Greetings!

This year is flying by! Here we are in the midst of the holiday season with our Mid-Winter Convention only six weeks away.

As Lions, this time of year, we are especially aware of those in our community who are in need and those who need to be treated to something special. I want to thank you all for what you are doing! I read your service reports, see your newsletters and follow you on Facebook. Your VIP parties, coat collections, adopt a family projects, holiday dinner donations, shelter support…everything you do, changes the lives of those in our communities. You are an amazing gift to those in need, if they only knew what a gift they are to us! To be able to help, to see smiles on their faces, to know they will not be hungry and that Santa WILL visit their home, is one of the greatest gifts we get from being Lions. Yes, we serve, but they change our lives. Thank you.

As our convention approaches, I would like to remind you about our service project. Once again, this year, we will be collecting new or clean gently used blankets, small tarps and golf umbrellas. We also need men’s heavy winter gloves and single serving breakfast foods (oatmeal, cereal bars, grits). Your donations mean so much to our neighbors who need some help.

If you have not yet submitted the name of the Lion in your club who is the Heart/Unsung hero of your club, please email me at LionSusieD@gmail.com by December 29, with that name. I will be calling you again if I do not hear from you! Remember your zone basket for the raffle! This is a very important fundraiser to help Brighter Vision and this year a portion will be going to LCIF as well.

My heartfelt thanks for all you do, the blessings you bestow on others and your unending service. I wish you and your families a belated Happy Chanukah, Merry Christmas and Happy Kwanza.

See you all soon! You are the best and it is my honor to serve as your District Governor!

Yours in service,
DG Susie
Hi All,

As we move into the holiday season and more quality time with family and friends, we want to remember those who for reasons of circumstances like poor health, recent loss, or loneliness do not experience this time of year as most people do. Whether it is through the efforts of your Lions Club, or personal initiatives, we should reach out to those in our communities who are most in need to brighten their season. These folks could be your neighbors, coworkers or just friends you have not met yet. It does not take much. Small kindnesses can go a long way.

We are soliciting items for our silent auction at the Friday Fun Night on January 25th at the Mid-Winter Convention. Please look around your home and if you have a piece of art or something new in the box that you don’t have a use for, consider donating it to our auction. Just let me know by e-mail if you would like to donate.

In an added note about our Mid-Winter Convention, lunch on Saturday will be served at no charge to attendees in the Hospitality Suite. We hope to see you all there.

Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa and Very Happy New Year to everyone.
4th Annual District 31-O Lions Mid-Winter Convention
Registration Form

**CHANGING LIVES WITH KINDNESS**
Greensboro High Point Marriott Airport, Greensboro, NC
January 25-26, 2019

Friday - January 25
Family Fun Night (Food and Entertainment) .................................................. 8:30PM - 9:00PM

Saturday - January 26
Tail Twisters Breakfast (meal served from 8:00AM - 8:45AM) ............. 8:00AM/Entertainment to Follow
Hospitality Room Open for Lunch
Seminars, Delegate Certification, District Cabinet Meeting .................. Times to be announced
International Guest PDG Debbie Cantrell will present "New Voices" program
District Governor Bancutt [Lions and Guests] ......................... ID Geoffrey Wade, Keynote Speaker .......... 6:30PM - 8:00PM

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<th>GSO HP Marriott Airport</th>
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**Rooms and Lions Room Rate will be available until December 27th.**

Make room reservations directly with the hotel:
Call (336) 852-0450 or 800-228-3020 and ask for NC Lions 31-O Mid-Winter Convention.
Reservation link to make online reservations:

**Book your group rate for NC Lions District 31-O Mid-Winter Convention.**

No refunds after Jan. 18, 2019.

