

# THE ALABAMA LION

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A newsletter for members of Alabama Lions Clubs

June 2022

INSIDE

## 'CHANGING OF THE GUARD'

### Celebrating 100 years of Alabama Lionism

### Visions

ALS Executive Director's Report ..... Page 2

District 34-A  
In and Around the District ..... Page 3

District 34-B  
In and Around the District ..... Page 4

District 34-C  
In and Around the District ..... Page 5

'We Serve'..... Page 6

Lions Around the State .... Pages 7-8

Miss Cullman County Fair Queen visits..... Page 8

Newest Cullman Lions Club member ..... Page 8

State Convention .. Page 9

This time one year ago, I was getting ready to become the next Council Chairperson for Multi District 34. As with other offices that I have held (President of Headland Lions Club, Zone Chair, IVDG and District Governor) I was afraid that somewhere along the line I would do something that would keep us from succeeding. Also, as with the other offices, there have been many great people around me to help us meet our goals and succeed in our service as Lions of Alabama. I have always said "never miss an opportunity to surround yourself with great people". It has never been truer than today as the Lions of Alabama have great leadership, past, present & future.

We recently held our first state convention in 3 years. In Atmore, we celebrated 100 years of Alabama Lionism. Past International President Bob Corlew, our International guest, led the charge as he spoke to us about the changes in the past 100 years. He came from South Carolina, where he owns a radio station, to spend several days with the Lions of MD 34. He talked with us on several occasions and even held court in the Hospitality Suite at our hotel. His words of wisdom were absorbed by the many who gathered every time he sat with a group of Lions. Host club Atmore Lions showed us a grand time with a seafood shindig on Friday night along with a band. Saturday lunch we presented three Aubrey Green awards and recognized Melvin Jones Fellows. Saturday night was the District Governors Banquet, with everyone dressed in their finest.

We had approximately 100 Lions attending as we celebrated and initiated the "Changing of the Guard". The enthusiasm from the new group of governors is invigorating and I look forward to working with them as they work to accomplish their goals for the next year.

The new District Governors are already putting their teams together. When they ask you to serve on one of their committees, please answer the call with a "Yes, I will be glad to serve on your team". New leaders are needed



State Convention 2021-2022 pictured, from left, are Lion Faye Pino, PDG Pedro Pino, Lion Sylvia Crews and CC Pete Crews

everyday and your addition to our team will help make us stronger. Start on your path of leadership now. The new DGs are surrounding themselves with great people.

We close out this year recovering from the COVID pandemic with clubs meeting again, membership growing and service projects taking place all across the Multi-District. The current District Governors have until June 30, 2022 to meet their goals so lets help them by making a big push to add new members all the way until the last day of their term. Don't coast these last few weeks of the year. Have membership growth events, fundraisers and service projects everyday all year long.

It has been a pleasure working with the District Governors and helping them make their districts the best that they possibly could be. DGs Mechele Mosley, Brenda Elliott & Charlie Wigglesworth have worked hard to help their districts grow and succeed. Each of them can wear their new Past District Governor name badge with pride. Job well done Governors.

Council Chair Elect, Mechele Mosley will take us to new heights with her council. I look forward to helping her make the most of the upcoming year as Immediate Past Council Chair.

As I enter the world of Past Council Chair, I will miss leading the Council of Governors

and the great leaders of MD 34. It has been a pleasure to sit at the head table with the gavel this year. Thanks to everyone on the Council of Governors for all your support.

The role of Immediate Past Council Chairperson is underrated, Bubba Bingham has been there next to me all year long. He was there when I didn't know where to turn, always with a quick answer. He made me look good. Never miss an opportunity to surround yourself with great people. IPCC Bubba Bingham exemplifies that.

Entering this year, I knew that we would be losing our Multi District Secretary Lion Doris Hansard at the half way mark. She had been a rock for the Council for many years and I was counting on her to get me through this year or half year as it turned out.

