

THE

Merry Christmas

# ALABAMA LION

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A newsletter for members of Alabama Lions Clubs

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## Helen Keller's first true Christmas: Blind man is 'he who has not Christmas in his heart'

By Kelly Kazek  
kkazek@al.com

The first Christmas the little girl could remember was the one in 1887. It would shine in her memory until adulthood. She was awestruck the first time she realized that trees "grew" in parlors each December, their limbs laden with fruits and treats, waiting for children to pick them.

On Christmas Eve, the girl went to a party with other children in town and was overjoyed by the feeling of excitement brought on by chaos and lights. The children made a game of forming symbols in the girls' hand, and she was happy they wanted to play with her. She had recently learned that Christmas was about giving, a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. The understanding that shone in her eyes evoked the emotion of her parents. Her mother wept and gave thanks. Her father, a stoic man, was left speechless, the emotion obvious on his face.

For six previous Christmases, the girl had been unaware that there was a special day set aside to enjoy giving to others. Dec. 25 had been like every other day in her life: dark, silent days in which the only goal was to fulfill her wants and needs for food, shelter, comfort and sleep. She knew nothing else.

But the summer of her seventh year, a door suddenly opened and let light into the lonely world of little Helen Keller. The light came in the form of Anne Sullivan, a woman who taught Helen words and showed her that people can communicate, even those who are deaf and blind. Until Anne came to their home in Tuscumbia, Ala., Helen had been like a wild animal. Unable to communicate, she roamed from room to room, grunting and pointing and taking what she wanted. Helen's world did not exist outside of Helen's desires.

She was born June 27, 1880, at the simple picturesque home call Ivy Green, which had been built in 1820 by Helen's grandfather and which is open as a museum today. When she was 19 months old, Helen contracted a high

fever that left her deaf and blind. Because she could not hear, she was also unable to learn to speak.

Anne came to the Keller home and, after a little tough love, finally got through to the little girl. In a moment now famous in American history, Helen learned the word "water" as Anne spelled it into one hand while pumping water over the other. Tourists can visit that famous water pump at Ivy Green.

Helen's world became alight with possibilities. By December, Helen had a broader vocabulary and an understanding of her place in the greater world around her. She was ready to celebrate her "first" Christmas.

Anne would later write: "For weeks we did nothing but talk and read and tell each other stories about Christmas." Helen and the woman she knew as Teacher devised surprises for Helen's parents and others in the household, which gave the little girl great joy.

In her memoir "The Story of My Life," Helen wrote, "The mystery that surrounded the gifts was my greatest delight and amusement. My friends did all they could to excite my curiosity by hints and half-spelled sentences which they pretended to break off in the nick of time."

Soon, Helen could comprehend the concept of gifts and decorated trees. For the first time, she understood she was invited to parties to share in games with other children. At a party at the local school, Helen was given the honor of distributing gifts, a job she took seriously. After handing out treats to each child, Helen noticed that one little girl, Nellie, did not receive as many gifts as the other children.

She signed to Teacher: "I will give Nellie mug."

Anne later wrote: "She had chosen the prettiest gift and the one which had pleased her most to give a little stranger." That night, the excited Helen hung two stockings, just in



In 1887, Anne Sullivan arrived at the Tuscumbia, Alabama, home of Captain and Mrs. Arthur H. Keller to become the teacher for their deaf and blind 6-year-old daughter, Helen.

case Santa Claus could not find the first.

She woke her family early the next morning, frantically spelling, "Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas!" She found surprises on the table, chairs and at the door and on window sills.

"I could hardly walk without stumbling on a bit of Christmas wrapped up in tissue paper," Helen later wrote.

It was one of the happiest times in the young girl's life. She couldn't know then that she would learn to speak, graduate from college and become a world-renowned author, lecturer and celebrity. The first Christmas instilled in Helen a love for the wondrous holiday and formed the basis of her belief that blind people could, if they chose, truly "see the world."

