

THE

ALABAMA LION

The Alabama Lion is published for Alabama Lions Sight Conservation Association, Inc. 700 S. 18th Street Birmingham, AL 35233

A newsletter for members of Alabama Lions Clubs

June 2020

INSIDE

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

A virtual Alabama Lions Leadership Conference coming August 2020

..... Page 6

Leo of the Year Winners

..... Page 7

Christopher W. Wood receives Aubrey D. Green Humanitarian Award

..... Page 8

Lead, support, encourage and serve

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

Eight years ago, I would never have dreamed that I would be in this position, MD 34 Council Chair, to lead, to support, to encourage, and to serve.

I am proud to have been given the opportunity to serve as your 2019-2020 MD 34 Council Chair. This has been a rewarding and interesting experience. There are so many wonderful Lions in our organization with lots of energy, helping to create a better life for those in need around in our communities, our state, and the world.

It is hard to believe how quickly this year has passed. I am writing my last article for AL Lions newsletter for this year as MD 34 Council Chair as I prepare to transition to Immediate Past Council Chair (IPCC). This has indeed been a remarkably busy year, which could explain why it passed in the blink of an eye. Lanny and I had the opportunity to begin this year attending the Lions International Convention in Milan, Italy. Wow, what an experience that was, to be remembered for a lifetime. While there, we attended several sessions, learning and gaining knowledge that we could share with Lions in our local club as well as Lions in our district and state. We returned from Italy to attend the first cabinet meeting of 2019-2020 year with District 34A in New Hope, AL. It was in New Hope, AL that I received my first pair of "red high heels" with 4" heels as the Immediate Past District Governor. District 34B held their first cabinet meeting the week after 34A in Auburn, AL. District 34 C held their first cabinet meeting the week after 34B in Evergreen, AL. We visited with each of the three districts at their first cabinet meeting and each one was great, conducted in unique ways, yet accomplishing the same goal of communicating with each other, updating and sharing with each other what their respective districts are doing to "serve" others. We attended and participated in the AL Lions Leadership Conference held the week after District 34C's first cabinet meeting. The MD 34 Lions Leadership Conference was held on the beautiful campus of Troy State University, Troy, AL. This was one of the best leadership

conferences with lots of leadership tracts to choose from to continue our Lions learning. Following this dynamic Lions Leadership Conference, our first Council of Governor's Meeting for 2019-2020 was held in Birmingham, AL at the Eye Callahan Hospital. We had a lot to cover to get our year going full blast with our District Governors and their teams, and our MD Chairs, our NAMI program, and our Long-Range Committee. We had a great 1st Council of Governors Meetings.

I also attended the charter night for the new Troy Lions Club, Troy, AL in August. What an awesome experience it was to see Lions that were eager and ready to serve. Chartered 37 Lions with over 80 in attendance for that Gala event.

I attended the Annual Lions Appreciation Day in Talladega at the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind School. If you have not visited this school, you have really missed a learning experience. It is one of the most rewarding experiences you can witness. It is an awesome place to visit to see how they work and manage with limited sight. Bus tours and walking tours of the facility were provided and lunch.

I was honored to go and present a 50-year pin to one of Ft. Payne's Lions, Lion Glynn Odom, and a hummingbird pin to his wife Rosalyn. Also, while there, I inducted four new members. Let's just say here, we had lots of FUN!

Worked with DG Larry Bagley is canvassing for new club in Crossville. We went door to door talking to business leaders all around the town of Crossville and outlying edges of town.

In February, I attended and participated in our first District Enhanced Lions Leadership Institute held in Moulton, AL at the Lions Clubs building. What a great leadership opportunity for Lions all over the district. This was one of the greatest, hands on learning experiences that motivated Lions all over the district. I also attended one of two Zone Chair meetings held in District 34-A. Lots of learning taking place in MD 34.

