

# THE ALABAMA LION

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*A newsletter for members of Alabama Lions Clubs*

*December 2021*

## 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

Why Does Membership  
Matter? ..... Page 6

Happy 100th Birthday  
INSULIN! ..... Page 6

Share the kindness this  
holiday season ..... Page 7

Alabama Lions ready to  
serve before disaster hits  
..... Page 8



**The true meaning  
of Christmas ...  
'CHRIST'**

*Merry Christmas*

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## ALS Executive Director's Report

*"Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement; nothing can be done without hope."*

— **Helen Keller**

It is that time of year that exudes with optimism and closely kin to optimism, is THANKFULNESS. I especially want to extend to all a wonderful holiday season. I am truly thankful to the foresight of the Lions of Alabama who 77 years ago established Alabama Lions Sight. Lions have made a positive impact on so many in this great state! We are so dependent upon our sight in every aspect of our lives. Yet it can and often is taken for granted by many. As Lions, we are engaged with folks that are seeking help with vision impairments. The truth is that more than 80% of vision impairments are either curable or treatable if caught early. Lions are back to vision screenings! Over the past three months, ALS has had more than 1300 children eyes screened! It is so crucial to screen children's eyes early because a child doesn't realize he/she is having vision problems because there is no point of reference of seeing any different. Whatever the condition is, the child just thinks that is the way it is supposed to be.

While we are continuing our quest to screen in every public school, however, let me encourage you to not overlook the private sector in your communities. Private schools are usually open for Lions to come in and do vision screenings. Last week the Northport Lions did a vision screening in American

Christian Academy of more than 300 students! I really commend the Lions of Northport in contacting the local TV station channel 23 and had a public news cast segment recorded that was aired Thursday, November 4th during the 5:00 news. Great job Northport Lions Club! We have several screenings on our schedule yet to do and are anxious for more.

Recently our Mobile Eye Clinic celebrated its 1000th site visit! Dr. Daum has seen more than 7000 patients and issued more than 5000 pairs of glasses! Lions are truly to be commended for the wonderful work that is being accomplished through the MEC. Vision care is being brought to the underserved and uninsured in many poor counties in Alabama that normally would have no access to care. Everyday lives are being changed for the better and many serious

health conditions are being caught and treated as well. The MEC is operating at capacity in covering 23 counties. We have a great need to add a second truck to help more people. The ALS Gala set for November 13th, at the 4 H Center in Columbiana, we are emphasizing the raising of funds for this second MEC. As I write this article, we are only days away from this event. I believe that the Lions of Alabama will rise to the occasion! Where there is a need there is a Lion!

I have had the privilege to visit many clubs recently: Autaugaville Lions Club, Wetumpka Lions Club, Talladega Lions Club, Northport Lions Vision Screening, and MEC Celebration of 1000 sites. It is such a pleasure to serve with the Lions through Alabama Lions Sight.


My wish, to all the Lions, is for a happy holiday and a prosperous New Year!




Northport Lion Club Screening





Talladega Lions Club




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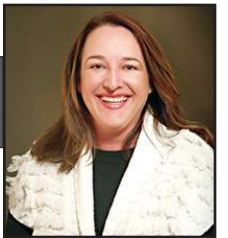
  
**WALKER AREA Community Foundation**  
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# DISTRICT 34-A

DG  
Mechele  
Mosley



District 34 A is excited to take possession of the Disaster Response Trailer. Thanks Cullman Lions for housing it!

Tusculum Lions have welcomed three new members!

## In and Around the District

District 34 A had a great cabinet meeting in October. We were excited to take possession of our Disaster Response Trailer. All present had a tour and got a good look. The trailer is now in the care of the Cullman Lions, ready to roll if needed. We recognized Guntersville Lions for the biggest gain in membership in the first quarter. Athens Lions were also recognized for leading the District in people served in the first quarter. Clubs were encouraged to look at the LCI website for ideas about preparing your club for succession, preparing for new leaders and new ideas. 1st VDG Mike spoke on LCIF, and encouraged clubs to look at becoming a model club. 2nd VDG Catherine spoke on Alabama Lions Sight and encouraged clubs to support them, and spoke about the Gala to celebrate 76 years of Alabama Lions Sight.

