



Steve McLaurin
NCLF President 2023-2024

A Mission to Care, Support and Help Our North Carolina Citizens

The North Carolina Lions Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization established in 1934. As the official charitable organization for the Lions of North Carolina and working closely with community based North Carolina Lions Clubs, we collectively enrich the lives of those blind and visually impaired, offer needed services for those less fortunate in each community and a hallmark of continuous support of research for health related issues concerning vision and overall wellness of all our citizens.

Letter from the President

Hello Lions of North Carolina. As this is the second Newsletter from the North Carolina Lions Foundation, I hope you found the initial Newsletter informative. Much is happening in all five Districts as we are starting out the year with great passion. Remember this year's motto:

TAKING THE BIG STEP A PASSION FOR SUCCESSFUL SERVICE

The five District Brighter Vision Kick-offs demonstrated we begin this Lions Year with gusto, can you determine to keep your passion for successful service motor running?

Our first NCLF Board Meeting delivered an atmosphere that this renewed enthusiasm is working! We have received the first corporate contribution allowing a Lions Club cost of using the KidSight vehicle to be reduced to now \$75.00 per screening event, that's a 50% reduction from the previous cost. If your club can line-up the screening, the KidSight vehicle in your district (there is one per District) will respond with three (3) screening machines. This is exciting news, and we hope to surpass all previous years in total kids screened. Remember every screening demonstrates our work and new club members may be inspired.



During the President's Induction Dinner, I announced we are planning three (3) concerts this year occurring in three different venues. The renown "Hall Sisters" will be performing, and all Lions and the General Public are invited. These events are planned for the Spring of 2024. I will keep you posted. The net funds from this effort will be for Brighter Visions. The hope is the added revenue coupled with your Brighter Visions Contribution will allow greater areas of service.



I am excited to be working with all of you this year. Let's crank it up and **Take The Big Step in Service.**

Steve McLaurin
President NCLF 2023-2024



Sensational Start for the New Year at the First Meeting of the NCLF Board of Directors

From NCLF Executive Director, Carlton Metts

End of the summer is here as all of the Brighter Vision Kickoffs are too. All of the Districts are starting ahead of the last fifteen years. All have been successful and informative with great participation from the clubs. I am without a doubt very proud of all the five District events. The District Governors seem to be fired up and organized. Let's end the year the way it started and it will be the best Brighter Visions Fund Drive ever.

Some of the items approved at the August Board of Directors meeting:

1. NC Lions KidSight has acquired from two donors for grants for this program. The grants have put the foundation in a position and approved by the Board to reduce the per day screening fee from \$150 to \$75 to the clubs with the KidSight Grants matching the remaining \$75 portion. School is starting so we need to start making those contacts. See your District KidSight Chair and become a certified screener, you will never regret the experience.
2. The board approved a new revised and updated Employee Personnel Policy for the North Carolina Lions Foundation.
3. The board approved replacement of the carpets in the rooms in the Lineberger and Udovich Dorms. The Fellowships and Partners reported a great year with awards around the state totaling \$53,100. The awards including Stickley Fellowships, Woolard Partner in Service, Scruggs Beacon of Hope and the all New North Carolina Lions Ambassador. An awesome year for this program which funds our Programs and Services, Campers and the Stickley Endowment.

The August 11-13 Board Meetings were a very busy weekend with the installation of our new officers for the NCLF Executive Committee and Board of Directors, Meetings with the Council of Governors were held kicking off their year. These are meetings that all Lions around the state should attend to see how your leaders are representing you.

Thank you Lions for all you do!
Carlton



Your donation to NC Lions Foundation enables us to assist and empower blind and visually impaired residents as well as continue our work in preventing vision loss in our North Carolina communities like our KidSight Mobile Screening Units. Please make a tax-deductible donation today.

NC Lions Camp Dogwood a Legacy in the Enhancement of the Quality and Joy of Life for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Even though Summer Camp 2023 is in the books; we want you to know we are still very hard at work.

This year we were tossed a few monkey wrenches, but we were able to regroup and offer our VIP's 4 very successful weeks. During these 4 weeks each VIP was able to enjoy outdoor activities such as archery and bb guns, to waterfront swimming, boating and fishing, smore's and other various activities. Indoor activities included arts and crafts, yoga, educational seminars and much more. Our Campers were given the opportunity this year to learn first hand dance and culture of the countries of Brazil, Columbia and Mexico. Our staff is already in the process of planning next years program. **Next season sessions run May 26th-August 1st. Our theme: Mardi Gras.**



If you are interested in volunteering for Summer Camp please reach out and give us a call. We need at least 10 for each Camp Session. Volunteers assist campers with daily activities while in attendance. Activities range from Putt-Putt, archery, waterfront (swimming, boating, fishing, kayaking) art and crafts and many, many more. Activities are assigned based on your abilities.

