



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

After completing four Mid-Winter District Conventions successfully, the teams supporting each of the District Governors are at work for Lions. The NCLF Staff led by Lion Carlton Metts is busy at Camp Dogwood with on-going activities and planning for Volunteer Week in late March and the Summer VIP Vacations for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

With Spring around the corner, I wish you success in your planned fundraising and service projects. For the clubs with on-going service and fundraising projects, let's make this a banner year! Service projects are a priority, but the fundraising goals for Camp Dogwood (maintenance on the facility) and the Brighter Vision Goals (sponsoring twelve different service projects statewide), now stand below the budget received historically for this time of year. Let's make both these efforts a priority.

The first NCLF Board Meeting of the calendar year was a success. One of the actions taken was the acceptance of the Long Range Plan for NCLF. I wish to thank Immediate Past President of NCLF Skippy Jackson for chairing the Board Meeting in my absence due to my severe head trauma and spending 39 days in the Hospital. I am home now writing this letter presenting information offered to you about the exciting events planned for the remainder of this Lions' year. My accident and resultant hospital stay has not diminished my dedication and enthusiasm for Lions.

We had concerts planned to allow clubs opportunities for fundraising for all Districts. Due to my accident and hospital stay the performances have been postponed until further notice. When I am able to return we will again focus on planning family friendly events.

It is a Great to be a Lion!

Steve McLaurin, NCLF President 2023-2024



NC Lions Feeling Good, Doing Good for Others

From Executive Director Carlton Metts



Spring will be here by the time of the next newsletter. Always the first of a new year will bring low cash flow, so I would like to remind clubs to send in funds as soon as you can. This is the best time of the year to catch up on some maintenance.

President Steve will be back soon, hospitalized for 39 days and never missed a newsletter. I will leave the rest about our President to his news article. Welcome back Mr. President.

The Long Range Planning Committee led by Past President Neal Alexander has presented the plan to the Executive Committee to recommend the plan to the Board of Directors at The February 11th meeting. The Six Year Plan was adopted with several items to begin immediately. One is revamping Camp Dogwood Raffle with the addition of a QR Code that will allow on-line purchases. That will be an exciting addition. With The raffle being the main source for the camp maintenance program this source will show some positive gains. Update our Brighter Vision materials to enhance the understanding of the program. Establish a Leadership Committee to update educational procedures of Programs and Services that will help the State and District Chairs to present their subject matter to the membership. Many other things will be occurring but education seems to be a biggie.

As incoming officers, both Foundation and Council of 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. Your education starts with participation in club, district and statewide events.

Statewide we have given out ten \$200 Walmart Gift Cards to Camp Dogwood Raffle winners with two being lost. Was able to put payment on hold in time with one but still have one floating out there missing. Merchants will put card on hold but don't like refunds. Even though their on-line process indicates they will replace unused amounts on cards, but I have found that is not the case. So, we will change to a process of maybe utilizing checks. Any way congratulation to all the winners.

One of the best ways to feel good is to do good for others,

Carlton



The Countdown Begins for Our Camp Dogwood Summer Season

Fellow Lions,

We are on the final 100 day countdown to our summer program. We are seeing applications come in from a lot of new VIP's this year. One focus the Camp Office has had this year is reaching out to the IFB, LIB, and LCI. This gave us the opportunity to discuss potential scheduling etc. for their employees. We have also been visiting VIP support groups recruiting VIP's that have never attended. I am amazed that each time I speak



I am finding someone that has never heard of Camp Dogwood. Let's continue to work together to spread the word about our beautiful facility for the blind and visually impaired.

Bingo Bucks- If you or your club would like to help sponsor Bingo Night at the Camp please reach out to the Camp office for more details.

We have recently updated our recycling programs. I hope everyone received the email that was recently sent out. If you didn't receive it, please note it's included in this newsletter.

Thank you,

Tammy Thomas, Camp Director

Introducing a New Way to Spread the Word About Our Foundation

Use your hand held device to scan the code and then go directly to the 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 get citizens to learn about our foundation and encourage donations, now!



