It was a cool October evening when I made a telephone call that would once again change my life through service as an Alabama Lion. I had received a call from fellow GAT Team member, MD-34 GMT Coordinator PDG Ron Mitchell about an opportunity for service he thought would be a good project for the Lions of Alabama. Being the MD-34 Global Service Team Coordinator and searching for a state-wide service project I agreed to reach out to the contact person I had been given. The call was to Lion Dr. Stephen Kayes in Mobile, a member of the board of directors for the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services.

Dr Kayes proceeded to describe a modular ramp system which had been developed by Bynum Duren, a rehab technology specialist working for the Department of Rehabilitation Services. Funds are appropriated to buy materials to build the ramps but there is no work force to install them. The Department of Rehabilitation Services wanted to discuss the possibility of forming a partnership with the Lions of Alabama to adopt the installation of the wheelchair ramps as a Lions service project.

Space for a small woodworking shop had been obtained at a Goodwill/ Easter Seals facility in Mobile and the modules for the pilot ramp had been constructed and were in storage at that facility. I was invited to go to Mobile to tour the Goodwill/ Easter Seals facility, receive a detailed briefing of how the ramp program would be administered, share my feelings as to whether or not I felt it would be something the Lions would be interested in adopting, and to participate in the installation of the first ramp.

The modular system has been designed into phases. The ADRS Case worker makes an on-site visit at the consumer’s home and an assessment is completed by the local rehab engineer. Preliminary measurements for the ramp are collected and submitted to Ramp Project Manager, Bynum Duren. Mr. Duren then provides a detailed project plan and orders the materials for the modules. The modules are then pre-built, and the decking boards are pre-cut at the woodworking shop. The standard size module is 4’x8’ and a standard landing is 5’x5’. The modules are then delivered to the consumer’s home the day prior to the installation by a local lumber supplier.

Join me next time as I travel to Mobile for the installation of the first ramp under this exciting program! Until then, keep it between the handrails!

PCC Ron Seybold
MD-34 GST Coordinator

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**Ron's Ramp Report**

*Volume 1*
“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.”
— Henry Ford

In 1944, the Lions of Alabama came together to form Alabama Lions Sight Conservation Association. The Lions are the largest provider of indigent vision care in Alabama. During the past 75 years, the Lions have provided vision care to more than 400,000 indigent residents of Alabama. The first executive director for ALSCA was Mrs. Hugh Denman from 1946-1950. She brought the young girl in the picture, bottom right, to Dr. Austin Callahan. He performed surgery and straightened her eyes and fitted her with glasses, which of course changed her life. Dr. Callahan used this as a promotion to secure donations for the eventual construction of the Eye Foundation Hospital.

During World War II and after, Alabama Lions Sight patients received surgical care from two local Birmingham ophthalmologists, now long deceased, at a 50% reduced rate. Dr. Alston Callahan moved his private practice to Birmingham following the years after the war. It was the custom, both in New Orleans where he was trained at Tulane Medical School and in Atlanta where he practiced, for ophthalmologists to care for Lions’ patients free of charge, if the Lions paid for hospitalization care, when needed. Dr. Callahan offered to continue that tradition in Birmingham. His offer was accepted and Lions B.Q. Scruggs of Talladega and Harry Fox of Clanton, never failed to appreciate and to mention Dr. Callahan’s generosity throughout their lives. These patients became the basis for the training of resident ophthalmologist at the Eye Foundation Hospital in 1965.

The Lions have had a continuous relationship with the hospital that is today UAB Callahan Eye Hospital. There have been many changes during the years of the services that Lions and the hospital partner together. When the hospital was sold to UAB, Dr. Alston Callahan had it stated in the sale that the Lions would forever have a presence in the hospital and partnership providing vision care to the indigent. In the ophthalmology school program, a three year program, five new residents are admitted each year. Each year the Eyesight Foundation and Alabama Lions Sight sponsor a residents reception for all fifteen residents. You will see in the other caption, several residents enjoying a night out at Regions Field, viewing the Birmingham Barons hosting the Montgomery Biscuits. It is always an enjoyable evening and a way to introduce the Lions to the resident program at the hospital.