Return this part of the form with your check - Copy as needed

Club: ___________________________ District: ___________________________

**Names:**
PRINT first and last names & circle title and honors that apply


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<th>Food Allergies:</th>
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Total Cost: $5

Reminder: Please Select Banquet Meal Preference and Specific Food Allergies Above. No meals can be guaranteed with on-site registration at convention.
Psychological research demonstrates that those who serve others are happy people. A survey of 4,500 American adults revealed that of those who volunteered an average of one hundred hours a year, 68% reported they were physically healthier, 73% said it “lowered my stress levels,” and 89% said it “has improved my sense of well-being.” Are you happy? If not, maybe you need to volunteer more at the club and district level or perhaps find a service project that you are passionate about and volunteer to organize it at your club. I can personally testify that when you help others, you are the one who receives the blessing! December is a great time to serve and to give. I know that many clubs will be participating in Christmas parties for the visually impaired with other clubs preparing gift baskets for nursing homes and others serving meals for the hungry. December is very busy and there are lots of activities demanding your time. However, let me encourage you to find time in December to help your club serve others. You’ll be glad you did.

I want to personally thank the membership of District 31-O for the investment made in me by allowing me to attend the Advanced Lions Leadership Institute (ALLI) in November. I was in Winnipeg Canada with around 125 Lions plus faculty. Most of the Lions were 2nd Vice District Governor’s like myself. I have been very impressed over the last few years by the quality of training available to Lions at all levels and ALLI certainly continued that quality training. The faculty was well-prepared. The classes were very inter-active and provided opportunities to learn from Lions all over the US, Canada and Puerto Rico. In addition to ALLI there is regional training, training for emerging leaders, and lots and lots of on-line classes available to all Lions who wish to be better in their club or district positions. You can even get a “degree” from Lions University. Check out these opportunities. They will make you better as a Lion as well as in your chosen career.

It is hard to believe we are almost half way through the 2018-19 Lion’s year. I hope you will celebrate what has been accomplished so far by attending the Mid-Winter convention on January 25-26. Learn what happens beyond the club level and make friends with Lions from other clubs. I hope to see you there!
Our Mid-Winter Convention will be here soon! We will operate the “Brighter Visions Boutique” again this year to raise money for Brighter Visions. In this store we will sell items made by Lions and their friends as well as other items you think people would want to buy for gifts or for themselves.

We are asking each club to participate by sending several items to be sold. Please attach a tag with the price we should charge and the name of your club, so your club can receive Brighter Visions credit when your item sells. All prices should be in whole dollars. Indicate if you want your item/s reduced on Saturday afternoon. Also indicate if unsold items will be picked up or left to be given to a local charity (to be named later). We need all items at the Marriott in Greensboro on Friday afternoon, so the store can be set up and open for business on Friday evening.

Many VIPs do crafts, so don’t forget to include them when your club is looking for items to donate.

Thanks for your help! We hope this will be an enjoyable shopping experience and a good way to increase our Brighter Visions contributions at the same time.

If you have questions you may contact:
Deloris Owens 919-693-2203
Trudy Watkins 910-895-5787
Frances Almond 704-519-7052
Shirley Chafee 336-674-8023.
I am sure that there are many of you, like me, that find November and December to be busy months to get everything done before the holiday season and the end of the year. The year has gone too quickly.

This has been a year full of so many blessings. Everywhere we have gone we have seen lives changed and new hope on the faces of those whose lives you have touched.

As we approach the end of the year, Judy and I want to express to each of you our sincere appreciation for your friendship, your love, and your faithfulness in serving those in need. It is an honor to serve beside you. Truly you have answered the call to be a Beacon of Hope and look for new horizons of service.

May the words of this song, remind us of our commitment to be found faithful as Lions.

“After all our hopes and dreams have come and gone,
And those who sift through all we’ve left behind;
May the clues they discover and the memories they uncover
Become the light that leads them… [in a life of service].

Oh, may all who come behind us find us faithful;
May the fire of our devotion light their way.
May the footprints that we leave, lead them to believe
And the lives we live inspire them [in service] to obey.
Oh, may all who come behind us find us faithful.”

Have a blessed holiday season!
Lions in the USA already screen over a million kids per year though state-wide and local programs often known as “KidSight.” Lions KidSight USA is a national coalition that brings together Lions program that screen preschool and school age kids, concentrating on children from 6 months to 6 years of age in order to create a coordinated national program.