NC Lions Foundation



Vision Screenings for Children through KidSight USA
MD-31 2023-2024 Year to Date

District	Screened	Referred	Referral %
31-L	10,789	1389	12.9%
31-I	13,485	2254	16.7%
31-O	8,477	1166	13.7%
31-N	4,862	680	14%
31-S	1,574	362	23%
MD-31	39,187	5,851	14.9%



New NCLF Recycling Program Guidelines

Hearing Aids
Hearing Batteries
(No cases or accessories)

Cell Phones
(No cases)
(No accessories)
(Remove cover)

Batteries
Button batteries, flat watch style all sizes

Glasses
(No contacts)
(No cases)
(No loose lens)

Reading Glasses





Memorials and Honorariums

December 2023 - January 2024

Memorials

Given By:	Memory Of:
Clay County Lions Club	Ken Woodard
Paul and Nancy Bledsoe	R. O. Lanier
Mt Pleasant Lions Club	Danny Bost
Davis-Townsend Lions Club	Raymond Crofts
Susan and Michael O'Brien	Doris Fleming
Susan and Michael O'Brien	Classie Cheek
Pisgah Forest Lions Club	Glenda Craig
Gene Goetz	Jesse Bailey
Eric Williams	Rodney Steven Sheline
Beth McCorkle	Rodney Steven Sheline
Jeanette A. Massengill	Selma Ward Davis
Aberdeen Lions Club	Pat Kelly
John C. Eller and Alice Owens	Faye Brown Smith Peeler
John C. Eller	James E. "Jim" Lyerly
John C. Eller	Eva Artz Millsaps
John C. Eller	H. William "Willie" Bost Jr.
John C. Eller	J."Jake" Franklin Cauble Sr.
John C. Eller	Donna Peeler Poteat
John C. Eller	Eula "Kinard" Park Sheeks
John C. Eller	L. Pinkney "Bud" Hamm Jr.
John C. Eller	Danny Wayne Poole
John C. Eller	Douglas L. "Doug" Suggs
Ken Coesens	Ron Staley
Eileen M. Artavia	Ron Staley
Carlton V. Metts	Ron Staley
Carlton V. Metts	Rodney Steven Sheline
Carlton V. Metts	Randy Vickers
PDG Organization	Ron Staley
Neal Alexander	Ron Staley
Tim and Debbie Williams	Ron Staley
PDG Organization	Rodney Steven Sheline
PDG Organization	Randy Vickers
NCLF Past President Assoc.	Ron Staley
Paul and Nancy Bledsoe	Ron Staley
Leigh Ann & Robert Ruehlen	Ron Staley
Carlton V. Metts	Arthur Wade Turner
Carlton V. Metts	Ann Carol Tatum
Jim and Paula Maxwell	Ron Staley
Jana Peedin	Ron Staley
Jana Peedin	Randy Vickers
Neal Alexander	Rodney Steven Sheline
Neal Alexander	Randy Vickers
Bethlehem Lions Club	Carole Reising
Jane Lain	Ron Staley
Concord Lions Club	Ron Staley
Luther Creel	Ron Staley
Susan, Judy, Juanita, Bob, & Laraine	Glenn Stubits
South Iredell Lions Club	Max Barker
New Bern Twin Rivers	Phillip Lee Zellers
Carlton and Anne Metts	Phillip Lee Zellers
Carlton and Anne Metts	James A. "Dick" Spruill
Carlton and Anne Metts	Rodney K. Bell
Carlton and Anne Metts	Simual Burney Smith Jr

Jim and Lois Chandler	Allan Thompson
Jim and Lois Chandler	Kathleen Lazar DeBerry
Jim and Lois Chandler	Nancy Gilliam
Jim and Lois Chandler	Linda McCaskill
Jim and Lois Chandler	Michael Napier
Jim and Lois Chandler	Linda Sansbury Jarrell
Kathy & Joe Poirier	Katie Emerson
Kathy & Joe Poirier	Randy Vickers
Kathy & Joe Poirier	Ron Staley
Robert Loeblein	Ron Staley
Jim and Lois Chandler	Mary Claire Springer
Jim and Lois Chandler	Mary Claire Springer
Rodney McCaskill	Linda McCaskill
McLeansville Lions Club	Silas Cliff Michael
Barbara Linn	Mike Garcia
Cleveland Lions Club	Dennis Mitchell
Claremont Lions Club	Dale B. Setzer
Gil and Susan Kanner	Phillip Lee Zellers
Tommy & Lorraine Dixon	Arthur Wayne Turner
Tommy & Lorraine Dixon	Gene Marshburn
Dale & Laraine Dupree	Ron Staley
Dale & Laraine Dupree	Linda McCaskill
Dale & Laraine Dupree	Glenn Stubits
Dale & Laraine Dupree	Jerry Craiglow