Our mobile vision screening units are gearing up for a busy schedule, now that school is beginning the fall session. There will be new opportunities for screenings in Walker County, Birmingham City, and several other county school systems. It is exciting to see the schedule getting busy. Alabama Lions Sight has added the services of case management as a follow up to those screened who are being referred. It is important that those screened are assisted to get their eyes examined. Lion Erin Bishop is a fine addition to our staff to provide this service.

The six month pilot program with the Alabama Department of Public Health ended on July 31 with a resounding success. In the four pilot clinics during this project, the Mobile Eye Clinic realized a 93% increase in patient visits! It has created such great excitement and success that the partnership is continuing and expanding! Hopefully, there will be many exciting things to report in the near future. Truly Lions have come together, and for seventy-five years have kept the partnerships together so that the work of Lions are providing for many successes.

Barry Elliott, PDG

A Sincere Thank You To Our Corporate Sponsors, Estates, Foundations and Lions

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Pictured, left, before surgery, at right after Dr. Austin Callahan performed surgery and straightened her eyes and fitted her with glasses.
Greetings District 34A Lions:

Two months of our year are behind us and a busy two months it has been. We are continuing our NAMI project and working hard to locate new members to help us serve. If you are out there and want to be part of the most exciting team of Lions to ever serve in our District, please contact me. I promise you will not be disappointed. This is your opportunity to provide your talents to our District and to the entire world of Lions. This is your chance to make our cities and state the best it can be.

I hope by now that NAMI has become a household word. In our July 31st NAMI webinar, chaired by Second International VP Brian Sheehan, the nine pilot districts outlined their success stories and what each had accomplished to this point. The end of year report for the pilot districts highlighted a big improvement over the previous year and I am encouraged that the current year will be even greater. Each District is making progress and I feel 34A is leading the way in the efforts to reestablish Lions as the ‘Ultimate Leader’ in service and membership. I would like to express my gratitude to PCC Ron Seybold for his leadership as our NAMI Champion. Ron has given each of us guidance as we work with the other districts throughout the U.S. and Canada. I would also like to give thanks to PID Jerome Thompson for his close work and contact with LCI and guiding NAMI group 4, along with PDG Sara Provinces for her experience and service. Group 2, membership, has a new leader, Austin Monk. Austin is from the Cullman Lions Club and is digging in to provide leadership to this group. I would also like to give kudos to Tim Carter and his group for their support in providing recommendations for new service.

Our first District Cabinet meeting was a huge success. We had 62 present at the meeting and introduced our theme for the year “Serve Through Technology”. I would like to thank all of those that gave a presentation, PCC Ron Seybold, CC Linda Starr, PDG Barry Elliott, 1st VDG Tim Sosobee, 2nd VDG Mechele Mosley, District Secretary Judy Rew, who will approve and post to our calendar. You can post events one year in advance. These events could be fund raisers, social events or service events. If you have questions you can contact any of the governor team for answers.

Students Conner Blanchard, Ella Absher and Joanie Patrum volunteered with the Hanceville Lions Club to help with the Swamp John Event. These three were among the dozens that helped with the event. Thanks for the service to the Lions.

The induction of officers for 34A was held at the July 20 cabinet meeting at New Hope. Pictured, from left, are IPDG/CC Linda Starr, DG Larry Bagley, 1st VDG Tim Sosobee, 2nd VDG Mechele Mosley, District Secretary Judy Rew and District Treasurer Howard Rew.

DG Larry presenting a Special Recognition certificate to Lion Keith Ligon of the Moulton Lions Club. This was to recognize Lion Keith for his work with the Moulton Lions. Other recognition’s and installation of the new officers were also made.
Greetings to all the members of Lions District 34B. I trust the past month has been busy for each of you. It certainly has been for me. By now each club should have entered your club officers into the LCI website. That’s the only way we have of updating our District Directory. Those of you who may have not entered your officers yet, please do so at the earliest opportunity. The District Cabinet is scheduling visits and we use the directory to contact the clubs. If assistance is needed, I’ll be happy to provide it if you’ll “Just Ask”. Also, while your “entering”, go ahead and enter your club activities too.