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# VISIONS

Barry Elliott



## ALS Executive Director's Report

"Christmas in Dixie"

Made popular by the band, "Alabama" the song "Christmas in Dixie" is a favorite this time of the year. It was released in 1985 and personally one of my favorites. The lyrics point out across the land the special joy and happiness that is felt, wherever you may be, but as we like to think, it is special in "Dixie." It is special this time of the year for Lions and their motto "We

Serve." The community's sense of making everyone, especially those in need, feel loved and remembered, gives each of us Lions a special satisfaction.

Alabama Lions Sight (ALS) is proud to announce the continuation vision partnership with the Alabama Department of Public Health made possible by a grant with the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors! Beginning Novem-

ber 1, 2019 and for the next nine months, our partnership will be bringing vision care to six department of health clinics each month! The success of the pilot program earlier this year ending in July, has enabled us to continue this project. The benefit of this program is that Lions are reaching people that do not have access to vision care in many counties and mostly could not otherwise afford to receive care. Many patients that we see in the Mobile Eye Clinic haven't had an eye exam in decades. Quite often, the result is the discovery of an eye condition possibly heading the patient towards blindness. Thankfully, their vision most of the time, can be saved. Due to the aging population of Americans, we will always have a pressing need to aide in the prevention of blindness.

Early detection of vision problems is key in our service. I must commend the Lions in their passion to be committed in conducting vision screenings throughout the state of Alabama. Several clubs have the use of their own instruments in screening in order to provide this service in their communities. As we partner with you in screening, it is of the upmost importance we receive your numbers in all of your screenings so these can be reported. This data is essential in determining so many things! We need these numbers in order to establish health care policy.

Without this data, treatment and funding will be lagging to provide the kind of care that is needed in the fight against blindness. So many associations and agencies report this nationally so that change can be brought to vision care. Congratulations to District A that has made possible on their district website the ability to report club screenings that is linked to ALS' website. ALS in turn has the capability to report for the Lions of Alabama so we can help bring about the needed research, funding and treatment.

Concerning vision screenings, ALS is persistent in the quest for funding in order to screen students in every public school in Alabama. Please keep this in your thoughts and prayers as we talking with the legislators of Alabama. It will take a great effort on our part as Lions. Many share the passion that I have in early detection in the fight against blindness. Statics say that 80% of vision impairment is either curable or treatable. The equipment we use measures six different medical conditions of the eye. We can screen infants from 3 months and up in 3 seconds when we focus on the pupils of their eyes.

It is such a pleasure to share the Lions service to the clubs recently visited: Northport Lions, Flomaton Lions, and Fayette Lions. These and all Lions Clubs are busy especially this time of season. Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas from all of us at Alabama Lions Sight!

Paula, Doris, Erin, Barry, Dr. Kent Daum, Trish Dunkin, John Wilkerson



Fayette Lions Club



Flomaton Lions Club



Northport Lions Club

A sincere Thank You to Our Corporate Sponsors, Estates, Foundations and Lions



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FOUNDATION



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Susan Mott Webb Foundation/Regions  
UAB Benevolent Fund  
Wal-Mart Foundation  
Walker Area Community Foundation

### PATIENTS SEEN IN THE LIONS EYE CLINIC

- 1,478 patients seen year-to-date
- 317 were seen in the month of September
- 207 were seen in the month of October





# DISTRICT 34-A

DG  
Larry  
Bagley



## In and Around the District



**Fort Payne High School Leo's presenting a check for \$1000 to a family in the area that lost their home due to fire.**

### Hello District 34 A Lions.

I hope each of you had a great Thanksgiving and are filled with turkey and the spirit of Christmas and giving. As you know, giving service and a brighter day to those that need us is what Lions do. December and the Christmas holidays always brings back fond memories of my time growing up and how I anxiously awaited Santa's arrival. There is someone in your neighborhood waiting for you to arrive. I hope each of us can find that someone this season and give them a reason to say thank you for caring about me. Just a small token of our generosity can go a long way. You will grow in service and those that benefit from what you have done will never forget that a Lion met their need. Please send me a note and tell me your story of how you made a difference this season.

