



Alabama Lions District 34C Newsletter

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Hello Lions of District 34C!

I am writing only two weeks after holding our district convention in Demopolis. Thank you to those that attended our convention last weekend. I believe it was a successful and learning experience. We had 44 lions attend Friday's evening session and 54 lions attend the Saturday session. I really enjoy hearing the club reports and getting a grasp of all the wonderful service you as lions clubs are providing to your communities!

It was a pleasure having International Director Bill Phillipi and his wife, Lion Vickie, join us during the convention. We also elected a new 2nd Vice District Governor to fill the position for the remainder of this year, as Lion Buddy Weston had to resign due to health reasons.

Our District Governor Elect Claudia Wigglesworth is eager to begin her year as your governor come July 1st, as is 1st VDG Elect Andy Marshal of Headland lions is ready to support her and your club in 2017-2018. We still have the 2nd VDG position open for the coming year, so I ask that you consider any potential leader in Lions that is qualified and willing to serve in this capacity and let DGE Claudia know who that special candidate may be.

Presidential Awards Presented at District Convention

Visiting International Director Bill Phillipi presented two **Presidential Awards** to two special and hardworking lions in our District. Those lions were Dr. Alexandra Conniff of the Eufaula Lions and Michelle Jones of the Mobile Lions.

Dr. Alexandra Conniff of the Eufaula Lions Club

- Dr. Alexandra Conniff single handedly organized a large Leo Club in Eufaula HS in 2010
- She was moved to the middle school last year, but she continued working with the high school Leo club. Their yearly agenda is very eclectic:
 - They volunteer to help the Lions of Clayton put out the "American Flags" four times a year.
 - They assist the Corps of Engineers clean trash from Lake Eufaula shores
 - They help the Eufaula Lions Club with their Annual Youth Hunt



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- They visit assisted living homes to sing and cheer up the residents.
- They work with the Boys and Girls Club, tutoring reading and math
- They pick up trash along the highway.
- They assist the Eufaula Lions Club in their big fundraiser, “Dinner in the Dark”

Dr. Conniff has been President of the Eufaula Lions Clubs twice, always bringing creativity and impeccable organizations to meetings and projects.

- She has been Zone Chair twice and seldom fails attending any projects where leadership and cooperation is emphasized.
- Dr. Conniff has attended more than 13 International Conventions and numerous State Conventions.
- She has served and chaired many state committees.
- She has attended three Ophthalmic Missions to Mexico, exhibiting her organizational skills as well as her dedication to servicing the underprivileged.
- She volunteers many weekends with other Eufaula Lions Club members cleaning, reading lenses, and registering them in to the computer for incoming missions.

Michelle Jones of the Mobile Lions Club

- Implemented a service program for the Mobile Lions Club to be able to tend to the less fortunate in our community for eye care
- Reinvigorated their sight program and grew the number of those helped by over ten fold
- Developed a voucher system to qualify candidates to ensure Lions assets are properly allocated
- Developed a system of delivery of services that is streamlined and seamless
- Continues to facilitate their ongoing annual screening of boys and girls clubs in which approximately 600 kids are screened annually
- Extended outreach of the Mobile Lions site program to homeless community with two additional annual screenings
- Further enhanced partnership with the Birmingham Callahan Eye Clinic
- Created a partnership with Victory Health Partners to ensure new eyeglasses for working poor in our community
- Furthered the partnership with Mobile Health Department and was instrumental in attaining new equipment at a value of over \$50k!!

Because of Michelle, any time you mention eye care for less fortunate in the Mobile community, you hear the Lions Club of Mobile as the answer!!

District 34C LCIF Report

Lion Randy Nolley provided the district LCIF report for PCC Glen Elmore, our district LCIF Coordinator. He reported that our district goal of donating \$30,000 to LCIF is only at 31.7% as of the district convention. Thirteen of forty-one clubs have made

donations this year. Four Melvin Jones Fellows have been presented. Thirteen clubs still have funds available to donate that can help us achieve 100% of our goal.

