

NORTH CAROLINA Lions Foundation Newsletter

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.



President's Message



Greetings North Carolina Lions!

What a fall season we are experiencing! Hailing from the Eastern end of this Great State, I am always excited to see snow (we get so little of it over here) and I hear there is a possibility of the white stuff next weekend at District L's Convention. We know our Lions from the West will grow tired of snow and ice soon enough; however, please allow us flat-landers to enjoy a little bit before we transverse back to the land of rain and wind.

The VIP Fishing Tournament was an event for the history books. First, we are grateful for Lion PID Gwen White for her leadership and time at the helm over these last few decades. Second, we are sad to see her step away; however, we are excited to see new leadership in Lion Owen White and want to wish him the best going forward. If you have never experienced the VIP, please sign up and help serve - it will be an experience you will always remember. I got to speak with many of the VIP's at the tournament, everyone who spoke with me was positive and grateful for the experience. For the next few days afterwards I was still horse from calling, "Hot Sauce!"

The Board met for the Second Quarter on 9 November 2025. The meeting was almost full to capacity of hard working Lions. Lion Jimmy Meyers gave us a wonderful sermon on the 17th Psalm. Lion Tim Williams played a pretty good guitar leading us in song and the medley of the Armed Forces was moving. Reports from the various committees were strong and mostly positive. There are some things we need to work on, but overall the NC Lions Foundation looks pretty good at this point in the year. If you have not attended a board meeting, please come to at least one, we work for you and your input is appreciated.

On the fundraising front we have a unique opportunity. The Foundation had a boat donated to it a few weeks back. Our first thought was to sell it at a price that a local boat dealer recommended; however, it did not sell. The next idea was to either raffle it off, or put it up for auction at the State Convention. Universally we thought we had enough raffles going on at the moment and to make another one could cause confusion or hurt the Camp Dogwood raffle. Putting it up for auction has the risk of it not bringing a large enough amount to part with it, also it is taking up room in the warehouse where the Camp's boats should be stored for the winter. As a hybrid idea, we decided if we had a minimum bid that would be acceptable, we could auction it off for a 10 day upset period and hope several people wanted a boat. *(message continues on the next page)*

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So, now the Foundation has a boat for auction until 19 November 2025 and the current upset bid at this time is \$10,100 and goes up in \$100 increments. If you know someone who would like to buy a boat, please contact Camp Dogwood, through Carlie Metts, and place your bid. The boat is a beautiful 2003 Sea Ray 185 Bowrider inboard/outboard day-cruiser that would be fun on the lake for a day or weekend. Personally, I will throw in a bottle of hot sauce to the lucky winner.

The holidays are coming up, please remember we serve our communities - including those that need a meal or more over Thanksgiving and Christmas. It is a privilege to serve you as President this year, and I am working with your Foundation team to make it the best year ever!

Yours in Lionism,
Allen Swaim
President of NC Lions Foundation 25-26
See the Need, Take the Lead

ARE YOU SHARING YOUR STORY?

Sid L. Scruggs III
Past International President



I have come to the conclusion that one of the most important reasons that our membership numbers are dropping is that, as Lions, we act as “secret agents”. Who knows that you are a Lion or what you do as a Lion. Even Secret Agent 007 was known by almost everyone!

Often, we place too little value on the service we can and do provide. We go about our service activities and don’t stop to think about how much we impact the lives of those we serve. We don’t reflect on the value our service brings to those in need or the value of sharing our successes with others.

To fully realize the value we provide is to view our service through the eyes of those we serve. When we realize, we come to the aid of those who have a need and help them rise above their circumstances, then we gain a better understanding of the true value of being a Lion and serving as a team.

Understanding our “true value” should energize us to work hard in attracting new members to add more hands to our service, to publicize our efforts, and to ensure all our club members realize and appreciate the value of their membership. Let’s celebrate who we are and what we do. Truly, we make miracles through our service. Be a “beacon of hope”.

