



Multiple District 18 – Lions of Georgia

August 2023

Notes From Your Council Chair

Fellow Lions and Leos,



I am honored to be selected as your Council Chair for 2023-2024. I look forward to following in the footsteps of those who have so aptly served before me in the most exciting multi-district in Lions International!

I want to congratulate PCC Mark Bradley and his Council of Governors on a tremendous year and a wonderful convention. I want to personally thank IPCC Mark for his

encouragement and support in assisting me to prepare for my year.

The incoming governors, others from MD18, and I attended the 105th Annual Lions Clubs International Convention in Boston, MA. Overall, we had a fantastic time and brought back lots of information to share with the state. We had a great time participating in the International Parade of Nations, Southeastern breakfast, wonderful exhibits, Melvin Jones luncheon, inspiring lectures, world-class entertainment, interesting business sessions, and installation of our 2023-2024 International President, Dr. Patti Hill from Canada, *and* our 2023-2024 district governors: DG Dennis Chapman (District L), DG Chris Sullivan (District I), DG Shannon Kingston (District O), and DG Jim Mock (District N). Congratulations to them all!



MD18 also hosted the Georgia Jamboree on Sunday, July 9th while in Boston, which included a Sock Hop and Ice Cream Social. I want to send kudos to PDG Steve Helwig and PDG Shellie Smith for the outstanding job they did organizing this event. We danced the night away with Golden Oldies from the 50s! It was an exciting and fun-filled event.

As we start the new year, our Council of Governors will face many challenges in the days, weeks, and months ahead but, as Lions, we know we must keep trying and serve those in need in our communities. They have worked and studied hard over the last couple of years to prepare for this journey. Our exact path may be unclear, but with the help and support of the Lions and Leos in MD18 we will experience many great successes.

One of our goals this year is for all clubs and Lions to support Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF). LCIF is the giving arm of LCI and our foundation. LCIF provides resources for humanitarian needs all over the world. Please have your club consider making a contribution. In addition, please also consider making a personal donation. Remember all donations can help achieve a goal of bestowing a Melvin Jones Fellowship in your club.

I also encourage you to donate to the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation, the Georgia Lions Camp, Learning Ally, and Southeastern Guide Dogs and/or Leader Dogs for the Blind.

Our first Council of Governors meeting is Saturday, August 19th at the Cherokee Pines Fitness and Event Center in Perry, GA. The meeting will begin at 9:00 am and all Lions and Leos are encouraged to attend. Come and see what is going on in your multi-district.

I'm looking forward to a fantastic year meeting all the great Lions and Leos in MD18! Please join us as we navigate through the year showing kindness and providing service around the world.

Remember we are Changing the World.

Yours in Lionism,

Mark Anners

Council Chair MD18



Be The Change! August 2023

MD18 Council of Governors Meeting

You are invited to attend the 2023-2024 Council of Governors Meeting on August 19, 2023, at 9:00 am at Cherokee Pines Events and Fitness Center, 1000 North Davis Drive, Perry, Georgia 31069.

The Council of Governors asks that Committee Reports be submitted no later than Friday, August 11, 2023.

The Council of Governors will hold a work session on Friday, August 18, 2023, at 7 PM.

The MD18 PDG Association will meet on Saturday, August 19, 2023, at 8 AM.

The Vice District Governors will have training after the Council of Governors meeting on Saturday, August 19, 2023, through Sunday, August 20, 2023.

Any other Multiple District committees desiring to have a meeting during this Multiple District event should contact Council Chair Mark Anners to ensure no conflicting scheduling.

We hope to see you there!

Council Chair Mark Anners

North Dekalb Lions Partner for Equipment Drive

TIME SENSITIVE – PLEASE READ: The North Dekalb Lions Club needs the help of their fellow Lions this SATURDAY! Please help with this great service project!



