

THE ALABAMA LION

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A newsletter for members of Alabama Lions Clubs

March 2021

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BUILD FOR SUCCESS

Celebrate Worldwide Induction Day on April 24

Dear Lions of Multidistrict 34:

I hope this edition of the Lions of Alabama Newsletter finds each of you prospering in the new year. The year 2020 is now behind us and we look for a brighter year ahead. One half of the Lion fiscal year is gone, and we have made many accomplishments: that's the good news. The better news is we have many more accomplishments to look forward to. MD 34 was ranked in the top 5 Multiple Districts in Constitutional Area 1 for membership growth. Of that we can be enormously proud, especially considering the constraints put on us by the COVID pandemic. The Fiscal Year goal for new membership was 232. The District Health Assessment for the Multiple District through January shows a gain of 231, however; we've lost 277 for a net loss of 46. We've still got time to achieve the goal of a net gain for the year of 124. How do we accomplish this? JUST ASK... As our International President Dr. Jung-Yul Choi has so aptly stated, "Our work this year has inspired so many to start their service journeys as new members. And you can honor your new Lions with the rest of the world during Worldwide Induction Day on April 24. Even though the way we meet has changed, no one celebrates better than Lions." Let's make April 24 a day to celebrate by recruiting new members and inviting resigned members to join our ranks for a gold star induction day in MD-34.

Our District leadership is about to be elected. District A has already elected its District Governor team for the next year. The other districts will soon follow. Plans are already being made for next year's district goals. The NAMI process has begun. New Leaders-elect are beginning to "Build a Vision". They are beginning to "Build a Team" and to "Build a Plan" and to "Build for Success." They will be creating an Idea Plan and submitting goals for their respective districts. Plans to Rejuvenate the district with new clubs. Plans to Revitalize clubs with new members. Plans to Remotivate

members through new and exciting service projects in order to better serve their community needs AND to retain members. Now is the time for club leadership to encourage your members to participate in a Safari Hunt. Reach out to those members who've left your club and encourage them to rejoin. Find out what excites them and give them an opportunity to excel as a service project planner.

Since our last newsletter we've lost several Lions due to COVID. I'd encourage you to reach out to those families and see to their needs and to provide assurance to them that we Lions look after our Lion families. When we lose a Lion, we lose many years of knowledge and experience. Join with me in celebrating the legacy of those Lions who have passed on from this life. And although they are no longer among our ranks, they are not forgotten! One way we can celebrate the successes of our Lions past and future service projects is to publicize them. Our brand is one of the most recognized in the world, so make sure your Lions take advantage of it when they



CC Bubba Bingham

tell their stories and promote their clubs. The new Lions Press Center has the tools they'll need to stand out in social and local media and can help local media learn more about us and our mission of service. Your Lions will find everything they need including customizable press releases, media kits and other PR resources. Encourage your Lions to visit the Lions Press Center to discover all the tools and resources they'll need to start sharing their stories.

Finally, our District conventions have begun. All of them, including the Multi District State convention will be virtual. Through the genius of technology, we can all be together on our home computers and smart phones during these conventions. For the costs of a few short hours, we have the opportunity to join with other Lions from all across the state and learn through networking about successes, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats that effect our progress as Lions. Please take the time to join these exciting moments to share your experiences. Until our next edition, take care, be safe and "Just Ask!"

SAVE THE DATE

Lions WWID set for April 24

Lions Worldwide Induction Day is an exciting global membership celebration held annually on the last Saturday in April to unite clubs around the world in welcoming new members.

While this year has been a year like no other, many clubs and districts have been successful in forming new clubs and recruiting new members. Let's celebrate that accomplishment on April 24,



2021 together on Worldwide Induction Day. There are ways that you can celebrate safely, whether it is in person in accordance with your local guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19 or in a virtual setting.

Let the Lions of Alabama know how you celebrated! Send your information to lionsofalabama@bellsouth.net.

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VISIONS

Barry Elliott



ALS Executive Director's Report

"Will you not constitute yourselves Knights of the Blind in this crusade against darkness"

—Helen Keller, 1925

The Lions of Alabama have taken the challenge of Helen Keller to heart. More than 400,000 people in the past 76 years have been helped with their vision needs and each one is an individual story that would warm your heart!