March is District Convention time in MD 34. District 34A held their convention in Scottsboro, AL. International Director Justin Gaber from Michigan was guest speaker. It



Lion Linda A. Starr

was a FUN convention with around 80 Lions attending the overall event. Not only were the Lions recognized, but the District Leo of the Year awardee was recognized as Leo Guadalupe Andres from Ft. Payne High School Leo Club. The new District Governor team was elected for 2020-2021 with Lion Tim Sosebee as District Governor for 34A. Unfortunately, district conventions for 34B and 34C were canceled due to the Corona virus. However, both districts were unique in holding their elections to elect their new District Governor teams via mailout ballots with their elections committee. The new District Governor for 34B is Lion Robert Thompson and 34C is Lion Pete Crews. Welcome the new District Governors for MD 34, 2020-2021 year.

It takes a collective effort to make an organization like ours viable, and I think it is only fair that "special" thanks go out to all of the Lions of MD 34 and to include District Governors Larry Bagley, Bubba Bingham, and Yvonne Burroughs; International Family PID Jerome Thompson and PID Lowell Bonds; State Secretary Lion Doris Hansard; PCC Ron Seybold, and IPCC Mark Stevens. I thank you all

See Lead, Page 8



CC Linda in red heels presented by DG Larry at the installation of DG Team.

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT #432 MONTGOMERY, AL



VISIONS

Barry Elliott



'It Takes Courage to Believe the Best Is Yet to Come'

By Robin Roberts

Lions are people of courage, so I believe as Lions the best is yet to come! Our batteries are recharged, the opportunities to renew our involvement in our communities have been increased, we cannot but expect to see greater service!

Lions, our service in the fight to prevent blindness remains a focal point in our communities. Since our Mobile Eye Clinics have been suspended since March 16, there is a backlog of folks eager to have their eyes examined. We are anxious to return but cautious to resume. Since we are in a constricted space in the Mobile Truck we will have to wait till the numbers indicate that our patients and staff will be safe. Dr. Daum and I are watching it closely and will move forward as safely as we can.

Lions, I wish that I could bring the big news that we all have been anticipating, but we did not receive the line item appropriation from the state budget that we had hoped. Our efforts have not been for naught. In the past

two years of working towards approval, the Lions have made positive strides! The process from the beginning was known as long and daunting. I will just say that this year we started out as being in, then we were out, then we were back in, and lastly, we were out. The real progress that we can hang our hat on this year is that we have changed the process! Going forward entities like Alabama Lions Sight will be able to submit a bid to the State Education fund, along with any other party, and be evaluated to specific qualifications and then a bid will then be awarded. This should be a level playing field for us and anyone to compete for the opportunity to conduct vision screening in our public schools. I am truly grateful to the Lions who have worked in this behalf and our legislators who saw our ability, passion, and accountability.

I would like to thank those who serve on our Board of Directors. We have had a very active board this year with involvement from every member! We will be losing several members, rolling off the board, due to length of

service, according to our bylaws. I especially am appreciative for your great leadership! If you as a lion are interested in finding out more about our board, please give me a call or email. The Board had planned a wonderful celebration for our 75th Anniversary that was to be held on May 1, that of course was cancelled. The celebration was also a fund raiser to purchase a second Mobile Eye Clinic truck. Three clubs have already sent their donations for this purpose with \$9,000.00 designated for the truck. ALS will continue to make plans to raise the needed funds for this purpose. Stay tuned for future announcements!

A tremendous thank you goes out to those Lion Clubs who have donated this past Lions year. I know that this is an exception this year, considering many fundraisers of clubs being canceled and your monies being not what they normally are. Still, many clubs have continued their support. ALS is grateful in whatever the size of your donations.

God bless you in your efforts to serve your communities. Be of great courage and believe.



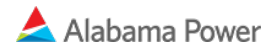
Cutline???

