please encourage them to submit to you and your Chair as soon as possible.

PDG Chris Sumner and I will be speaking this weekend regarding the items he contacted you about and keep Council appraised of our progress.

Thank you for your support of the Leo Program and our Georgia Leos!

"Share Peace"

is the theme of the 2015-16 Peace Poster Contest. Lions clubs can sponsor this art contest for kids in their community for children in local schools or organized, sponsored youth groups. Also, "Share Peace" is the theme of the 2015-16 Essay Contest – Lions clubs can sponsor this contest for kids in your community for in local schools or organized sponsored youth groups.

Contest kits and guidelines will be announced around 15 January 2015.



Important Dates For Your 2015 Calendar

We're excited about all the events in store for 2015, which is just around the corner. Please mark your calendar for these important dates and events in the coming year:

* State Indoor Winter Games and Southeast Power-lifting



- Competition, Cobb County, January 23rd-25th
- * Polar Plunge, Lake Lanier, February 21st
- * R-word Rally, Atlanta, April 15th
- * Over the Edge, Atlanta, May 2nd
- * State Summer Games, Atlanta, May 29th-31st
- * Duck Pluck, Atlanta, August 14th
- * State Masters Bowling Tournament, Warner Robins, August 21st-23rd
- * State Fall Games and the State Horse Show, October 9th-11th

Polar Plunge February 21st Lake Lanier



The 2015 **Polar Plunge** for Law Enforcement Torch Run of Georgia and Special Olympics Georgia will be held Saturday, February 21st at Lake Lanier Islands Beach & Water Park! Registration will begin at 11 a.m. and the Plunge will

begin at 1:30 p.m. You can register now by visiting <u>www.plungega.org</u> If you have questions concerning Polar Plunge, please contact **Lucy Faxon** or 770-414-9390 x118.



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 ?

President Joe Preston





2015 Lions "Inspiring Challenges" Float

Lions, I am excited to announce the news that our float from last year's <u>Rose Parade</u>, "Lions Built Matteo's Dream," won the Tournament Special Trophy! This trophy is presented for having exceptional merit in multiple classifications.

This year, our "Inspiring Challenges" float features Lions providing recreational activities for the blind and visually impaired. The activities that will be displayed on the float are the Bling Fishing Derby, Blind Surfing, Blind Buddies Gold Challenge, Bling Bicycling and the Miracle League Blind Beep Baseball.

Make sure you visit the <u>Lions Rose</u> <u>Float</u> website and <u>Facebook page</u> for more videos and pictures of our past floats. I look forward to seeing this year's float and getting to greet our fellow Lion friends in California! Be sure to watch for Joni and me on our "Inspiring Challenges" Rose float on January 1st.

Be sure to follow me on <u>Facebook</u> to see more activities, projects and pictures from my trips around the world.

Announcing the 2015-16 Peace Poster Contest Theme



The new theme for the 2015-16 Lions International Peace Poster Contest is "Share Peace." Kits for the contest, which include the official guide and rules, flyers, stickers and certificates, go on sale January 15. Lions clubs interested in sponsoring a Peace Poster Contest in their community must order a kit, either online through <u>Club Supplies</u> (Item Search: Peace Poster Kit) or by <u>downloading the</u> <u>Order Form</u>.

For more than 25 years, the Peace Poster Contest has encouraged children across the globe to express their thoughts on peace through art. Learn more about the contest and order your kit starting January 15!

New Video: Disaster Relief Public Service Announcement

By providing local media outlets with <u>Lions public service</u> <u>announcements</u> (PSAs), you can raise awareness about your club's services in the community. A new disaster relief PSA is now available for viewing on the <u>LCI YouTube</u> <u>channel</u>. It will also be available for download on the LCI website later this month. This PSA provides a brief look at how Lions are the first to respond when disaster strikes, and how members and nonmembers alike can get involved to help rebuild lives. Share this PSA via social media today, and let your community know that where there's a need, there's a Lion.

LIONS QUARTERLY





Watch <u>LQ</u> to learn how Lions are feeding children across the globe.

HIGHLIGHTS

President's Service Blog

Read about International President Barry Palmer's service activities around the world.

Digital LION Magazine

The LION Magazine (Headquarters Edition) is available online with added content, videos and links.

CONTESTS

2015-2016 Peace Poster Kits Purchase through Club Supplies starting January 15

EVENTS

Calendar of Events

Review upcoming Lions events your club can participate in locally.

<u> #LCICon Honolulu</u>

Register for the 2015 Convention by January 9 to receive the lowest rate of \$110.

Lions Day with the UN

LDUN is on March 7, 2015 in New York City. Register today!