The Mobile Eye Clinic (MEC) was initiated in February 2016 by Alabama Lions Sight Conservation Association and it has been in continuous operation since that time, save for a brief suspension in 2020 due to the pandemic. The mission of the MEC is to increase access to quality, affordable eye, and vision care to the citizens of (primarily) rural Alabama. Since the start of the MEC in February 2016, the MEC has visited 33 different sites in 23 counties in Alabama. In providing its services, the MEC has traveled a total of 110,371 miles, the equivalent to traveling back and forth across the United States 40 times or around the world nearly five times. Dedicated to its mission the MEC has completed 6630 total patient encounters and of these patients have provided nearly

5000 (4978) pairs of glasses. Caring for patients with ocular disease is an important aspect of the MEC since 31% of patients seen by the MEC have been diagnosed with diabetes and about 1 in 5 or 6 diabetics have some form of diabetic retinopathy and are at heightened risk of serious vision loss. A high proportion of patients have some sign of cataract (45%) or glaucoma. Referrals for secondary care, such as cataract surgery, are common and make up nearly 5% of patient encounters. Since its inception in February 2016, the MEC has completed 852 total site visits, consisting of 33 different sites in 23 counties by the end of 2020. Lions you can be proud to know that because of Lions no one walks out of the MEC who needs a pair of glasses regardless of the ability to pay that doesn't receive them. The only people leaving the clinic without glasses are those who do not need them.

Alabama Lions Sight Mobile Eye Clinic on February 12, set up in Fulntondale to see the victims of the recent tornado in Fulntondale. Lions, generous neighbors and friends in Adamsville are providing funds so that these victims could receive an eye exam and glasses free of charge. The clinic

saw seventeen patients that really did need eye care. It really warms your heart to know that their vision will be greatly improved. The clinic will return to Fulntondale on February 20th to further serve the community. Thank you lions, neighbors, and friends!

Lions vision screenings can safely begin again. Please begin reaching out to those your club have previously provided eye screenings in the past. New protocols are in place for our screeners to be able to provide safe screenings. Call Paula and schedule your screenings. Please remember to report all your screening results as well, to Paula so ALS can report to KidSight (especially if you conduct your own screenings).

ALS is currently looking to hire as a part time vision screener to serve in District 34 B. Lion Linda Nixon has done a great job the past couple of years as our screener, but has resigned. We are very thankful for Lion Linda and the service she has rendered. You may call Paula at the office or send us an email if you or someone you know is interested.

Lions, I am so thankful to be a part of the service you are providing to the people in Alabama in vision care!



MEC giving eye exams and glasses

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

**Alabama Power**

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**CENTRAL ALABAMA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

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STRENGTHENING ALABAMA

Estate of Carolyn S. McCormick

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Estate of Robert Bedwell

**The EyeSight Foundation of Alabama**

Greater Birmingham Regional Commission Foundation

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**Lions Clubs International FOUNDATION**

**MID-SOUTH RCD COUNCIL**

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

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UAB Benevolent Fund

Wal-Mart Foundation

**25 WALKER AREA Community Foundation**
25 YEARS OF DIVERSIFIABLE SERVICE



DISTRICT 34-A

DG
Glenda
Moxley



In and Around the District

From the Desk of Glenda Moxley, DG 34-A

We are so thrilled to have added the Cullman Lioness Club as a branch of the Cullman Lions Club and the Madison Area Lions Club. Madison Area has completed all requirements and again, we are waiting for the Covid crisis is past so we can celebrate with Charter night. Welcome Cullman Lioness Club and Madison Area Lions Club. We look forward to celebrating with them.

The highlight of our quarter was our District 34-A Virtual District Convention. 1st Vice-District Governor Mechele Mosley and 2nd Vice-District Governor Mike McElhaney put together a fun-filled night on Friday night with a Mardi Gras theme. Almost all attendees were in costume, including our International Director Mark Lyons, PID Jerome Thompson, PCC Ron Seybold and DG Glenda.