Honorariums

Given by:	Honoree
Smithfield LC	Shirley Black
Archdale Trinity LC	Lee Luzader
Fay Kobland	Eileen Artavia
Fay Kobland	Lake Lure Leos
Fay Kobland	Karl Trumpler
Thomasville LC	Thomasville Historic Preservation Society
Thomasville LC	PDG Paul Bledsoe
Thomasville LC	Michelle Myers
Thomasville LC	Eric & Megan Anderson
Thomasville LC	Jim Little
Thomasville LC	Sandy Fraser-Thomas
Tim and Debbie Williams	Steve Cline, Pam Britt, & Friends and Lions
Tim and Debbie Williams	Fairgrove LC
Tim and Debbie Williams	Cathy Critz
Alison Weller	Dean and Edward Jordan
Randy and Martha Collins	Priscilla Oldaker
Thomasville LC	Nancy M. Woods
Thomasville LC	Kirby Matthews
Margaret Wilson Sink	David Smoot
Terry & Robyn Cauble	Mike Edwards
WS Konnoak Hills LC	

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

North Carolina Lions Foundation New Education & Information Files for Printing

Printed materials contribute to a tangible and physical presence for your Lions Club. Having brochures, pamphlets, or informational sheets makes your club more visible and memorable, reinforcing the messages and mission that your Lions Club stands for.

Your North Carolina Lions Foundation wants to make it easier to educate and raise awareness about our programs and services that reach each and every community in North Carolina. These materials can serve as educational tools in schools, community centers, and other locations.

Keep in mind, donors may find physical materials more compelling and informative than digital content. These printed materials serve as long-term references. People can keep brochures, guides, or newsletters for future reference, creating a lasting impact and ensuring that our foundation's message remains accessible over time.

Why We Are Seeing an Upsurge in Children's Vision Problems



There are several factors that can contribute to the upsurge in children's vision problems:

Increased screen time: With the proliferation of smartphones, tablets, computers, and other digital devices, children are spending more time engaged in activities that require prolonged near-focus, such as watching videos, playing games, or studying online. This excessive screen time can strain the eyes and lead to conditions like digital eye strain, myopia (nearsightedness), and dry eyes.

Lack of outdoor activities: Spending time outdoors, particularly in natural sunlight, has been associated with a reduced risk of developing myopia. However, many children today have limited outdoor playtime due to various reasons, including increased sedentary activities, academic pressures, safety concerns, and changing lifestyles. This lack of exposure to natural light may contribute to the development of myopia.

Genetic predisposition: Vision problems, such as myopia, can have a genetic component. If parents or close relatives have vision issues, there is an increased likelihood that their children may also develop similar problems.

Educational demands: The modern educational system often requires children to spend long hours focusing on books, worksheets, or screens. The extensive near-work activities associated with studying and reading can strain the eyes and potentially lead to vision problems.

Environmental factors: Environmental factors such as pollution, allergens, and irritants can also impact children's eye health. Exposure to pollutants or allergens can cause eye irritation, inflammation, and discomfort.

Delayed detection and intervention: Sometimes, vision problems in children go unnoticed or undiagnosed for an extended period. This delay in detection can result in untreated conditions that may worsen over time.

It's important to note that while these factors may contribute to the increase in children's vision problems, they do not necessarily guarantee the development of vision issues.

Regular eye examinations, proper eye care practices, and a healthy lifestyle can help mitigate the risk and promote good eye health in children. If you have concerns about your child's vision, it is recommended to consult an eye care professional for an evaluation.

Please copy the link below to download printed material for education and passing along vision awareness in our state. You will find the latest stats and information when it comes to making sure children and adults are screened and have regular visits to their eye professional. As with most health issues, prevention is a key to healthy and clear eyesight. This information and education is a part of our overall education and information material for member use.

Also included newspaper 1/4pg layouts, flyers for printing and handout, example, a KidSight flyer, along with flyers and newspaper ads for promoting an event.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1MgqkCb194knkVLG1u9VUKYqG_IKiDo1G?ths=true