

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

December 2020

Dreams can come true with 'The Wishing Star'

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Davey looked out the window at the falling snow. Usually he loved snow, but today he was sad. It was Christmas Eve, and the snow was so deep that it might ruin Christmas for Davey. Because of the snowstorm, Davey was afraid that his older brother Josh would never make it home for Christmas.

"And I have such a special present for him!" Davey said to himself. "If only he could get here!" With his best crayons, Davey had drawn a picture of the barn on their farm. He was going to give it to Josh for Christmas to hang in his room at college. Davey turned away from the window with a sigh.

Just then, Dad called, "How about some help shoveling the driveway? We're going to try to make it into town to finish our Christmas shopping. We also have to buy our tree, don't forget."

Davey ran to get his boots and coat. He followed Dad out into the snow. Davey picked up his small shovel and set to work, while Dad used his bigger one. Helping Dad shovel the snow made Davey feel better.

Soon, Davey and Dad and Mom were on their way to town. Because of the snow, they had to drive slowly. "I brought my picture for Josh with me," Davey said as they rode along. "Maybe I can find a frame to fit it when we get to the store." "Good idea," said Mom. "I'll help you look."

When they got to town, they went to the Christmas tree lot. Davey was the first one out of the car. He ran over to a beautiful, glossy, tall tree. "Look at this one!" he shouted to Mom and Dad. "Josh will love this tree!" Then he remembered. Josh probably wouldn't be home at all. Davey felt sad again.

Mom and Dad came over to see the tree Davey had found. "That's a great tree, Davey," said Dad with a smile. "I think you're right. It's the one we should get." Mom added, "And even if Josh doesn't get here to see it, he'd still be happy we have such a beautiful tree."

Later, at the store, Mom took Davey to the counter where picture frames were sold. Davey looked at all the frames. Finally, he said, "I like this wooden one. It reminds me of the wooden

barn in my picture."

The wooden frame was just the right size for his picture. Davey was very pleased. "I'm getting this just in case Josh makes it home for Christmas," he said. Mom patted him on the shoulder. "I know how much you want Josh to be here tonight," she said, "but it is still snowing hard. I really don't think he'll make it. So, you mustn't be too disappointed."

"At least I can wish he'd come," Davey said. As they were about to leave the store, Davey saw a crowd of people. "What are all those people looking at?" Davey wondered. He ran to get a closer look. Looking around the man in front of him, Davey could see what was at the center of the crowd.

It was Santa! Children were sitting on Santa's lap and talking to him. "Can we get in line, please Dad?" begged Davey. "Well, we're kind of in a hurry. We need to be back home before the snow gets too deep," said Dad. "But since this is Santa, I guess we can spare the time."

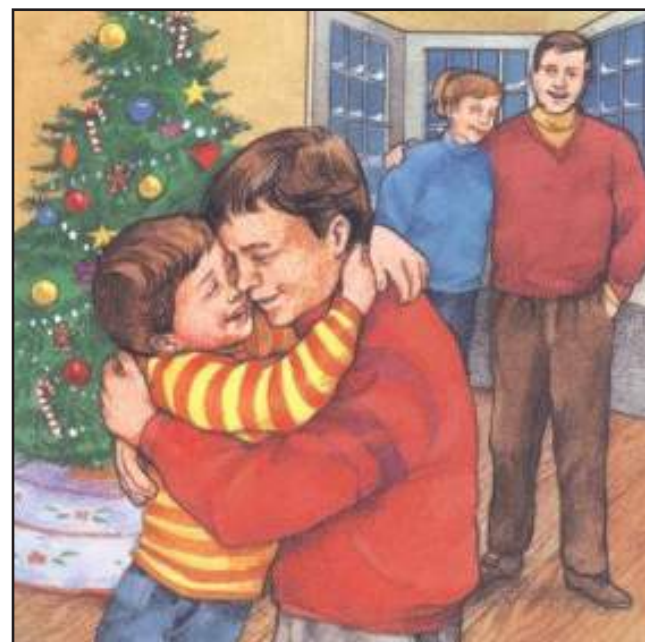
Davey gave Dad a big thank-you hug and ran to get in line. It seemed to take forever, but at last it was his turn. When Davey climbed up on Santa's lap, Santa said, "Well, well, and what would you like for Christmas?"