We Serve

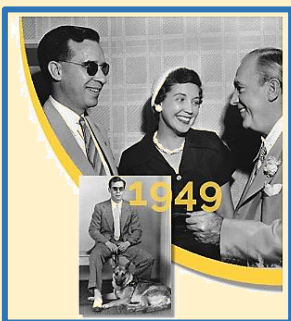
Lions and Rotary clubs are partnering on a joint medical equipment collection drive for Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC), on Saturday morning, August 5, 2023. This service project is to accomplish the collection of donated home medical equipment and/or supplies, which will be refurbished and distributed by FODAC to those in need. Items include hospital beds, wheelchairs, crutches, etc. FODAC refurbishes and then donates the equipment with little or no cost to pre-qualified clients.

We are looking for able-bodied Lions and other adults to load the gear for transportation to a central collection point, but we also need people who can drive to the pick-up locations (even if they can't load items themselves). Volunteers will be assembled into teams.

We will meet at the back patio of the 57th Fighter Group Restaurant, 3829 Clairmont Rd, Atlanta, GA 3034 (next to PDK Airport), at 8:30 AM on Saturday, August 5. We will provide breakfast and drinks for the volunteers and give everyone a few minutes to socialize before heading out to pick up the equipment at about 9 or 9:30 am. Everyone is usually done between 1 and 2. This is a really good hands-on project and is also a great opportunity for fellowship and meeting new people.

Interested volunteers should contact Ralph Sims, the project coordinator at 770-778-1907 or at ralphdsims@gmail.com. Ralph is coordinating the pick-ups so please contact him ASAP!

Lighthouse Prepares For 75th Anniversary



In 1949, the Atlanta Lions Club along with the Moultrie and Albany Lions Clubs, each contributed \$1,000, and the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation was born – fulfilling the dream of blind Lion Tom Bingham of the Atlanta Club. Since then, Lions Clubs have served as the cornerstone of the organization and maintain a vital role in the growth and reach of the Lighthouse mission: *to create a better Georgia by bringing individuals into a world of sight.*

As we approach the 75th Anniversary, please look forward to learning more on the history of GLLF as we roll out the 75th Anniversary Campaign and 3 new recognition opportunities. Visit <https://www.classy.org/campaign/75th-anniversary/c500572>.



Be The Change! August 2023

Our Global Causes



Every journey begins with a single step. One act of service, one encouraging word, or one gift of generosity is often all it takes to bring hope where it's needed most. Over the last 100 years, the kindness of Lions and Leos has multiplied across borders, oceans, and continents. With over 1.4 million members, we now have an opportunity to truly change our world. Our Global Causes present significant challenges to humanity, and we believe it's our calling to meet them.

Diabetes – *We serve to reduce the prevalence of diabetes and improve quality of life for those diagnosed.*

Since 2000, the prevalence of diabetes has risen more than 300% and affects 31 million people, just in our part of the world, and diabetes is the eighth leading cause of death in the US.

For more information, go to <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/start-our-global-causes/diabetes>. **Your Diabetes State Chairperson is Lion Dr. Sabrina Dorce (sdorcehealthcoach@gmail.com).**

Vision – *We serve to prevent avoidable blindness and improve quality of life for people who are blind and visually impaired.*

Consider these vision facts: approximately 253 million people are blind or have moderate to severe distance vision impairment (MSVI); and more than 75% of all blindness and MSVI is avoidable.

For more information, go to <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/start-our-global-causes/vision>. **Your Vision State Chairperson is Lion Lois Modell (lmodell@savannahhcbv.org).**

Hunger – *We serve to ensure all community members have access to nutritious foods.*

As Lions, we see how the global hunger and nutrition crisis bears upon our local communities. Did you know that 815 million people were affected by hunger in 2016, and 155 million children under age five are stunted due to chronic malnutrition?

For more information, go to <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/start-our-global-causes/hunger>. **Your Hunger State Chairperson is PDG Willie Cooper (wcooperokeanos@gmail.com).**

Environment – *We serve to sustainably protect and restore our environment to improve the well-being of all communities.*

Regarding just one issue – trees: approximately 30% of the world's land area is covered by forest, and more than 15 billion trees are cut down every year.

