



Sailing into Humanitarian Service

December 2011 Newsletter Volume 11 Issue 5 11 Issue 5



Looking through meeting notes, monthly newsletters and remembering conversations, I realize more and more just how amazing and innovative Lions in District 31B in living up to our motto “We Serve”. I know in sharing these “aha” moments with you, there are many I don’t know about and some I have forgotten or overlooked. So, read these and then spend sometime soon, indulge yourselves in recalling and sharing your “aha” moments with all of us. I remember: Lions in the Lake Norman area helping 27 blind campers play golf at Mooresville Golf Course; the Riverview Lions “Festival on the River” with food, homemade ice cream, live music, crafts, rides for the kids and the highlight for me—the Rubber Ducky Race and the opportunity to wade in the river; Sherrills Ford Lions and their ongoing support of higher education by providing 48 scholarships to graduating high school seniors since 1995; the excitement we all share with the Burnsville Club as they welcome 6 new members and the trees and landscaping work they are providing for their community; Lions from Salisbury, Maiden, Sherrills Ford, Taylorsville and Charlotte Southern club enjoying food, fun, entertainment and fellowship with the VIP campers at Camp Dogwood; Lions from Cahah’s Mountain, Granite Falls, Hudson and Lenoir Clubs hosting a summer picnic for the VIPS in Caldwell County, the generosity of the West Iredell Lions in the \$500 contribution to the Leader Dog Program; Lion Christy Poteat donations of one of her paintings to be raffled and the money used to support Lions projects in the Millers Creek Community; Lions in the Bethlehem Club raising money to provide Christmas gifts for children in foster homes, the dedication of Lion Antha Reid in promoting the Peace Poster Contest this year; and the persistence of Lion Hazel Yoder in obtaining a clarinet for a visually challenged young man in her community. The wonderful work we do is needed and appreciated. Having talked with many of you recently, I am excited to learn of the plans and projects in District 31B. My sincere thank you to the North Wilkesboro Club for hosting the hospitality room for the Fall Convention; for all who worked on the “gift baskets” for the raffle; for those who diligently worked selling raffle tickets, registrations, table decorations, the auction and whatever and whenever you were needed. But most of all, I so appreciate the wonderful “message leaves” you sent—what a treasure! I have received many, many cards, calls and visits from my Lions family. Bless each one of you and have a wonderful Christmas and a safe winter holiday season.



Helen Hudson
District Governor





I hope everyone had the opportunity of spending time with their families, friends and loved ones during the Thanksgiving Season. We all have so much to be thankful and that we are in the position to help others. This is a great time to practice our motto “We Serve.” Many of the clubs in District 31B have fund raising projects all during the year and use the money to provide a time for the VIPS to get together for food, fun and fellowship and also to provide for needs with time, friendship and financial support. Please share with all of us information about your work with VIPS. What

you do and how you do it is important to each of us. We learn from each other by sharing ideas and projects that have been successful (and not so successful) in your communities. I have visited three clubs during the month of November and had the privilege of installing a new member in the Long View Club and four new members in the Mooresville Club. Lion Antha and I attended the Fall Convention in District A. We so enjoy the opportunity to spend time with Lions everywhere. We learn so much about the work and projects of Lions, not only in District 31B, but throughout North Carolina as well as Internationally. As the Christmas Season approaches, let’s remember those in need and aid them in anyway we can. Please remember the women and men serving with Military forces—many of whom are far away from home. Remember to be thankful for the many, many blessings and the freedom we have in our country. Continue your prayers, cards and calls to District Governor Helen. Your care and support mean so much to Helen and her family.

Antha and I wish for each of you a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Mike Reid

District Governor Elect



District Governor Helen Hudson asks each club to plant trees, not only in support of our International Presidents goal, but to help restore clean air and clean water and to provide an additional source of healthy foods. According to Lions International, as of 12/2/2011, 6,043,627 trees have been planted worldwide in response to International President, Wing Kun-Tam’s request. The Lake Norman Club has five dogwood trees on order to be planted in the spring. The Burnsville Club members will be planting trees as community project and a tree in memory of PDG, Dennis Alcock. The Taylorsville Club members are planning to order 50 trees from the National Arbour Day Foundation and planting them as a joint community project with Habitat for Humanity volunteers. The North Wilkesboro Club President reports he planted 70,000 trees last year. We do live in the land of Christmas Tree Growers and many Lions are involved in this



business. We have a lot to report for our District tree planting accomplishments. Please report the number of trees, the number of volunteers participating, the amount of money spent and the number of hours needed to plant the trees, on your monthly activities report. Currently, only EIGHT of our thirty-five clubs are submitting activity reports each month or ever. This report is easy to complete and is readily available to each secretary when the MM (monthly membership) reports are filed. Please contact District Secretary/Treasurer, Carolyn Sprinkle if you need help with this. On behalf of myself and District Governor Helen, thank you for your participation in this project.