ID Lyons and his wife, Lion Lyn Lyons expressed their enjoyment of the convention. The business meeting, reports, and cabinet meeting were conducted the next day. PDG Larry Bagley and PCC Ron Seybold gave instructions on proper protocol for elections for virtual meeting and District Secretary Judy Rew certified delegates for the 2021-2022 34-A Council of Governors. District Governor Elect is Mechele Mosley, 1st Vice-District Governor Elect is Mike McElhaney and 2nd Vice District Governor Elect is Katherine Haggard. All candidates were elected unanimously. This is an outstanding DG team. I look forward to seeing this team in action.

We heard reports from our committee and zone chairs.



DG Larry Bagley and Lion Amy McDonald represent the Guntersville Lions Club supporting families at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Huntsville, Alabama.

They are working hard and I want to commend all of them. We heard reports from two major projects, the bed project from PID Jerome Thompson and the ramp project from Lion Tim Carter. These projects have impacted lots of lives. Thank you for serving.

International Director Mark Lyons gave us a wonderful, inspiring program. He commended us on our club membership growth and our many worthwhile projects. He also presented Presidential Award to four District 34-A

members. These are: Lindell Smith from the Von Braun Club, Lendell Chappell from The Fort Payne Club, Steve Dodd from the Brilliant Club, and Robert Manney from the Cullman Community Club. I have these pins and certificates and I would like to present these in a club meeting for those who are meeting in person. I also have anniversary pins that I like to present in person. If club presidents would like to contact me, my email is gfmoxley@yahoo.com and my home phone is 205 589-6078.



Guntersville Lions Club - helping an elderly family in our area - building a rail around their porch.



Moulton Lions partnered with Sleep in Heavenly Peace to build 75 beds for local children who had previously slept on the floor.



DG
Robert
Thompson

DISTRICT 34-B



In and Around the District

On Monday, January 25, 2021, an EF3 tornado roared through the Fultondale area leaving an estimated 9.5-mile path of death and devastation in its wake. The tornado struck at approximately 10:40 p.m. after many residents had gone to bed for the night. A 14-year old boy was killed, and over 30 people were injured. Hundreds of homes were either totally destroyed or damaged displacing a large number of residents. The Lions of the nearby Adamsville-Forestdale Club quickly mobilized and within 24 hours discussions of procuring an Emergency Disaster Relief Grant from LCIF began. I know that many MD-34 Lions may have wondered over the last few years why they keep hearing speeches and pleas from LCIF Coordinators and others to donate to LCIF 100 both on an individual and club level. This event is a stark reminder why disaster grants are needed not just in MD-34, but globally. In less than one week, LCIF provided a \$10,000 grant to supply displaced residents with emergency items like food, water, diapers, hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies, etc. 34B First Vice District Governor Brenda Elliott and PDG Barry Elliott, Executive Director of Alabama Lions Sight, quickly took charge of coordinating planning and boots on the ground. Lions from the Adamsville-Forestdale, Vestavia Hills, Margaret, Moody, and Prattville Lions Clubs have been working tirelessly since distributing items purchased with grant funds to those in need. If you or your club have not volunteered in this effort, please consider doing so. All hands are needed for us to maximize efforts in distributing items to everyone in need.

Early in disaster response discussions, an idea developed to provide vision screening and eyeglasses to those displaced residents who lost glasses during the tornado and in its aftermath. PDG Barry Elliott quickly spearheaded this effort and

ALS's Mobile Eye Clinic was scheduled to travel to the area. The Mobile Eye Clinic has, to date, provided eye exams and glasses for 17 people. What a blessing it is to be able to provide this service to these individuals! It is always a good day to be Lion, but it's a great day to be a Lion when you work together to accomplish this level of service! The provision of this service has truly been a team effort and I would be remiss not to acknowledge the numerous clubs in the Birmingham area that have donated funds to defray the cost of the eye exams and eyeglasses that ALS is providing. Where there is a need, there is a Lion and our clubs have certainly stepped up. The Mobile Eye Clinic will again travel to the area and set up on February 20 when we hope to be able to serve numerous others. The provision of eye exams and replacement eyeglasses following a catastrophic weather event is something we plan to do going forward in District 34B and I hope the other districts will consider doing the same as it provides a niche service other disaster response teams cannot.