Since my last Newsletter, I’ve visited the District A Cabinet Meeting. We’ve also had our first Cabinet meeting. Only Ten of our 42 clubs were represented at this important meeting. The 2019-2020 Cabinet was introduced. District Governor Floyd “Bubba” Bingham; Immediate Past District Governor Mark Aldridge; 1st Vice District Governor Robert Thompson; 2nd Vice District Governor Brenda Elliott; Cabinet Secretary/Treasurer Tracy Thompson; GMT-D George Head; GLT-D Pedro Pino; and GST-D Karl Wade. This team is committed to work hard during the next year to increase membership, improve reporting of service, grow new clubs in areas where clubs are absent, strengthening clubs in areas where membership is weak and serving all our members. I would be remiss if I failed to report a gracious “Thank You” to the members of the Auburn and Opelika Lions clubs for hosting the event. They did a magnificent job in providing the venue, refreshments and a delicious barbeque meal for lunch. During the Cabinet meeting, many items of importance to everyone were discussed and approved including the district budget. Two motions were introduced, discussed and approved as outlined here:

- Motion #1: To allow all Lions of District 34-B attending today’s Cabinet meeting voting privilege in accordance with the Club Delegate Formula of LCI.
- Motion #2 (containing 5 points):
  1. The Lions of District 34-B abolish its current Constitution and Bylaws and adopt in its place the Standard District Constitution and Bylaws of Lions Clubs International, a document that is automatically updated as may be necessary each year following the International Convention.
  2. The Lions of District 34-B create a Policy Manual to become effective upon its adoption.

3. The Lions District 34-B Policy Manual include a provision to allow voting privilege to all Lions of District 34-B attending a District Cabinet meeting, in accordance with the Club Delegate Formula of Lions Clubs International.

4. The Lions District 34-B Policy Manual include a provision governing the dispersal of any funds remaining in the District administrative account at the conclusion of each Lions year.

5. With the approval of this motion, that it be referred to the District 34-B Constitution and Bylaws Chairman, and the District Governor appoint additional Lions who, as a Committee, will draft the Policy Manual, and prepare a resolution to bring before the next District Convention to be voted upon by the Delegates.

The Constitution and Bylaws committee has been appointed by the District Governor and these motions will be studied by the committee.

PDG Pedro Pino made a presentation regarding LEO’s around the district and invited remarks from the districts Zone Chairs. Speaking of Zone Chairs, let me encourage each of you to communicate frequently with your assigned clubs and to assist with membership growth, service activities, etc., keeping in mind “Your club, Your way”.

The minutes under the administration of PDG Mark Aldridge were approved and the final budget was approved pending the audit of last years financials, currently being reviewed by the Audit Committee.

In collaboration with the multistrict global membership chairperson, PID Jerome Thompson, I plan to explore the idea of raising up campus and specialty clubs within the district. There are several universities within our boundaries, and they are fertile ground for new and younger members. Those of you who have clubs located near one of these universities please be taking notice of that opportunity. I’ll be calling on some of you in the coming months to assist in starting clubs.

We have just completed another Fall Multidistrict Leadership (TIPP) Seminar. We had the largest attendance ever with 131 registered guests! PID Lowell Bonds worked long hours, often late into the night recruiting presenters and moderators. Also, the seminar committee made up of PCC George Head, DG Yvonne Burroughs, 1VDG Robert Thompson, 2VDC Mechelle Moseley and CST Tracy Thompson have all worked hard to make this a most successful and educational event for the Lions of Alabama. A review of the Evaluation Sheets reflects an average score of 4.6 out of a possible 5! That speaks very well of the Presenters and Moderators. A hardy “Thank You” to everyone who made this a remarkable event possible.