PATIENTS SEEN IN THE LIONS EYE CLINIC

• 3,035 patients seen year-to-date

• 114 were in the month of March and 137 in the month of April

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



Boeing Employees Community Fund

Ms. Louise Carr

Cawaco RC&D



Community Foundation of South Alabama

Community Health Charities

Crampton Trust



Estate of Carolyn S. McCormick

Estate of John C. Moore

Estate of Robert Bedwell



Greater Birmingham Regional Commission Foundation

Gunter-Dixon Foundation

Henry G. Sims and Henry Upson Sims Foundation

Hill Crest Foundation

Holy Name of Jesus Hospital Trust Fund

Honda Manufacturing

John A. and Delia T. Roberts Trust

Junior League of Birmingham Beeson Fund



Lions Clubs International Foundation



Solon and Martha Dixon Foundation

Susan Mott Webb Foundation/Regions

UAB Benevolent Fund

Wal-Mart Foundation



Walker Area Community Foundation



DISTRICT 34-A

DG
Larry
Bagley



In and Around the District

Hello District 34A Lions.

As I come to the close of my District Governor year, I would like to thank each of you for your support and encouragement. Without you, I would not have made it. We have worked together to encourage each other to try new things that we have never done before. Instead of saying we have never done it that way, you have risen to the challenge of saying I think we can do that. My theme this year has been "Service Thru Technology". Although everyone has not tried something new, most have embraced the fact that TECHNOLOGY is part of our future as Lions. With the Covid-19 pandemic, many clubs have found new ways to serve and meet through some sort of technology. We all will be better clubs because we have tried new ideas rather than just waiting for things to return to

normal. I think our new normal will be a bit different from our old. We have had to embrace change and decide how we can adapt to the every changing world around us. I am very proud of each of you who have accomplished this.

I do need your help to finish the year with a positive membership growth. Please ask any and everyone you know and meet to join the Lions. Consider starting a branch club or a specialty club. Remember it only takes five (5) members to start a branch club. Consider having a membership growth event. The Guntersville Club was very successful during March with an online growth event that netted them 11 new members. I realize that not every club will have the same results, but I bet you could bring in two-four new members. And last, consider a membership Legacy event.

This is where family members of the Charter Members are invited to continue their ancestors Lions heritage with membership in a Lions club. You can invite their children, aunts, uncles, cousins to follow in the footsteps of their family charter members and join an organization of service. While we have a little down time during the Covid-19, do a little research and see how many Legacy Members you can locate. It just takes a little work but the effort is well worth the rewards. Another option is the Safari Hunt, find previous members and invite them back. You never know who is just waiting to be asked.

If you have an event or service project that you would like to get announced to the District, please visit our website at District34a.com. There you can post your information and gain insight to what other clubs in our District are doing. During this scary, uncertain time, our communities need us. Please find a way to serve. That is what we do.

I would also like to introduce to you our District Governor Elect, Tim Sosebee. Tim is a hard working and energetic individual that will serve our District well in 2020-2021. Tim and his wife Jeannie live in Hayden. Tim has two children and one grandchild. He is also the proud parent to his pets, Saban, Terri and Missy Bear. He is also a member of Smoke Rise Baptist Church. Tim began his service journey with the Hayden Lions as a teenager before the "Leo's" were established. Tim and a small group of his Sunday school class worked together and raised half the donations needed to build the community's first tennis courts. Upon completion, he and his church members were holding tennis tournaments. Also, Hayden High School began tennis lessons. Tim was hooked on "SERVICE" before he was old enough for his 1st Driver's License. He graduated from Hayden High School as Senior Class President in 1976. He then traveled the world as a US Marine from numerous countries in the Far East to the Mediterranean and throughout Europe. He was promoted after Marine boot camp within 13 months to Corporal and attended Non-Commissioned Officer School while stationed in Iwakuni, Japan. He is also a retired Railroad employee of 30 years where he served as a conductor, brakeman and flagman in the Alabama Division. Tim spent most of his Railroad career at Norris Yard in Irondale, Alabama as a Control Tower Operator in the largest "Freight Yard" in the Southeast.