So many ask us what happens while camp is not in session? During this time frame we open our facility as a meeting and retreat venue. This allows us the opportunity to earn extra revenue to help offset expenses. In the month of August, we were honored to hosts the Catawbans, Davidson College, the White-Armstrong Reunion, Metrolina Association for the Blind, Spurlin Reunion, and Heart of Compassion Ministries. During the month of September, we currently have every weekend reserved. Our guests include 2 church events, Catawban's Pig Pickin and our monthly men's meeting for breakfast.

As we move forward Post-Covid we have several goals in place to increase revenue of the venue ...

1. We are working on filling in the gaps of Monday-Thursdays.
2. We are exploring possible offering outside catering to corporate meetings.
3. Offering at least one or two times a month meal to go.
4. Looking at bringing back our Christmas Craft Bazaar.
5. Exploring the option of a Jack-o-Lantern Contest as well as a parade of trees.

These goals once achieved will offer exposure to our facility which will hopefully continue to encourage and increase of reservations.

We want to thank each of you for all you do for Camp Dogwood. Our new kitchen equipment is in place and was put to good use this summer. Gutters have been installed on multiple buildings at the facility. Trees have been trimmed and those that proposed a threat of possible damage were taken down, this was a blessing considering we recently had an F1 tornado that hit the Sherrills Ford Community. There was no damage to the NC Lions property during this storm.

Thank you for all you do for Camp Dogwood!

Tammy Thomas, Director NC Lions Camp Dogwood



Lions of North Carolina, as school restarts in our state, many Lions Clubs are collecting school supplies and nutritious snacks to get students off to a good start. Let's look at an additional way to supplement that good start.

North Carolina has been provided with the tools to promote better sight for the youngsters. Tunnel vision, crossed eyes syndrome, near vision, and other eye disorders can rob students of their best learning potential. The five KidSight Mobile Screening Units that are available across the state can help recognize potential sight issues. In addition, there are numerous clubs that own a Spot machine or a PlusOptix unit who can help with the screenings.

Children who cannot see the instructions or questions on a whiteboard tend to become disruptive in class; they fall behind on assignments; they miss the math questions because they cannot see numbers clearly.

We, as Lions in North Carolina, have the opportunity to help screen students early to prevent these issues. Thank you to those who are already performing the screenings. At the August NCLF Board meeting, Lion Curtis Erickson reported that at least 37,961 children have been screened with 5,937 referred. The referral rate from these screenings is around 15.60 percent. That means that out of every 100 students, we can help 15 to 20 students continue to learn to the best of their abilities.

Studies have shown that screening machines are effective on infants as young as six months old. Many issues can be treated effectively if found by the age of five. Children who are born with visual difficulties don't know that they have a deficiency because they have no comparisons.

Lions, I challenge each club in North Carolina to sponsor one screening this year, either at a day care center or in the school system. With 244 active clubs, we can help hundreds/thousands of students have a better educational experience. Where there is a need, there is a Lion who can help change the world both locally and globally.

Yours in service,
Lions Curtis Erickson and Laraine Dupree,
Co-Chairs KidSight MSU.

KidSight Needs You!!

To be a KSU Operator there are several requirements that must be met before you can drive one of the KSU's. To operate a KSU, you must pass a Back-Ground Check along with a very simple online training course. Each KSU Operator must also be KidSight Certified and have completed multiple days of hands on training, with a current KSU Operator, in an actual screening. So, our goal is to make sure that you feel comfortable with the equipment and processes before going to conduct a screening as the KSU Operator.



If you do not want to be a KSU Operator but still want to be involved with the KidSight Program, we would ask that you get KidSight Certified. This will help you and your Lions Club better understand what KidSight USA is all about. It will also make you a valuable asset when your Lions Club decides to request the KSU to come to your community.

If that is still more than you want to do, then you can still volunteer to help with the screenings. There is a place for you! Any Lions Club that would like to have a KSU come and conduct screenings in your community, simply needs to give me a call or drop me an email. Once you request a date, I will reach out to the District KSU Chair and they will see if there are KSU Operators available for the date you are requesting. It can take as much as five business days to confirm a date but is normally quicker.