Speaking of giving, I would like to encourage each club to consider giving to LCIF and Alabama Lions Sight. I know many of the clubs in our District give each year and some more than once and I want to thank you for that giving. If your club is one of those that have not given this year, please consider giving a small club gift of \$50-\$100 to each of these Lions organizations. LCIF has given so much back to North Alabama and they need our support to be able to continue their giving. I don't know when, but it is just a matter of time that we will need them again. We will have a storm, flood, or other disaster that we will have to manage through and LCIF will be there to help us through it. Alabama Lion Sight is always in need of our financial support. Their goal of helping with sight conservation in every county of the state is not achievable unless we help them. Wouldn't it be great to have bragging rights that every club in our district has given something to support our very own organizations? Just a small gift can go a long way. Remember what Helen Keller said "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much".

I know I can count on you. You can count on Alabama Lion Sight and LCIF.

As each month has passed by, the District Governor team has visited many of your clubs and I want to say thank you for being such gracious hosts. I have been very pleased and energized as I have met with the clubs. The clubs in 34A are AWESOME! This past month, I met with Bridgeport Lions and again I found this club to be so excited about the many things that are going on in their club. This club sits almost on the Tennessee line in Jackson County. The club recently hosted a group honoring the Trail of Tears. What a novel idea. The club is also in the middle of one of the largest development area in North Alabama. Google is building 6-8 new building on a 640 acre plot of land within sight of their club meeting facility. These buildings are 200-600 feet and three stories tall. The new facilities will employ several hundred new workers. What a boost to the economy and potential Lions members. I also visited with New Hope Lions and Scottsboro Lions, all with exciting things going on! First VDG Tim Sosobee and Second VDG Mechele Mosley visited with the Lexington Lions, Hanceville Lions, Blountsville Lions, Russellville Lions, Red Bay Lions and our new club in Central Blount County. They returned with exciting stories of their own about each of these clubs.

We also completed our second cabinet meeting on October 12 in Hayden. It was a great success with 52 Lions in attendance. I want to thank each of you that attended and a special thanks to those that made a presentation. PDG Sara Provines provided an excellent training session to our secretaries and Lion Austin Monk provided online / website training to the club presidents and other attendees. The meeting was packed with announcements and presentations throughout the day and there was not an idle moment. As a result of the meeting,



**Bridgeport Lions Club located a few miles from the Tennessee line hosted DG Larry in October.**



**Red Bay Lions Club located close to the Mississippi line hosted 1st VDG Tim Sosebee in October.**

we have added a new link on our website to report vision screening directly to Alabama Lion Sight. If you conduct a vision screening, be sure to go to our website [AlabamaLions34A.com](http://AlabamaLions34A.com) and click on the link "Report Eye Screening Data" and complete the form. It will only take a few seconds to complete and it will provide a world of information to Barry Elliott and his staff.

As I promised, N A M I will become a household word by the end of my term as District Governor. If you have not committed it to memory, here it is one more time North America Membership Initiative. District 34 A was selected as one of nine districts to pilot this program to grow membership, start new clubs, create exciting new service and develop new training ideas for the Lions. I am excited to be a part of this program and I am encouraged as I visit the clubs and talk about what we are doing and planning to do. I hope I have gotten you excited as it has

been a focus at the club visits, cabinet meeting, training sessions and newsletters. There will be several new training sessions coming next year that you do not want to miss. If you are hungry for knowledge you will want to be a part of DELI. Emails will be sent announcing the exact dates and locations. Also visit our District website calendar for updates and exciting events going on in clubs. Don't forget to post your club events on the website calendar as well.

Last but not least I would like to thank the LEO's from Fort Payne High School. This 97 member Leo Club sponsored by the Fort Payne Lions Club, just recently donated \$1000 to a family in the area that lost their home due to fire. Great job Leo's. Thank you for your service.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND  
HAPPY PROPEROUS NEW YEAR**