DGE Tim Sosebee

During his Railroad Career, Tim continued his dedication to the Hayden Community. He completed Basic Firefighting courses and began serving as a volunteer fireman, EMT, EMT Intermediate and soon graduated from UAB Paramedic School. He also was the UAB EMT of the year in 1994. Tim has taught CPR to both his Fellow Railroad employees and others in the community whenever possible. He has numerous "saves" over the decades with this passion for helping others in serious need.

Other community projects include campaign manager for his father, who was elected Blount County Sheriff. Tim was honored from Blount County to run with the Olympic Torch for Community Service during the 1996 Olympics. Tim has served on Alabama Lions Sight, Zone Chair, Region Chair, Club President and First and Second Vice District Governor.

Please give DGE Tim your full support when he starts his year as District Governor. Without you behind him, it is just a position. Again thank you so much for your support. If I can serve you in the future, please let me.

I would also like to recognize First VDGE Mechele Mosley from the Scottsboro Lions and Second VDGE Mike MeElhaney from the Fort Payne Lions. These individuals will add strength to our District during the coming year. Please welcome them along with our incoming Governor Tim. Again thank you for your support during 2019-2020.



Picture, from left, are 2nd VDG Mike McElhaney, 1st VDG Mechele Mosley and DGE Tim Sosebee.



DG Floyd
"Bubba"
Bingham

DISTRICT 34-B



In and Around the District

Greetings to all of my fellow Lions in District 34B. This past year as your has been an incredible opportunity for me. I've learned so much about Lionism and about the Lions of this district, but I must admit I have a lot to learn yet! I told you in my first newsletter that I would be your cheerleader. Being a District Governor is not about the person. It's about encouragement and acknowledgement of good deeds. It's about recognizing the good works that hundreds of Lions provide to make life better for thousands of disadvantaged citizens. It's about providing vision screening in communities that lack those services. Through our close relationship with Lions Sight, YOU were able to schedule Dr. Dahm and the Mobile Eye Clinic visit to communities all over the district. Hundreds of eye examinations were performed and dozens of eye and other diseases were diagnosed and treated or referred. Hundreds of pairs of glasses were provided to those with visual acuity problems. That should make us all smile! The glucose gel packets, and other diabetic supplies provided to school nurses and camps have helped ensure that our school aged children are able to receive emergency diabetic treatment as needed at their venues. It's also been my sincere pleasure to help raise hundreds of dollars for the River Region Diabetes camps so that families could attend Family Day activities free of charge and enjoy the opportunity to learn firsthand about the importance of controlling diabetes. Lions clubs have collected hundreds of pounds of nonperishable food and distributed it through food pantries to needful citizens during holiday periods and other opportune times. I'm happy to state that the Lions of this district have raised many thousands of dollars through fundraising projects. They have helped thousands of citizens throughout the 24 counties of this district by providing needed services. The Lions of this district can be proud of all the supplies they have bought and collected for distribution to Children's Hospital in Birmingham for the use and enjoyment of all the children suffering from childhood cancer. One club recently made dozens of masks and distributed them to healthcare workers. Another club located a quantity of sanitizer and provided five gallons to the local first responders. Clubs have partnered with food suppliers and provided meals to firemen, policemen and other first responders. What a great way to SERVE and Give Back to the community! Thank You. Efforts like this cause my heart to swell with pleasure! You Lions have also seen to the welfare of our environment by planting shrubs, trees, freshening up flower beds, picking up trash along our roadways and other environmental projects that keep "Alabama the Beautiful!"

In my April Newsletter I stated that the District 34B Convention was in the books and at the time I submitted the article for printing it was on the horizon! As you know, I had to cancel the convention before it convened on the advice of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention due to the Covid-19 pandemic. At the time I wrote the April article, we had no reported cases of the coronavirus in Autauga county. By the time the convention date approached we had seven and the number quickly grew. I, as your District Governor, made the difficult decision to cancel the convention rather than risk exposure of the deadly virus to our invited International guest and Lions. We look forward with great anticipation to meeting next year!

Now is the time for the incoming officers to begin planning for the training they'll need in order to successfully lead their clubs into the next Lions year.