My year as District Governor is swiftly passing by. We have a lot of work to do to grow our district. It takes every Lion working and sharing ideas together. Let’s roll up our sleeves and go to work. Let’s pick up the phone and start calling prospective members, or better yet, invite them to one of our meetings. Remember, “Alone you can do so little but together we can do so much” (Helen Keller). Until we meet again, may the good Lord bless each of us as we endeavor to SERVE.
Two days after returning from Milan, I hit the ground running. I traveled to Pike Road to install the club’s new officers. The club’s outgoing President, Lion Dennis Fonville is a great motivator and his successor, Lion Jeff Pinegar is a very competent leader who will continue to lead their club in a positive direction. While there, I also inducted three new members, Lion Calvin Cherry, Lion Nickey Johnson and Lion Tony Staten. I would like to welcome them, again, into the world’s greatest service organization, Lions Clubs International. The club is still striving toward their goal of 100 new members.

At the end of July, the Lions of District 34-C stepped up to volunteer at Coastal Camp Seale Harris in Mobile. Two Lions, PCC Dora Hartsock and PDG Gus Gary worked tirelessly at the camp staying overnight for the whole week. PCC Dora working with campers in various capacities and PDG Gus was “chief cook and bottle washer”. Lion Ruth Rhodes and I work during the five days, working in the kitchen doing whatever the dietitian told us to do. There were five clubs that prepared dinners for the campers and staff for the five nights of the camp: Sunday, it was the Mobile University Lions Club; on Monday, it was the Gulf Shores Lions Club; on Tuesday, it was the Atmore Lions Club’s turn; when Wednesday came, the Lions Club of Mobile was in charge and on Thursday, the Saraland Lions Club served on the final night of the camp. Thank you, Lions, for doing what we do best-Serve. I know that each Lion was enriched by their involvement with the children at the camp. I would also like to also thank the many other clubs in our District that contribute financially to Camp Seale Harris and SDES. You help make it possible for many children to attend who would not be able to attend otherwise.

Our first Cabinet meeting for the year was held on August 3, 2019 in Evergreen, AL. We had 45 Lions to attend and 21 clubs represented. The meeting was opened with the Pledge lead by 2VDG Charlie Wigglesworth and prayer was lead by 1VDG Pete Crews. Our guests were PDG Barry Elliott, Executive Director of Alabama Lions Sight; 2VDG Brenda Elliott, District 34-B; CC Linda Starr and ZC Lanny Starr. PDG Barry Elliott spoke to us about the benefits of early childhood screening and the consequences of waiting too late to detect vision problems in children that can sometime be irreversible. We were give information on the state of membership in the Multiple District by our MD Global Membership Team Coordinator, PDG Ron Mitchell. We were given a possible alternative for financing eyeglasses for people who come to clubs in need of glasses by Lion Richard Lender, Bay Minette Lions Club. Our new MD LCIF Chair, IPDG Andy Marshall spoke to us about the importance of contributing to LCIF. Our business session included installing officers and Zone Chairs. I am grateful to all members who took the time out of their schedule to attend. Our District GLT (Global Leadership Team) Coordinator, PDG Claudia Wigglesworth conducted Zone Chair training. Zone Chairs present were 1VDG Pete Crews, Lion Todd Denison, Lion Gerard Laska, Lion Alexandra Conniff, Lion Douglas Allgood and Lion Larry Bryant. I thank you all for your commitment.

Also on August 3, District 34-C’s newly chartered club in Troy held a vision screening. There were 33 children screened. It was a fun event while taking care of the serious issue of early detection of possible vision problems.

On August 10, 2019, the annual MD Lions Leadership Conference, TIPP Conference, was held. The agenda was filled with informative, essential and relevant courses. It was well attended with 124 taking advantage of the conference, a wonderful turnout. Sixty-five Lions from District C attended. Many thanks to the Montgomery Lions and the Pike Road Lions for all your help with registration, we could not have done it without you.

As we enter the month of September, I would like to congratulate the York Lions Club on their 80th year as a Lions Club. Their Anniversary Celebration is September 24, 2019.

Please continue to record your service activities in MyLion and complete your Monthly Memberships Report (MMR) in MyLCI.

How can I help you? Tell me what I can do for you. We have the POWER to make a difference.