"I wish my brother Josh could get home for Christmas," Davey said. "But the snow is so deep that Mom and Dad don't think he can make it." "I don't usually deliver people on Christmas Eve, just toys," said Santa. "But I'll tell you what. Tonight, before you go to sleep, make your wish on the biggest, brightest star in the sky. That's the Wishing Star."

"Will it really work?" Davey asked Santa. "Well, you never can tell about wishes, so I don't make any guarantees," said Santa. "But it surely doesn't hurt to try!"

On the way home in the car, Davey saw that the snow was coming down harder and harder. When he and Mom and Dad were almost to the house, Davey talked about Santa's Wishing Star. "We all make wishes every now and then," said Mom, "but sometimes they just can't come true."

"I'm going to try, anyway," insisted Davey. That night after dinner, Dad put the Christmas tree in its stand, and Mom and Davey joined him in decorating it with colored lights and balls and lots of tinsel. While they were working, Davey thought sadly, "It would be so great if



Josh were here to see our beautiful tree." Dad put a golden angel on the very top. "I think this is the best tree we've ever had!" he exclaimed.

Davey went over to the window and looked out. The snow had stopped falling. And there, right overhead, was a star Davey had never seen before. It was big and bright and sparkling. It was the biggest and brightest star in the sky, just as Santa had said.

Davey looked at the star and said, "Wishing Star, please let my Christmas wish come true. I wish that Josh would come home tonight, so we can all be together for Christmas." Then Davey closed his eyes and wished as hard as he could.

Too soon, Davey heard Mom's voice. "Time for bed, little one. If you go right to sleep, it will be Christmas morning before you know it." Davey hung his stocking by the fireplace. He kissed Mom and Dad and started up the stairs to his room.

Just then, the three of them heard a sound outside the front door. "Who could that be?" asked Dad. Suddenly the door flew open, and there was Josh! Davey raced to the door, flung his arms around his brother, and gave him the biggest hug he could manage. Josh had made it home after all. Davey's Christmas wish had come true!

Later that night, when Davey was finally in bed, he looked out his window. Sure enough, the Wishing Star was still high in the sky. "Thank you, Wishing Star," he whispered. "I knew you could do it. You've made this my best Christmas ever!"

Sometimes if we wish hard enough, our dreams will come true.

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ALS Executive Director's Report

"I would rather walk with a friend in the dark, than alone in the light."

By Helen Keller

I continue to find the quotes attributed to Helen Keller filled with perception well beyond a person deprived of sight! This year has challenged each of us to rethink our perceptions. Family and friends have become even more significant and dear to us. As Lions, we develop close relationships with one another as we walk together, providing service to our communities.

Alabama Lions Sight has been walking together for 76 years providing vision care to residents of Alabama that could not afford it on their own. Since 1944, Lions have led the way of caring for the visual impaired. The imprint of Lions in Alabama began in local communities all over the state, but especially in Birmingham with Dr. Alston Callahan and what was to become the now UAB Callahan Eye Hospital. Here are a few highlights. Lions in the 1940's and 50's began partnering with Dr. Alston Callahan by operating on Alabama Lions sight patents free of charge in the Hillman Clinic building in Birmingham. In the 1960's the Eye Foundation Hospital was completed, and the Lions were granted office and exam spaces for its patients. In the 1970's the Lions raised the first \$150,000 of a million which was used to build the Clinic in the hospital. Lions paid for the hospital bill for Lion's patients and Dr. Austin Callahan did the surgeries free. In the 1990's when the hospital was sold to UAB, Dr. Callahan included in the contract that the Lions be granted space in the hospital in perpetuity. In 2008, the Lions and ALS raised \$70,000.00 to purchase a Pascal Laser for the Lions Clinic. The Lions raised \$30,000.00 of it in 30 days by Lions, UAB contributed \$10,000.00 and it was matched with a LCIF grant for \$40,000.00 for a total of \$80,000.00. In 2012, ALS contributed \$144,145.00 for equipment in the new Lions Clinic that was dedicated in 2014. This was a matching grant from LCIF of \$72,000.00 each. In 2017, ALS contributed \$150,000.00 for the new operating rooms of the hospital. This was a matching grant from LCIF with \$75,000.00 each.