Our mission is to ensure eye screening and follow-up care is given to all kids because every child deserves to learn and see the world clearly. To do this, we will work with Lions to increase the number of screening programs around the country in order to reach more children when it is possible and where it is needed.

“KidSight USA now has a Screening Data Management System for reporting screening results. I have been appointed by the Council of Governors as the Statewide Coordinator. I will also serve as the coordinator for District O. After I reported my appointment to KidSight, I was given a password to the data base. Each District will appoint a coordinator and each club using a screener will appoint one Lion to report the results. The Club reporter will have access to only the club data and the District Coordinator will have access to all clubs in the district. Each District Coordinator and each Club Reporter will be given a password to gain access to the data base. You may change your password after logging into the system. I have to submit each District Coordinator and Club Reporter.

I need their name, club and email address.

If you are that Lion, please email me your name and E-mail address at dipcc2@aol.com.

Thanks!

Diane Whitley, Multiple District Chairperson
Dear Lions,

The USA/Canada Leo Leadership Foundation is happy to announce that registration is now open for the 2019 USA/Canada Leo Leadership Forum in Arizona, USA. We ask that you please share this information with the Clubs in your District. Our Leo Leadership Forum provides our Leos various interactive seminars in areas of Leadership and community development. These seminars are facilitated by experts in the subject and co-facilitated by a Leo. At the conclusion of the Leo Leadership Forum, our Leos will receive their High School Degree for completing each seminar and passing a quiz provided by the facilitator. They will also have the opportunity to meet other Leos, Lions, LCI Staff, and International officers. We are happy to share that our International Guest will be Past International Director Jennifer Ware of Michigan, USA. We will also have a day of fun touring Phoenix. Leos will also participate in a service project at the Arizona Sight & Hearing Foundation of Multiple District 21. This is really a great opportunity for our Leos. We also encourage Clubs, Districts, and Multiple Districts consider sponsoring a Leo to attend. This truly is a great investment in our youth and the future leaders of our Lions association.

Sincerely,

PID NICOLIN CAROL MOORE
Advisor
USA/Canada Leo Leadership Foundation
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dearest Lions of 31-O:

Once again we are hosting the State Convention. Anyone interested in being a part please let me know. There are committees, jobs and positions for everyone. Meeting date will be scheduled after the new Lion’s year starts.

The need for individuals is GREAT!!!
Please call me at 336-498-1117 (home number) or email me at PDGTG31-O@gmail.com.

PDG Lion Terrie Grooms

GET INVOLVED! GET INVOLVED!

NEED TO GET INFORMATION OUT TO DISTRICT O LIONS???
PUT IT IN THE NEWSLETTER! CONTACT:
LION JENNIFER CLAPP
RESUME@BRGINC.COM or
call (336) 697-9770.

REMEMBER…
“ARK”...
“RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS”. JUST ONE SMALL ONE A DAY…IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE FOR SOMEONE!
District 31-O is responding well to funding the Brighter Visions Annual Fund Drive. As of October 19, 2018, the district has contributed 26% of its goal. Clubs were generous at the kickoff in early August, contributing over $13,000.00. Our current contribution is $33,446.46 with 17 clubs participating.

A letter of appreciation has been prepared for Rosa Folks of Across the Tracks Framing in Burlington, NC, who donated the framing of the Bob Timberlake print “Mountain Flurries”. The professional framing is valued at $300.00 plus. The framed print measures 38.5 inches by 24 inches and is valued at approximately $500.00.

Raffle tickets have been distributed to many of the zone chairs. Tickets are $5.00 each or 5 for $20.00. The drawing will take place at Camp Dogwood on June 20, 2019 during summer camp. Checks should be made out to the local Lions club which will then prepare a check to NCLI. The check and ticket stubs should be mailed to Laraine Dupree to be forwarded to NCLI. Each club will receive Brighter Vision credit for all tickets sold.