DG Floyd  
"Bubba"  
Bingham

# DISTRICT 34-B



## In and Around the District

By the time you read this article I will be in my 6th month as your District Governor. It only seems like a few weeks ago that I was in Milan, Italy taking the oath of office. One of my goals is to increase our district membership. Your District Governor team including your District GMT have been working hard to establish two campus clubs, one at Jacksonville State University and one at the University of Montevallo and a standard Club in the Millbrook-Coosada-Elmore area. During the month of September, we began our planning for campus clubs with personnel on the campus of Jacksonville State University and the University of Montevallo. I'll continue my update on our efforts in this article. We first had to get permission to set up on their campus to recruit students. We traveled to the campus of Jacksonville State University along with Anniston Lion James Askew and met with the officials there and were granted permission to "table" on their campus. For 3 days we, along with the Campus Club guy, Paul Baker collected contact information and distributed Lions Club material to over 130 interested students who came by our table. After that three days we moved directly to the campus of the University of Montevallo and did the same thing, collecting contact information again from over 130 interested students. We later scheduled informational meetings on the campus of both universities. Those that signed up and showed interest in becoming a Lion, including all who had completed membership cards and, in some cases, had paid dues, were invited to attend the meeting. To our dismay and disappointment, only a few at each campus showed up for further information on the campus clubs. I think it is important to note here that campus clubs have a unique set of circumstances that may require unique timing and considerations. They are focused on studies, as they should be. It's not easy to convince them to give a few hours a month to civic service, especially when they have to plan and execute it. I'm not sure that we 65+ year old Lions possess the type of civic appeal that an 18-year-old can attract to. First, we are dealing with a group of young people who are in transit for the most part and spend only about two years



**Lions Terri and James Askew with Minuteman  
at Veterans Day celebration in Anniston.**

in a position to be worthwhile in that campus community as a Lion. After that they've graduated and moved on. The upside of that is, for those who follow through and commit to becoming a member, they gain a firm foundation of Lionism and are then prepared to take those skills back to their home communities. Having said all that, we have not given up on creating the campus clubs. We have asked those who are still sincerely interested to reach out to their peers and decide if they are truly interested in creating a Campus Club. We will know more later. As for the Millbrook area Club, we are still in the recruiting stage and hope to have 20 plus members before Thanksgiving, or Christmas at the latest. There has been a lot of interest for a Lion's Club in that area.

We held our second cabinet meeting on November 9th hosted by the Moody Lions Club. You may recall that was the same day that the University of Alabama football team was defeated by the LSU football team. I suspect that was a reason for the low turnout at our cabinet meeting. Those who attended enjoyed some excellent training on the MyLion website navigation, great fellowship with other Lions and a delicious meal, pulled pork and all the trimmings. Our next cabinet meeting will be in Prattville on March 20th and 21st, 2020. Our

International guest speaker will be International Director Larry Edwards from Pennsylvania. This cabinet meeting will be in conjunction with our district convention. I expect to have some entertainment on Friday afternoon March 20th, dinner with the international director that evening and close out on Saturday the 21st with our convention and 3rd short cabinet meeting. I hope to see you there.

Let me close by wishing each of you a very merry Christmas. And while I'm on the subject of the season of giving, why not consider buying a gift that gives back! Buy a year membership for a member of your family or a close friend or especially a veteran. As you know the entrance fee for a veteran is waived and a full year membership is only around \$105. That would be a gift that keeps on giving!

Finally, the District LCIF Coordinator, George Head, has asked me to include the following. Please donate to this worthwhile cause to provide the help and support to those who need it in times of disaster.

**From Your Governor/  
Servant and his family;  
Merry Christmas to ALL!**

"LCIF is OUR Foundation, and as Lions, we should support



**DG Bubba presents 2nd VDG Brenda Elliott  
with 10 year Service Chevron.**



**From left, Lions Marie Thompson, Christina Schneck, Kathy Elliott  
and Jackie Ross are sister's and members of the Anniston Lions Club.**

it - this is what we do!"

Campaign 100 - Empowering Service!

As LCIF Coordinator for District 34-B, I remind you of the slogan: "Where there is a need, there is a Lion".

There is a need for the Lions of District 34-B to financially support LCIF Campaign 100:

- I encourage all clubs to make a minimum donation of \$100 to LCIF - easy to do online: [www.lcif.org/donate](http://www.lcif.org/donate).