Dear Lion,

This week, we celebrate the birthday of Melvin Jones, founder of

Lions Clubs International (LCI). It has been nearly 100 years since Melvin Jones first encouraged people to address the needs of their communities and the world, and I know he would be proud of what Lions have accomplished.



As your clubs, districts and multiple districts come together during this LCIF Week and the Worldwide Week of Service to honor Melvin Jones, I encourage you to think of all the lives you can impact now and throughout the entire year. Your club might host vision screenings, sponsor a food drive, host a highway cleanup, or paint a playground; the possibilities for service are endless-and so are the lives we can touch. However you choose to serve, know that you are making a positive difference every day, all year long.

I also want to remind you that your donations to LCIF make it possible for Lions to meet the growing needs of people around the world. We give sight, support youth, provide disaster relief and improve communities only because of your generosity and selfless giving. Thank you for your support of LCIF.

Melvin Jones once said, "You can't get very far until you start doing something for somebody else." Look how far we have come!

Sincerely,

Lion Barry J. Palmer Chairperson, Lions Clubs International Foundation

Providing Life Skills for Students

LCIF's Lions Quest program has impacted more than 13 million

students around the world through social and emotional learning. As a renowned program for positive life skills for youth, our partners are taking notice - NoVo Foundation recently provided a US\$300,000 grant to support Lions Quest.



Lions Quest is also revising its printed curriculum. The resulting curriculum

products will be more modern and relevant to issues facing today's youth, like bullying and career readiness. The revised program is scheduled to be ready in 2015.

Meeting Humanitarian Needs Globally

Numerous disaster relief grants have been awarded throughout the world to address flooding, wildfires, tornadoes, earthquakes, landslides and other natural disasters. One notable disaster was Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. LCIF quickly mobilized tents, water filtration units and millions in donations to support those affected. And, Lions remain



on the ground assisting their communities by rebuilding homes

In addition to disaster relief, LCIF

provided many grants for Lions' projects to support local communities. Projects that provided needed hospital equipment, built centers for blind and disabled community members, purchased mobile health units, constructed schools for children in developing countries and more changed the lives of approximately 6.73 million people in the past year!

Empowering People with Disabilities

LCIF and Lions are helping people with disabilities to lead more independent, productive and fulfilling lives. Lions have built more than 1,000 handicapped-accessible homes in partnership with Habitat for Humanity. We also support people with disabilities through training and services they need to improve their education and job prospects, while enhancing their day-to-day lives and emotional well-being.



Current humanitarian efforts include the **Opening** Eyes program, which helps Special Olympics athletes see the finish line more clearly, while

also improving their quality of life,



and the Lions Affordable Hearing Aid Program, which provides low-income people with access to hearing aids to enhance their quality of life.

ions Ouest and SightFirst Grants Awarded



The Lions Quest Advisory Committee recently approved US\$1,357,408 in grant funding for 15 projects in 13 countries. These grants will support projects such as a new model for working with youth sports teams in Italy, the expansion of job-skills training in Tennessee, and

program implementation in Cameroon and Morocco. Funding was also approved to expand LCIF and Lions Quest partnerships worldwide.

The **SightFirst** Advisory Committee also met and awarded 18 grants totaling US\$4,438,744. These grants will support a wide range of initiatives, including river blindness control in Cameroon, the development of an eye care system in Papua New Guinea, career training for the visually impaired in the United States, the provision of comprehensive eye care services at a Lions Eye Hospital in India and more.

IF YOU CAN'T SEND TO TROOPS THINK ABOUT THE USO!



The **United Services Organizations** (USO) is the way Americans support their troops. A private, nonprofit organization since its founding in 1941, the USO provides morale, welfare and recreation services to military personnel and their families.

The USO is committed to improving the quality of life of service men and women and their families. Whether at a USO center where a soldier on rest and recuperation (R&R) gets a warm welcome home, or at a deployment site where USO Volunteers send our troops off with support, gratitude, and, of course, good old-fashion "Southern Hospitality."

Clubs and Organizations: Benefits of Partnering with the USO

More than 70 years ago, the USO was founded by bringing together the volunteer efforts of six organizations to support a common goal: Support for U.S. troops sacrificing in defense of our country. Since then, organizations across America have provided vital support to troops and their families through the USO.

As a 501 (C) (3) non-profit organization, the USO has relied on the generosity of organizations to support its mission of lifting the spirits of our troops and families. Support through sponsorships, in-kind donations and charitable contributions is vital to advancing the USO mission. We can suggest <u>many effective ways</u> for your group to get involved. For more information please contact <u>USO Clubs and Organizations</u>.

Proud Supporters



The American Legion - General Federation of Women's Clubs - The Fraternity of Phi Gamma Delta - Theta Chi National Fraternity - Rugged Races LLC - Veterans of Foreign Wars - American Legion Auxiliary - Rotary international - Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks - Screen Actors Guild

USO of Georgia, Inc.