We are working on chartering a new club in the Shoals Area. We requested to work with a new club consultant, and LCI sent us Daniel Elkins, from Delaware. I know I don't just speak for myself when I say we learned a lot from Daniel. 1st VDG Mike will be offering training soon to share the training with interested clubs. We hope you will find these tools useful for gaining new members and also helping retain current members. Please share the news with your friends in

the Shoals Area, invite them to join the Pride!

Make sure you have March 11th and 12th on your calendars saved for the District Convention! We hope to see all the smiling faces of our fellow Lions. Let's celebrate our service to our communities!

DG Mechele Mosley



District Governor Mechele Mosley presented on the District Emerging Leadership Institute for the crowd at the USA/Canada Leadership Forum.



Huntsville Pacesetters hold a free book event for Martin Luther King School. They invited Madison Area Lions, Von Braun Lions, Guntersville Lions, and Fort Payne Lions to partner with them in service.

## Attention ALL Lions Clubs

Let all the Lions of Alabama know what your club is doing in the near future. E-mail to [lionsofAlabama@bellsouth.net](mailto: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.





DG  
Brenda  
Elliott

# DISTRICT 34-B



## In and Around the District

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

It's hard to believe this Lion year is half way through on January 1. I've really enjoyed visiting with the clubs in District B! I still have a few clubs yet to visit. I love rekindling old friendships and making new ones! My goal is to visit all 37 clubs in our district that are meeting, either in person or virtually! Don't forget to report monthly membership and service activities!

Upon our ocean, let's focus on 4 "SHIPS" sailing!

Many of our clubs are "making waves" in Member-SHIP growth and service in their communities! I'd like to commend the following clubs for membership growth since July 1: Adamsville-Forestdale, Alexander City, Anniston, Clanton, Hoover, Jemison, Margaret, Moody, Prattville,

Sylacauga, Talladega, Trussville Area, West Elmore, and West Homewood! Congratulations! Let's all continue to strive to grow our clubs for more helping hands in our communities!

Our 2nd "ship" on our ocean is Leader-SHIP! Always remember, the mere fact that you are a Lion, automatically makes you a "leader" within your community. It will be up to you to demonstrate "leadership by example"! Lions Clubs International offers many classes through Learn. I had someone tell me that a member was wanting to step into the secretary's position next year and has gone onto the LCI website learning about this office! How exciting to have members wanting to step up to an office exploring other ways to serve!

Our 3rd "ship" on our ocean is Partner-SHIP! Use the media in your area to promote the mission and vision of your Lions Club! Post events on your club's Facebook page with pictures! Most cities also have a Facebook page that you can share your events. Capitalize on your city's

events by showing up with a table with brochures and a poster of your club's recipients on a poster. If you want to borrow a tent with "Lions of Alabama" signage and/or our new disaster trailer, contact me! Get the Lions name out! Partner with your city, Leo Club, band boosters, or other clubs in your area to serve your community! We should not be using the phrase, "Lions are the best kept secret!" Let your community know what we do as Lions!

Our 4th "ship" on our ocean is Fellow-SHIP! We are excited that most of our clubs are meeting in person to get back that fellowship that we lost in 2020! Many our clubs are still meeting virtually. We are also planning Christmas parties like we had two years ago! The more we gather as families, the more we stay connected! Our club has already scheduled a Valentine's Day party with emphasis on membership growth! Putting "fun" back into our meetings and gatherings is the best way to retain our members!

I wish each one a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year of health and service!



Clanton Evening Lions Club DG Brenda and club president Glenda Strange



Wetumpka Lions Club





# DISTRICT 34-C

DG  
Charlie  
Wigglesworth



## In and Around the District

What a year we have been having! From club visits to accepting the ALERT (Alabama Lions Emergency Response Team) Disaster Relief Trailer, District 34C is moving forward. Nearly all clubs in the district have been visited by District Governor Charlie, 1st Vice District Governor Bub and 2d Vice District Governor Philip. The District Secretary continues to make sure that we are all in line and reports done in a timely manner. The Zone Chairs and Club Presidents continue to work hard to move their clubs forward, recruiting new members and serving their communities. I can't express how proud I am of the entire leadership team in District 34C!