- I encourage clubs to make sufficient donations of \$1,000 that would allow every Club to name at least one Melvin Jones Fellow annually.

- I encourage clubs to initiate

a new fundraising event dedicated to LCIF for those who do not have sufficient budget funds to contribute.

- I encourage all Lions to make a personal donation of \$100 to LCIF Campaign 100, annually. Now is the time to get it started! Why wait - just do it: [www.lcif.org/donate](http://www.lcif.org/donate).

It's Tax Time . . . Remember, personal donations made to LCIF are tax deductible. Please consider making your tax-deductible donation before December 31 as you finalize your income tax preparations for 2019!

**Thank You,  
PCC George Head**





# DISTRICT 34-C

DG  
Yvonne  
Burroughs



## In and Around the District

Lions of District 34-C, the month of December is upon us. There are so many service projects that you can be involved in during this holiday season. I would like for you think about service projects to aid the hungry and those projects that provide aid to families that need help to provide gifts for their kids. Your club can support your local food bank by working there or providing can goods; deliver nutritious meals to elderly, disabled or ill community members; invite a community health professional to visit your club and educate members on the prevalence and impact of hunger in your community; serve meals at a soup kitchen or homeless shelter; work with your local school to provide weekend take home bags of nutritious snacks for children in need; volunteer with Salvation Army Red Kettle program; pick a child in need and provide toys; work in the Salvation Army Angel Tree Warehouse; donate to Toys For Tots.

Don't let December go by without serving someone in need.

The month of January is Hunger Awareness Month. Did you know that:

- 815 million people were affected by hunger in 2016: 11% of the global population
- 155 million children under age five are stunted due to chronic malnutrition
- 1/3 of annual food production is lost or wasted throughout the supply chain
- 33 percent of women of reproductive age suffer from anemia

So do what you can to ease the effect of hunger in your community.

We have been canvassing on the campus of the University of South Alabama in an attempt to start a campus club. It has been slow going, but we have a couple of students who believe in what the Lions do and they are actively recruiting. I hope to have more information to give you on our new campus club in the next newsletter.

Our District Clubs remain busy serving their respective communities. Greater Brewton Lions Club had three events recently: a car show and rib dinner fundraiser; screened and provided glasses for seven people; and made their monthly donation to a restaurant

that serves the needy in their community. Daleville Lions held a vision screening. Eight Mile Lions donated tactile toys for the blind and visually impaired students at the H.L. Sonny Calhoun School for the Deaf and Blind and the club volunteered at the school on Parent's Day to stand in for parents who couldn't make it that day. The Foley Lions Club partnered with Ecumenical Ministries to screen, provide eye exams and glasses for the needy. Headland Lions prepared grocery bags for the elderly with the local food bank's Brown Bag Program. Mobile Lions help sponsor support group for blind and visually impaired adults. Montgomery Lions Club held a chili cook-off fundraiser. Pike Road handled setup, clean up and parking for an arts and crafts fair and the club also planned, setup and manned a game at neighborhood fall festival. The Troy Lions had Spirit Night fundraiser. Saraland Lions Club made 25 gift boxes for Operation Christmas Child. The gift boxes will be shipped to children all around the world.

I meet with the Mobile University Club. The club is actively recruiting to increase their membership. The club consists of faculty members, retired and active, of the University of South Alabama. Some of the members are working on eye research to prevent blindness. Dr. Steve Kayes, president of the Mobile University, helped to canvass and continues to work with us to start the campus club at the University of South Alabama. I visited the Geneva Lions Club and we had a great visit. The club had six new members to induct. Two of the new members were not able to attend on the day of my visit. But I was proud to induct four new members. The new members are Lion John Barnikel, Lion Lori Shortt, Lion Daniel Coleman, Lion Susan Wood, Tony Rosetta and Lion Denise Thomas.

We had our Second Cabinet meeting on October 26, 2019. It was fun and informative, thanks to presenters, PCC Linda Ziglar, PDG Ron Mitchell, Lion Wayne Keys and Lion Bub Gideon. We had inclement weather, but I was thankful for the brave Lions who came anyway.

