



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

Happy New Year to all the Lions in North Carolina! The beginning of a new calendar year brings new energy to me and perhaps to you in our Mission of Service. This month marks the mid-way point in the NCLF fiscal year, and it is the month of multiple District Mid-Winter Conventions. District L completed its Mid-Winter Convention in November with each of the remaining Districts having their Convention in January. Districts N & S schedule their Convention together in Greenville in the middle of the month. District I held their event in early January with District O completing their convention on the final weekend of the month. This schedule means a busy month for NCLF Leadership and Staff, but it is a special time for coming together. The camaraderie of gathering and learning what other clubs are doing in fund-raisers and service projects are enlightening as it reflects the energy of each individual club.

The second and final meeting of the NCLF Long-Range Planning Committee took place in the second weekend of January at Camp Dogwood. With two representatives from each of the five Districts, the intent was to plan a course of action for NCLF for the coming years. We owe a deep debt of appreciation to the participating Lions as they are offering their talents and time of service over two (2) weekends seeking to develop a plan of action for NCLF. The final recommendations will be presented to the NCLF Board during the February Board Meeting.

The New Year offers a fresh examination of what your club is planning for fund-raising and for service projects in 2024. In addition to funding your club's projects in your community, please keep in mind your participation in the statewide projects of Brighter Visions providing Services for the Blind and the Visually Impaired and for the Prevention of Blindness. There are twelve distinct efforts funded through the Brighter Vision Fund. The Camp Dogwood Tickets are a separate fund for the maintenance of Camp Dogwood. Your participation is critical to our success and the perpetuation of NCLF.

Join me in "Taking the Big Step" in making 2024 a great year for service. It is remarkable what we can do when we work together in our Mission of Service for those less fortunate.

Steve McLaurin, NCLF President 2023-2024

*(An editors note, this article was written prior to Steve's hospitalization.)*



## NC Lions on the Go for 2024 Success!

From Executive Director Carlton Metts



Fellow Lions, 2024 is moving fast. Our President Steve McLaurin as you know by now had a bad fall before Christmas causing a brain bleed. Since then he had another mishap which led to pressure on the brain and had to have surgery to relieve the pressure. Steve is now awake (1-25-24), beginning to speak, strong on both sides, stood up on his own with his Physical Therapist, moved to a private room and his doctors are pleased with his progress. Please continue to pray for Steve, Marian and his family. He would not want you to slow down and wait for him, let's make him proud. So keep up the good work, President Steve will be back with us soon.

Three more districts have completed their conventions and all were very successful. The final one will be District 31-O January 26-27 in Greensboro. We have witnessed many Lions receiving deserving awards from their District Governors including the Lions Clubs International's fourth highest Award the LCI President's Certificate of Appreciation. It is great to see these Lions with all these prestigious awards. I would like to personally congratulate all of them.

The Long Range Planning Committee led by Past President Neal Alexander has completed their task of looking ahead five to seven years. The Committee will present the Plan and Objectives to the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors at the February Meeting.

KidSight screenings are a little slow in early January but will bounce back beginning in February. Today we are approaching 40,000 kids screened with a goal to reach 75,000 plus by school end. The KidSight KSUs are ready for your club's use. The sixth KSU is now at Camp Dogwood to allow Bryan Hoover transportation to help you when needed and to allow flexibility to clubs nearby when not in use. Thank you KidSight KSU Drivers and Screeners. You are Awesome!

December and January were two bad months for the loss of some great Lions. We need to praise them for all of their accomplishments and their Service to Mankind. May they RIP.

Right now the incoming Foundation President and District Governors are selecting their committee chairs, please offer your expertise to assist and lead the Lions across the state so they can excel in all club projects. Plans are in process to schedule training for each of the Foundation chairs before year end.

Camp Dogwood is preparing for the 2024 Camping Season and will welcome our VIPs aboard for fun and fellowship.

Thank you Lions for allowing me to serve you!  
 Carlton

## Enhancing the Lives of the Blind and Visually Impaired in North Carolina

Hello Lions,

As we all are dreaming of warmer days and starting to think about our spring-cleaning tasks, I ask you to pencil Camp Dogwood on your Calendar for April 4th -10th. Lions from across North Carolina are encouraged to devote yourself to a few days for Volunteer Week. There are glasses to be sorted, as well as tidying up our facility to prepare for the summer. If you are available and would like to give a few hours of service please reach out to the Camp Office for more information.