Thank you to each club that is contributing to the Brighter Visions Annual Fund which funds the programs of Camp Dogwood, the mobile screening unit, matching funds, mobility canes, education grants, the Deaf-Blind Retreat. A small donation from this fund is forwarded to the VIP Fishing Tournament to help with that program.

I would be honored to visit your club to refresh your members about the programs that are dependent upon Brighter Vision funding. I can also bring the print for your members to see.

Laraine Dupree
Brighter Visions Chair, District 31-O
Brighter Visions
Fund Raiser
Available
NOW!!!!

Framed
Bob Timberlake Print
“Mountain Flurries”
Finished size: 38 ½” x 24”
Estimated value $500.00

Raffle tickets
$5.00 each
Or
5 for $20.00

Contact your zone chair for tickets
MID-WINTER CONVENTION REMINDER!!

*Early registration deadline is December 15th.*

Please find the registration form on our website

http://nclions31o.org/wp/download/2019_mid-winter_registration.docx
The recent Hurricane Florence impact/destruction upon North Carolina is beyond description in many areas. Scores of our fellow citizens suffered devastation of their property and loss of necessary daily needs. You will be proud to learn among the first groups to respond with assistance to these devastated areas was LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION. An additional infusion of $100,000.00 is planned for the hardest hit areas of the State from LCIF. One mandatory action for each LCIF Payment is detail of receipts for all expenditures secured by local Lions. We serve, and as you see, Lions Respond!

During the impact of Hurricane Matthew two years ago as well as the impact of the tornado hitting Greensboro just ten days before our Lions State Convention, LCIF was there helping. Forty-thousand dollars ($40,000.00) was directed to our State for assistance of these natural disasters. Additionally, LCIF provided $100,000.00 matching fund for the North Carolina Lions for Camp Dogwood this year. In total our State has received over $250,000.00 from LCIF in the past two years alone. The need presented itself and LCIF responded!

As a Lion actively involved in service in your region, you are, and your Club is challenged to meet the needs in your community. Lions undoubtedly meet this challenge far better then any other group. Beyond the local needs Lions Clubs aspire to meet, we also work to meet needs on a grander scale in our State with our work to meet the goals of North Carolina Brighter Visions - our Lions State Foundation. These two efforts are the main areas of focus we have targeted for many years, and these two areas of focus should remain as such. This letter of reminder is to place before the Lions of this State the momentous efforts of LCIF in responding to our needs in North Carolina. For this reason, the LCIF Chair of each District is asking all Lions Clubs to include in their Club Goals $25.00 per member over this Club Year for LCIF. We have received much from LCIF, and we are served best by showing our appreciation by this action. Part of my mission as the Statewide Chair is to seek corporate financial assistance for this effort to augment what is raised by our Lions from all five Lions Club Districts. I am working on it and need the show our Lions on North Carolina believe in the cause as well.

I urge you to actively seek opportunities to serve within your Club for all local areas of Lions Service you find as needed. Remember Brighter Visions while planning your Club Fundraisers and include LCIF in the plan. If your Club has not planned on a LCIF Contribution this year, perhaps a personal contribution of $25.00 to LCIF can be offered as a tax-deductible contribution to show your deep appreciation for the responsiveness shown to our State by LCIF.

It is truly great to be a Lion and be a part of the responsiveness we provide in bringing service to those less fortunate. Thank you for all you do as a Lion.

During this Holiday Season we all wish to show our thanks for our blessings. I offer this blessing to you and your family—

May you always have love to share, health to spare, and friends who care.

IT IS GREAT TO BE A LION!

LCIF Chair
IPDG Steve McLaurin
The Madison Lions Club held their Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 4th. What a great time it was! DG Susie, PDG Randal and myself, Lion Jennifer, were all invited to attend. To be a smaller club, they are very active in their community and serve a lot of folks. Lion President Eli Price does a great job and has been serving as their president for 18 years! This club shows that a few hands can make a huge difference in other folks’ lives. Thank you, Madison Club, for all you do!
MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AND TO ALL A JOYOUS AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON!