



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

This is my final letter of the year from me to you. I cannot believe how fast the year has flown by even though I was out with an injury for almost three months. Thank you, Carlton and Paul, for keeping everything rolling along. The year has been fruitful with raising money from sources beyond the traditional manner of seeking funds from Lions only. I hope to announce more funds raised during June from these sources.

Thanks is due to Lion Neal Alexander for leading the Long-Range Planning Committee as well as the two Lion Members for each of five Districts. Carlton Metts and I were also present, and we participated in the discussions. It was during the Saturday Evening Meal, January 14th when I sought to sit after placing my meal on the table and attempted to sit—I missed the chair. This site mortified every Lion present. I tossed Lion Skippy Jackson my truck keys and asked him to drive me home the following day. All the Lions present pleaded with me to go straight to the hospital of my choosing after reaching my home. With Skippy and Judy Jackson aiding my wife in placing me into the car, my wife Marian transported me to Wake Memorial Hospital in Raleigh. The prognosis was from a fall I suffered in early December off the back of a stationary truck falling backward onto asphalt pavement now five weeks later had turned into my complete brain being filled with blood. This seriousness of the situation was explained to me on the Monday morning by the senior surgeon. He explained timing was imperative and the operation would occur the following day to remove the blood which was so dire, my brain was being shifted by the blood. I asked the surgeon to remove the blood and not to remove any brain!

Through the Grace of God in the hands of the surgeon – the surgery was successful. After 39 days in the hospital accompanied by a great hospital staff including talented therapists, I was released from the hospital to receive outpatient therapy. As soon as I could speak again, I called Carlton Metts to keep in touch. Thank you all for your prayers and your patience.

As Lions in Multiple District 31 including Districts L, I, O, N, S- Now is the time to “TAKE THE BIG STEP” as we are just several June days from the end of the Lions Year. We need every Lion and every Lions Club to examine what you have done this year to promote and contribute to the North Carolina Lions Foundation through our Brighter Visions Fund Drive. For the many clubs that have mightily contributed THANK YOU! For the clubs who have not fulfilled their obligation as a Lions Club in North Carolina, I am asking for your support on some level. If you are a member of a small club, then contribute a small amount to insure you are not counted as a ZERO. We all have a passion for successful service; now is the time to show the passion!

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your President of NCLF this year. it has been my pleasure. The NCLF Staff members are working at the top of their game, and we need to show our support for their efforts by stepping up these coming weeks. The time is NOW.

Steve McLaurin, NCLF President 2023-2024



# Reflections... '23-'24 Brighter Visions Fund Drive & Camp Dogwood Raffle

From Executive Director Carlton Metts



Well the Camp Dogwood Raffle has come to the end and finished with a bang. There were many clubs that excelled in their ticket sales and exceeded their goals. I felt all year that this would be a good one that we could be proud of. The Sherrills Ford Lions Club sold over 28 books per member at a total of \$4,534.65. Two Districts went over \$30,000, Districts 31-O and 31-S; two were over 3 books per member, Districts 31-L and 31-S with 31-O was close with 2.94 books per member. That is some great numbers but thanks to all Districts they all exceeded \$20,000. Statewide total was \$25,000 above the 2022-2023 year.

Congratulation to all the winners and a Big Shout-Out to Seaboard Lions Club for being our Grand Prize \$15,000 Winner. Awesome year for the Camp Dogwood Raffle! This is our Maintenance Funds. Thanks to all the State and District Chairs for all you did on promoting this Fundraiser.

Coming up next is the Brighter Visions Fund Drive Deadline is June 30th with many clubs doing very well on this fundraiser too. Just remember checks must be dated no later than June 30th and received within seven days after to be counted in the 2023-2024 year. This is the Fund that supports our Programs and Services. Good Luck to all Clubs, lets make this one of the best also.

All of the above is ending a year, but we are now preparing for the 2024-2025 year with Brighter Vision Fund Drive Kickoffs. They will begin in District 31-L on July 27th at Long View Lions Club, followed by District 31-O on August 3rd at First United Methodist Church, Siler City and then to District 31-I on August 17th at the American Legion, 1433 Old Wilkesboro Rd, Salisbury. Finishing up the fun at the Fund Drive on August 24 at District 31-N at Lions Industries for the Blind in Kinston and then on to Zebulon Lion Club in the afternoon for District 31-S Kickoff. Hope to see all of you there.

I am proud of all the Lions and all they do!

Carlton

NCLF Fundraising Totals as of June 14, 2024			
Brighter Visions	C D Raffle	Mom & Honor	Eye Research
31-L \$43,263	\$22,196.65	\$2,460	\$1,083
31-I \$134,297	\$22,131.00	\$5,220	\$800
31-O \$105,793	\$30,740.00	\$4,347	\$1,328
31-N \$91,263	\$22,740.95	\$1,724	\$1,082
31-S \$82,477	31,277.00	\$1,650	\$7,331
<b>Statewide \$464,215</b>	<b>\$128,085.60</b>	<b>\$17,666</b>	<b>\$11,625</b>
74% YTD	Avg 2.82 Books	69.4% YTD	\$232% YTD
<b>LYTD \$485,711</b>	<b>LYTD \$103,135.70</b>	<b>LYTD \$20,820</b>	<b>LYTD \$9,662</b>