As always Camp Staff are busying preparing for our summer camp program. Applications are starting to arrive. As always Volunteers are always needed during our summer program. **There is NO COST to our Summer Lion Volunteers.** If you are interested or have questions, please contact Tammy at Extension 229 or email [tammy@nclf.org](mailto:tammy@nclf.org).

Convention season is coming to a close and I have enjoyed seeing all my fellow Lions new and old. I am looking forward to upcoming Board and Council Meetings this spring. Keep Serving and as always "It's a great day to be a Lion!"

Respectfully submitted,  
Tammy Thomas, Camp Dogwood Director

### Introducing a New Way to Donate Online at [nclf.org](http://nclf.org)...

Use your hand held device to scan the code and then go directly to the [nclf.org](http://nclf.org) website, donate now. The NCLF QR code is instant, secure, flexible, and easily printed on a range of media, it's the perfect way to encourage donations, now!



## What's In a Name? Our Camp Dogwood



Camp Dogwood has been providing a quality service to the blind and visually impaired since 1967. In the last 57 years the facility has survived, inclement weather, multiple directors, staffing challenges, a worldwide pandemic, building expansions and program changes. We have grown from a facility that could accommodate 15 guests in 10 rooms to the facility we are proud of today with 6 buildings that will accommodate up to 80 guests. We have grown into a quality recreation and education facility for the visually impaired.

It all started in April of 1965 with a grant of \$15,000 from the North Carolina Association for the Blind. Our present sight was purchased from Lion Clarence White a charter member of the Sherrills Ford Lions club on August 7, 1966 for \$40,000. Today our operating budget in excess of one million dollars annually. We have grown and continue to grow.

Dogwood on Lake Norman was established a few years back. This separate business entity was formed to provide service to the general public for weddings, birthday parties, and various meetings. Dogwood on Lake Norman provides critically needed funds to help North Carolina Lions Foundation operate the facility to support the VIP guest weeks. Without these funds an additional burden would be placed on the shoulders of North Carolina Lions

Forty years ago, we hosted visually impaired and blind guests to enjoy the facility for 12 weeks every year. This year we find ourselves finally recovering from the COVID slump and are currently offering 8 VIP weeks. In the near future I'm hoping to get back to 12 or more weeks of inviting our VIP guests.

The Camp Dogwood committee has been tasked to investigate the possibility of changing the Camp Dogwood name. This is a big change that will affect many aspects of our facility but the original purpose will not change; that is to establish a facility that meets the recreation and education needs of all our VIPs in North Carolina. *Definition of camp: A place with temporary accommodations of huts, tents, or other structures, typically used by soldiers, refugees, prisoners, or travelers.*

Our facility provides much more!

On many occasions I've been told, "it's always been that way". I would like us to get passed this paradigm and "Look to the future", The word "Change" involves the past but let's look to the future with a name that is more descriptive of our facility. Let's define our future and not look back.

Notice that I did not suggest a name in this article. The officers and governors of North Carolina Lions would like to hear from you. When you think of a new name, don't think of the past but of the future of our facility for the visually impaired. A name that helps us appeal to younger VIP's and will help to sell the facility to people who do not want a "Camping" experience. Talk to your fellow Lions about a new name, gather opinions and share them with me or your camp dogwood committee chairperson.

Let's do all we can to fill all 80 of our beds with VIPs and increase our VIP weeks. In the near future I will be working with the Camp Dogwood committee on:

- Gathering opinions from Lions members.
- Determining appropriate names.

Your district Camp Dogwood committee member or myself will welcome the opportunity to come to your club to talk more about Camp Dogwood.