Now is the time for the incoming Lion leaders to begin asking questions and exploring the LCI and MyLion websites in order to discover the many opportunities



DGE Robert Thompson

available for educating themselves and their clubs about all the resources available for membership growth, service projects, fundraising activities, and a countless other self-educational opportunities. Go to www.mylions.org and see the world of Lionism open before your eyes! Download the mobile app on and you can have immediate access through your smart phone. You'll need to set up and account with a login and password. Please, begin now preparing for July 1, 2020.

I've used these words of Henry Ford several times this year. "If you think you can or if you think you can't, You're Right!" Lions of District 34B what do you think?

Instinctively, we all focus on the needs of our local communities, and rightfully so. However, there are other needs that we all must be conscious of also. When the club officers were installed into their respective offices, they each committed to supporting the district through the duties of their offices. You may have club members who have been adversely affected by the coronavirus. Please ensure that all your club members are taken care of during this time of isolation and social distancing.

One of my goals for 2019-2020 was to have 50% of the club officers trained in their respective roles. This is an incredibly significant and important duty for each officer in order to ensure that they are aware of the tools available for the success of their club. The same holds true for Zone chairpersons. Each of you are a vital link in the success of the District. Success requires communication. Visit clubs, telephone and email club officers. I had also hoped to have added 110 new members by the end of my year as District Governor. At the time of this writing we are at minus 4, and the Pelham club has voted to surrender its charter. I'd ask close clubs to reach out to those members and ask them to join your ranks. I had a final goal of net growth of 30 members. I wasn't able to meet that goal. Less than 1 new member net growth per club would have exceeded my goal. Let's not give up. Together we can do so much!

Finally, let me introduce your incoming District Governor and 1st Vice District Governor. Lion Robert Thompson has been a Lion since September 2007. He has risen through the club ranks as Club Secretary, Club First Vice President, and Club President. Having successfully completed his club level duties he sought a higher calling at the and District level as District Information Technology Chairperson, Zone Chairperson, Region Chairperson,



1st VDG Brenda Elliott

Second Vice District Governor, and First Vice District Governor. District Governor Elect Thompson has retired from a long and distinguished career in law enforcement. You can be sure he will lead the district through a new year of success.

Lion Brenda Elliott has been duly elected to the office of 1st Vice District Governor. She has been a Lion since September 2009. She was a Charter member of the North Shelby Lions club and has held several club level offices including Club Secretary, Club Treasurer, Club Service Chairperson, Club 1st Vice President, Club President, District Zone Chairperson, District Region Chairperson, District Pediatric Cancer Chairperson, 2nd Vice District Governor, and she currently serves as the Secretary of the Adamsville/Forestdale Lions club. The experience these two fine Lions bring will no doubt be a great asset to the district.

This will be my final newsletter as District Governor. The incoming Council of Governors has selected me to continue my service as Council Chair for 2020-2021. I'm truly honored that they have such respect and confidence in me as a Lion Leader. I look forward to working with such a fine group of individuals. I'm especially thankful for my DG Team for supporting me this past year. I also owe a debt of gratitude to all you Lions for allowing me to SERVE. I have realized firsthand that "Alone we can do so little, but together we can do so much"! I pray you're all safe and healthy from the pandemic that has plagued our land and caused us a great deal of strife. Keep looking up! A better year is just over the horizon.