For more information, go to <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/start-our-global-causes/environment>. **Your Environment State Chairperson is Lion Angela Helwig (angelahelwig57@gmail.com).**

Childhood Cancer – *We serve to support the needs of children and families affected by childhood cancer.*

Globally, childhood cancer looks like this: approximately 400,000 children are diagnosed, 9 out of 10 diagnosed children live in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), and less than 30% of those children survive, compared to approximately 80% in high-income countries.

For more information, go to <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/start-our-global-causes/childhood-cancer>. **Your Childhood Cancer State Chairperson is PDG Philip Smith (district18n@gmail.com).**

A note from your newsletter editor: Lions, I will feature information about our global causes in each issue of this newsletter. Please send me details of any club projects that address our global causes. And, please, if you are a state or district chairperson, send me any helpful information you think I should include.



Be The Change! August 2023

Our State Initiatives

GEORGIA LIONS LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION – BETTER VISION. BETTER GEORGIA.



The Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation was the dream of a blind man, Atlanta Lions Club member Tom Bingham. In 1949, the Atlanta Lions Club led by Bingham, the Moultrie Lions, and the Albany Lions, each contributed \$1,000, and the Lighthouse was born. Since then, Lions Clubs have served as the cornerstone of the organization and maintain a vital role in the growth and reach of our mission: to create a better Georgia by bringing individuals into a world of sight.

Did you know?

- Average patient cost exam/glasses = \$25/person vs \$300 for profit
- 52 Georgia counties currently have little or no access to eye care (source: Emory Eye Center)
- 1.4 million Georgians do not have health insurance, and Georgia's uninsured rate of 13.7 percent is the third highest in the US. In rural Georgia, the uninsured rate could climb to more than 25 percent by 2026
- 408,000 low-income Georgians do not qualify for Medicaid in Georgia and make too little to get financial help to buy private insurance at healthcare.gov. These Georgians have incomes below the poverty line (less than \$12,769 a year for an individual or \$21,720 a year for a family of three) and fall into the coverage gap with no affordable health insurance options.

Georgia Lions Resources – <https://lionslighthouse.org/lions-resources/> Explore Lions resources and get information about what's available to you and your local Georgia Lions Club. Find tools to support screenings, communications, fundraising, and volunteering initiatives. Together, we bring improved sight to Georgians who need it most. Contact your district's Lighthouse Director for assistance if needed.

Our State Initiatives

GEORGIA LIONS CAMP – KEEP THE CAMP FIRES BURNING



In 1972, the Okefenokee Lions Club saw a need to provide recreation for the over 12,500 blind children in the state of Georgia. Under the direction and leadership of C.M. Blanton, Past District Governor of Lions District 18-B, it was decided that a one-week summer camp should be held at the Laura S. Walker State Park. In November of 1974, a delegation of Lions met with Governor Jimmy Carter to secure 62 acres of land adjoining the Laura S. Walker State Park. On September 12, 1975, the Georgia Lions' Camp, Inc. was chartered as a non-profit organization.

Camp Objectives:

- to foster the desire for participation in all camp activities
- to develop in campers, a sense of responsibility and respect for others.
- to provide the opportunity to develop a more positive attitude toward their disability
- to enable the camper to learn to accept ways of competing and cooperating with others
- to stimulate in campers greater independence, self-reliance, resourcefulness, and initiative
- to help the camper learn new skills and to explore one's individual abilities
- to encourage participation in, and shared responsibilities of a democratic society
- to provide opportunities for understanding and appreciation through an awareness of the natural surroundings
- to aid the camper to achieve self-realization, self-fulfillment and personal identity
- to provide an opportunity for campers to have FUN

For more information, please visit <https://www.glcb.org/>. Contact your district's Lighthouse Director for assistance if needed.



Be The Change! August 2023

The Global Action Team (GAT)



The GAT is a vast network of dedicated Lions at all levels who are focused on helping districts achieve their goals. This important team helps foster club membership growth, increase Lions' visibility through impactful service, and build strong innovative leaders.

