



## **Minutes from Brighter Visions Kickoff, District 31-O**



### **2022-2023 Brighter Visions Campaign Kickoff August 6, 2022 Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church Greensboro, NC**

#### **Welcome**

District 31-O Governor (DG) Gary Greene welcomed everyone and called the well-attended meeting to order at 1:00pm.

#### **Invocation**

Past District Governor (PDG) Lynn McCaskill delivered his thankful invocation in his benevolent manner that has become so familiar to us.

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

1st Vice District Governor (1VDG) Susan O'Brien led us in our Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **Introductions**

Past Council Chair (PCC) Dale Dupree, District Brighter Visions Co-Chairperson, was called to the podium to make introductions.

PDG Carlton Metts-NCLI Executive Director, Lion Eileen Artavia-Brighter Visions State Chairperson, PCC Skippy Jackson-NCLI President, PDG Chris Headley - State Financial Chairperson and Lion Tammy Thomas - Camp Dogwood Director were all introduced as our Guest Speakers for the kickoff.

#### **2022-2023 Brighter Visions Campaign**

PDG Carlton Metts was first up and thanked all for attending and supporting NCLI, Camp Dogwood and our efforts in Brighter Visions. District 31-O was recognized for having sold on average of 2.34 books per member which was the highest in the state! Many things are happening at Camp Dogwood. The first week of retreats instead of a camp has just been completed. The campers enjoyed the retreat and were able to come and go as they pleased. The retreat was good, and the nurses were not as busy with long lines of patients. The Kid's Sight operations have started, and all five vehicles are in. The logistics still have to be addressed regarding the vehicle insurance and designated drivers. There will be plenty of equipment in these vehicles. Two Plus Optics units are available now and a spare one may be purchased soon. It appears that the vehicles will be ready for operations in September 2022. Logistics and training are still being addressed. A very pleasant surprise was announced and that was the very large donation that Camp Dogwood received from the South Iredell Lions Club in the amount of \$1,033,450. The funds are restricted and are to be used for buildings. The money will be placed in CDs for the time being until the committee decides how to best spend it.

Lions were thanked for what we do, and we were wished a good year for 2022-2023. If anyone needs information regarding their personal or club records, PDG Carlton will be happy to assist.

Lion Eileen Artavia was grateful to be here as the Brighter Visions State Chair. Plans were to show a video, but it could not be shown today. However, the Brighter Visions programs mentioned in the video include mobility canes, the cost of Camp Dogwood, clinical eye research, the VSP Vouchers and all other programs that are available there. These programs benefit all people that they serve. To make these programs work, it takes all of us. The State Directory in the Brighter Visions packet contains NCLI President Skippy Jackson's motto, which is "Teamwork". This past year Camp Dogwood had to stop ordering canes a month before the end of the fiscal year because funds were exhausted. A lack of funds means that something has to be cut.

Lion Eileen closed by encouraging clubs to give what they can and try to exceed goals if possible. Submitting your money early is also encouraged.

NCLI President, PCC Skippy Jackson, reflected back on being reunited with Past District Governors that served with him during his term as Governor. Recalling the camaraderie, the love, the working together and succeeding is the wonderful part about Lionism to him. Lions were strongly encouraged to go to Camp Dogwood for something. You look forward to seeing someone that you have not seen for a while. In a similar way, he cited a fine example of camaraderie with a VIP. If you go to Camp Dogwood during camp season and work with the VIPs, that will be a rewarding experience. If you also volunteer to go to the VIP Fishing Tournament, a VIP attending the tournament that you may have assisted at camp will recognize you by your voice and will be delighted to be reunited with you!

PCC Skippy's motto is very appropriate for what Lions do in supporting Brighter Visions and his unmistakable baritone voice resonated deeply when he cited the words of his motto of Teamwork. Coming together is a beginning, Keeping together is progress, and working together is success. Henry Ford.

He closed by stating that it takes all of us and we all work together.

Please note that the video mentioned above will be provided to DG Gary and will be distributed to the club presidents. It will also be on Facebook.

### **Camp Dogwood Financial Campaign**

PDG Chris Headley was very humbled to be asked to take the position as Camp Dogwood Financial Campaign Chair.