THANK YOU

# 2024 CAMP DOGWOOD RAFFLE

## \$15,000 RAFFLE WINNER

# *Congratulations*

THANK YOU



**1<sup>st</sup> Place \$15,000 Winner**

**Seaboard Lions Club**

**CONGRATULATIONS to the Seaboard Lions Club for being the  
Grand Prize Winner \$15,000 Cash Giveaway.**

**Drawing held June 13, 2024**



**Grand Total  
\$128,085.60**

**2<sup>nd</sup> place \$500, Sidney McLean of Hallsboro**

**3<sup>rd</sup> place \$400, Ed Frindt of Helleys Island, Ohio**

**4<sup>th</sup> Place \$300, Melvin Lawson of Darlington, SC**

**5<sup>th</sup> Place \$200, Loretta Guard of Edenton**



**Thank you all for all you do for Camp Dogwood!**

THANK YOU



THANK YOU





# Camp Dogwood



## Camping Season Begins! Mardi Gras 2024

Summer Camp 2024 is well underway. Counselors have completed two weeks of training. They spent time at the local Fire Department where they trained in fire safety receiving OSHA Certification. First aid, CPR, AED classes was led by the Eyes of Ian Project. Here each received certification through the American Red Cross. Counselors also spent two days with the NC Wildlife learning the rules and regulations of water safety while also receiving hands on training on how to drive the boat. This is just a few of the classes the counselors receive during their first two weeks.

This year our counselors are from the United States, Mexico, Brazil and the United Kingdom. This offers a variety of cultural experiences to be shared with our visually impaired.

Two Sessions are in the books with more fun to enjoy. This year we are excited to offer new activities here at Camp Dogwood. Campers are competing in Dorm Wars. Dorm Wars consists of daily activities ranging from playing Tic Tac Toe and Connect 4 to a hula hoop competition, a dance off, axe (soft tip) throwing and much more. The VIP's are enjoying spending time on the water boating, swimming, fishing and kayaking. Bingo is always an evening favorite. This year we have been able to award \$300 in Bingo Bucks weekly in prizes. These Bucks are then exchanged for souvenirs or refreshments throughout the week. Our VIP's have shared just a little of their talent during our weekly talent show. They have also enjoyed dancing the night away.

We want to take the time to thank all the Lion Volunteers that have helped make the first two weeks successful.

We look forward to sharing more next month.

Tammy Thomas, Camp Director







## New KidSight Screening Manual Now Available

The State Coordinator of the Mobile Screening Programs and the See the 21st Century Mobile Screening Programs Committee are pleased to announce the availability of an updated and expanded KidSight Screening Manual.

This Manual provides a significant increase in guidance for clubs that might consider adding childrens' vision screening to the services provided in your communities as well as for clubs that are already conducting KidSight screenings. There is a heavy "how to" emphasis in the revision, including more about "PLANNING SCREENINGS" and a new section entitled

"SCREENED FACILITY REQUIREMENTS". The importance of Follow-Up for the children who are "referred" for complete eye examinations is stressed, and NCLF's position on screening of adults with the photorefractive cameras during KidSight screenings is covered. The two key forms used during screenings have been updated, and a new form/template has been added to give to parents of "referred" children. Another addition is an expanded section about GUIDELINES FOR VOLUNTEERS and a new CODE OF ETHICS that will be covered with all volunteers prior to every screening using the NCLF KidSight Units, and which we hope will be used by all clubs doing KidSight screenings.



The new manual can easily be accessed on the Home - North Carolina Lions Foundation (nclf.org) website and then access Program Forms. Once in the dropdown for Program Forms, look on the left side under "See the 21st Century Screening Programs. Here you will find the MSU/KSU Booking Guidelines, along with the MSU Screening Manual and the KidSight Screening Manual.

Please contact the State Coordinator, Bryan Hoover, at [bryan@nclf.org](mailto:bryan@nclf.org) or call 1-800-662-7401 Ext. 241, with any questions or comments.

Looking forward to serving together in your communities!

Yours in Service,

Jon Snellings, incoming State Chair of the See the 21st Century Screening Programs and  
Bryan Hoover, State Coordinator of the See the 21st Century Screening Programs



## The Camp Dogwood Raffle Success



**The Camp Dogwood Raffle this year ended up doing GREAT with all districts showing an increase. "Thank You" from your district chairs and myself!**

For next year I look forward to co-chairing this position with PDG Laraine Dupree. Laraine is a member of the Wingate Lions Club in district O and has filled many district and state positions. Laraine and I are excited to get started working with you to raise the needed funds to support maintenance needs at Camp Dogwood. Laraine will cover districts L, I and O and I will cover districts N and S. Our goal is to raise at least the same amount as this year, hopefully we'll have another good year and we can beat this year's earnings.

2024-2025 Camp Dogwood chairs for the districts:

District L - April George, Sherrills Ford LC  
District I - Theresa Munyon, Denton LC  
District O - Jacob Steagall, Unionville LC  
District N - Gene Goetz Goldsboro, Downtown LC  
District S - Jody Lee Proctor, Warrenton LC

Your Camp Dogwood Raffle will change for the 2024-2025 year.

- Ticket prices will change to \$5 per ticket, \$10 for 3 tickets, and \$20 for 7 tickets.
- No staple binding the books together and no extra cover sheets.
- Addition of a QR code on each ticket.

These changes will save a large amount of money in ticket printing charges and will simplify the collating process for clubs sending in a large quantity of tickets. The QR code will allow clubs to easily process payments on the web.

We hope to see a representative of every club at their Brighter Visions Kickoff. "Your effort to have someone from your club at the kickoff to pick up tickets will be appreciated".

District L - July 27, 2024  
District I - August 17, 2024  
District O - August 3, 2024  
District N - August 24, 2024 (morning)  
District S - August 24, 2024 (afternoon)

Details on the location and time of each kickoff are available through your district governor or camp dogwood committee representative.

Thank you,  
FVDGE Gene Goetz



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