In 2016 Alabama Lions Sight, walking together with the Lions of Alabama, began operating the Mobile Eye Clinic. Dr. Kent Daum was employed as our Optometrist to travel to rural Alabama providing complete eye care to date to more than 6,000 patients. As Lions, you are providing eye care to the uninsured and underinsured folks in 22 counties who do not have options for care, in most cases. Recently, when visiting the clinic, Dr. Daum saw a patient, who when examined, had a shadow on her fundus camera image. His diagnosis was melanoma. He very likely saved her life! Providing eye care, glasses, and saving lives are what Lions are providing through the Mobile Eye Clinic.

For more than two years, Alabama Lions Sight has been aggressively pursuing the opportunity to screen the vision of children in every public school in Alabama. This effort has led to having the process to be changed from one agency, that has been given the state appropriation of nearly 3 million dollars each year for more than a decade. Now, anyone can bid for a proposal on a fair level playing ground. Alabama Lions Sight submitted a bid in October for the school year 2021-2022. Four bids were submitted, and the awarding bid will be announced by December 15, 2020. Lions, we will need a great

deal of friends walking together to provide vision screening to the children of Alabama! That would be a great Christmas gift for the children of Alabama!




Margaret Lions Club celebrated their 5th Anniversary.



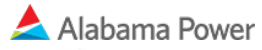



Anniston Lions Club President Terri Askew received banner patch in support of Alabama Lions Sight.




Executive Director Barry visited with the Daleville Lions Club.




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
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Greater Birmingham Regional Commission Foundation
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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
25 YEARS OF DIVERSITY AND SERVICE



DISTRICT 34-A

DG
Glenda
Moxley



In and Around the District



Ramp project team "what a great job they do."

District 34-A has not let the pandemic stop us from service activities.

Our Lions distributed more than 1,200 boxes of USDA food to at-risk families and individuals.

Our district cabinet meeting was held on October 31 at Bethel Church of Christ in Athens. We enjoyed a delicious lunch served by members of the Athens Lions Club. The tables were beautifully decorated by Lion Tim Carter's wife Frankie.

2nd Vice District Governor Mike McElhaney presented his zone and region chairs with pins denoting their service.

Lion Tim Carter presented certificates of appreciation to twenty workers on our Ramp Team.

The District Governor Team and Cabinet Officers were presented with lapel pins designating their office. 1st Vice District Governor Mechele Mosley did a great job with our online meeting for people who could not attend in person.

Past International Director Jerome Thompson made a special announcement that the Cullman Lions Club is sponsoring a branch club consisting of 29 new members. The name of this club will be the Cullman Lioness Club. Welcome to District 34-A!

Clubs are meeting in person now and the District Governor Team looks forward to visiting you.

**Be Kind,
District Governor
Glenda Moxley**



Lion Robert Moxley offloading pallets of food to be distributed throughout the community.



Zone Chairs being presented with pins denoting their service by 2nd VDG Mike McElhandy.



Lion Brian Bright Tail Twister for the Guntersville Lion Club is always educating and entertaining.



DG Robert Thompson

DISTRICT 34-B



In and Around the District

Thanksgiving is upon us and Christmas will be here in a few short weeks. We will be doing things differently this holiday season due to the continuing COVID-19 threat. Nevertheless, it is the time we reflect on the things in our lives we are most grateful for followed by a celebration of the birth of Jesus and the gift of salvation. When I think of the things for which I am thankful, I include among them the fellowship and opportunities to serve others that I have through the Lions.