Please continue to record your service activities in MyLion and complete your Monthly



**Pictured, from left to right, Lion Dr. Steve Kayes, CS Gwendolyn James, Lion Ruth Rhodes, unknown South Alabama Student and Lion Paul Baker, Campus club Specialist.**



**Lion Dr. Steve Kayes**

Memberships Report (MMR) in MyLCI.

How can I help you? Let me know if I can.

We have the POWER to make a difference.

**Yvonne Burroughs**

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- December 5, 2019 - International Leo Day
- January 13, 2020 - Melvin Jones' Birthday



# Holiday message CC Starr

**Greetings Lions of Alabama!**  
I hope that you had a great Thanksgiving Lions!

We are approaching the end of the first half of this Lions year. Wow, how time flies!

We have approached the Christmas Season! It's kind of hard to believe that it is that time of the year again.

This has been a great and wonderful year for Lions of Alabama. It is this time of the year that Lions are planning activities and events to feed the hungry and to bring smiles to children on Christmas Day when they receive gifts of toys, clothes, and food. WE SERVE.

The first half of this year has been filled with District Governors and their teams visiting clubs in their districts. DG Teams and clubs have been busy initiating new members, renewing members, training new members, forming new clubs, serving the various communities with new and old service projects, rewarding Lions and non-Lions helpers

for their extra work, raising club funds by holding club fundraisers in their particular areas, and attending club meetings, cabinet meetings, leadership meetings.

We have 46 clubs in 34A, 42 clubs in 34B, and 41 clubs in 34C making 129 clubs in the MD. We have over 3000 Lions in MD 34. District 34A has been the leading district with membership, but in the closing of 2018-19 year, 34C took the lead. We have 34A with 1102 members, 34B with 779 members, and 34C with 1125 members. District 34-C had a net gain of 8 new members this year. MD 34 had 118 new members added and 117 members dropped, leaving a net gain of one new member.

Thanks to our District Governor teams, all clubs and Lions for the great work that you do in your communities and districts. I know that our DG teams are working on adding new clubs, which means new members, new service projects and new talents to serve people. If you are in surrounding areas where new clubs are being



**Lion's Den of Council Chair Lion  
Linda A. Starr  
2019-2020**

formed, please let the DG team know if you can help with contacts, meeting places, canvassing, and club sponsorship.

Wishing each and everyone of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



## MD 34 Leo Club Survey Leo Club Information



Leo Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID No. \_\_\_\_\_

Charter Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Leo Club members? \_\_\_\_\_

Faculty Advisor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cellphone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please, submit activities in Word format like you would use to submit a press release. Then, include a photo of Leo Club members and identify them by name.

Sponsoring Lions Club: \_\_\_\_\_ ID No. \_\_\_\_\_

Lions Club President's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cellphone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Lions Club Leo Advisor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cellphone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

PDG Pedro M. Pino Sr., MD 34 Leo Club Committee Chair  
Call or Text: 205-515-0494 • Email: pmpino44@yahoo.com

# INFORMATION NEEDED FOR LEO CLUBS

The following Leo Clubs need to enter current information on MyLCI and email MD 34 Leo Club Survey to PDG Pedro Pino

### DISTRICT 34-A

Leo Club Name	ID No.	Charter Date
Brilliant H.S.	01695	4/08/2008
Brooks H.S.	134142	3/14/2018
Cherokee H.S.	103882	10/28/2008
Cullman H.S.	70216	10/31/1989
D.A.R. H.S.	107134	12/23/2009
Fast Track	127748	5/31/2016
Good Hope H.S.	74625	11/26/2001
Guntersville H.S.	115847	1/10/2012
Haleyville H.S.	96486	3/13/2006
Hanceville H.S.	70217	5/15/1997
Hatton H.S.	104585	1/28/2009
Hokes Bluff H.S.	70223	12/17/1981
Lawrence County H.S.	70219	11/02/2001
New Hope H.S.	134014	2/27/2018
Red Bay H.S.	73090	7/15/2002
Southside H.S.	70224	9/29/2000
Vina H.S.	73089	7/15/2002
Vinemont H.S.	111236	5/31/2011
Vinemont Middle School	98863	3/01/2007
West Point II H.S.	130699	4/11/2017
Windfield City H.S.	103752	9/30/2008