Message from the Executive Director...

Celebrating 90 Days of Progress, Partnership, and Possibility



Fellow Lions,

As I reflect on my first 90 days as Executive Director, I'm filled with gratitude and excitement. The energy, dedication, and heart that our volunteers bring to every corner of our organization is nothing short of inspiring. Whether it's lending a hand at Camp Dogwood, supporting our Brighter Visions Campaign, or helping with local events, your commitment continues to make a lasting impact.

Volunteer Excellence

Our volunteers have been the backbone of our recent successes. From assisting with guest services to helping maintain our facilities, their tireless efforts ensure that Camp Dogwood remains a place of joy, comfort, and inclusion for all who visit.

Thank you for your service—you truly embody what it means to be a Lion.

Brighter Visions & Camp Dogwood Raffle

We're thrilled to report that donations to the Brighter Visions Campaign are steadily growing. Your generosity is helping us expand services, improve accessibility, and create unforgettable experiences for our Blind and Visually Impaired Citizens. The Camp Dogwood Raffle has also seen some strong participation through Zeffy—thank you to everyone who has purchased tickets and helped spread the word. Every dollar raised brings us closer to our mission.

Looking Ahead

Now that we've hit the 90-day mark, the staff and I are diving into new ideas, fresh events, and innovative fundraising strategies to keep the momentum going. We're committed to making this year's Brighter Visions Campaign our most impactful yet—and we can't do it without you.

Meet Our Newest Team Member

Please join me in giving a warm Lions welcome to an addition to our team: Caitlin Leonard, our new Kitchen Manager, brings a wealth of experience and a passion for hospitality. She's already making a difference in our dining operations at Camp Dogwood. We're excited to have Caitlin on board and look forward to the great work she will do with us.

Thank you all for your continued support, generosity, and Lion-hearted spirit. Together, we're building a brighter future—one vision at a time.

Yours in Lionism,

Carlton "Carlie" Metts
Executive Director, North Carolina Lions Foundation

NCLF Director of Operations...

Change of Season, Connecting with Lions Club Members



October was a busy and rewarding month at Camp Dogwood! Our team has been on the road visiting Lions Clubs across North Carolina, connecting with members, and sharing updates about our programs and mission. A special thank-you goes out to the Thomasville Lions Club and the Durham Lions Club for warmly welcoming us to your meetings. More visits are already scheduled, and we look forward to seeing even more clubs in the weeks ahead!

If your club is looking for a guest program, I would love the opportunity to visit and share more about the incredible work happening at Camp Dogwood. Please give me a call at 828-478-2135 ext. 229 or email tammy@nclf.org to schedule a visit.

Community engagement and outreach continue to grow. Along with participating in the Triangle Federation's White Cane Event, I will be speaking to the Southport Lions Club this week and have additional outreach visits planned across the state. These efforts promote Camp Dogwood, the Brighter Visions campaign, and Camp Dogwood ticket sales, helping us expand awareness and support for our programs. These outreach events strengthen our partnerships and help us share the mission of Camp Dogwood throughout the state.

To further support our mission, Dogwood on Lake Norman hosted eight successful events in October. Each event directly contributes to our ability to provide meaningful experiences and services for individuals who are blind and visually impaired.

Operations continue to run smoothly as we close out another successful summer season. Planning is already underway for next year's programs, with a key focus on launching a digital summer application for both campers and volunteers. This new system will be accessible on computers, tablets, and smartphones, and will work seamlessly with screen readers used by many of our VIPs. The goal is to simplify registration, improve accessibility, and enhance the accuracy of documentation.

All contract paperwork for Dogwood on Lake Norman's off-season operations has already been digitized and is actively in use. Beginning with the February NC Lions Board and Council meetings, event registrations for Camp Dogwood will also move to a digital format. You can expect to see more online forms and resources soon as we continue working to make information more accessible for Lions across North Carolina.