Lion Gene Goetz, 1st VDGE District 31-N / State Camp Dogwood Chairperson



# Memorials and Honorariums

November 2023 - January 2024

## Memorials

**Given By:**

Clay County Lions Club  
Bethlehem Lions Club  
Eileen M. Artavia  
New Bern Lions Club  
Myra Davidson Lanier  
Myra Davidson Lanier  
Davidson Lanier  
Heidi L. Reckard  
Heidi L. Reckard  
Hendersonville Lions Club  
Juan & Susan Fernandez  
Pleasant Lions Club  
Chriis Headley  
Mark & Jeanna White  
Paul & Nancy Bledsoe  
Clay County Lions Club  
Eileen M. Artavia  
Rockwell Lions Club  
Pleasant Lions Club  
Aberdeen Lions Club  
Michael & Susan O'Brien  
Michael & Susan O'Brien  
Pisgah Forest Lions Club  
Gene Goetz  
Eric Williams  
Beth McCorkle  
Jeanette A Massengill  
John C Eller  
John C Eller  
John C Eller

John C Eller  
Tim & Debbie Williams  
NC PDG Assoc.  
Neal & Shirley Alexander  
Carlton & Anne Metts  
Carlton & Anne Metts  
Carlton & Anne Metts  
NC PDG Assoc.  
NC PDG Assoc.  
Eileen & Gerardo Artavia  
NCLF Past Pres. Assoc.  
Leigh Ann Ruehlen  
Paul & Nancy Bledsoe  
Paula Maxwell  
Carlton & Anne Metts  
Carlton & Anne Metts  
Keith & Jana Peedin

**Memory Of:**

Carol Kutzner  
Bill Seaver  
M&H  
Charles Blythe  
Frankie Gregory  
Allan Thompson  
Allan Thompson  
Robert Reese  
Kenneth Norton  
Fred Higgins  
Doc Newsom  
Ira Howard Mauldin  
Linda McCaskill  
Joseph C White  
R. O. Lanier  
Ken Woodard  
M&H  
Berthalene Payne  
Danny Bost  
Pat Kelly  
Classie Cheek  
Doris Fleming  
Glenda Craig  
Jesse Bailey  
R. Steven Sheline  
R. Steven Sheline  
Selma Ward Davis  
Danny Wayne Poole  
Donna Peeler Poteat  
Jacob "Jake" Franklin  
Cable Sr  
J. E. "Jim" Lyerly  
Ron Staley  
Ron Staley  
Ron Staley  
Randy Vickers  
Steve Sheline  
Ron Staley  
R. Steve Sheline  
Randy Vickers  
Arthur Wade Turner  
Ron Staley  
Ron Staley  
Ron Staley  
Ron Staley  
Ann Carol Tatum  
Ann Carol Tatum  
Randy Vickers

## Memorials

**Given By:**

Keith & Jana Peedin  
Paula Maxwell  
Carlton & Anne Metts  
Carlton & Anne Metts  
Keith & Jana Peedin  
Keith & Jana Peedin  
Jerry & Geneva Austin  
Clarence & Judy Williford

**Memory Of:**

Ron Staley  
Ron Staley  
Ann Carol Tatum  
Ann Carol Tatum  
Randy Vickers  
Ron Staley  
Ron Staley  
Ron Staley

## Honorariums

**Given by:**

Keith & Jana Peedin  
Rocky Mount Evening LC  
Eileen M. Artavia  
Mount Airy Lions Club  
Mount Pleasants LC  
Smithfield LC  
Archdale Trinity LC  
Eileen M. Artavia  
Kathryn L Staley  
Fay Kobland  
Fay Kobland  
Fay Kobland  
Thomasville LC  
Thomasville LC  
  
Thomasville LC  
Thomasville LC  
Thomasville LC  
Thomasville LC  
Thomasville LC  
Tim & Debbie Williams  
Tim & Debbie Williams  
Tim & Debbie Williams  
Tim & Debbie  
Alison Weller  
Randy & Martha Collins  
Thomasville Lions Club  
Thomasville Lions Club  
Margaret Wilson Sink

**Honoree**

Shirley Black  
Ella Flora  
Honor  
Kathleen Poirier  
Kathleen Poirier  
Shirley Black  
Lee Luzader  
Honor  
Ron Staley  
Lake Lure Leos  
Karl Trumpler  
Eileen Artavia  
Jim Little  
Thomasville Historic  
Preservation Soc.  
Sandy Fraser-Thomas  
PDG Paul Bledsoe  
Michelle Myers  
Megan Anderson  
Lions & Friends  
Steve Cline  
Pam Britt  
Fair Grove Lions Club  
Cathy Critz  
Dean & Edward Jordan  
Priscilla Oldaker  
Nancy M. Woods  
Kirby Matthews

Donations can be credited  
to your club's  
Brighter Visions  
Annual Fund Drive Goals.