### DISTRICT 34-B

Leo Club Name	ID. No.	Charter Date
B.B Comer H.S.	136808	11/06/2018
BHRS	118287	11/08/2012
Jemison H.S.	136806	11/06/2018
Oakman H.S.	137476	2/12/2019
Sylacauga H.S.	130756	4/17/2017
Thompson H.S.	124264	2/25/2015
Weaver H.S.	84503	12/07/2004

### DISTRICT 34-C

Leo Club Name	ID. No.	Charter Date
Eufaula H.S.	103770	10/07/2008
Flomaton H.S.	118534	12/28/2012
Grove Hill H.S.	116555	4/10/2012
Macon East Academy	116228	3/02/2012
St. James School	70239	11/10/1998
Satsuma H.S.	70235	3/04/1997
Thomasville H.S.	70236	1/28/2000





**ALHSLF announces  
Alabama-Auburn  
football game  
tickets winner**

Thank You for your continued support of our annual fundraiser - an opportunity for one person to receive two Alabama/ Auburn football game tickets along with a Friday night hotel room prior to game day in Auburn. The one winning ticket has been drawn and the winner is ...

**BARBARA ANDERSON  
DALEVILLE, AL**

She was thrilled to hear that she was the winner! Thanks to all Alabama Lions for your support of our fundraiser by selling tickets. Because of you, the Forum will net over \$ 6,000 this year! These funds are used towards expenses of the Forum which are not otherwise covered, such as providing assistance to students who want to attend, but do not have sponsorships or may be unable to secure payment of the cost to attend.

Thank you!



# WHY I AM A LION

I was looking for an opportunity to give back and get involved in this great community. I had talked to a few people and everyone said great things about the Saraland Lions Club. I decided to visit one week. When I saw all the wonderful things this club was doing, I knew the Lions Club was something I wanted to be a part of.



Meet Lion Sean DeMouey



I joined the Lion's club because my goal in life is to help others. The Lion's Club allows me to take my career as a mortgage loan officer and go the extra mile to be involved in the community to help others. I love showing love to others through one more avenue that I have along with my work with helping people to get into their homes.



Meet Lion Camille Wilkinson



By becoming active in the Saraland Lions Club, I've come to meet some of the most generous and servant-minded people in our community. I've enjoyed new connections and friendships as well as fun opportunities to join others in investing in our neighbors.



Meet Lion Mike Hoppe



# April 17-19, 2020 State Convention

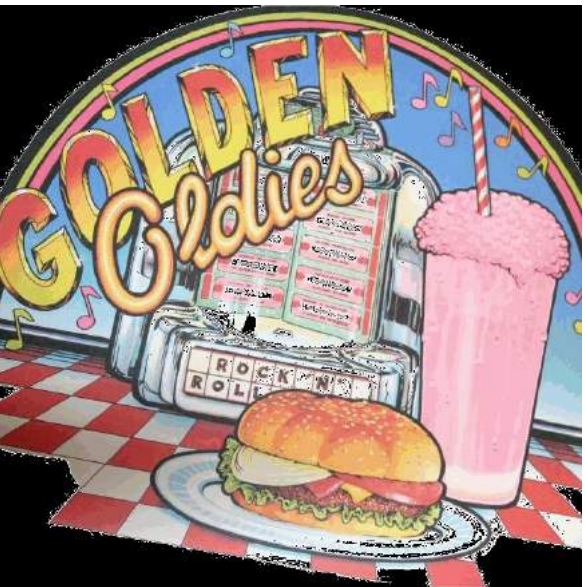
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# Ron's Ramp Report