Even through the challenges that have arisen over the last eight months, Lions everywhere are still finding ways to serve. A group of dedicated Lions from 34A traveled to Carrollton on September 22 to install a "bridge" across a culvert adjacent to the home of a person who uses a wheelchair. This bridge will allow the individual and those who assist him to more easily access the area from which he is picked up for transport to medical appointments. It will make an incredible difference in that individual's day-to-day living. On October 10, I participated in Camp Seale Harris's Family Fun Day held annually at Camp Chandler. It was a rainy day thanks to Hurricane Delta, but several families showed up for a day of fun and education hosted by Southeastern Diabetes Education Services and River Regions Lions Clubs. Everyone got wet and nobody cared! Elsewhere, the Oxford Lions recently participated in Oxford-fest and a number of other 34B clubs continue to develop and execute meaningful service projects. The Anniston Lions Club held their annual 5K race on August 15 with extremely successful results so hats off to them! In September and October, I was blessed to have the opportunity to accompany Council Chair Bubba Bingham as he delivered electrostatic sanitizing misters purchased with a grant from LCIF and donations from several clubs and individual Lions. The misters were given to first responders throughout

Alabama. This was a great project, and I was gratified to be a small part of it. The e-misters will be utilized for years to come to protect our frontline heroes and the people they serve.

With all of the phenomenal service going on, I would like to take this opportunity to once again encourage clubs to report their service to LCI. I understand that there have been some issues with the MyLion system, but LCI has worked hard to resolve the problems and make reporting easier. Service can be reported by your Club Secretary, Club Service Chair, or Club Administrator. MyLion can assist you with preplanning projects or, if you prefer, you can simply use the system to report service projects you have already completed. And remember, no service project is too small to report! Sometimes Lions serve in groups and sometimes we perform service individually. Give MyLion a chance and you may find out it's easier than you think to get credit for your club's projects.

The importance of service projects for individual clubs cannot be minimized. Time and again, research has shown that members engaged in service remain members. The last few months have been a trying time to recruit new members. It is happening in some clubs and that is great! Others are focused on member retention which is a goal for which we should all strive. Lions are no different from other service clubs in that we need to figure out how to stop the membership revolving door. A huge factor is keeping your membership involved in the planning and execution of meaningful projects.

As we enter the holiday season, let us be mindful of those Lions who have not been able to rejoin their clubs at in-person meetings. The holidays can be a lonely time of year, particularly when your doctors are recommending that you stay quarantined! Reach out to your fellow Lions in this situation and let them know you

miss them and you care. Offer to run an errand for them or drop off a holiday treat. A Lion in my home club delivers a plate to a neighboring Lion after each meeting. What an awesome way to reach out! Let us be ever mindful that in addition to serving our community, we should serve and uplift each other in times of crisis. May you and

yours enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving and all the wonder the Christmas season offers. The new year will be here before we know it and brings on its horizon the promise of a vaccine that will hopefully restore balance in our lives and allow us to once again all meet together in friendship and service to our communities.



What an awesome day today!!! Bethel Church of Christ of Athens and Alabama Department of Rehab Services joined forces with Lions from Northport, Prattville, Center and Athens to traveled to Carrollton to construct a wheelchair bridge for Mr. and Mrs. Joe Walker. For years Mrs. Walker has struggled to push her husband's wheelchair through rough, muddy terrain just to load him into the car for doctors' appointments. The gratitude expressed by this godly lady made the trip exceedingly rewarding.



We had a blast at the River Region Fall Family Day on Saturday! A special thanks to everyone who came out and made this day so much fun. Members of the Prattville and Montgomery Dixie Lions Clubs participated.



Prattville Lions Club President Tracy Thompson presents the Autauga Interfaith Care Center with a \$1,000 donation to assist displaced residents from the Woods Apartments.



DISTRICT 34-C

DG
Pete
Crews



In and Around the District

The second quarter of this year started off with the introduction of Hurricane Sally to the SW area of District 34C. High winds, heavy rainfall and flooding resulted in the loss of power for many days along with destruction of homes and buildings. Twelve of our counties were affected by this hurricane. Relief came in the form of an LCIF Emergency Relief Grant. We were awarded \$10,000 to help with relief activities in the affected areas. Zone Chairs Tammy Kinney and Bub Gideons spearheaded the charge in their areas with four clubs coming forward to help with aid to the hurricane victims. Atmore, Brewton, Foley & Gulf Shores all provided relief in their areas thanks to the grant from LCIF. This is a great example of our donations to LCIF helping our people.