DG Bubba Bingham
Council Chair Elect
We Serve, Just Ask



DISTRICT 34-C

DG
Yvonne
Burroughs



In and Around the District

Lions of District 34-C, Our year is just about over. I would like to thank you all for a wonderful job this year. Even in light of a pandemic, you still found ways to service your community. It has been an honor and a pleasure to service as your District Governor. I won't say that the road was always easy or always smooth, but I would not trade the experience for anything in the world. I had the opportunity to meet many of you and have fun in the process. I had a wonderful fellowship meeting at one club president's home and had dinner there; fantastic homemade dishes at some club meetings, great food at restaurants with other clubs. I have driven in excess of 6,543 miles since July, 2019. DGE Pete Crews and 1st VDGE Charlie Wigglesworth drove thousands of miles also. I want to thank both of them for their hard work. I thank my Cabinet Secretary, Lion Gwendolyn James and my Cabinet Treasurer, Lion Cheryl Mack who both were efficient at their jobs and were irreplaceable to me. I want to thank my Zone Chairs: Lion Rindy Vaughn, Lion Randy Nalley, Lion Todd Denson, Lion Gerard Laska, Lion Iris Ethridge, PDG Daniel Harris, Lion Shane Hadley, Lion Bub Gideons, Lion Dr. Alexandra Conniff, Lion Doug Allgood, Lion Larry Bryant, Lion Wanda Scroggins and DGE Pete Crews. I thank you all for checking on yours clubs and doing your duties as zone chairs. I thank my GAT- GST Coordinator, PCC Linda Ziglar, GLT Coordinator, PDG Claudia Wigglesworth, and GMT, IPDG Andy Marshall. I cannot thank Lion Wayne Key enough for his tireless effort to keep the district informed and bring us closer together. I know it was a labor of love for him, and I hope that he will continue to bring us the news of District 34-C. Thank you Lion Wayne. I want to thank Lion Bub Gideons and the Atmore Lions Club for all your hard work to host the District Convention that was cancelled due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. I am so sorry we could not see all of your efforts come to fruition. I know it would have been one of the greatest District Conventions ever. Thank you so much. I want to thank Lion Doris Hansard for all of her help. Lastly, I want to thank my club, Eight Mile, for their unending support, I could not have made it through this year without them. I am sure there is someone, I forgot to thank, please forgive me and don't hold it against me.

I would like to introduce you to our new District Governor for 2020-2021, William Pete Crews. Pete is a member of the Headland Lions Club. Pete has been a Lion since 2014. He is married to Lion Sylvia Crews and they have two children. He has served in many positions in his club. Interestingly, he has a hot air balloon pilot license. Due to the cancellation, Pete missed his trip to the International Convention in Singapore, but I know he will hit the ground running. He has some wonderful goals for our District, so be ready to support him. Congratulation, DGE Pete

On May 2, 2020, we had our final District Cabinet Meeting via GotoMeeting. DGE Pete Crews and 1st VDGE Charlie Wigglesworth were able to give their acceptance speeches. We were able to choose a District Service Project-to purchase a Gaming System that can be move room to room at the USA Children's & Women's Hospital as part our Pediatric Cancer project. I thank all the District 34-C leaders who attended.

Lions in our District are still serving despite the pandemic. The Brewton Lions Club donated \$6,000 to help D.W. McMillan Memorial Hospital purchase a UV light cleaning system. The cleaning system will be used to help sterilize rooms and equipment during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. The Atmore Lions organized 25 ladies to make 3,500 masks for hospitals, nursing homes, doctor's offices and essential workers. The Eight Mile Lions donate

money to Feeding the Gulf Coast. The Saraland Lions Club donated \$1200 to the Saraland High School Archery Club. The Foley Lions had a virtual Easter Egg Hunt. Fairhope Lions donated money to Prodissee Pantry, a non-profit community ministry providing emergency food and disaster relief and donated to Alabama Free Clinic. The Grove Hill Lions along with the Leos made snack bags and handed out socks to senior citizens. Eufaula Lions made masks for doctor's offices and hospital workers and served lunch to hospital workers.

We still have June to try to bring in new members, so put your thinking caps on and see what you can do to bring more workers into our great organization. Hold on to your present members by putting them to work. Find new ways to serve in this time of the pandemic. Remember "We Serve".

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

How can I help you? Let me know.
We have the POWER to make a difference.