Our annual Fall Pie and Soup Sale is currently underway! Off-season facility usage remains steady, and we are exploring new ways to increase weekday utilization. Keep an eye out for upcoming catering options and additional sweet treats available for order.

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We're also making steady progress toward implementing online applications for all camp programs, NCLF registrations, and contracts. These improvements will streamline administrative processes and ensure full accessibility for individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

Camp Dogwood continues to move forward with innovation, accessibility, and community at the heart of everything we do. Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to our mission!

Respectfully submitted:
Lion Tammy MacLean
Director of Operations, NC Lions Foundation



Expanding Access and Impact: Zeffy Makes Giving Easier Than Ever

The North Carolina Lions Foundation is excited to share how we're making it easier than ever for Lions and supporters across the state to give back and stay engaged—thanks to our partnership with Zeffy, a 100% free fundraising platform designed for nonprofits.

Through Zeffy, donors can now set up **recurring monthly donations to Brighter Visions**, helping provide consistent, year-round support for the programs and services that impact lives across North Carolina. Whether it's \$10 or \$100 a month, every recurring gift helps sustain the mission and momentum of Brighter Visions.

In addition to monthly giving, Zeffy is also being used to **streamline the purchase of Brighter Visions Raffle Tickets and Camp Dogwood Raffle Tickets**. These raffles are not only fun and rewarding, but they also serve as vital fundraising tools that directly benefit our charitable programs—including Camp Dogwood for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

But we're not stopping there.

We're actively exploring additional ways to use Zeffy to simplify and enhance how we engage with our members and supporters. This includes:

- **Room and meal purchases for Council of Governors and Board of Directors meetings**, making registration and payment more convenient for attendees.
- **Online sales of merchandise** from the Camp Dogwood Store, allowing Lions and friends to support the camp while sporting their favorite gear from anywhere in the state.

By embracing tools like Zeffy, the North Carolina Lions Foundation is not just keeping up with the times—we're making it easier for everyone to be part of the mission. Whether you're donating, buying raffle tickets, or registering for a meeting, your support helps us serve more people, more effectively.

Stay tuned for more updates as we continue to expand our digital tools and fundraising opportunities. Together, we're building a stronger, more connected Lions community.

Meet Caitlin Leonard – Our Newest Team Member



We're excited to welcome Caitlin Leonard to the team! Caitlyn joins us with an Associate's Degree in Culinary Arts from Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute (CCC&TI), bringing creativity, precision, and a passion for all things food.

Born and raised in Mountain City, Tennessee, Caitlin is deeply rooted in Appalachian charm and hospitality. She's married to her husband Sam, and together they share a cozy home filled with love — and three delightfully named cats: Oatmeal, Pepperoni, and Yogurt.

Outside of work, Caitlin enjoys reading, drawing, gardening, baking, and cooking. Her artistic flair and nurturing spirit shine through in everything she does, and we're thrilled to have her on board. Please join us in giving Caitlin a warm welcome!

The Governor's Corner...

District 31-O Champions Mental Health and Well-Being



District 31-O recently hosted a Mental Health and Well-Being First Aid training to support Lions Clubs International's global initiative focused on mental wellness. The training equipped Lions members with practical tools to recognize signs of mental distress, respond appropriately, and connect individuals with resources—reinforcing our commitment to building healthier, more resilient communities.

As part of the event, District 31-O also held a Fireside Chat featuring Dr. Kelly Graves of the Kellin Foundation and Ashlyn Cox of Youth Focus. Their conversation offered powerful insights into trauma-informed care, youth mental health, and the importance of community-based support. The dialogue emphasized how Lions can be active advocates for mental wellness in their local clubs and beyond.

District Governor Juanita Brown shared her thoughts on the initiative:

"Mental health affects every family, every community, and every generation. As Lions, we have a unique opportunity to lead with compassion and action. I'm proud of District 31-O for embracing this initiative and creating space for education and meaningful conversation."