Knowing that she was leaving, I assisted PDG Barry Elliott in finding her replacement. We entered the searching phase of the replacement process and one name quickly came to the forefront. Erin Edwards came into our world and with her as our new MD 34 Secretary, we have not missed a beat.

There are others from across the state that have a hand in our success this year but there are too many to name everyone. Thank you all for the work and effort that you put into making our Mutli-District 34 a great place to call home. Sweet Home Alabama.....

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# VISIONS

Barry Elliott



## *ALS Executive Director's Report* Lions Serving Others is a Double Blessing

Many Lions become a Lion for various reasons, but lions of longevity have learned the value of being a lion because one receives a double blessing every time he/she is involved in service. A lion, while serving, makes a difference in the life of the individual he is helping. The twofold blessing comes back to you in realizing the service you provide gives you a sense of making a positive difference.

Lions of Alabama are making a difference when it comes to vision care. We are proud to be a part of such caring lions in providing vision care for more than 77 years through Alabama Lions Sight. I'm certain that the best is yet to come. You will find two examples of Lions serving in the pictures beside this article, recently in a combined meeting of the Hokes Bluff Lions Club, President Matthew Sims and the Hokes Bluff Tawannah Lions Club, President Tina Sewell I had the pleasure meeting and giving a report of Alabama Lions Sight. Lion President Matthew is pictured presenting a check to ALS. The Gadsden Lions Club sponsors each year the Lions East West All-stars baseball game in which the proceeds are given to ALS. President Steven Kellett has organized this project for many years. It is such a pleasure to be with Lions who care so much. The MEC traveled to Atmore site of this year's state convention and participated in a vision service project. Eye exams were

given on Friday to residents of Atmore scheduled by the Atmore Lions and the attending Lions were given exams on Saturday by Dr. Kent Daum of the MEC. Nearly 30 people were served.

Time has finally come that we can announce exciting news that will help provide even greater service in vision care for many in Alabama. The hard work that Lions have given to providing vision care has not gone unnoticed in the state. ALS acquired funding through the state to be combined with the funds Lions have already raised to expand vision care to another 23 counties in Alabama. This will increase our efforts through the Mobile Eye Clinic program by adding hearing screening and also in expanding the program to include a second MEC. It will take several months to outfit a new truck and put an additional staff and hearing screening program together but it will come sooner rather than later. ALS will be partnering with Professor Marcia Hay-McCutcheon of the Audiology Department of the University of Alabama. She is gathering data for a research project in five counties that the MEC visits also. She will provide the information and training to begin the hearing screening portion in the MEC.

I am so grateful to be a part of the service of Lions in Alabama in giving vision care to so many.



Pictured, from left, are Treasurer Mollie Smith; President Steven Kellett; Barry; and Lion Nancy Ryan at the Lions East West Allstar Baseball Game, organized each year by Lion Steven Kellett and sponsored by the Gadsden Lions Club.



Hokes Bluff Lions Club President Matt Sims



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Lions Clubs International FOUNDATION



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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHRONIC DISEASE DIRECTORS  
Promoting Health. Preventing Disease.

Solon and Martha Dixon Foundation  
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UAB Benevolent Fund  
Wal-Mart Foundation







# DISTRICT 34-A

DG  
Mechele  
Mosley



## In and Around the District



????Deb Weaverling and DG Michele Mosley

What a great Convention we had! We were so honored to welcome International Director Deb Weaverling to Alabama. The weather was wonderful on Friday as we escorted her around Ivy Green. ID Deb and her Partner

In Service Ron had never been to Helen Keller's Birthplace before and they were in amazement and awe! Then, in typical Alabama fashion, it snowed! We woke up to a beautiful snowfall on Convention day, perfect because it looked

pretty yet caused no traffic problems! We had between 70-80 Lions in attendance, and it was so nice to get an opportunity to spend time together again. It was a family reunion indeed!