Just to highlight some of the clubs I visited since our last newsletter. Our oldest club in the state is our Montgomery Lions Club. They are in the process of planning their Centennial celebration. The Mobile Lions Club is our 2d oldest club in the state and will celebrate by having their Centennial Celebration Gala in June 2022. They always have a project in the works to raise funds to support their community. Their Double Vision Tunnel Run will take place on May 7, 2022. There will be a sporting clay shoot held on April 29, 2022. Bay Minette is a small club that is in the process of growing its membership with the help of the Atmore area Lions led by Lion Patty Helton-Davis. 1VDG Bub is also on the team. Lion Ron Mason and ZC Rindy Vaughn are leading the charge to reenergize the Butler Lions Club. Gulf Shores is working hard on the miracle field project. Thomasville may be in the middle of pine trees but that always have a plan for the next project. I hear that have a pecan sale that is out of this world! If the Eufaula Lions Club is not working of getting glasses ready for the next Mexico Vision Mission trip; they are preparing to have an event that takes care of children! And the York Lions Club, lead by ZC and President Rindy Vaughn, home club of PIP Aubrey Green, they just doubled the size of their club! They are truly putting into practice "Each One,

Bring One". They conducted a great membership event that got the word out and people are joining.

I mentioned earlier that we had accepted the Disaster Relief Trailer. If you are interested in serving as a member of the ALERT team, please contact 2VDG Philip Box, the team leader. This trailer (all 3 Districts received one) is filled with items that are needed in the event of a disaster in our District. Not only will the trailer serve as disaster relief efficiency on wheels, it epitomizes the heart of Lions Club International's slogan, "We Serve." The trailer can be reserved by clubs in the District for publicity, such as parades and recruitment events by reaching out to District Secretary/Treasurer Mandie Thompson to schedule the trailer. I have included the clubs and dates that the trailer will be at your club.

Several clubs have already scheduled the trailer for membership events and parades. Atmore had a Membership event and is scheduled for a Parade, Geneva is scheduled for a Christmas Parade, Satsuma has a Membership event and parade, Bay Minette has scheduled a Membership event and parade, and Brewton has scheduled for a Christmas Parade.

I will be at the following clubs on the dates indicated to ensure that all clubs have the opportunity to see this great tool that the district has at our disposal. We also have a large Lions tent for membership events. If you would like to get the trailer or tent earlier, please contact Lion Mandie Thompson to schedule the trailer and tent. If your club picks up the trailer, you will need a truck or large SUV with a 2" receiver and a



**Eufaula Former LEO Lion and DG**

7 pin electrical hookup.

The following are the dates that I will be at your club with the trailer and tent. The dates are in parentheses ( ) after the club name.

In January 2022, visits to Saraland (4), Andalusia (5), Fairhope (6), Foley (11), Flomaton (11), Gulf Shores (12), Citronelle (13), Eight Mile (24), and Eufaula (27).

In March 2022, visits to Dothan(1), Slocomb(1), Satsuma (5 - Membership event), Troy(8), Greenville(14), Grove Hill(14), Thomasville(15), Orange Beach(16), York(22), Headland(24), and the District Convention, Pike Road, Montgomery, Montgomery Dixie (25).

In April 2022, visits to Clayton (12) Ozark (23) Elba (26) and the State Convention Atmore (28-30).

In May 2022, visits to Mobile (7), Daleville (10) and Ashford (24).

I am looking forward to visiting with you. Call me if you have any questions.

And as always "Have Fun" as "We Serve" our communities and those in need.

DG Charlie



**Eufaula PCC Richard and DG**



**Gulf Shores PCC Dora and DG**

**Gulf Shores President and DG**



**Montgomery Lions President**



**Thomasville President and DG**



**DG Charlie and 1VDG Bub at District Cabinet meeting via Zoom**



**34C Disaster Relief trailer**





**PID Jerome Thompson**

# Why Does Membership Matter?

The only product that Lions Clubs have to offer is SERVICE. Putting smiles on the faces of those in need is the name of the game. If we in Alabama are going to find a path toward greater success, it must be developed through new and creative service projects. Where can we find those new and creative ideas? New members bring new ideas, new enthusiasm, and new creativity.