The Fireside Chat and training session reflect the growing momentum behind Lions Clubs International's Mental Health and Well-Being Initiative, which encourages clubs to engage in awareness, education, and service projects that promote emotional wellness. To view the Fireside Chat and hear directly from Dr. Graves and Ms. Cox, you can watch the full video at **Mental Health Fireside Chat – District 31-O**.

This event serves as a strong example of how Lions can lead with heart, vision, and purpose—making a lasting impact on the lives of those we serve.

The Governor's Corner...



A Lion's Tale: Turning Aluminum into Pork Chops

By Lion Gene Goetz

Psst... Have I got a Lion's Tale for you.

You've heard the legends of old—how alchemists believed they could turn lead into gold. Well, I know a Lion who's come pretty close. He turns aluminum into pork chops.

His name is **Joe Batkoski**, a devoted member of the **Goldsboro Downtown Lions Club** and a true example of humble service. Joe is the kind of Lion who never seeks recognition. At 86 years old, he's a **Melvin Jones Fellow**, and the only pins you'll find on his vest are that and the classic Lions emblem. He's what you'd call "salt of the earth"—quietly working behind the scenes to serve his club and community.

Here's Joe's story, in his own words.

"Several years ago, our club began collecting tabs from aluminum beverage cans to raise money for the Ronald McDonald House. PDG Barbara Mayes volunteered to lead that project.

About two and a half years ago, I decided to start collecting whole aluminum cans with the idea of using the money to buy pork chops for a local food pantry called the Soup Kitchen. When I started, I had no idea how well the project would do."



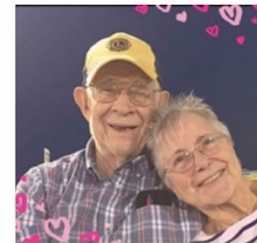
Joe's initiative quickly gained momentum. With support from his **family, friends, church community, fellow Lions, and local businesses**—including **Dee's Diner**, where the club meets weekly—he began collecting cans from all corners of the community.

To keep up with the volume, Joe's two sons-in-law built him a custom table and an **automatic can crusher** after he wore out three single-can crushers. This new setup allows him to crush multiple cans at once, making the process faster and more efficient.

Once crushed, Joe sells the aluminum to a local scrap yard. The proceeds? They go straight to buying pork chops—**30 pounds a month**, every month, for well over a year now. All donations to the Soup Kitchen to help feed those in need.

Joe's story is a shining example of how one person's quiet dedication can ripple outward and make a real difference. He didn't start this project for accolades—he started it to serve. And in doing so, he's inspired others to join him.

So next time you finish a can of soda, think of Joe. And think of the power of service, the kind that turns something ordinary into something extraordinary—like aluminum into pork chops.



Lion Joe "The Can Man" and his partner in service Sharon.

Lions Make a Lasting Impact at Faith In Action Free Vision Clinic in New Bern, North Carolina

by PDG Carlie Metts

The Faith In Action Free Vision Clinic, held at Garber Methodist Church in New Bern, North Carolina, recently delivered life-changing care to hundreds of individuals—and thanks to the dedication of 11 Lion volunteers, the event was a tremendous success. Representing the Beaufort Lions, New Bern Lions, New Bern Twin Rivers Lions, Aurora Lions, and Kinston Host Lions, these volunteers assisted with KidSight screenings and served as runners, helping guide patients through the clinic process.

Dr. Ridgeway, Clinic Chair, praised the Lions' involvement, stating, "It was a very successful clinic, and you all were a major part of it." That success was reflected in the numbers: 350 patients received care, 305 pairs of glasses were ordered, and 21 individuals were referred for further evaluation due to undiagnosed ocular diseases or surgical needs.