The new Ozark Lions Club was given charter approval on August 31st. Our district received an International Quick Start Award as a result of the hard work by everyone involved with the new club. President Edna Bean along with her team put together a charter ceremony that was held on October 4th. Council Chair Bubba Bingham, District Governor Robert Thompson of District 34B along with many other PCCs & PDGs from our district were present for the Charter Ceremony. Keynote speaker for the evening was District Governor Kevin Bean (Edna Bean's Brother) from Bismark, ND, District 5NW. Thanks to all clubs who were present at the charter event and to those who made donations to get the new club going.

A District 34C Cabinet meeting was held on October 24th with 31 members present on the virtual GoToMeeting format. The main event of the meeting was the election of Zone Chairperson Bub Gideons as our 2VDG to fill the vacancy there. Bub will start as 2VDG on January 1, 2021. He has already received his list of clubs to visit, so expect to hear from him very soon. Congratulations 2VDGE Bub.

On a sad note our GST Jeanne Dugger passed away after contracting the COVID-19 virus. She will be missed. She was an energetic, vocal and service oriented President of the Geneva Lions Club. She was active in her Club and District events, even making appearances at other clubs' activities. RIP Jeanne.

With the arrival of the holi-

days, many clubs have been busy with their fall fundraisers and service activities. Below is a sampling of these events:

The Troy Lions Club just completed their Zombie 5K Run/Walk. Helping to support our clubs I dressed up as a Zombie to compete in this event. This was a virtual event with participants completing the 5K Run/Walk on their own and reporting their times & pictures. Troy also created a Lion's Den Teacher Resource Closet at Troy Elementary School as a place where teachers can get much needed resources they would ordinarily purchase themselves.

The Montgomery Lions Club held their 17th Annual Chili Cookoff at the Riverwalk Stadium on October 31st. It was complete with curbside pickup for orders. There were winners in each of nine different divisions.

Eight Mile Lions Club recently donated books and snacks to the Callahan School for the Deaf & Blind.

Headland Lions Club held their annual Golf Tournament at the Headland Country Club to raise funds for local projects. Tournament Coordinator Lion Joe Bryan filled the golf carts with 30 golfers from the area.

Saraland Lions Club recently received a visit from the newly elected 2VDG Bub Gideons as he helped them with their Operation Christmas Child service project.

Saturday, November 7th turned out to be a Service-Fundraiser event date (not planned, but a good idea) across the district as several clubs participated in events to raise money for service projects:

Flomaton Lions Club held their 3rd Annual Veterans Day Celebration complete with a 5K run, Flag Retirement Ceremony and sack lunches. Their sponsors included the Flomaton Police Department, Flomaton High School Leo Club, Flomaton High School Band and Community Care Hospice.

Greater Brewton Lions Club had it's 16th Annual Car Show/Ribs & Riders to raise money for local service projects.

Enterprise Lions Club fed the locals with their annual pancake breakfast fundraiser at Po Folks restaurant.

Atmore Lions Club held their annual food drive for the local Christian Care Ministry Food Bank. Over 4000 lbs of food was collected in anticipation of the need during



Eight Mile Lions Club donates books and snacks to the Callahan School for the Deaf & Blind.



President JR Renkenberger and several from the Foley Lions Club get ready to hand out food to Hurricane Sally victims.

the holidays.

Several other clubs have events planned. I will be at Ravenwood Sporting Clays on December 5th to help with the Dothan Lions Club fundraiser. I will be in Eufaula to help the Eufaula Lions Club bring in the new year with their big fundraiser. It will be a Casino New Year's Eve Party 2020 complete with champagne toast and ball drop. It will be party central with music, dancing and lots

of prizes. Come on over to the east side of the district and have fun with us on New Year's Eves.

Congratulations and a big thank you to Lion Mandie Thompson from the Atmore Lions Club as she has agreed to fill the vacancy at GST. Mandie is a dynamic person who has made an impact in her short time of being a Lion. She will be in touch with your club very soon to help with service projects and ideas.