The Lions Quest promo-

tional grant has been completed and enough interest has been garnered to move forward. PID Jerome Thompson is spear heading the next phase, to implement the program in interested areas. If you haven't yet spoken to PID

Jerome or DG Mechele, it isn't too late! Research into the results of the recent pandemic show that children have been strongly affected in social emotional development, and Lions Quest can help.

We had an amazing time of fun, learning, and fellowship at the State Convention in Atmore! PIP Bob Corlew was a wonderful speaker, and a joy to spend time with as well! It was great to welcome a local boy back home, and he represented IP Douglas Alexander well.

Several Lions were recognized for Service and Leadership, including District Secretary Judy Rew from Athens! I was honored to be selected as Council Chair Elect for 2022-2023, and I look forward to continuing to serve Lions in Alabama!

**Cullman Lions Club inducted 16 new members with the help of District Governor Mechele Mosley! One inductee was recognized for already bringing in a new member himself!**



1st VDG Mike McElhaney had the ALERT trailer out and about. Decatur Lions were glad to get a look at it and excited about the Service we can provide with it.







DG  
Brenda  
Elliott

# DISTRICT 34-B



## In and Around the District

"Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean! You are part of something greater than yourself. Yet without you, we'd be less, just as the ocean is less without each drop. It takes our combined skills, talents, and intelligence to be all we can be. Together we make a powerful difference. LET'S MAKE WAVES!"

It's hard to believe this Lion year will be ending at the end of this month! I've really enjoyed visiting with the clubs in District 34 B (and the other districts when I accompanied Barry as he spoke about AL Lions Sight)! I hope by the printing of this newsletter, that I will have visited all the clubs. I love rekindling old friendships and making new ones! Thank you so much for allowing me to serve as your District 34 B governor. It has truly been an honor! I hope to continue to help our clubs grow! As a PDG, I'll be here to help DGE Ray Lindsey. WE CAN DO IT!

Our district's most exciting news was the chartering of a new club! The Talladega Samaritan Lions held its charter luncheon on June 10th at AIDB with 38 charter members! This club has 60% of its members that are blind or visually challenged. They are truly on fire and have the passion of serving their community!

Thank you to everyone who attended our district convention in Jemison. We were honored to hear International Director Ernesto "TJ" Tijerina and Lion Juanita. We had 75 in attendance and enjoyed

being with each other after a long absence. Let's make it bigger and better next year!

"We Are All Connected" in our passion to help others in any way we can. Melvin Jones often stated, "You can't get very far until you start doing something for somebody else." One way to stay connected with each other in our clubs is to find a need in our community, design a project,

and fund raise to fulfill that need. Advertise what your club is doing and as a result, will attract those prospective members that have a "heart of service."

Three things you can control every day are your ATTITUDE, your EFFORT, and your ACTIONS! Let's keep our waves of membership, fellowship, and leadership rolling through serving from the heart even more in the next Lion year!



2022-2023 DG team pictured, from left, are IVDG Melanie Tapley, DGE Ray Lindsey, 2VDG Tracy Thompson.



President Talladega Samaritan Club, Terry McKee, receiving the International President's Award for his managing and growing membership, as well as exceptional support in conducting service from the heart.



DGE Ray Lindsey, IVDG Melanie Tapley, DG Brenda Elliott, Juanita Tijerina, ID Ernesto "TJ" Tijerina



Prattville Lions Club at the District B Convention



From left, PIP Frank Moore, DG 34B Brenda Elliott, ID Ernesto Tijernia and his wife Juanita, PID Lowell Bonds and his wife Carolyn.





# DISTRICT 34-C

DG  
Charlie  
Wigglesworth



## In and Around the District

Where has the year gone! In less than 60 days, I will be a Past District Governor. It has been a great year in many aspects. As all District Governors, you hope that the district will gain more members. But the opportunities I have had in the visits to clubs in the District have been the opportunity to make so many friends and share in the excitement on each of the clubs as they work to serve their communities.