One especially meaningful moment came thanks to the Lions' KidSight screening efforts. Dr. Cathy Doty shared that, through the Lions' help, a child who was not registered for the clinic—but whose parents were—was identified as needing glasses. Because of the screening, that child was able to receive assistance that might have otherwise been missed. It was a powerful reminder of how early detection and community outreach can change lives.

The KidSight program, a cornerstone of Lions vision initiatives, focuses on screening young children for vision issues that could affect learning and development. At the Faith In Action Free Vision Clinic, Lions used specialized equipment to quickly and effectively assess children's eyesight, referring those in need to appropriate care. The screenings were not only efficient but deeply impactful, especially in cases like the child Dr. Doty mentioned.

Throughout the day, Lions worked side by side with clinic staff, greeting patients, assisting with paperwork, and ensuring that everyone—from toddlers to seniors—felt welcomed and supported. Their teamwork and dedication exemplified the Lions' motto: We Serve.

The collaboration between the Lions Clubs and the clinic staff demonstrated the power of community partnerships. Each club brought its own strengths and volunteers, creating a united front of service. Whether it was guiding patients to their next station or calming nervous children before their screenings, Lions were there with a smile and a helping hand.

The clinic's impact extended beyond the numbers. For many patients, receiving a pair of glasses meant regaining independence, improving job performance, or simply being able to read a book again. For others, referrals for further care could mean the difference between sight and blindness. These outcomes underscore the importance of accessible vision care and the role Lions play in bridging that gap. (continued next page)

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As the day wrapped up, volunteers reflected on the lives touched and the connections made. The Faith In Action Free Vision Clinic wasn't just a medical event—it was a celebration of service, compassion, and community. Looking ahead, the Lions Clubs involved hope to continue supporting similar clinics and expanding their outreach. The success of this event serves as a model for future collaborations, proving that when Lions come together, they truly can change lives.

To all the Lions who volunteered—thank you for your time, your heart, and your unwavering commitment to service. Your efforts at Garber Methodist Church in New Bern, North Carolina, have left a lasting mark, and your impact will be felt long after the clinic doors closed.

Together, we see the need—and take the lead.

Reflections from the Road: A Journey of Service and Fellowship

By Gary Steele, International Director 2025–2027



Lion Elizabeth and I kicked off October with our first convention in Canaan, West Virginia. It was a beautiful setting, and we were warmly welcomed and shown several local tourist spots. The hospitality and camaraderie made for a memorable experience.

Early Sunday morning, we returned home briefly before heading to the airport for our next adventure—India. We arrived around 4:00 a.m. Tuesday and, after a quick breakfast at 8:30, began a full day of travel and service. Our ride left at 10:00 a.m., and we didn't return until 10:00 p.m. Along the way, we visited a medical screening site, a cow sanctuary (where I had the honor of participating in a cow blessing ceremony), and even planted a tree. That evening, we helped present over 50 awards before heading to a Lions-owned sports center. We ended the day with a remarkable dinner alongside Past District Governors and an Indian King—an unforgettable moment of fellowship and cultural exchange.

The next morning began early 3:30 a.m. as we caught our flight to Kolkata. After a brief rest, board meetings commenced the following day and continued for four days. Elizabeth departed for home afterward, while I continued on to Ahmedabad for a service project.

In Ahmedabad, I witnessed firsthand the incredible work of the Lions of India. I toured schools and hospitals built and operated by Lions members facilities that are transforming lives every day. The scale and impact of their service are difficult to grasp until you see it in person. It was humbling and inspiring.

Eventually, I boarded my flight home, arriving in St. Louis on Thursday, October 16, and finally making it back to North Carolina the next morning. After a brief attempt at rest—emphasis on “brief” I picked up PCC George Suggs and we headed to the VIP Fishing Tournament. It was a fitting way to close out a whirlwind month of travel, service, and connection.

I think I've finally caught up on sleep and adjusted back to NC standard time. This journey reminded me of the global reach and heart of Lions service. From West Virginia to India, the spirit of giving and community is alive and well.