**DATE TO REMEMBER**
- September 24, 2019 - York Lions Club 80th Anniversary
TIPP Leadership meeting was a great success, Saturday, August 10, 2019, at Faulkner University, Montgomery. The Membership Class photo is included.

New clubs and better retention were the cause of increased membership for the state last year. The numbers are: the total number of clubs 129, total membership 3005, 2 new clubs, 23 is the average members per club. The two new clubs are Central Blount County Lions Club and Troy Lions Club.

2019 - 2020 Global Membership Team (GMT) for Alabama 34 is GMT-A Lion Austin Monk, GMT-B PCC George Head, GMT-C PDG Andy Marshall, Sr. Each district is planning new clubs and better retention.

Change the World and there is more to life than yourself. Lions know something the rest of the world doesn’t.

In 1983 Steve Jobs, Apple Computer Chairman, offered John Sculley, PEPSI Marketing Executive the job of Apple CEO. John Sculley had a good job and was having trouble justifying the move to Apple until Steve Jobs asked this question: “Do you want to sell sugar water for the rest of your life, or do you want to come with me and change the world?” John Sculley took the job at Apple.

When recruiting new members to your club please tell them how Lions are changing the world and ask them to come with you and help change the world.

“There is more to life than yourself.” Once a person realizes this eternal truth, then they can see how the Lions Club will keep one thinking of improving others’ lives. Helping someone in need brings great satisfaction to each club member and is worth sharing this great opportunity with your friends, family and business associates. Join your membership team and make this year even better than last year’s great year.

On August 10, 2019, 124 Alabama Lions came together on the campus of Faulkner University in Montgomery, Alabama, for the 2019 Lions of Alabama TIPP Informational Conference. The TIPP (Teach/Inform/Present/Promote) Conference was structured to provide six simultaneous learning platforms during four sessions spread throughout the day. Lions were provided the opportunity to select topics applicable to their club’s interests and concerns. In response to suggestions that followed the 2018 MD-34 Leadership Conference, this year’s focus was disaster relief preparedness. Greg Robinson, Governmental Relations Manager for the Alabama Department of Emergency Management, Mel Johnson from the Autauga Baptist Association, and Damon Summers of Red Cross addressed attending Lions providing an overview of their associations’ functions and identifying ways in which the Lions of Alabama can best respond to help their communities in the event disaster strikes their area. The TIPP Conference was a great event that provided a myriad of learning opportunities, fun and fellowship for the Lions of Alabama.
Campaign 100 –
Empowering Service – LCIF

During its first fifty years Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) issued over one billion dollars in grants in support of vision, youth, humanitarian, and disaster needs around the world. Over one million dollars of these grants came to the state of Alabama. LCIF is our charitable foundation with one hundred percent of all current donations going to support one of our global support areas.

As we enter the next fifty years of LCIF, our support areas have increased and now include diabetes, childhood cancer, hunger and environmental – now covering all five of the Lions Clubs International service areas. In order to fulfill this mission a capital initiative named Campaign 100 was established with the goal of attracting $300 million in donations over a three-year period.

Just as LCIF has supported Alabama with grants in the past, we are Alabama Lions have a responsibility to support this initiative with our donations. All donations will count toward a Melvin Jones Fellowship and will allow LCIF to increase its support in Alabama – especially in the area of diabetes and childhood cancer.

As Lions, we all have a charitable contribution budget. We all support our religious organizations, our united way and many other worthy causes. Please review your budget and include at least $100 for LCIF. As Lions, we contribute to making this world a better place. Let’s recognize the good LCIF has done in the world and in Alabama in the past and support its ability to continue and increase those efforts.

It is a great honor to be asked to serve this program year as the MD 34 LCIF Coordinator. Please join me in serving by doing your part and making your $100 donation now. You will be hearing more from me, your District LCIF Coordinators, your District Governor teams, your Regional Chairs, your Zone Chairs and you Club LCIF Coordinators as we move through this Lions program year. You and your clubs will receive appropriate recognition for all donations made.

We Serve.

Alabama Supports LCIF!!!!