The visits that had a tremendous impact were the club visits with the Disaster Relief Trailer. Clubs have been signing up to get the trailer and the Lions canopy for membership events in their areas. The trailer has been a hit across the district. Not only has it been informative as an asset in the case of a disaster, it is a great recruiting tool. Be sure to get with the District Secretary, Lion Mandie Thompson, to schedule your club for an event with the trailer or Lions awning. Again, if your club picks up the trailer, you will need a truck or large SUV with a 2" receiver. A trailer hitch comes with the trailer so you do not have to worry about the 2 5/8 inch ball. Also, if you are interested in serving as a member of the ALERT team, please contact 1VDGE Philip Box, the current team leader. I encourage each club to appoint one Lion in their club to serve as the point of contact to the team leader in case of a disaster.

The trailer would not have

been possible if not for a grant from Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF). One of the goals for the district was that every club contributes to LCIF. I am pleased to report that all clubs in the district has contributed or will before the end on June 2022. If clubs donate a \$1000 dollars, you can honor a deserving Lion in your club with the Melvin Jones Fellow award. I also encourage you to donate individually.

Lions across the district continue to work hard to move their clubs forward, recruiting new members and serving their communities. I encourage all Lions in District 34C to bring one person to your Lions Club meetings. If each Lion in the District does this, we can double the size of our District and be able to serve more citizens in our communities. I can't express how proud I am of the entire leadership team in District 34C!

I announced before that the centennial celebrations are underway for the Montgomery Lions Club and the Mobile Lions Club are well underway. Each club has commemorative pins to celebrate their 100 years in Lionism. Contact PCC Ron Seybold to purchase your pin.

District 34C had its first in person convention in the past two year. I would like to thank the Pike Road Lions Club for a great district convention. Our International guest was International



DG Charlie with President Lion Rindy Vaughn



DG Charlie Wigglesworth with PDG David Hatcher

Director Justice Shea Nickell from the Paducah Lions Club in Kentucky. He is a Kentucky Supreme Court Justice. That was followed by the in person State Convention. It is good to finally be able to get back together again.

The new District Leadership is DGE Bub Gideons of the Atmore Lions Club, 1VDGE Philip Box of the Covington VIP Lions Club (some thought that VIP was "Very Important Person" Club but it for "Visually Impaired Person" Club), and 2VDGE Todd Denison of the Mobile Lions Club, and District Secretary/Treasurer Lion Mandie Thompson of the Atmore Lions Club.

I have truly enjoyed working and visiting with the Lions of District 34C this past year. Let's finish STRONG!



York Lion club newest members



Gulf Shores Lions Club with Disaster Relief trailer



Enterprise Lions Club with Disaster Relief trailer





IPCC Bubba Bingham

## 'We Serve'

### Dear LIONS of the Multidistrict:

We have just a few weeks to reach our goal of SERVING 250,000 citizens. As of the May, District Health Assessment for MD 34, we have 114 clubs and 2718 active members.

The weather is cooperating with spring like temperatures and COVID is no longer considered a pandemic, according to the officials with the CDC. Now is the time to make our final push towards reaching that goal. It is possible, even likely, that some of your activities haven't been completely reported.

Please refer back to the MyLion.org/activities web page and ensure that those activities that were previously entered have been followed up on and the metrics entered so that your clubs will get the credit they so richly deserve.

As of this writing, the MD has reported serving 220,386 of our citizens, with 1,115 activities. Through your dedicated efforts, 2,472 hours have been volunteered and is reflected in the following number of citizens served: 2,524 Diabetes; 27,06 Environment; 1,180 Childhood Cancer; 49,196 Hunger Relief; 65,368 Vision; and 75,050 All Other Service Activities. You are commended for the dedication you've shown over the past year, in spite of the adversities facing us. Although many clubs are not reporting activities at all, sixty percent of the MD clubs have reported service activities.

It has been my pleasure to serve as your MD-GST this past year.