Mike Reid, District Governor Elect



I hope each of you had a great Thanksgiving and that your plans for Christmas include time with your family and friends and some “down” time for yourself. I appreciate the support I have from each of you and I am looking forward to getting to know you as we continue our Lions work together. The fund raising project for the Marion Club was selling tickets for chances to win an ATV. The drawing was held November 17th and the lucky winner was Zone Chair, Maryan Holt from the Burnsville Club. Again, thank you for your support and for the work you do for the VIPS in our communities and all others in need.

Chuck Wills
1st. Vice District Governor Elect



Congratulations! We have met the 40% goal needed for December 30th. We now need to push to reach our 100% by June 30th. Remember, honorariums and memorials can be designated to fund White Cane. I will began making visits to clubs again in January. If I have not made a presentation at your club meeting, I will be there early in 2012. District 31B White Cane donations for Lions year 2010-2011 were used to provide \$5,145. for walking canes, \$41,300 support for VIP campers, \$9,938 matching funds for eye glasses and vision exams, \$8,025 for education grants to children of VIP parents or parent and \$11,092 for Vision Van screenings. Thank you for the care of VIPS and the visually challenged in North Carolina. I appreciate your support of me as District White Cane Chair and as 2nd. Vice District Governor Elect. I look forward to continuing my Lions work with you, my Lions family.

Sharon Weddington, 2nd. Vice District Governor Elect



Diabetes and Clinical Eye Research Report
Susan Cole

Merry Christmas. In order to be healthy and help avoid diabetes, eat sensibly and don't overeat or load up on carbs and sugar. Don't forget to support Clinical Eye Research for all the good work done with eye disorders for children and adults in the Lions eye centers at our NC major university hospitals.

Zone 6 Chair, Peggy Ross reminds members of the Balls Creek, Claremont, Maiden, Newton, Sherrills Ford Clubs to make their reservations now to attend the Zone Christmas Party to be held Dec. 8th @ 6:00 p.m. at Camp Dogwood. Reservations can be made by contacting Rich Davis @ 828-478-2135 extension 232. Please join your Zone 6 Lions family for this time of fellowship, fun and food. Members of the Sherrills Ford Club will be hosting a Christmas Dinner for residents at a local nursing home. Contact Club President, Ed Nolley if you can help with this project.

Notice

**Second Annual Statewide
North Carolina Lions Auction
Hosted by the 2010-2011
Council of Governors**

Notice

Date: March 31st, 2012

Where: The Charles Mack Citizens Center
215 North Main Street
 Mooresville, NC

Auction proceeds will be donated to
**William L. Woolard Partner-in-Service
Programs and Services of North Carolina Lions, Inc.**



Contact PDG Bob Sprinkle for additional information
to donate items and for item pick ups
336-372-8956/336-657-7981 sprinkle89@skybest.com

News from West Iredell Club

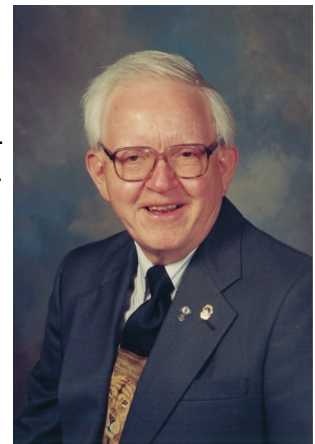
Members of the club recently purchased a Kinderboard ® for a VIP student to use in doing his homework. The Kinderboard ® is an excellent tool to assist people with vision challenges. It has oversized keys and large, bold, easy-to-read numbers and letters and features color coded consonants, vowels, numbers and punctuation marks.



Congratulations to our dear friend and long term member of the Lions Family, PDG Lenual Forsyth. The District 31B Convention book was dedicated to Lenual and seven of his Council surprised him with a visit. Lenual currently serves Lions as Chaplain and as chair of District 31B recycling program.

Thank you Lenual for being our mentor, leader and friend.

The members December service projects will be hosting a meal for volunteers and recognizing the work they do and to volunteer as bell ringers for the Salvation Army on December 10th.



Members of the Avery County Club are very busy selling trees as their annual fundraising project. You won't find them at home or at the club meetings—however, if you need a Christmas tree, call an Avery County Lion.

Troutman Happenings

Submitted by Club President— Rich Davis.

We have two new members, John & Shirley Schaberl, who are already initiated into fundraising (parking cars & selling tickets). We are planning a barbecued pork sale sometime in February or March depending on weather. Our hope is that everyone had a great Thanksgiving and we wish you all a very Merry Christmas. We continue to mourn John Sipes, a long term member of the Troutman club who passed away a couple of weeks ago.

Long View in the News

District Governor Elect, Mike Reid visited with our club at our first meeting of November. At that time, DGE Mike installed a new member, Rick Huffman and presented PDG Robert Frye a pin for his twenty years of service to Lions. During the month of November, our members raised \$400 for White Cane during a road block and hosted our annual Pancake Breakfast fundraising event. Mr. Bill Wiggs from the Hickory Kiwanis Club visited our club and spoke about the park being build in the community for Zahra Baker. The park will have playground equipment for the children with physical handicaps including those that are visually impaired. The Kiwanis Club opted to purchase equipment costing approximately \$4,000 and the Long View Lions Club voted to get more involved with this project and donated \$500 toward the purchase of the equipment. I challenge other clubs in District 31B to support this project or any projects that support children with special needs.