Our quest to capture the attention of new members must

also be refreshed. A new generation of Lions may not be attracted by dinners, programs or even planning service projects. However, they will be drawn by greater service. A club engaged in meaningful service is much more likely to attract new members. Additionally, a club willing to partner with others to promote a better quality of life will experience growth.

At your next club meeting, take a few minutes to discuss the

following questions:

What are the benefits of joining this club?

What are the benefits of being part of the world's largest service organization?

What do we do well?

Where could we improve?

Equipped with the answers to these questions, your club can build a team, build a vision for a better club, build a plan, and build success. Success is defined by your club. Resources can be

provided by your Zone Chair, District Governor, Global Membership Team or online at [LionsClubs.org](http://LionsClubs.org).

Working together we can and will distribute more smiles to those in need by engaging more volunteers and equipping them to lead.

If I may be of assistants, please email me at: [Hjeromelaw@aol.com](mailto:Hjeromelaw@aol.com).

**PID Jerome Thompson**



## Happy 100th Birthday INSULIN!

The use of insulin to treat Type 1 Diabetes happened 100 years ago! It is considered to be one of the greatest medical breakthroughs. Sir Frederick Banting, Charles Best, and John MacLeod injected insulin into the inaugural patient - Leonard Thompson, who was 14 years old. After this young man received his second shot of insulin his blood sugars dropped to normal levels, saving his life.

The American Diabetes Association was founded in 1936, with the mission of preventing, managing, and researching a cure. One of the current concerns of the American Diabetes Association is the cost of insulin for needy people with diabetes. To help solve this problem, they have set up a website - [insulinhelp.org](http://insulinhelp.org)

for information on how to get insulin. Also, they have set up a helpline at 1-800-DIABETES (1-800-342-2383) to speak with a representative from the American Diabetes Association.

One of the core areas of service for Lions Club International is Diabetes. If any Lion knows of anyone struggling to afford insulin, please share the above resources from the American Diabetes Association. As Lions, we too, can play a role in preventing and managing and finding a cure. Hopefully, 100 years from now we will have defeated diabetes!

**Julie Drzewiecki, MS, RD, CDCES**  
**District 34A Diabetes Chair**  
**Guntersville Lions Club**



The Oxford Lions Club delivered toy mop and broom sets to the Alabama Baptist Children's Home - Oxford. Pictured, are ABCH Director Amber Albright, PDG Judy Pritchett and Oxford Lions Club President Gary Edwards.





# Share the kindness this holiday season

Happy Holidays. I hope you are getting to spend time with your family and friends. That's what I look forward to when my thoughts turn to the holiday season. Children returning home, sharing meals together, catching up on the happenings in their lives and just being together is one of the greatest gifts a parent can have.

As the Council Chairperson, I consider the entire membership of MD 34 to be my extended family. It is a blessing to attend each Club, District & Council of Governors meetings. I enjoy learning about the things that are happening in our state with each of our clubs.

This year we have seen the DGs, 1VDGs & 2VDGs resume club visits that were prohibited due to COVID. Thank you to the district officers for your efforts and to the clubs for helping schedule these visits. It is great to see your posts on social media as we all get to

share in your experience. We will continue to post club events, training and service projects on the district and multi-district Facebook pages & websites. Please send your photos and narratives to the district and multi-district officers so we can post them and share with other clubs your successes.

On December 31, 2021, Lion Doris Hansard will leave us as Bookkeeper for Alabama Lions Sight & State Secretary for Multi District 34 to join the ranks of the RETIRED.

Lion Doris Hansard has been the "go to" person for the Council of Governors for over 10 years. I first met her at the State Convention in Orange Beach several years ago after I was elected as Second Vice District Governor of District 34C. She found me in the crowd and introduced herself saying "I am so glad to meet you as we will be working together for the next

several years". I had no idea at the time just how valuable she was to our district and multi-district but thru attendance of numerous Council of Governors meetings, her significance became apparent. Doris is definitely my "go to" person for most everything pertaining to our multi-district. She does an outstanding job and I will miss our conversations. Take a moment to let her know how much you appreciate her by sending her an email, letter or calling her.

Lion Doris, I know that I speak for many when I say "Thank you so much for your service and dedication to our Multi-District". You have been a pleasure to work with and we wish you the very best that life has to offer.