The GAT also serves as a bridge to help facilitate the sharing of information between Lions International and its members. It also acts as a feedback loop that communicates the needs of our Lions back to the association to help improve programs and initiatives. **Global**

Action Team Members

- The Global Service Team Coordinator (GST) champions the service programs, resources, and grants of Lions International and LCIF, empowering Lions and Leos around the world to maximize their service impact. The Global Service Team (GST) helps clubs identify resources and best practices to improve their projects and, by extension, their impact. Quality service projects increase member satisfaction and help attract new members who are looking to serve. **Your Georgia Lions State GST is Lion Doreen Stallworth (stallwor@bellsouth.net).**
- The Global Membership Team Coordinator (GMT) supports membership development and growth at the club and district levels. Growing our membership is essential for realizing our vision of being the global leader in humanitarian and community service. New members inspire our clubs with new energy and ideas while providing the next generation of Lion leaders. New clubs extend our reach into new communities, allowing us to serve more people in new ways. **Your Georgia Lions State GMT is PDG Len Cutuli (r.lcutuli47@gmail.com).**
- The Global Leadership Team Coordinator (GLT) promotes leadership development opportunities to Lions and Leos, which in turn positively impacts our clubs, our members, and our association as a whole, assuring our position as the global leader in providing needed community service. **Your Georgia Lions State GLT is PCC Vicki Hubbard (lionvicki@gmail.com).**

A note from your newsletter editor: Lions, I will feature more information about our Global Action Team in future issues of this newsletter. Whether you are a GMT leader at the club, district, or state level, please send me any helpful information you think I should include.

Spotlight on MD18's Rising Stars



In future issues of this newsletter, this space will be used to recognize Lions who have been growing in their service-mindedness, their leadership skills, and their attitudes of kindness. These Lions are members who energize our clubs and districts. If you know a Lion like this in your club or in your district, please send an email to angelahelwig57@gmail.com to nominate them as a Rising Star.

Please include as much information as possible about the Lion and why you feel they are a Rising Star in MD18. If needed, I will obtain more information from the nominated Lion.

I look forward to learning more about the Lions in our multiple district. Thank you for your assistance!

Lion Angela

"Don't underestimate the power of your vision to change the world. Whether that world is your office, your community, an industry, or a global movement, you need to have a core belief that what you contribute can fundamentally change the paradigm or way of thinking about problems." — Leroy Hood



Be The Change! August 2023

The Global Membership Approach (GMA)

The Global Membership Approach combines a strategic approach and a set of resources for district teams to utilize to develop membership by:

- Rejuvenating districts with new clubs
- Revitalizing clubs with new members
- Re-motivating existing members with fellowship and exciting service.

The approach has universal applicability, with the ability to customize based on regional needs and circumstances.

The GMA is a four step process that can revitalize membership growth to add more active hands in support of our core mission to meet humanitarian needs and be the global leader in impactful service.



- **Step 1 – BUILD A TEAM.** Build a team to support the Global Membership Approach.
- **Step 2 – BUILD A VISION.** Conduct an analysis of your district and develop goals to best serve its needs.
- **Step 3 – BUILD A PLAN.** Build a plan as a team to achieve the established vision.
- **Step 4 – BUILD SUCCESS.** Execute your plan, maintain accountability, and adjust as necessary.

Your State GMA Champion is PDG Willie Cooper (wcooperokeanos@gmail.com).

MISSION 1.5 – Stronger Together at Every Level

Global change comes from local efforts. When we invite new members to our clubs and build new vibrant clubs, it does more than make our communities stronger. It makes the world a kinder, healthier, and better place to live.



Membership Focused

MISSION 1.5 is a dedicated effort. We have committed the next four years to reaching this historic Lions Clubs membership goal.

Teamwork Ready

Every Lion has an important part to play. Together, we can grow Lions Clubs to extraordinary new heights, serving an untold number of people in need.