As you see, District 34C is very busy with service/fundraiser events and with the arrival of the holidays, Lions are more necessary than ever. There are needs in our communities as our families & friends are struggling with job losses, hunger, vision challenges and other health issues that you may not know about. Reach out and help someone today. Be the sunshine in someone's life, UNLEASH THE KINDNESS.



Thank you, Lions for continuing to find ways to SERVE

These past three months since our last newsletter has been the longest year I can remember! The COVID pandemic has caused disruptions in our daily lives that most of us have never seen before. I've had friends who are part of the Greatest Generation talk about the hardships they endured during World War II. How they were issued stamps for sugar, fuel, and other necessities. Thankfully, we haven't reached that point, and hopefully never will. Nevertheless, these unprecedented times are trying our very fiber of our existence. You can recall that store shelves were empty of toilet paper, sanitizer, and other items that once populated the shelves in mass. Slowly, those items are making their way back to the shelves, but at a higher costs. I had a good supervisor once tell me, "This too shall pass". I'm confident the American ingenuity will see us through. The best scientist in the world are developing multiple vaccines that promise to save us from this scourge from China. We must remain faithful that there are still good people around us that will find a way to provide our needs, even in these uncertain times.

Who are these people? LIONS, your church family, neighbors, and many other groups that dedicate themselves to the wellbeing of us all. Yes, even during the Governor's order to "Stay Home", Lions continue to find ways to SERVE, just as we have for the past 100 years. Granted, it hasn't been as easy, and it takes a little more creative thinking and planning, yet we still manage to help in many ways. We are united by a common spirit and we display it every day by the work we accomplish in our communities. Those opportunities are everywhere. All we need to do is take advantage of them by leading, building, collecting, recruit-



Bubba Bingham
Council Chair MD-34

ing, providing, donating, and acting. Apply the verb that fits your club. All over the multi district, Lions are providing much needed services through the generosity of LCIF Disaster Grants. Thousands of citizens are being protected from the deadly effects of the coronavirus through the application of disinfectants applied with the EPIX 360 machines purchased in District B and distributed by DG Thompson and his team. Wheelchair ramps continue to be built throughout the multidistrict thanks to a team of Lions led by Lion Tim Carter in District A. Disaster relief is being provided to the hurricane victims in District C through a grant requested by DG Crews. And these efforts are only the tip of the iceberg! Many, many more fundraisers and activities are ongoing statewide. LIONS are serving every day! As LIONS, for years we have committed ourselves to the phrases "WE SERVE".

But a new phrase has been introduced to our vocabulary in the recent past, "KINDNESS MATTERS". In these times of high anxiety and frustration, we LIONS can offer words and works of encouragement and comfort to those who are suffering from losses of every type. Who knows what a handshake or hug can do to uplift the morale and spirit of someone who is hanging by the end of their rope? Donating a box of assorted food may make the difference between eating and not eating! Providing a meal to a group of first responders lets them know they are appreciated in these times of defunding! Providing a blanket or coat to a homeless person lets them know someone cares. Yes, Kindness Matters!

On another note, there are many clubs that haven't met in person for months. We as Lion leaders have the obligation to encourage our dormant clubs to reactivate

themselves and to safely become involved again in the welfare of their communities. In doing so, those clubs can prove their benefit to those they serve.

We are approaching the Christmas season. This has traditionally been the time of year when people are more apt to give. Some club members are volunteering as Bell Ringers for the Salvation Army. Some club members will collect nonperishable food for needy families. Others will participate in fundraising activities so that funds are available to purchase many types of items to be donated to the community they serve. This is the season of giving. Make it worthwhile through your clubs by supporting those in need.

Finally, thank each of you for your continued dedication to the Lions. As I listen in on the virtual meetings of the districts, I'm amazed at the enthusiasm displayed. Zone Chairs are communicating with their clubs and I'm learning that activities are ongoing statewide to advance our causes. Yes, we are serving. The year is half gone and much has been accomplished but much more can be accomplished as we Lions continue our mission. Let's schedule vision screenings, provide supplies for diabetics and childhood cancer victims. Let's continue to collect food or volunteer at local food banks. Let's continue to pick up trash along our roadways or plant trees. Let's continue to be creative in the ways we support our communities. Let's recruit new members and establish more clubs. More hands equal more service!