Submitted by Club President—Eric Killian



**2011 Sparta
Christmas Parade**



**2011 Holiday Meal for
Local VIPS**



**Holiday Food Boxes for
Local VIPS**



Submitted by Club Secretary, Ellen Widener



Members of the **Burnsville Club** are selling fruit cakes (homemade using all natural ingredients) & fruit baskets. Contact Maryan Holt at MHolt47700@aol.com to place orders or for additional information.

Their Christmas Dinner for local VIPS will be held
December 8th.

Submitted by Zone Chair, Maryan Holt





Celebrate the season the North Carolina way with country broil. The **Lake Norman** Christmas party will be held December 20th at the club house. Lion Mike Sabbaugh and his crew are fixing a country boil for dinner. Members and guests are invited for a fun evening of food, fellowship and gift exchange.



The big event being planned for the Lake Norman Club is the annual reverse raffle. This is certainly a gala event—complete with terrific food, an open bar and the chance to win \$10,000. The proceeds from this event are used by the club to fund local, state and international Lions projects. For additional information, contact Howard Homesley, the newest member of the Lake Norman Club.

Merry Christmas to all.

Submitted by JoAnn Deal, Club President



Once again, members of the Boone Club set up a booth at the Valle Cruces Apple Fair, selling several hundred dollars in brooms and raffled a Tumbleston print as one of their fund raising events. 1st. Vice District Governor Elect attended our November meeting providing an excellent White Cane program presentation.

The Club Christmas party will be held December 13th @ the Boone Country Club. At that time, PDG Bob Sprinkle will induct Lion Susan Cole into the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, North Carolina's most prestigious award. **Congratulations to Susan—a long time dedicated member of our Lions family.**



Submitted by Zone Chair, Roger Bodo



Members of the Spruce Pine Club recently held a White Cane Drive and presented a \$1,000. check to Sharon Weddington, White Cane Chair.

Members of the club are planning a partnering project with the fourth grade class students in Mitchell County to plant trees in the community.



Submitted by Zone Chair, Maryan Holt



The family of PDG Dennis Alcock express their gratitude for condolences received during the their time of loss. The support, cards, prayers and expressions of sympathy are gratefully acknowledged and deeply appreciated.

Daphne Alcock and Family



Members of the Bethlehem Club raised over \$700. with recent fund raising projects and plans to take up a special collection to purchase Christmas gifts for children in foster care in the community.



With a grateful heart, members of the East Iredell Club will host an Appreciation Dinner inviting friends of the club, volunteers, current club members and former members and their families.

The Taylorsville Club members will host the Vision Van on December 8th from noon until 6:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church. Gary Smith with DSS, has forwarded an invitation to join in the Taylorsville Club Christmas Banquet to be held December 12th. \$150. was earned in minutes by selling Lions Club Christmas donation letters, a project designed and promoted by Zone Chair Hazel Yoder.



Information provided by Zone Chair, Hazel Yoder



The North Carolina Lions VIP Fishing Tournament is held each year in mid- October. The following is a summary costs for each VIP participating in this event:

1. \$60. cost of fishing in the tournament (rental of equipment/bait, etc.)
2. \$17. cost of a double occupancy hotel room for Sunday Night. (Because of travel time involved, participants from District 31B arrive one day early.)
3. \$60. cost of meals while traveling to and from, and one breakfast and two lunches during the tournament.
4. \$72. for round trip travel on the chartered bus (each bus holds 52-55 passengers and costs \$6,600. plus the costs of driver meals and lodging expenses.)

Each year, many Lions volunteer their time (at their expense) to assist VIPS during this once a year time with their peers. Each volunteer pays \$85. to attend the tournament. Meals, events, visits to local attractions and time assisting with fishing on piers or boats begins at 6:00 a.m. and ends around 10:30 p.m. It is evident the \$5. per member requested to fund the VIPS Fishing Tournament will not cover these costs. (Refer to page 55 in the District 2011-2012 directory.) Current membership in the district is 771. 771 x \$5 = \$3,855. During the Lion year 2010-2011, only \$1,830. was received from members and to date for Lion year 2011-2012, only \$715. has been received. The participation of VIPS averages 50-60 per year and the costs averages \$12,000. per year. To raise \$12,000, each member in the District will need to contribute \$15. either through the club treasurer or private donations. District 31B VIP committee Lions are: Glenn Weddington (828-428-9747), Tim Anderson (828-464-6990) and PDG Willie Hudson (704-664-3209). These dedicated Lions are available to visit each club and present the VIP program.

This article is a summary of information provided by Lion Glenn Weddington



Club Birthdays:

Balls Creek 12/14/56
Bethlehem 12/10/64
Lake Norman 12/8/80

Lions Calendar:

District Governor Elect Training 12/2-4
NCL, Inc. Executive Committee Meeting 12/10

May peace on earth become more than a Christmas wish, but our hope for a way of life. Merry Christmas.

Scribbles