Proven Process

Our Global Membership Approach is designed to revitalize existing clubs, charter new ones and inspire all Lions through fellowship and exciting service.

MISSION 1.5 Resources

- [Just Ask! Guide](#)
- [Lions Make A Difference Brochure](#)
- [We Are Lions Meeting Poster](#)
- [Logos](#)
- [New Club Development Guide](#)
- [New Club Development PPT](#)
- [New Club Development Training Support Guide](#)

Please check out this message from International President Patti Hill on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RyVgSduoRFQ>.

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."

— Mother Teresa



Be The Change! August 2023

Changing The World



Change doesn't happen all at once. It happens through many small choices. With every act of kindness, we change a life. With every Lions club and Leo club, we change a community. When we change our communities, we change the world.

Lifting others up is what she does. Dr. Patti Hill is an accomplished teacher, administrator, psychologist, and small-business owner. But it isn't her impressive resume that she'll mention when you ask what's important to her. "The purpose of my life on this earth is to help others achieve their potential. If I'm not doing that, I should be!" Dr. Hill makes it her mission to find the potential in others and to create an environment that helps them thrive. "I always see the good in people," she says.

To read about IP Dr. Patti Hill's incredible life of service, even before she became a Lion, go to www.lionsclubs.org and search for "Patti Hill" and read the pdf titled "International President Dr. Patti Hill Theme." You will learn about her and why her theme is "changing the world."

Changing the world is a journey. There is no middle and no end. There is only a beginning—and it starts with us. It happens through the many small choices and acts of kindness we make every day. Together, the sum of our efforts makes the world a better place, one life, one relationship and one community at a time.

Reaching Our Full Potential. President Hill's programs and initiatives will focus on four key priorities for Lions International that are critical to our mission of service.

1. Creating a greener, cleaner environment
2. Sharing our stories with the world
3. Reaching our full potential as Lions and leaders
4. Supporting our global foundation, LCIF

Changing the world is a journey. There is no middle and no end. There is only a beginning—and it starts with us. It happens through the many small choices and acts of kindness we make every day. Together, the sum of our efforts makes the world a better place, one life, one relationship and one community at a time. For more information, go to <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/discover-our-clubs/presidential-theme>.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." — Margaret Mead

Reminder to Lions Club Leaders – Log Your Service!

Service Reporting – To effectively tell our story, measure our impact, and grow membership, it's critical that all clubs report service. Every project we participate in as Lions and Leos, no matter how big or small, is valuable in our journey of serving our communities and the world.

Benefits – For our clubs, reporting service is the final step in our service journey. Reporting service can be a point of pride that can be celebrated and creates a database of the great projects done in a given community. Plus, clubs that report service become eligible for service awards and other forms of recognition. Reporting Service Helps:

- Accurately measure our global impact
- Identify the best ways to work together
- Bring attention to the great work of Lions
- Ensure clubs' service is supported in the best ways possible

For more information, go to <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/service-reporting>.



Be The Change! August 2023

Bigger than Me: Partnering for a Lasting Legacy

From THE LIONS BLOG by Joan Cary – May 06, 2019:

People come and they go. Their priorities change for one reason or another. They get sick. They get old. They pass away. This is the hard truth of life. Individuals are impermanent.

But partnerships can endure. Partnerships are bigger than one person.

“The cast of characters changes over time,” says Nancy Messmer of the Clallam Bay Sekiu Lions in Washington. She and her husband, Lion Roy Morris, continue partnerships they helped create in 2007 with the Washington Clean Coast Alliance, now known as Washington CoastSavers. “You have to keep building the bonds of the alliance to continue,” she adds.

The inspiration for CoastSavers began with a Seattle environmentalist who was leading a small group in cleaning up the state’s most remote beaches. He came to Messmer and Morris with the news that he was ill. He didn’t want sympathy; he just wanted to make sure his work continued.

“Don’t let this die,” Nancy Messmer remembers him saying.