This Lions' year is moving along at a rapid pace with Spring right around the corner. It's that time of year again when our minds turn toward district and state conventions. In keeping with that, I would like to announce that 34B's District Convention is set to be held virtually on Saturday, March 20, 2021, beginning at 9:00 a.m. In addition to conducting a morning business session, we will be hosting PID Kembra Smith from Decatur, Georgia. PID Smith has been a Lion since 1997, and has held many offices. She is also the chairperson for the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation which we hope to hear more about during her presentation. And...drum roll...we have an added bonus for attendees! Lion Donna Townsend will also be participating in the convention.

Lion Townsend, wife of late PID Haynes Townsend, will provide an informational and inspirational session you don't want to miss! While we wish we could meet in-person with accompanying hugs and handshakes, we can still come together in virtual fellowship, conduct our district's

business, and celebrate the messages and experiences of these two trailblazing Lions. Please throw away your pencil and use your permanent marker to note March 20, and be on the lookout for the meeting link that will be distributed to all in the very near future.



PDG Pedro Pino and DG Robert Thompson



PDG Pedro Pino



Executive Director Barry Elliott



DISTRICT 34-C

DG
Pete
Crews



In and Around the District

With the new year a couple of months old, service projects and fundraising events have been going strong with many clubs. Here are a few examples of what has been happening in District 34C:

Christmas time brought numerous opportunities to serve. Eight Mile Club rang the bell for the Salvation Army at a retail shop seeking donations. The York Club put together and distributed Fruit Bags for residents of Sumter Health & Rehab. Ozark Lions Club prepared and distributed lunches for the hungry. Saraland Club bought and installed 6 benches in the Veterans Memorial Park to honor deceased members who were part of the military. Troy Lions Club continues to supply their Teacher's Resource Closet (Lions Den) at Troy Elementary School. The Headland and Eufaula Lions Club are getting ready to help with Ramp Projects to install wheelchair ramps for the handicap.

There are several clubs that have been out there raising funds to support their service projects. Montgomery Lions Club held their 16th Annual Charity Deer Hunt in January 2021. Atmore Lions Club is having a Golf Tournament on February 27, 2021 at the Atmore Country Club. The Headland

Lions Club has a Pancake Supper coming up very soon along with a golf tournament. The Greater Dothan Lions Club held a "Shoot With Lions" at the Ravenwood sporting

On January 8, 2021, I helped with a Build-A-Bed event that the Moulton Lions Club (District 34A) held in which we built 65+ beds for children without beds. The project consisted of 125 people from around the area assisting the Lions with construction of these beds. The Sleep in Heavenly Peace organization in North Alabama is the foundation for this cause and it was a very moving experience. There were high school clubs, high school teams (boys & girls), churches and others coming together to make this work. We took piles of lumber and constructed the 65+ beds in just over 2 hours. This is a project that I feel we could do in several areas of our district. This would be a great service project for 34C. I hope to have more news on this project very soon. If you would like to assist in this just contact me and we will move forward with this in District 34C.

Since I have had my COVID vaccine, I am starting to attend more club meetings. I recently met

with the Bay Minette Lions Club and the Daleville Lions Club. Also, I attended a virtual meeting with the Flomaton Lions Club. More club visits on the way.

We will have our District Convention virtually on Saturday, March 27, 2021. The district elections will take place during the

meeting. We will also have a virtual Social Hour on Friday evening, March 26, 2021 before the convention as an informal get together. Bring your favorite beverage and snack to the meeting. Links to these meetings will be sent out soon.

District 34C extends our

deepest sympathies to the families of Lions Don McClendon of the Headland Lions Club and Ruth Harrell of the Flomaton Lions Club. Their commitment to serving others will forever be an inspiration for all of us.

See more 34-C, page 8



Ozark Lions Club feeds the hungry.



IPDG Yvonne Burroughs of the Eight Mile Club rings the Salvation Army bell.



York Lions Club prepared Fruit Bags for Residents of Sumter Health & Rehab.