Yvonne Burroughs



District Governor Elect Pete Crews

DATES TO REMEMBER

- June 13, 2020 - Zone Chair Training
- August 1, 2020 - District Cabinet Meeting - Evergreen, AL



Brewton Lions Club at the D.W. McMillan Memorial Hospital



The Opelika Lions Club recently donated 70 Jim Bob's chicken meals for the East Alabama Medical Center Call Center and Respiratory Unit. Pictured, left, are Doug Hicks, James Morgan, Jr., Brooka Stokes and current President, Glenn Stokes. To participate in this worthwhile project contact Mackenzie Kayler at the Opelika Chamber of Commerce.



The Opelika Lions Club recently donated five gallons of hand sanitizer to the Opelika Police Department and the Opelika Fire Department. The hand sanitizer was obtained from John Emerald Distillery. Lions members pictured: James Morgan, Jr., Brooka Stokes and Glenn Stokes. Above, police officers pictured: Officer Foster, Officer Gow and Captain Healey. Below, fire department personnel pictured: Michael Patterson, Captain Brent Stephens and Opelika Fire Chief Byron Prather.



A Virtual Alabama Lions Leadership Conference Coming August 2020

By PID H. Jerome Thompson
MD 34 GLT Leader

I write this from home, while under the Safer at Home order issued by our Governor. While the Lions may have been confined to home, we have found some creative ways to serve. Some clubs have moved club meetings to an online format. We must learn to meet, serve and lead safely during this Corona Virus Crisis.

Mindful that many of our members are at a high risk, your Council of Governors voted to move the Alabama Lions Leadership Conference to a virtual format. While most appreciative of the work that VDG Tim Sosebee and his committee had completed to produce a most impressive learning experience, the Council of Governors valued your health.

The benefit of going virtual is that every Lion across Alabama can have access to the exciting training opportunity, without leaving their home. Additionally, there will be no cost of travel, hotel, travel or materials. Hence, at no cost to the Lions of Alabama, we can join the conference on our smartphone, iPad, laptop or desktop from the comfort of our home.

Some of the topics being considered for the conference include: Rejuvenating Districts; Revitalizing Clubs; Re-motivating Mem-



PID H. Jerome Thompson

bers; Effective Club Operations; What is expected of Zone Chairs; Growing into a better leader, and more. If you have any suggestions for topics, please email them to Hjeromelaw@aol.com.

Although there will be no cost, we will ask that those who plan to attend to register. We can then verify that we have the technology to support the large number of Lions that we expect to participate. Watch your email for registration information for this and other webinars to be offered in the coming year.

I am honored to have been asked to serve as the Global Leadership Team Leader for Alabama. Working with the District GLT leaders, we will provide several opportunities for personal growth and development.

ATTENTION ALL LIONS CLUBS

Let all the Lions of Alabama know what your club is doing in the near future. E-Mail, fax or call Doris at 205-933-9288, fax 205-933-9215, E-mail: lionsofalabama@bellsouth.net, and indicate it is for the newsletter.

We cannot use clippings from local newspapers. When you send photos they must be in JPEG format, and everyone in the photo needs to be identified.

These articles will be used on a first come first serve as space is limited.



The MD 34 Leo Club Committee is selling license plates as a fundraiser.

You can order the MD 34 plate or customize your license plate with your Lions or Leo Club names (see samples below).

Cost is \$10 plus shipping.

For more information or to place an order, contact PDG Pedro Pino at pmpino44@yahoo.com or call or text 205-515-0494.

LEO OF THE YEAR WINNERS

DISTRICT 34-A

Leo Guadalupe Andres, Fort Payne High School Leo Club
Leo Advisor: Lion Alan Kilgo
Faculty Advisor: Joseph Marks

DISTRICT 34-B

Leo Carsen Schaefer, Vestavia Hills High School Leo Club
Leo Advisor: Lion Phil Min
Faculty Advisor: Jennifer Haynes

DISTRICT 34-C

Leo Jessica Thompson, Saraland High School Leo Club
Leo Advisor: Lion Phillip Woods
Faculty Advisor: Dana Mason

MD 34 LEO OF THE YEAR

Leo Carsen Schaefer, Vestavia Hills High School Leo Club
Sponsored by Vestavia Hills Lions Club