PDG Chris first recognized the Jamestown Lions Club with the William Joyce Award in Group 1 for having sold over 12 books per member for the Camp Dogwood Raffle!

PDG Chris stated that the Lions are the owners of the camp. Maintenance expenses have to be paid for and the money collected from raffle tickets is used for the

maintenance expenses. For the last few years, we have been coming close to \$100,000 annually when we had to replace air conditioning units, washers, stoves, refrigerators, and roofing. The 2022-2023 quota is three books per member. Several creative suggestions were offered on how to sell Camp Dogwood tickets such as offering baked goods to sell tickets at some event or partnering with food establishments to get a percentage of sales or perhaps asking for space at grocery stores or retailers to sell tickets.

Speaking Programs are offered to clubs about Camp Dogwood and can be scheduled through Camp Dogwood upon request.

Lion Tammy Thomas thanked each and every one for volunteering at camp and for helping during cleanup week. Her main topic today was the Summer Camp Program. In early May, Camp Dogwood decided to have retreats instead of camp due to a labor shortage. Five retreat sessions were held. The limited schedule included the following activities: fishing, boating, putt-putt, archery, BB guns, arts & crafts, bingo, beeper eggs, water balloon fights, tattooing, concert piano, antique cars and a reptile exhibit. Lions are encouraged to come and visit to see what the VIPs experience during their vacation.

Upcoming events were recapped with some details and include the following: On November 15-17, 2022, there is a Fall Festival Retreat and a square dance on the last night!

December 30-31, 2022, thru January 1, 2023, there is a New Year's Retreat. Lots of games, hats and sparkling cider will be provided to bring in the New Year!

Volunteers interested in helping are asked to contact her at Camp Dogwood.

### **Questions & Answers**

No questions were asked regarding any of these fine presentations.

### **The District Kickoff**

- PCC Dale Dupree reemphasized the dedication our Lions have in attending events like today. Many others would like to have attended but were not able to. To further stress the importance of what we do as Lions, he cited examples of overhearing how some people complain about minor inconveniences in their lives at doctor's offices or while leisurely traveling and never take into account the much more severe conditions that our VIPs are faced with every day.
- The funds raised from the Brighter Visions Campaign helps our VIPs enjoy a vacation at Camp Dogwood, they provide opportunities to have their vision screened and financial support is available for glasses or surgery. Canes are provided and funding is available for their children to attend trade school or college. This campaign gives our VIPs a chance to enjoy life. Those that have volunteered at the camp enjoy it. A lot of good things are done and what is offered is priceless. Lions were encouraged to go back to their club and think about what they can do to support Brighter Visions and how they can do it.

- A new form has been created that is directed towards businesses. Their donations will be credited to the clubs that promote the initiative. Lions were encouraged to pick up the form up after the meeting and to start seeking donations.
- Lion Gene Hassell stated he will be following up with Club Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers as we approach June 30, 2023. His final push is to assure that all clubs are reminded to make every effort in donating towards the goal of \$120,000 before the campaign ends. Be prepared for his notification!
- As we customarily do every year, Lion Gene called for donations from clubs in attendance today. After all donations were received, the total amount came to \$25,832! With this fantastic start, we have reached just over 21.5% of our 2022-2023 goal!

### **Closing Comments**

- Lion Carle Hall (Asheboro) announced that PDG Stewart Wooten (Asheboro) had a mild heart attack last weekend. He currently at home, doing ok and has the full support of his family. We are asked to keep Lion Stewart in our prayers.
- DG Gary announced that our Guest Speaker at the Mid-Winter Convention will be International Director T. J. Tigerina from Texas. The plans are to set up a new club while he is here visiting.
- Lion Eileen Artavia came forward to present an award for Brighter Visions donations last year. District 31-O received the Bronze Level and PDG Chris Headley accepted the medallion on behalf of our district.
- PDG Chris Headley announced that our Camp Dogwood Raffle Tickets were available today and club representatives were asked to please pick up their package.

### **Adjournment**

The campaign adjourned at 2:00pm.

### **Benediction**

PDG Lynn McCaskill was once again called upon to end today's sessions with the benediction.

Respectfully submitted,  
CS Bob Gwyn