USO of Georgia is operated by the USO Council of Georgia, Inc. and assists over 400,000 individuals annually; making it one of the very largest USO operations in the world. Permanent staff and volunteers help provide the services.

USO of Georgia, Inc. operates three physical locations throughout the state, USO at Robins Air Force Base, USO at Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, and USO at Savannah International Airport. In addition USO Outreach Services to Ft. Benning, Ft. Gordon, Hunter AAF, and Ft. Stewart.

Military Population Served: Enlistees heading to basic training, new soldiers, military personnel and their families (specifically those heading for overseas duty), troops deploying and redeploying on military charters at Hunter AAF., transient military families, Wounded Warriors, Families of The Fallen, and transitioning Veterans.

USO supports more than 200,000 service members and their families annually.

Programs & Services offered throughout the State: USO Center Services (Hospitality & Communication), Operation USO Care Packages, Welcome Home Activities, Deployment and Family Readiness Events, Morale and Welfare Services, Tickets, Entertainment and Holiday Activities, USO Entertainment Tours and Hospitality, and USO Airport Centers.

Over 1,000 volunteers provide USO services in Georgia.

The mission of the USO is "to lift the spirits of America's troops and their families".

EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR, INCLUDING WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS, SOLDIERS, MARINES, AIR FORCE, NAVY AND COAST GUARD PERSONNEL RECEIVE SUPPORT FROM THE USO.

Our Troops Depend Upon The USO. The USO Depends Upon YOU. Please Consider A Donation TODAY!

USO of Georgia Locations



Jean R. Amos USO Center P.O. Box 20963 Atlanta, Georgia 30320 Telephone 404 761-8061 USO at Robins Air Force Base 925 9th Street Airman and Family Support Building #794 Robins AFB, Georgia 31093 Telephone 478-222-8211 **USO Savannah / Hilton Head International Airport** 400 Airways Avenue Departure Level Savannah, Georgia 31406 Telephone 912-966-2118

WHITE CANE IS IN APRIL =

BUT EMPHASIS SHOULD BE WHITE CANE IS ALL YEAR LONG

Don't wait start planning your club's participation now and think about *ALL YEAR LONG*. A few clubs report they are too small, or they are rebuilding or not sure how to hold a White Cane Drive. NO club is too small (or too large) to participate. A White Cane Drive can be a terrific incentive for a rebuilding club. But first let's talk about White Cane.

Increasing Awareness of the "Symbol of Independence"

Many individuals throughout the world who are blind or who have severe vision loss use the familiar white cane with a red band at the bottom. Lions help increase awareness of this "symbol of independence" – and the laws governing its use – during international white cane events.

Throughout the world, the long white cane is used by people who are blind or visually impaired as a tool for safe and reliable navigation. The white cane is a symbol of the user's skills and talents, mobility and independence. It also allows the sighted person to recognize that the user is visually impaired.

The white cane was initially developed and put into use as a measure of safety, especially in traffic situations. Sufficient training with an Orientation and Mobility specialist can aid in successful cane use, technique and safety. Several countries have traffic laws designed to protect the person using the white cane. The "<u>VisionAware</u>" section of the American Foundation for the Blind's website illustrates several types of white canes that are internationally recognized. Sometimes the white cane has a red band or strip for the purpose of contrast.

International White Cane Safety Day (October 15th) gives Lions an opportunity to increase awareness of the white cane traffic safety laws. According to the <u>World Blind Union</u>, which is a global organization representing the 285 million blind or partially sighted people worldwide, "White Cane Day is observed worldwide to recognize the movement of blind people from dependency to full participation in society."





We believe the long white cane is a means to independence. The white cane has proved a useful tool to millions of blind people in navigating their environments with confidence and safety. It is a tool which allows blind people to travel where and when they want, and as such leads to self-sufficiency.

We believe that independence and freedom to travel are so important to the quality of life of blind people that every blind person should have a cane, regardless of ability to pay. We are giving, free of charge to the user, rigid fiberglass canes. Please see the online application or download the paper application to view available cane sizes.





Visit our <u>online free white cane application form</u> now or complete an accessible <u>PDF application</u> online. Completed applications should be mailed to: <u>http://freecane.nfb.org/</u>

Free White Cane Program National Federation of the Blind 200 East Wells Street *at Jernigan Place* Baltimore, MD 21230

Request a free white cane!

Any blind individual in the fifty states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico may request a cane for their personal use. Requests may be made as often as every six months.