She and her husband knew that if you’re a hard-working person, you can get a lot done just by yourself. “But you can’t do the really big things,” she adds.

To read the rest of this inspiring story, and get more information on Lions’ service and partnerships, visit <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/blog/Bigger-than-Me>.

52 WAYS TO INVEST IN OUR PLANET

Every day should be Earth Day. If you feel the same, visit <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-tips/> for 52 actions and tips to make a difference, every day of the year. One of the primary initiatives of International President Pattie Hill is creating a greener, cleaner environment.

Better Heart and Sugar Health – Free for your community

The Lions Club of Madison GA is sponsoring an innovative diabetes prevention program. The Better Heart and Sugar Health (BHASH) program has been approved through CDC. The primary goal of BHASH is for all participants to obtain 150 minutes of physical activity each week and lose 5% or more body weight. These simple goals help prevent or delay the onset of diabetes and promote general health.

Any Lions Club Chapter in Georgia can sponsor participants in the BHaSH program. The Madison GA chapter in partnership with Healthy Body Plans delivers the digital sessions at no charge for eligible individuals every month. Sessions with videos, podcasts and electronic guidebooks are forwarded over 12-months. Personal lifestyle coaching sessions are included in the BHaSH program.

For more information and how you can offer to your community, please contact Dr. Philip Smeltzer at Psmeltzer@healthybodyplans.com or (833) 933-2639 at the Madison GA Lions Club.

“I think there’s a mythology that if you want to change the world, you have to be sainted, like Mother Teresa or Nelson Mandela or Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Ordinary people with lives that go up and down and around in circles can still contribute to change.” – Jody Williams

*“The only people who can change the world are people who want to. And not everybody does.”
– Hugh MacLeod*



Be The Change! August 2023

Share Your Lions Service Stories

Stories of Pride Made Possible by YOU! If you want to share your stories of service fueled by LCIF grants, visit <https://lcifpride.org/> and sign up. Here's how it works:



Tell your story of LCIF grant service in one of three easy ways: video, text or image and text. Then, go the extra mile – follow the 5 Achievement Action Items below. These include sharing your Lion pride by inviting friends and family to view your story and share it on social media.



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION



Upload
Your Story



View
Entries



Share



Refer a
Lion



Donate

Next, refer other Lions or Leos to share their stories too.

Finally, continue your support and empower the compassionate service of Lions and those who need our help through a donation of any amount.

Once you've completed each Achievement Action item in order, you'll be entered into a drawing to receive a chance to be featured on LCIF's Facebook page. Lions, let's share our stories!

Reminder – Lions, Develop Your Leadership Skills!



As Lions and Leos continue to seek out opportunities to Learn, Lead, and Grow, Lions International offers resources to support Lions and Leos. Whether you want to learn and enhance leadership

skills, to lead and mentor others by becoming a trainer, or to grow and develop future leaders, there are Leadership Development institutes and programs targeted especially for each purpose. These institutes teach the skills needed to become a great leader and to transition those skills to the next generation.

Develop skills to become an effective leader through the Emerging Lions Leadership Institute (ELLI), the Regional Lions Leadership Institute (RLLI), and the Advanced Lions Leadership Institute (ALLI).

Strengthen facilitation skills to train the next generation of leaders through the Faculty Development Institute (FDI), and the Lions Certified Instructor Program (LCIP).

To learn more about these high-demand institutes, view schedules, and apply, [click here](#).

Lions, Stay Cool! Stay Hydrated!

In the extreme heat of the summer, it's so important to be aware of the risks of overexposure to the heat.

HEAT EXHAUSTION – May cause Heat Stroke

Dizziness
Thirst
Heavy Sweating
Nausea
Weakness

ACT FAST:

Move to a cooler area,
loosen clothing, sip cool
water, seek medical help if
symptoms don't improve.

HEAT STROKE – May cause Death or Disability

Confusion
Dizziness
Becoming
Unconscious

ACT FAST:

CALL 911!

Move victim to cooler area,
loosen clothing, remove extra
layers, cool with water or ice.