Celebrating Our Journey Toward Success

PID Jerome Thompson
MD 34 Global Leadership team Leader

Even during a Pandemic, the Lions of Alabama continue to have an impact in our communities. While many clubs have limited in person contact, service and asking others to join the world's largest service organization has not slowed down. John Maxwell says, "Leadership is influence nothing more and nothing less". Of course, we increase our influence by adding value to the lives of others. The Lions of Alabama are Leaders because of the value added to the lives of others.



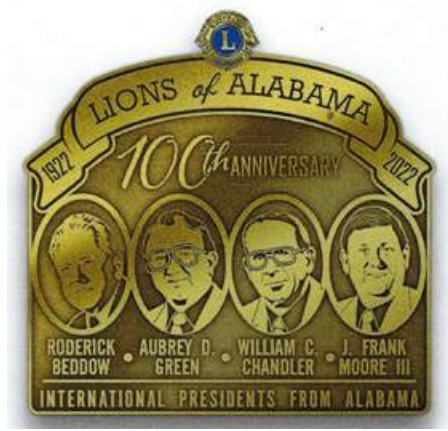
- PID Jerome Thompson**
- We have several milestones to celebrate:
- Alabama Lions were #6 in the USA for Membership growth July - December 2020.
 - Two new clubs have been chartered since July 2020 - Ozark Lions Club (34 C) and Madison Area Family Lions Club (34 A) - with a total of 58 new members.
 - 155 New Lions have been added to our existing clubs.
 - Our service has impacted 87,820 lives. (only 26% of clubs have reported)
- As we continue to move toward success, if we are to continue lead in putting smiles on the face of those in need, each lion must begin to work together to:
- Expand our footprint of service into 3 new communities.
 - Each Club add 2 or 3 members in the next 2 months.
 - Each club report at least one hands on service project

As we move forward, please reach out to your District Governor Team and pledge your support to reach the district goals, as established by the Lions of your district at the Build a Vision meeting. Your Global Leadership team is committed to providing the tools to equip, educate and empower Lion leaders to service more effectively.



2021 State Pin

2021 ALABAMA TRADING ORDER FORM



2021 Prestige Pin

Name / Club _____

Daytime Phone Number _____

E-mail Address _____

Mail Pins To: _____

FULL PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY ORDER

2021 State Pin	Quantity _____	@ \$2.50	\$ _____
2021 Prestige Pin	Quantity _____	@ \$2.50	\$ _____
		Sub-total	\$ _____
		Postage	\$ _____
		Total Due	\$ _____

Postage and Handling Charges:

Pins	Charges
1-20	\$7.00
21-40	\$8.00
41-60	\$9.25
Over 60 ...	will be in 2 shipments

Make checks payable to: Alabama Lions Trading Pins

Send form and payment to: PCC Ron Seybold
County Road 1176
Cullman, AL 35057

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.



CAMP SEALE HARRIS

SOUTHEASTERN DIABETES EDUCATION SERVICES

Defeating Diabetes Together

Thanks to Alabama Lions Clubs throughout the state, children and teens with diabetes are learning to live well at Camp Seale Harris. Our Lions state project to "Defeat Diabetes" means so much to these kids and families. The 2021 Camp Seale Harris year began with Teen Leader Camp held in Wetumpka's YMCA Camp Jordan February 12-15.

Yes! We are holding camp in person, taking safety precautions needed to make sure kids with diabetes get the support and learning they desperately need. Led by Lion John Latimer, Programs Director, Camp Seale Harris is following CDC and American Camping Association guidelines to safely bring the best physicians and diabetes education to a planned 600 kids and their families in 2021. Lions Clubs are bringing service projects to camp, sponsoring kids in their community to attend, and having a Club Team at a **Diabetes WALK for Camp Seale Harris**.

Would your club like to help a kid defeat diabetes this year? Contact me at rhonda@sdiabetes.org or call me at 205-402-0415 to find out how!