Please give me a call at 1-800-662-7401, Ext 241 or email me at bryan@nclf.org, if you would like to know more. Thank you to all who are working to make this program a great success!

Yours in Lionism,
Bryan Hoover, MSU/KSU State Coordinator



NC Council of Governors Announce Vision Awareness Month in September



North Carolina Lions Clubs



Vision Awareness FAST FACTS

Month • September 2023

More than 258,000 people report blindness or severe difficulty seeing even with glasses in North Carolina.

Severe vision impairment is HIGHER in those reporting: Poor Health 15% vs Good Health 3%, Education Less than High School 8% vs High School and Above 2%

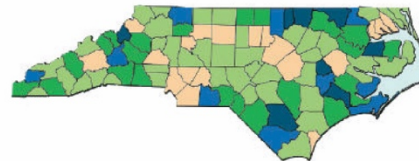
People with severe vision impairments are more likely to have...

Diabetes: 15% with severe vision impairment, 8% without severe vision impairment

Arthritis: 40% with severe vision impairment, 22% without severe vision impairment

Mobility Issues: 42% with severe vision impairment, 12% without severe vision impairment. 40% of individuals 65 years and older with severe vision impairment reported having a fall in the previous year

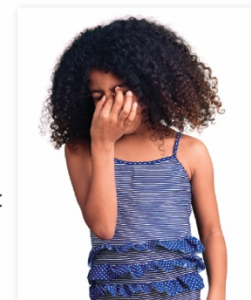
Prevalence



- There are 154,566 people in North Carolina who are 18 and older and experience a vision loss, a figure that represents 2.54% of the population.
- The leading cause of vision loss in NC is diabetic retinopathy, which disproportionately affects White females, ages 40 and over. Other risk high risk groups include: Blacks for open angle glaucoma and Whites (male and female) for myopia, cataracts, and hyperopia.
- More than 87,000 North Carolina adults have glaucoma, yet half do not realize they have this silent disease.

Our Children's Vision

- 25,614 preschoolers and 349,518 school age children have visual problems.
- 4,000 North Carolina school children, ages 5-19 suffer eye injuries each year.
- 1 in 20 preschool age children in our state suffers from amblyopia. Amblyopia, also known as "lazy eye," is reduced vision in an eye that has not received adequate use during a child's early years. Unless this condition is detected and treated before the child's sixth birthday, lifelong vision damage is likely to occur.



Memorials & Honorariums

July - August 2023

Memorials

Given By:	Memory Of:
Eileen M. Artavia	M&H
Luther V. Creel	Garion M. Creel
James Collins Chandler	Lorene Chappell
James Collins Chandler	Dan Barber James
Collin Chandler	Letha F. Jenkins
James Collins Chandler	Linda Jarrell
James Collins Chandler	Donnie Richardson
Ella H. Flora	Roscoe Speight
Pisgah Forest Lions Club	Willeta Vance
Lake Lure Lions Club	Tracy Lanham
Eileen M. Artavia	M&H
Wadesboro Lions Club	Letha Jenkins
Brenda Cox	Donna Smith
Brenda Cox	Sam Alexander
Eileen M. Artavia	M&H
Barbara A. Beltran	Charles Andrews
Edward H. Jordan	Robert "Bob" Miller
St. Stephens Lions Club	Everette Houston
Greensboro Lions Club	Scott Alexander
Julian Lions Club	Jean Clapp
Snow Hill Lions Club	Ethel Shingleton
Eileen M. Artavia	M&H
Eileen M. Artavia	M&H
Greater Monroe Lions Club	Jane Austin
Denton Lions Club	Ruth Pinyon
Rocky Mount Evening LC	Roscoe Speight
Carlton & Anne Metts	Ethel Shingleton
Carlton & Anne Metts	Michael S. Cheves

Honorariums

Given By:	Honoree:
Lake Lure Lions Club	Bill Wells
James Collins Chandler	Joe & Judy Brunner
Timothy R. Williams	First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lexington
Garner Lions Club	DG Allen Swaim
Garner Lions Club	Lion Gloria English
Donald & Gayle Cobb	Michelle & Jimmy Myers Wedding
New Bern Lions Club	PDG Robert Block, Jr.
Linwood Lions Club	David Smoot
Juan A. & Susan L. Fernandez	Paulette Gasperson
Lake Lure Lions Club	Richard Krejci

**Donations can be credited
to your club's
Brighter Visions Annual
Fund Drive Goal**

visit: nclf.org