With every door that is closed, one is opened. Erin Edwards will be replacing Doris in her joint capacity with the Alabama Lions Sight and the Lions of Multi-District 34.

Erin brings a new energy and enthusiasm to the job and we look forward to working with her for many years.

The holidays provide many opportunities for service activities. There is a constant need for food, shelter and the basic necessities. I recently participated in a Build-A-Bed delivery where we placed a bed in a family's home. While there, we recognized that there was a need for food and clothing. Please be aware of your surroundings as you can pick up on other service needs in your community while serving. Also, service projects can become a membership growth event by recruiting while serving others. Communities see you in action and want to be a part of the activity. Wear your Lions Club apparel anytime you are serving your community. We want the community to know that the Lions Club is a valued member of the

community.

Recently reported, the membership in Constitutional Area-1 has increased by 1704 this year. Our membership growth events, fundraisers and service projects are helping others and bringing us new members every day. Thank you for your commitment. Never miss an opportunity to ask someone to join, if you don't ask them, you are making a decision for them.

With the arrival of 2022, the district conventions and state convention are just around the corner. You will be hearing from the District Governor teams with dates very soon. The energy from these meetings is contagious. Please make your plans to join us.

Share the kindness this holiday season and brighten someone's day.

Happy Holidays to everyone.

CC Pete





# Emergency Response Trailers

## Alabama Lions ready to serve before disaster hits

By Clarissa Ojeda-Winchester

While October brings much anticipated cooler weather in Alabama, the Lions of Alabama received another cool and welcome event this past month. On October 16, 2021, all three Alabama Lions districts received possession of an ALERT Lions Trailer.

ALERT (Alabama Lions Emergency Response Team) Trailers are trailers filled with necessities needed in response to emergencies. They were first conceptualized for Alabama in 2007 by District C's PDG Bobby Ziglar and PDG Gus Pacheco. Several years later after flooding in District A, the idea was mentioned again.

Past Council Chair Floyd "Bubba" Bingham, as ALERT Chair, led the effort in 2020 to bring ALERT trailers to life. Under his leadership, ALERT received grant money from LCIF (Lions Club International Foundation) from a new grant program called "Disaster Preparedness." While PCC Bingham served as support lead, PID Lowell Bonds served as the project's logistics lead. PID Bonds spearheaded manufacturing, stocking, and delivery of the exciting new trailers.

When the District Governors met in Pelham, Alabama to receive their trailers, their smiles spoke volumes. "When tornadoes hit Fulntondale last year, we had to

wait to assess the need, and make multiple trips to stores in various locations, which were out of stock due to demand," stated DG Brenda Elliott. "With pre-stocked emergency response trailers, we are ready to serve with items from underwear to tools, and mops."

DG Mechele Mosley, is most excited about serving the underserved rural areas in her district. "Some of our hardest hit areas in natural disasters in our district do not qualify for LCIF grants due to lower population. As each of these trailers represent \$10k in LCIF monies, we are already in position and ready. It's not if we have a natural disaster in our district, it's when," Mosley stated.

"Storing emergency supplies for disasters is the most efficient way to utilize disaster funds from LCIF" stated PID Bonds. "When there is an emergency, it is not always easy to assign every dollar by LCIF guidelines in a timely manner."

The stocked trailers will serve as disaster relief efficiency on wheels and epitomize the heart of Lions Club International's slogan, "We Serve." The trailers can also be reserved by clubs for publicity, such as parades, and recruitment events by reaching out to their DG's.

"Our ALERT trailers will be strategically accessible in Cullman, Forestdale, and Atmore, while also serving as mobile billboards for a wonderful organiza-



Pictured, from left, are PID Lowell Bonds, DG Brenda Elliott, DG Mechele Mosley and CC Pete Crews.

tion, where we are always ready to recruit a new Lion to serve the community," stated PID Bonds.

Current Council Chair, Pete Crews, couldn't agree more. "These trailers have been in dis-

cussion for several years, so seeing this come to fruition in our state is exciting indeed."

**Lions of Alabama MD-34, Inc. • 700 South 18th Street, Suite 415 • Birmingham, AL 35233**  
**205-933-9288 • lionsofalabama@bellsouth.net • www.lionsmd.org**

STAY CONNECTED