As this year ends, I wish each of you health and comfort, peace, and happiness. I pray your families stay well and that you obtain the goals you've set. Even in these times of uncertainty and turmoil, we are still the greatest nation on earth, and we are blessed above measure. Let us go into the new year with these words of encouragement, "Kindness Matters".

Sincerely,
Bubba Bingham
Council Chair
MD-34

Ashford Rescue Squad receives donation from Lions Club

The Ashford Lions Club held a fund raiser this fall for our Ashford Rescue Squad and pledged a \$5,000 donation to them.

We challenged our local Ashford businesses and residents to make donations to help support our wonderful rescue squad, which is made up primarily by volunteers from the Ashford area as well as volunteers from our ACOM Office in Ashford.

Club officers presented the check for \$5,000 from our club, personal donation checks from four Lions members and their families as well as checks from local Ashford Businesses who responded to our challenge and made donations to the Squad. The businesses who gave donations include Joyce & Walter Baxley, Funshine Playschool, Dr. Scott Gamble, Key Tire, Home Oil Company and O'Reilly Auto Parts".



Pictured, from left, are Lions Club Officers Fran McArthur, Secretary-Treasurer; Norbert Lohse, Vice-President; and Bob Key, President; Jarrod Whitten, President of the Ashford Rescue Squad; Mayrene Granger, President of the Rescue Squad Board; and Rescue Squad Board Member Tommy Watson.



Camp Seale Harris grateful for support, service of Lions of Alabama

SDES - Camp Seale Harris closes out 2020 grateful for support and service of Lions of Alabama. Record-breaking attendance at camp and community events happened in January - March! This summer, we couldn't hold in-person camps onsite due to COVID19 camp-site closures and had a hard choice: cancel everything, or find a way. We knew isolation was very hard on kids. Have you heard how we did it?

Just for 2020, all Camp Seale Harris summer camps happened livestream via Zoom with our Camp Director, Counselors, and Medical Staff in real-time camps. We had big group activities and same-age "cabin group" time. Everyone got a "Camp Activity Box" by mail. For some it was a needed health check-in, and for all it provided diabetes learning, encouragement, and comradery especially vital during isolation. No child was turned away.

Camp Seale Harris is thrilled to be back to in-person camps!

We held the River Regions Lions Family Day Camp October 10th with volunteer support of the Prattville Lions and Montgomery-Dixie Lions.

We held Fall Family Camp at ASCCA October 23-25 with great success and several families so grateful for sponsors like Lions making it happen.

We expect record numbers of kids in 2021. One camper told us, "When I'm at Camp Seale Harris, I feel like I'm normal. Everyone has diabetes and for once, I don't feel alone. Everybody checks blood sugar, we all count carbs before eating, and I'm with people just like me!" Until a cure, Camp Seale Harris is helping kids live well, and giving them a "tribe" that

knows diabetes.

I invite all clubs to sponsor a camper or service project for kids with diabetes at Camp Seale Harris to meet your club's 2021 Diabetes Project goal.

You do not have to find a child with diabetes. Over 500 kids coming to diabetes camp need sponsors. Many don't know how to reach a Lions club themselves. That's why we match kids with clubs. Knowing you can help lets us plan how many sponsorships are available for kids in your community.

Call me to schedule a club visit (in person, or by Zoom if you meet virtually!) to receive your support, present a Lions Diabetes Champion Certificate recognizing your club's sponsorship, and to talk about diabetes at 205-402-0415, or email Rhonda@sdiabetes.org.

Schedule of upcoming Camp Seale Harris and Diabetes Walk events was mailed in November to every club President and Treasurer, and can be found at CampSealeHarris.org.

Gifts from individual Lions honoring a fellow club member, your favorite diabetes hero, or someone special help make the holidays bright for kids with diabetes. Customized Holiday Cards are sent to your honoree. Secure donations can be made on our website at CampSealeHarris.org or call us for individual credit or check processing at 205-402-0415.