PCC Floyd (Bubba) Bingham  
MD-GST

## EDUCATE YOURSELF TO LEAD AND GROW

**What:** Lions Fall Leadership Conference

**Where:** Wallace State Community College  
Hanceville, AL  
(South of Cullman)

**When:** August 12-13, 2022

**Where to Stay:** Holiday Inn Express, Cullman

In Google or Waze 2052 Hayes Dr NW

Lions Club Rate is Live 833-550-1228

Breakfast Saturday Morning Included

Lunch on Campus From Chick-fil-A

**Education and Information Tracks**

**Leadership**

**Membership**

**Service**

**LCIF**



Dr. Larezia Williams donates eyeglasses at Lazik Vision Institute at Grandview to Hoover Lions and PDG Mark Aldridge. She is a Lions vision trip alum.

# LIONS PANCAKE SUPPER



A drive thru available Lions Pancake Supper was held in February.



PDG Claudia Wigglesworth and Geneva Lions Club





# LIONS AROUND THE STATE



Memorial table for our deceased president Jeanne Dugger who died of covid.



Lion President Lori Shortt presenting Daleville member and Geneva native, Julie Sconyers, a plaque for selling 760 pancake tickets!!



Over 500 pancake dinners sold thru drive thru.



Geneva Pancake supper





# LIONS AROUND THE STATE



Newest Cullman Lions Club member, Lion Brian Simmons

## Miss Cullman County Fair Queen visits

March 21, the Cullman Lions Club members met at the Commission on Aging building, on Sportsman Lake Road, with Club President Lion Javon Daniel presiding.

Special visitor, Abby Sosa, the 2021 Miss Cullman County Fair Queen winner, was introduced by Cullman County Fair President, Lion Charlie Childers, and spoke briefly to the club members. She

had to leave at 5:30 p.m. to be at another event.

The club members enjoyed a delightful meal served by Freddie Day Catering after she finished her presentation.

A report on general club business and activities was given, and Cullman Lions Club's newest member, Lion Brian Simmons, was introduced by his sponsor Lion Gary Murphree.



2021 Miss Cullman County Fair Queen winner Abby Sosa, was introduced by Cullman County Fair President, Lion Charlie Childers.



Pictured, above, the Geneva Lions Club setting up for the pancake breakfast; and at left, Geneva Lions club table with Lion information.



Lion Javon Daniel Cullman Lions Club President presenting a donation to Executive Director Jolanda Hutson with Good Samaritan Health Clinic

## Alexandria Lions Club Made the News

ALEXANDRIA, La. (KALB) - The Alexandria Lions Club is making sure every child can see well this school year.

Every year, the Lions Club does eye screenings, primarily for young children, below the age of six.

State-wide last year, the Lions Club did around 35,000 eye checks, all free of charge

On Tuesday, members of the organization spent the morning at the Montessori Educational Center off of Bolton in Alexandria.

They screened every stu-



dent, using a machine to identify everything from lazy eyes to

near-sightedness, far-sightedness and astigmatism.



# MD 34 of Alabama State Convention 2021-2022



Council of Governor's for 2021-2022



PIP Chancellor Bob Corlew and 1st VDG Bub Gideons giving a gift of appreciation.



Passing of the torch - Newest District Governor's for 2022-2023 Lion 1st VDG Bub Gideons, Lion 1st VDG Ray Lindsey and Lion 1st VDG Mike McElhaney



Eight Mile Lions Club enjoying the convention



Alabama Lions enjoying the convention



Aubrey D. Green award recipients Christopher Woods (2019-2020), Mary Kay Hope Carlton (2021-2022) and Steve Hardwick (2020-2021)

Current District Governor's  
for 2021-2022 District Governor  
34C Charlie Wigglesworth,  
District Governor District 34B  
Brenda Elliott  
and  
District 34A Mechelle Mosley  
(CC elect for 2022-2023)



Lion Rindy Vaughn York President and Lion Judy Rew (International President Leadership medal recipients)