Visit: [NCLF.org](http://NCLF.org) for Forms



# North Carolina Lions Foundation District Fundraising as of January 31, 2024

Brighter Visions Fund Drive												2023-2024 Goal \$595,100					
January 31, 2024												Governors Goal	Difference	% of Gov. Goal	% of	\$	Total BV Last Year
District	Members	Club Contributions			Individual		Total BV	Total BV	%	Per Member	Total BV Last Year						
		Brighter Visions	Mem/Hon	BV Raffle	Contribution	Mem/Hon											
L	727	\$ 22,016	\$ 600	\$ 95	\$ 9,723	\$ 665	\$ 33,099	\$ 75,000	44%	\$ 45.53	\$ 48,096						
I	890	\$ 88,513	\$ 1,365	\$ 200	\$ 3,207	\$ 1,940	\$ 95,225	\$ 130,000	73%	\$ 106.99	\$ 146,059						
O	1,045	\$ 51,455	\$ 700	\$ 20	\$ 1,525	\$ 985	\$ 54,685	\$ 120,000	46%	\$ 52.33	\$ 129,261						
N	963	\$ 54,843	\$ 425	\$ 30	\$ 3,990	\$ 824	\$ 60,112	\$ 90,000	67%	\$ 62.42	\$ 71,804						
S	920	\$ 55,015	\$ 350	\$ 30	\$ 700	\$ 175	\$ 56,270	\$ 93,100	60%	\$ 61.16	\$ 89,947						
State	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,824	\$ 1,735	\$ 4,559	\$ 87,000	5%	#DIV/0!	\$ 17,252						
M/H								\$ 30,000									
	4,545	\$ 271,841	\$ 3,440	\$ 375	\$ 21,970	\$ 6,324	\$ 303,950	\$ 625,100	49%	\$ 66.88	\$ 502,419						

Dogwood Raffle						2023-2024 Goal \$112,000		
January 31, 2024						Books		Sales Last Year
District	Members	Raffle Sales	per member					
L	727	\$ 6,786.00	0.93					\$ 17,844.70
I	890	\$ 10,431.00	1.17					\$ 18,837.00
O	1,045	\$ 15,468.00	1.48					\$ 25,374.00
N	963	\$ 8,971.95	0.93					\$ 17,999.00
S	920	\$ 14,601.00	1.59					\$ 23,281.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4,545</b>	<b>\$ 56,257.95</b>	<b>1.24</b>					<b>\$ 103,335.70</b>

Memorials & Honorariums							2023-2024 Annual Goal \$30,000			
<p><i>"Memorial and Honorarium Contributions"</i>                      A lasting and caring gift that is appropriate and appreciated by the recipient.                      Donations are credited to your clubs Brighter Vision Goals</p>				District	Members	Club	Individual	CER	Camp	Totals
L	727	\$ 600.00	\$ 665.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,265.00				
I	890	\$ 1,365.00	\$ 1,940.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,305.00				
O	1,045	\$ 700.00	\$ 985.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,685.00				
N	963	\$ 425.00	\$ 824.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,249.00				
S	920	\$ 350.00	\$ 175.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 525.00				
State			\$ 1,735.00			\$ 1,735.00				
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4545</b>	<b>\$ 3,440.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,324.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 9,764.00</b>				

Clinical Eye Research				2023-2024 Annual Goal \$5,000 +					
31-Jan-24				District	Members	Club	Hon/Mem	Total	Per member
L	727	\$ 31.00	\$ -	\$ 31.00	\$ 0.04				
I	890	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 0.56				
O	1,045	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -				
N	963	\$ 1,062.50	\$ -	\$ 1,062.50	\$ 1.10				
S	920	\$ 3,759.50	\$ -	\$ 3,759.50	\$ 4.09				
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4,545</b>	<b>\$ 5,353.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 5,353.00</b>	<b>\$ 1.18</b>				