Christopher W. Wood receives the 2019-2020 Aubrey D. Green Humanitarian Award

Christopher W. Wood has been awarded the Lions of Alabama, Aubrey D. Green Humanitarian Award. Chris, like Aubrey D. Green, is a combat veteran. Chris served his country in the United States Army, with distinction, for over twenty-three years attaining the rank of First Sergeant. Chris is a decorated combat veteran with multiple tours of duty in Afghanistan, Iraq, and other multinational task force and humanitarian missions. Chris successfully balanced his obligations to the U. S. Army and to his family with his strong desire to serve the needs of the community. Chris has been an avid supporter and volunteer with the Boy Scouts of America for over eighteen years serving at the local, regional, and national level. He is currently the Scoutmaster for Troop 50 on Fort Rucker.



Christopher W. Wood

Upon retirement from the Army, Chris chose to follow his heart and open a restaurant in Daleville, Alabama. In six years, he has solidified his place as one of the top BBQ restaurants in the region providing excellent food, service, and a healthy dose of camaraderie with customers. He caters for events far and wide as his reputation precedes him. Chris may be equally known in the community as a businessman and humanitarian. He has taken his skills and love of cooking to relieve hunger in the community and during recent natural disasters.

For the past six years, Chris provided free Thanksgiving meals at his restaurant. Every year the event has grown and numerous businesses and organizations support the event with donations. In 2018, one month after Hurricane Michael, Chris prepared his usual Thanksgiving meal for

the community and also provided support to send 2,500 meals to displaced residents in Mexico Beach. In 2019, 758 individuals were fed a Thanksgiving meal at his restaurant including delivered meals to working first responders in Daleville, Ozark, Enterprise, and the Fort Rucker gate guards. Chris also volunteers to smoke the hams and turkeys for Annie's Outreach Christmas meal. The program feeds over 2,500 people in the Wiregrass region on Christmas Day. Also in 2019, Chris supported the Dale County United Way Campaign by donating and cooking in support of a dinner fundraising event. He included the volunteer support of his boy scout troops as waiters for the event.

His support of people displaced by Hurricane Michael did not end with the 2018 Thanksgiving meal. Working in conjunction with other organizations, Chris traveled to the hurricane impacted areas several times to feed 2,500 people at a time. He planned and executed the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Michael event in Port Saint Joe called Stronger Than the Storm, cooking for over 5,000 people. In addition to feeding the hungry after the hurricane, Chris led fifty Order of the Arrow Boy Scouts to the Marianna, Florida area to help that community dig out from fallen trees, debris, and to establish a central supply point for donated items.

When tragedy struck Bearegard, Alabama, Chris loaded up his grills and cooked on site several times to feed displaced families and relief workers in need of support after the devastating tornado. Over 1000 meals were provided to residents and individuals working in support the relief and



Wood has taken his skills and love of cooking to relieve hunger in the community and during recent natural disasters.

cleanup efforts in Bearegard.

Chris has a "can do" attitude ready to support and serve where needed to relieve hunger and suffering. He makes a difference every day in the lives he touches through his business, humanitarian efforts, and volunteer endeavors. Chris exemplifies the characteristics worthy of recognition with the Aubrey D. Green Humanitarian Award.

Lead

Continued from page 1

for allowing me to serve you as MD Council Chair. It has been an honor, a joy, and an experience that I will always cherish. I have met many new, talented, interesting Lions, made new friends, and enjoyed it to the fullest. Although this year is

ending, there is still much to be done in 2020-2021. The new 2020-2021 Council of Governors is invigorated, motivated, and anxious to work with the Lions of MD 34. I look forward to working with the new Council of Governors as the Immediate Past Council Chair (IPCC). So, let us ROARrrrr like a Lion. WE SERVE!



Fort Payne Lion Glenn Odom awarded for 50 years of service.



Incoming Governors, from left, are DGE Pete Crews, Robert Thompson and Tim Sosebee.