## Volume 3

As I left Mobile after completing the first ramp, I was concerned about the amount of labor required to install it. With our aging membership, was this going to be a viable project for the Lions of Alabama? I received a call from Bynum Duren, the state ramp project manager, a few days later to see if I would come back to Mobile to assist with the installation of another ramp. I decided to give it another try, thinking the second one would have to be much easier than the first. The ramp modules and lumber were to be delivered to the site on Thursday, but I could not go to Mobile until Friday due to a previous commitment on Thursday evening. I returned home about 10:00 p.m. on Thursday evening and then drove to Grant, AL to meet up with then DGE Larry Bagley and Lion Robert Moxley who said they would like to participate on this ramp installation because they needed to go to south Alabama anyway to pick up peanuts for their club's fundraiser. We left Grant, AL around midnight and drove all night to get to Mobile. We arrived in Mobile at 6:00 a.m., grabbed a quick bite to eat, and then proceeded to the installation site. Bynum and Dr Steven Kayes, President of the Mobile University Lions Club were already there and anxious to get started.

We learned that morning the client had not been able to leave his home in over two years without the assistance of the paramedics. The client's wife was so excited to see all of us there and said she was going to go get some snacks and drinks for us. Later that morning she returned with enough goodies for a small army. The old ramp had been torn out the day before, so construction was ready

to begin. Due to the height of the porch, the ramp length needed to obtain the necessary slope, and the size of the yard, this ramp had to be constructed in a u-shape. The installation of the first module which transitions the porch to the ramp presented several challenges and delayed the installation for about three and a half hours. Once we had it in place, the installation of the remaining modules began. Lions Larry and Robert were quick studies and jumped into action. You would have thought they had done this many times before. It rained on us several times that afternoon but by days end, we had installed two 4'x8' sections, then a 5'x5' level landing to change direction, followed by two more 4'x8' sections, another 5'x5' level landing, and then a 4'x10' section to finish it out. With that came 18 holes that had to be dug for the 4x4 posts.

As the day turned to night, we decided to call it quits and went to get something to eat before going to our hotel to get some much-needed sleep. We knew if we went to get cleaned up before we ate, we would never make it to a restaurant because we were near the point of total exhaustion. Now, picture four men who had been digging and building in the dirt and mud all day long. It was not a pretty sight! We entered the restaurant only to discover the restrooms were out of order. The waitstaff took pity upon us and let us use the sink at a workstation to tidy up a bit. We managed to stay awake long enough to enjoy our meal and then headed to our rooms for a much-needed shower.

The night passed way too quickly, and the alarm clock seemed to go off just after we had gone to bed. It was at that



moment that Bynum and I realized we had to finish the ramp by ourselves because Larry and Robert were going to pick up peanuts. So, after enjoying a breakfast fit for a king it was off to work. We still had to finish securing the modules together, set the posts in concrete, install most of the decking boards and install the handrails. Bynum and I pushed ourselves as hard as we could all day long but it was obvious there was no way the two of us could finish the job. Larry and Robert



returned just as it was getting dark and once again jumped into action and we were determined to finish the job. In the meanwhile, the client's wife told us we were doing the Lord's work and wanted to know if it was ok for her to sing to us. We nodded our approval and continued our work. She began to sing the most beautiful hymns and spirituals and her angelic voice blessed each one of us as it echoed into the night. The next thing we knew, it was nine o'clock, but we had finished ramp! I still say to this day that it would not have been possible without her singing praises to the Lord. We had just finished packing up our tools and were getting ready to leave to come back home when she asked if she could sing one more hymn to us. She could probably see in our faces that we really wanted to leave but that changed instantly when she said, "It's a hymn I wrote about my 16-year-old son that got killed." You guessed it, we all

gathered around the porch and anxiously waited for her to begin. As she sang that special hymn, on that special night, she touched all of us in a manner I cannot begin to put into words. I will tell you this much, there was not a dry eye amongst us. We had gone to Mobile to hopefully bless this family, as Lions so often do, but we received a blessing that will never be forgotten.

My next report will be on a ramp we installed less than 8 miles from my home in Cullman, AL and it is one that has probably touched my heart the most. It sure beat driving to Mobile! We desperately need volunteers to help with the ramp installations across the state. Please consider giving us a hand on the next one close to you. We send notices of upcoming ramps once dates are set. Until next time, keep it between the handrails.

**PCC Ron Seybold**  
**MD-34 GST Coordinator**