Leadership Development

District GLT Linda Ziglar reported at the convention that the district would host a series of training sessions on May 13, 2017 for incoming club officers and zone chairpersons. The training will be held at the Evergreen Chamber of Commerce, 100 Depot Square, Evergreen, Alabama. Please let your incoming club officers be aware of this date and make plans to attend. The training will be provided free to the attendees. Lunch will be provided too! Check out the flyer notice for details at the end of this newsletter.

Membership Growth

GMT-D Ron Mitchell reported at the convention that we as a district have gained 83 new members but at the same time have dropped 124 members. Again, our goal is that each club finish the year at *Plus One!* All it takes is to hold a membership drive a couple times a year. If your club is struggling in gaining membership, please call on Ron Mitchell to visit your club. He is ready and willing; awaiting your call!

Centennial Celebration

Multiple-district Coordinator Ron Seybold gave an enthusiastic report on the centennial celebration; encouraging lions of District 34C to attend the MD-34 Convention in Birmingham, May 18-21, which will be a centennial party in itself and also encouraging lions to attend the Centennial Convention Celebration in Chicago. Every 100 minutes at the state convention, a centennial prize will be given away, so don't miss out on this exciting Alabama Lions event!

Club Reports

There were sixteen clubs that gave excellent reports on their service activities conducted this year. There will be a special email sent out of all the club reports as soon as possible, so look for that report to hit your inbox!

Photos

I ask that any lion that took pictures at the convention, if you would kindly send them to me, I would be glad to post them to our FB page and to our District Website. For now here is your District Governor and Cabinet Treasurer sporting a sample of the hats that will be worn by Alabama Lions as they march in the Centennial Celebration parade in Chicago! Until later, keep up the great lions work in your community!



District Website

Our district website provides a wealth of information for all lions. Our webmaster, Lion Jackie Benson of Saraland Lions and GMT-D Ron Mitchell are doing an excellent job in keeping the website current. Photos of your district convention are now posted there for your viewing! Club officer training modules are available through the website too. A members only tab takes you to a number of district resources. This newsletter will also be made available under the Newsletter tab.

MD34 State Convention

Your multiple-district state convention will be held in Hoover, AL at the Embassy Suites, 2960 John Hawkins Parkway, May 18-21, 2017. This convention will be like no other, as it will be the beginning of the centennial celebration crescendo which will carry into the International Convention in Chicago, June 30-July 4, 2017. If you haven't yet registered for the convention and made your reservations, please do so right away. Don't miss out. Convention registration info can be found on our district website, alabamalions34c.org and on the new MD34 website at lionsmd34.org.

Officers Elect

All lions clubs are encouraged to designate your incoming club officers through MyLCI (<https://mylci.lionsclubs.org/LogIn.aspx>) by May 15, 2017. Current officers will be locked out of MyLCI by July 15, 2017. District Governor Elect Claudia Wigglesworth is in search of Zone Chairs for the seven zones in district 34C. This is the time to identify new leaders among us lions that are ready, willing, and eager to lead this district into our second centennial of service. Serving as a leader in lions helps you grow in Lionism and can better your leadership skills in your personal and professional roles as well. If it's not you that wants to step up, maybe you know someone that needs only a little nudging. Just tap them on the shoulder and offer them encouragement and support. Help them succeed!

Future District Newsletters

Future newsletters will depend on your feedback; if it's something you would like to see continue, please respond to any of your district leadership team members. This could also be an avenue to submit articles regarding your club's activities; a place to share service ideas, etc. Also, our district Facebook page is available for anyone to post your lions activities photos too.

Remember our motto, "We Serve!"

Club Officer Training At its Best!

SAVE THE DATE

For

Incoming Officer's Training

Saturday, May 13, 2017

Evergreen-Conecuh Chamber of Commerce

Evergreen, AL 36401

100 Depot Square

A "No Charge Course" for

Club Presidents

Club Secretaries

Club Treasurers

Zone Chairs

And a Few Surprises!