BIG OUTCOMES Start Small: How Monthly Giving Can Transform Lives Across North Carolina



What if every Lion in North Carolina gave just a little each month? Imagine the ripple effect of compassion, generosity, and hope. A \$10 monthly gift from each Lion would generate \$520,080 in a year. A \$25 monthly gift? An astounding \$1,300,200. These aren't just numbers — they're lifelines for North Carolinians who need us most.

The Brighter Visions Campaign, the flagship fundraising effort of the North Carolina Lions Foundation (NCLF), is more than a charitable initiative. It's a promise. A promise that no matter where someone

lives in our state — from the mountains to the coast — they'll have access to vital services that restore dignity, independence, and hope.

Every dollar raised through Brighter Visions goes directly toward programs that serve our neighbors in need. Vision screenings for children who can't see the board in school. Eyeglasses for seniors who've gone too long without. Support for the visually impaired to navigate life with confidence. Camp Dogwood, a haven for those with visual challenges, where laughter and learning replace isolation and fear.

These are the outcomes your monthly gift makes possible.

But beyond the services, there's something deeper at work — connection. When a Lion gives, they're not just donating money. They're saying, "I see you. I care. You matter." That message resonates in every corner of our state, especially in communities where resources are scarce and hope feels distant.

Monthly giving is powerful because it's consistent. It allows NCLF to plan, grow, and respond swiftly when opportunities arise. It builds a foundation of support that doesn't waver. And for donors, it's a manageable way to make a lasting impact — one small gift at a time.

Think of the child who receives her first pair of glasses and finally sees her mother's face clearly. The veteran who regains independence through assistive technology. The camper at Dogwood who finds friendship and joy in a place designed just for them. These are the stories behind Brighter Visions. These are the lives you touch when you choose to give.

This year, under the leadership of President Allen Swaim, we're embracing the theme: **"See the Need – Take the Lead."** It's a call to action for every Lion to recognize the challenges in our communities and step forward with courage and compassion. Monthly giving is one of the simplest yet most powerful ways to take that lead — to be the change that lights the way for someone else.

You can set up your one-time or monthly donation through our Zeffy platform or by calling NCLF at 828-478-2135. Let's show our state what Lions can do — together.

Because BIG OUTCOMES really do start small.

Building Stronger Leaders for a Brighter Future

Leadership Development at the North Carolina Lions Foundation

At the North Carolina Lions Foundation (NCLF), we believe that strong leadership is the cornerstone of meaningful service. Over the past several months, we've made tremendous strides in developing and empowering our Lions leaders across the state.

We began by training our officers, Board of Directors, and Committee Chairs—ensuring they have the tools, knowledge, and confidence to lead with purpose. These sessions have laid a solid foundation for collaboration, accountability, and innovation within our organization.

Advancing KidSight Training

Now, we're turning our focus to one of our most impactful service programs: KidSight. Thanks to a newly developed training format created by Lion Jon Snelling and Bryan Hoover, our Seeing the 21st Century Coordinator, we're equipping new KidSight operators in every district with consistent, hands-on instruction.

The results are already showing. Districts I and O have seen increased engagement and smoother screenings thanks to this updated approach. Next up: Districts L, N, and S, where training sessions are being scheduled to continue this momentum.

What better way to make a difference than volunteering at a KidSight screening? It's a direct, meaningful way to serve children and families in your community—and a great opportunity to connect with fellow Lions.

Looking Ahead: New Materials for Club & Zone Meetings

As we continue to grow, we're also developing new training materials for all our committee chairs. These resources will be designed for use at club and zone meetings, helping to standardize communication and support across the state. Whether you're a seasoned Lion or just stepping into a leadership role, these tools will help you lead with clarity and confidence.