2021 Camp Seale Harris Program Dates
Teen Leadership Forum (at YMCA Camp Chandler in Wetumpka, AL): Friday, February 12 – Monday, February 15

Diabetes Walk Pensacola: March 13
Diabetes Walk Mobile: March 14
Diabetes Walk Dothan: March 27
Diabetes Walk Montgomery: March 28
Diabetes Walk Birmingham: April 17
Diabetes Walk Huntsville: April 18

Spring Family Camp (at Camp Grace in Mobile, AL): Friday, April 23 – Sunday, April 25

Summer Family Camp (at Camp ASCCA on Lake Martin): Friday, May 7 – Sunday, May 9

Counselor Training (for any CSH Counselor working during Summer 2021): Tuesday, June 1 – Friday, June 4

Senior Week (at Camp ASCCA on Lake Martin): Saturday, June 5 – Friday, June 11 (with staff arrival Friday, June 4)

Junior Week (at Camp ASCCA on Lake Martin): Sunday, June 13 – Friday, June 18 (with staff arrival Saturday, June 12)

Dothan Day Camp:
 Monday, June 21 – Friday, June 25

Huntsville Day Camp:
 Monday, June 28 – Friday, July 2

Tuscaloosa Day Camp:
 Monday, July 5 – Friday, July 9

Birmingham Day Camp:
 Monday, July 12 – Friday, July 16

Coastal Camp Seale Harris in Mobile, AL:
 Overnight Camp: Sunday, July 25 – Friday, July 30 (with staff arrival Saturday, July 24)
 Day Camp: Monday, July 26 – Friday, July 30

Fall Family Weekend (at Camp ASCCA on Lake Martin):

Friday, October 22 – Sunday, October 24

Community Programs:

Auburn/Opelika: Throughout Spring and Fall months

Cullman: Family Event in Spring

Mobile: Family Event in February

Montgomery/River Region: Family Event in Fall

Pensacola: Family Event in Fall

I hope to see you there!

Lion Rhonda McDavid
 Executive Director
 SDES – Camp Seale Harris





Margaret Lions Club welcomes 20 new members



The highlight of the Margaret Lions Club meeting, for those able to attend, was the opportunity to welcome twenty new members to the Margaret Lions Club. Pictured, front row, are Tim Herren, Robert Hurt, Faye Merchant, Tilly Frantz, Kelly Beacham, Haileah Hudgins and Destinee Hudgins. Second row: PDG Pedro Pino, Tim Coshatt, Valerie Harren, Tiffany Fortner, Casondra Hudgins, Derrick Hudgins, Lion Randall Johnston, Dawn Jenkins, Michael Jenkins, Teresa Sherlinee, Charles Bonaser and IVDG Brenda Elliott. Not pictured are: Diane Castello, Angela Chapman, James Chapman and Bobbie Hanson.

The Margaret Lions Club held a special membership meeting on Thursday, December 3, 2020 at the new Margaret City Hall. The meeting was held with limited attendance due to safety and health restrictions because of the COVID-19 virus. The highlight of the meeting, for those able to attend, was the opportunity to welcome 20 new members to the Margaret Lions Club.

First Vice District Governor Brenda Elliott conducted the induction ceremony and outlined the mission of Lions Clubs International, "To create and foster a spirit of understanding among all people from humanitarian needs by providing voluntary service thru community involvement and international cooperation." With 1.4 million members serving in 47,000 clubs in 200+ countries, Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service club organization. Lions are recognized worldwide for their service to the blind and visually impaired.

Past District Governor Pedro Pino, Secretary of the Margaret Lions Club, pointed out that since 2015 the Margaret Lions Club have been an active part of the community by promoting sight conservation programs and vision screenings at local schools, hosting the Annual Margaret Health Fair, sponsor local diabetic kids to attend Day Camp at Camp Seale Harris, to learn how to deal with their diabetes, sponsor local high school students to attend the Alabama Lions High School Leadership Forum at Troy University and much more.

Anyone interested in joining the Margaret Lions Club or learning more about it, are encouraged to attend its meetings at 7:00 p.m. on the first or third Thursday, of each month at the Margaret Mexican Restaurant, 183 C.R. 12, next to Dollar General in Margaret, Alabama or contact PDG Pedro Pino at pmpino44@yahoo.com

34-C

Continued from page 5



Lions Den Resource Closet for teachers supplied by the Troy Lions Club.



Pictured, above, "Shoot with Lions" by the Greater Dothan Lions Club.



Pictured, at left, bench installed by the Saraland Lions Club to honor deceased member who were part of the military.