Fellow Lions,

As a follow up to my letter dated September 3, 2014, we have conducted a review throughout our association to identify areas where the replica white cane is used. As a result of our review, Lions Clubs International has decided to update the white cane symbol by adopting a current image of the straight cane, wherever applicable. To that end, LCI has:

- Revised content to the association's White Cane Safety Day Web page
- Revised content to the association's White Cane Fact Sheet

• Discontinued the old online White Cane sticker; the new sticker is on order and is expected to be in stock and available online by December 1, 2014

• Discontinued the cane with the curved handle; a new white cane is expected to be in stock and available online by January 1, 2015

• Encouraged licensees to follow the association's decision to adopt the current image of a straight cane

In addition, a blog about International White Cane Safety Day appeared on October 15.

Very truly yours, Scott Drumheller Executive Administrator & Secretary

Suggested Activities for Lions

Mobilize your club to partner with local blindness experts, schools and organizations for the blind to plan your International White Cane Safety Day awareness activity.

- Arrange for a person who is blind to demonstrate the use of the white cane and its benefits, and share his or her accomplishments and aspirations with the community or your club.
- Invite a representative from a local school for the blind or a low vision clinic to speak about white cane, orientation and mobility and white cane laws in your community.
- Work with your local government officials to create a White Cane Safety Day Proclamation for your event.
- Work with local news media to convey your community's white cane laws to the public.

Be sure to report your white cane awareness project or event using the <u>Service Activity Report</u> in MyLCI. Learn how your project may contribute toward the <u>Centennial Service Challenge</u>!

So, how about some ideas on how to begin or improve your club's efforts. Here are some ideas:

- * Place plastic jars on check-out counters of convenience and fast food stores. This could be done 4-6 weeks in April and can be handled by 1 or 2 Lions. Special jar lids and decals are available through White Cane Days, Inc.
- * Write letters to businesses of your community soliciting donations. Then follow up with a personal visit.
- * Hold a pancake breakfast, chili supper, chicken BBQ, or other project designated for White Cane.
- * Get publicity through having a community leader (mayor, administrator, or commissioner) sign a proclamation declaring your club's White Cane Drive and publishing it in your local newspaper.
- * If you have a Wal-Mart, K-Mart, Kroger's, or some other large retail outlet, approach management about a matching grant for White Cane.
- * Utilize your White Cane efforts to educate your community about the Georgia Lions Lighthouse in general, and your club in particular. You may be able to recruit a few new members.

Miniature Plastic White Canes

The original miniature plastic white cane lapel pin with a clutch back. (Use with punched card to deliver the white cane message.)

\$70.00/500



Punched Cards 1 1/2" x 3/4" tags to be used with plastic canes. They feature the White Cane traffic symbol and the Lions Emblem.

Individually Wrapped Mints

750 per box \$15.00

LIONS OF GEORGIA



2015 MD 18 CONVENTION THE UGA TIFTON CAMPUS CONFERENCE CENTER 15 RDC ROAD, TIFTON, GA MAY 15 - 17, 2015

HOSPITALITY BOOK AND EVENT REGISTRATION

NAME (check boxes that apply) Each person receiving a hospitality book must be listed	# Hospitality Books	# MJF Luncheon tickets	Lion (Check)	Guest (Check)	Dietary Restrictions (type)
1			_	1	

Club:	District:	
Address:	City, State, Zip:	
Email Address:		

Hospitality Book Includes: 2 District Breakfasts and District Governors Banquet on Saturday Night.

Cost of Hospitality Book:	At 2014 Convention \$100.00		June 2 – Aug. 30, 2014 \$110.00	Sept. 1 – Nov. 30, 2014 \$120.00	
	Dec. 1, 2014 – Mar. 31, 20 \$130.00	15	April 1– April 30, 2015 \$140.00		dline, May 1, 2015 \$145.00
Hospitality Books	#	0	each	Total Amt.	s

Hospitality Books	#	e	each	TOTAL AML	>	
MUF Luncheon	#	@ \$25	each	Total Amt.	\$	11
Make Checks Payable To: Lions of Georgia MD Convention Total A					\$	1
Check #/Cash	Date Paid	Amount Paid			\$	

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: LIONS OF GEORGIA MD18 CONVENTION SEND FORM AND CHECK TO: Lion PDG Duncan Sinclair, Convention Treasurer 569 Minisee Road, Moultrie, GA 31768

The official hotels are off I-75 · Exit 62 & Highway 82: Comfort Inn & Suites (905 West 7th Street, Tifton, GA 31794, 229-382-8250) \$85" per night. Country Inn & Suites (901 7th St W, Tifton, GA 31794, 229-382-8100) \$85" per night.

Rooms are also available at:

Holiday Inn Express (814 West 7th Street, Tifton GA 31794, 229-382-3300) \$95' per night. Days Inn & Suites (1199 82W, Tifton GA 31794, 229-382-8505) \$85' per night.

*Applicable taxes will be added to all room rates.

Don't forget to mention that you are with the Lions of Georgia.



http://galions.org/md18.html