Communication + Training = Impact

At NCLF, we know that communication and training are two of the most important ingredients for empowering volunteers. When our Lions are informed, prepared, and supported, they can make a deeper impact in the communities we serve.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in our leadership development efforts so far. Together, we're building a stronger, more connected Lions network—ready to serve with heart, vision, and purpose.



Staying Connected: Club Visits & Virtual Town Halls

By PDG Carlie Metts, Executive Director

As we continue building momentum across the North Carolina Lions Foundation, staying connected with our Lions family remains a top priority. Tammy MacLean, our Director of Operations, and I are excited to share that we're available to attend Club and Zone meetings throughout the year. Whether you're looking for updates on the Foundation, insights into Camp Dogwood, or ideas for service and fundraising, we'd love the opportunity to speak with your members directly.

These visits are a great way to strengthen communication, answer questions, and hear your thoughts on how we can better serve our communities. If your club or zone would like to schedule a visit, feel free to reach out to me at cmetts@nclf.org or 828-478-2135 ext. 223, or contact Tammy at tammy@nclf.org or 828-478-2135 ext. 229.

In addition to in-person meetings, Tammy and I are working on launching a series of Virtual Town Hall Meetings via Zoom. These sessions will cover a variety of topics related to the Foundation and Camp Dogwood—from program updates and volunteer opportunities to fundraising strategies and leadership development. Our goal is to make these town halls accessible, informative, and interactive, giving Lions across the state a chance to stay engaged no matter where they are.

We believe that communication and collaboration are key to empowering our volunteers and driving meaningful impact. Whether it's through a club visit or a virtual gathering, we're committed to keeping the lines open and the ideas flowing.

Thank you for all you do to support the North Carolina Lions Foundation. We look forward to seeing you soon—either in person or online!

BE A LION... Where There's a Need, There's a Lion

PDG Paul Bledsoe, NCLF Public Information/Education

The NC Lions Council of Governors' marketing campaign ended in June 2025. This campaign was a mix of connected TV, streaming, and digital marketing. **Telling our story... We reached over 2.7 million people in North Carolina with this campaign.**

Remember, “**awareness**” is the most important factor as you drive to invite new membership. We have available the **Lions Club Marketing Package** that includes an information guide, printed material, videos, social media layouts, storylines, and more. This package will communicate our work as Lions Club members around the state in a unified approach.

Copy this link to your browser for the NC Lions Marketing Campaign 2025 on Google Drive:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rHNEb7YYSGkhqh9yG7PucxXC4VZ8hkYI>

Bid for a Cause, NCLF's Boat Auction is Live!

The North Carolina Lions Foundation is excited to announce a special fundraising auction in support of the Brighter Visions Campaign—a chance to own a stunning boat while helping fund vital services across the state.

A generous donor recently gifted the Foundation a **2003 Sea Ray 185**

Bowrider, an inboard/outboard day-cruiser perfect for lake outings and weekend adventures. This sleek, well-maintained vessel offers comfortable seating, sporty performance, and classic Sea Ray styling—ideal for families, fishing, or relaxing on the water.



After exploring a private sale and considering a raffle, the Foundation has decided to auction the boat with a minimum upset bid and a 10-day bidding window. The auction is now live and will close on November 19, 2025. The current bid stands at \$10,100, with \$100 bid increments.

This hybrid auction approach ensures transparency and gives bidders a fair chance to participate while helping the Foundation raise meaningful support for programs like KidSight vision screenings, mobility cane distribution, and Camp Dogwood services.

The boat is currently stored at Camp Dogwood, where it's occupying valuable winter storage space—so we're eager to find it a new home!

If you or someone you know is interested in placing a bid, please contact **Carlie Metts** at Camp Dogwood for more information. **You can also place your bid directly through our auction page:**

[North Carolina Lions Foundation Inc.'s Silent Auction.](#)

And as a fun bonus, the winning bidder will receive a bottle of hot sauce—personally provided by one of our Foundation leaders.

Don't miss this opportunity to support Brighter Visions and cruise into 2026 with style.