Have a Blessed Holiday!

**Lion Rhonda McDavid,
Executive Director,
Southeastern Diabetes
Education Services
Camp Seale Harris**



CAMP SEALE HARRIS

SOUTHEASTERN DIABETES EDUCATION SERVICES



Camp Seale Harris Fall Family Camp fun at zipline.



Prattville Lions Robert and Tracy Thompson and George Head volunteered at CSH River Regions Lions Family Camp Day.



Family Camp Day with Lion volunteers George Head, Robert Thompson, Larry Bryant, and Roy Browder.



Touchstone Story #4 taken from Lions Clubs International 'WE SERVE'

Lions adopted this simple motto in 1954 after an international contest among members.

Lions have both a slogan and a motto.

The slogan reflects the organization's formative years in America during and after World War I. The motto declares its common purpose in two short words.

In the early 1920s, the slogan "Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nation's Safety"—an acronym for the word Lions—appeared widely on club stationary, billboards and other promotional materials. Who said it first? Perhaps it was a young attorney named Halsted Ritter who rose to speak at the 1919 International Convention in Chicago.

"The name Lions stands not only for fraternity, good fellowship, strength of character and purpose," Ritter declared, "but, above all, the combination of L-I-O-N-S heralds to the country the true meaning of citizenship."

The words suited the patriotism that swept the U.S. following WWI, and Lions adopted the acronym as its slogan.

As the Lions movement grew across national borders, cultures, and languages, Lions began looking for other words to describe their mission and work. In 1954, the board announced an International Motto Contest and invited



ed suggestions from all 522,000 worldwide members.

According to the entry form, the motto had to be "enduring," "international in character," and "easily translatable." There was also a strict contest rule to discourage wordiness. Lions could submit as many mottos as they liked, but each entry could be no more than five words in length.

To get Lions thinking, the organizers gave out a few five-

word examples: "Men of Action in Action." "Working with Others for Others." "Worldwide Service to Humanity."

Thankfully, 11 of the 6,000 Lion contestants had better ideas. They each submitted identical entries. But Canadian Lion D. A. Stevenson from Fonthill, Ontario, was declared the winner as his submission had the earliest postmark. His motto contained two simple words: "We Serve."

Editor's Note:

It would be difficult to hear the word "respect" and not think of the late Aretha Franklin with her signature song "R-E-S-P-E-C-T, find out what it means to me". Respect is important by giving and receiving. So, how do we show respect for others as Lions? There are 6 elements to consider.

First, we **listen** to what another person has to say, everyone wants to feel that they are being listened to.

Second, we **affirm** someone by letting them know that they matter and that they are worthy of respect. An article from "A Conscious Rethink - How to Show Respect for Others" says "you may not respect every aspect of who they are and what they do, but you can give them appropriate respect at the level that affirms them".

Third, we **serve**. English-American poet W.H. Auden once said that, "We are all here on earth to help others". Lions show we care by serving and caring shows that we respect. Serving is important in showing respect.

Fourth, be **kind** because kindness matters. When we are kind to someone, we are giving of ourselves. Lions do this better than anyone else. But we should show kindness to "everyone" not just those we serve.

Fifth, be **polite**. Have you witnessed the decline of politeness in the world today? Whether it is on the highway, in stores, on social media - politeness is rapidly becoming a lost art. An act of politeness can literally change a person's day or even change their life.

Sixth, be **thankful**. "A Conscious Rethink - How to Show Respect for Others" says "when someone does something for you that's beneficial. Or they say something to you that's helpful in some way. Or they honestly affirm you in some way that's important to you. You should thank them". Being thankful is just another way we give respect and feel respected.

People don't like to be treated badly. They don't like to be demeaned, devalued, dishonored and disrespected. Without respect we lose heart. Everyone should receive respect by virtue of being a human being. Everyone wants respect. Everyone should show respect. So hopefully, everyone will receive the respect they are due and they will give the respect that is due to others.



Pictured, left, 2nd VDG Bub Gideons meets with the Saraland Lions Club and helps with Operation Christmas Child service project.



DG Pete gets ready for Troy Lions Club Zombie 5K Run/Walk