Andy Marshall

At recent Auburn Lions Club meeting, Shelly Tufts and 4 children of the Exodus Ranch visited. The Exodus Ranch helps children in need of a place to stay during a difficult situation. The Ranch was started in 2012. Pictured are Shelly and the 4 children and Bill McCrary of the Auburn Lions Club. A donation was presented.

Pictured, at left, Lions Club Lion Tamer Reba Casteel presents PDG Ron Seybold with her famous banana pudding. Lion Casteel has fed many a Scottsboro Lion with her world’s best banana pudding, as well as her famous hot dog slaw for the Annual Hot Dog Supper, over many years; and she in recent years has maintained order in Lions meetings as Lion Tamer.

Pictured, at right, the Ashford Lions Club recently donated $2,500.00 to our Ashford Rescue Squad to assist with their regular operating expenses. From left, are Ashford Lions President Guy Bruner, Jarrod Whitten, President of the Ashford Rescue Squad and Ashford Lions Vice-President William Stuart McArthur.
Has your club ordered the 2019-2020 Peace Poster Contest kit yet? If not, you should do it now. The kits went on sale in January and can be ordered until October 1, 2019. If their supply last. If your club has never sponsored a Peace Poster Contest you should do it this year. Did you know the Peace Poster Contest has been around since 1988? It was created to give young people the chance to express their creative feelings for world peace and to share their visions with others. Annually there are around 600,000 children that participate. Your club could provide this opportunity to children ages 11-13 in your local schools or organized, sponsored youth groups, such as Scouts, YMCA programs, Boys & Girls Clubs, church groups, etc. It will give your club the opportunity to work with your local schools or youth groups, as well as giving you a chance to get positive publicity for your club.

My club, the Moody Lions Club, sponsors a Peace Poster Contest annually at our Middle School. Our school gladly participates and the students look forward to it each year. We attend their awards day and our club presents certificates to the final participants and medals to the first, second and third place winners. We also frame and hang a copy of the winning poster in the hallway of the school. We then invite the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners and their families to be our guests at a Lions Club meeting. We send an article with their picture to our local newspaper for publication. Instant positive publicity.

In order to obtain this positive publicity, you have to want it. You have to order the Peace Poster Contest kit from Club Supplies Sales Department at International Headquarters before October 1. To order, call Club Supplies Sales at 1-630-571-5466. To order online, go to lionsclubs.org/peaceposter or look in your July/August Lion Magazine on page 27 for information. You must purchase a kit for each contest you sponsor. The kits cost $11.95 plus shipping and handling. The kit contains the contest guide & rules as well as the date deadlines for the contest, everything you will need.

If I can help you or answer any questions please contact me at: janepbarker@windstream.net or phone (205) 640-6506.

PDG Jane P. Barker  
District 34-B  
Peace Poster Chair

‘Shinny Head’ Award presented

District A, 1st VDG Tim Sosebee awarding the first VDG “Shinny Head” award at the Winfield Lions with former Club President Chris Davis on August 5, 2019. 1st VDG Sosebee commented that “this fun award results in Club unity, fun and occasional controversy”. While at a recent club visit with the Eva Lions there was a tie, thus a flashlight was used to determine the most significant reflection. The second place winner demanded a “re-reflection inspection”, however, after the replay (and with weaker flashlight batteries) the Club Membership determined the “re-inspection reflection call remains”. VDG Tim overturned the call when stating that they must attend the next 34-A Cabinet meeting at Hayden, October 12, 2019 for a rematch.

Pictured, at left, members of the Moody (Alabama) Lions club, Jane and Vernon Barker, standing center, were recent guests of the Opelika Lions Club. The Moody Lions Club operates the Alabama Lions eyeglass recycle center where they processed over 360,000 pairs of eyeglasses last year, 7,000-12,000 of which were distributed here in Alabama, while others went to Mexico on mission trips. Other centers are in Indiana and Florida, which send them all over the world through other mission trips. The Opelika club gave them over 2,000 pairs of glasses at the meeting. In the photo left to right, Gayron Davis, Brooka Stokes, Jane Barker, Glenn Stokes Vernon Barker, Jim Allen and Doug Hicks.