

MD31L NEWS  
Sharing Service,  
September & October  
Before & After the Storm



DAWSON HART  
DISTRICT GOVERNOR

ONCE AGAIN, I WANT TO THANK THE LIONS OF DISTRICT 31L, THE STAFF OF THE MCCUNE COMMUNITY, AND THE NCLF/CAMP DOGWOOD STAFF FOR STEPPING UP IN SEEKING AND MEETING THE NEEDS OF ALL COMMUNITIES IN WESTERN NC AS THEY RECOVER FROM THE AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE HELENE. GREAT WORK HAS BEEN DONE AND THERE IS MORE TO COME IN THE LONG ROAD TO RECOVERY.

UPCOMING WE HAVE A DISTRICT CABINET MEETING THAT WILL BE HELD VIA ZOOM ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH AT 2PM. A LINK WILL BE SHARED AS THE DATE GETS CLOSER. THIS WILL BE A GREAT TIME TO GATHER AGAIN. ALTHOUGH NOT ABLE TO BE IN PERSON, IT WILL BE A TIME TO RECONNECT AFTER MUCH TIME PASSING SINCE WE GATHERED TOGETHER IN JULY. AT THIS MEETING, I WILL BE ASKING FOR NO REPORTS FROM DISTRICT CHAIRPERSONS, GLOBAL ACTION TEAM, OR ZONE/REGION CHAIRS OTHER THAN REMARKS ON HURICANE RELIEF EFFORTS AND THEIR EFFECTS ON YOUR SPECIALIZED TOPIC FOR THE DISTRICT. FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT, I WILL ASK THE ZONE CHAIRMEN TO BRIEFLY GO OVER THE DISASTER RELIEF EFFORTS REPORT THAT YOU RECENTLY SUBMITTED TO ME.

A REMINDER THAT PEACE POSTER AND PEACE ESSAY ENTRIES ARE DUE BY NOVEMBER 15TH. GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF OUR REGION, THESE WILL BE JUDGED VIRTUALLY BY A SELECTED COMMITTEE FOLLOWING THE DISTRICT CABINET MEETING ON NOVEMBER 16TH. PLEASE SUBMIT ALL PEACE POSTER ENTRIES AND PEACE ESSAYS BY EMAIL TO ME. THE WINNING ENTRIES OF THE POSTER AND ESSAY COMPETITIONS WILL BE CONTACTED ABOUT MAILING IN THEIR PHYSICAL ENTRIES TO MOVE ONTO THE MULTIPLE DISTRICT LEVEL OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COMPETITIONS.

UPCOMING IN MARCH THERE IS A ONE-OF-A-KIND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY AFFORDED TO ALL NC LIONS, NO PREREQUISITES. OUR DISTRICT IS AWARDED FIVE SPOTS AND WE WILL HOLD A WAITING LIST SHOULD MORE SLOTS BECOME AVAILABLE. CONTACT ME FOR MORE INFORMATION AND SEE PAGE 18 FOR DETAILS ABOUT THIS LEARNING OPPORTUNITY.

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### Articles and Information:

North Carolina Lions Foundation Inc Installation and Awards Ceremony  
USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum      Weekend at Leader Dogs for the Blind

**Rooted in Lions Picks of the Month: September:** Unifour Lions Children's Sight Program    **October:** Etowah Lions Farmer's Market  
NCLF Board of Directors & Council of Governor Accommodations & Meal Reservation Form



# Prayer Requests



Pray for stamina for Lion Karen of the Black Mountain Lions Club as she recovers from heart/pacemaker surgery.



**Lion Jason M. Foster**

September 21<sup>st</sup> changed his life! A hit-and-run accident in Kings Mountain left this Gastonia Lion severely injured and unable to work. Now facing mounting medical bills and a loss of income, Jason needs our help!

**Help Jason Overcome This Challenge**



[www.gofund.me/dd7ad1b7](http://www.gofund.me/dd7ad1b7)

Please keep Jason of the Gastonia Lions Club in your prayers. From the date of his accident, he is expected to be unable to work for seven months until all surgeries and recovery are complete.



Pray for strength for Past District Governor Ken of the Weaverville who has been recently released from the Intensive Care Unit.



Our original scheduled guest speaker for our district convention, International Director Debbie recently lost her mom to death. Debbie also started chemotherapy for her recently diagnosed cancer.



Please submit prayer requests to newsletter editor, Lion Liz at [elizabethkhart@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethkhart@gmail.com)

Please pray for the many unspoken requests: those struggling with health and spirit, for healing in coping with the aftermath of Helene, for those who experienced great loss in the aftermath, and more.

Pray that peace may be sprinkled into the hard moments of our everydays and for opportunities to uplift one another.



RIP  
Past NCLF President  
Karl Ernst  
1951- 2024  
Please pray for his wife Barbara and their family.





# Lake Lure Leos Club



## #WhyIAmALeo



MORGAN ROSELYN



ANNA



NICOLE



GREENLEY

What makes being a leo cool?

We get to help our community, just like the amazing Lions do.

What makes being a leo cool is we help the school we have fun meetings and we have great members.

Being able to serve the community.

What makes being Leo cool?  
Being a leo is cool because I can help people, and volunteer for cleaning things like the clothes closet.

Being able to help people who need it.

### FAVORITE SERVICE PROJECTS

What do you enjoy most about being a leo?

What do you enjoy most about being a leo?  
I enjoy being a leo because I get to help people, and hang out with friends while helping people.

What I enjoy most about being a Leo is the connection between all the members, and the projects we get to do.

What I enjoy most about being a leo is having a great group of leos and meetings are always fun and exiting. I also like our service projects that we do.

Being part of a great team and community. The food and service projects.



Visiting adopted McCune resident Chuck for his birthday!



Clothing closet clean up



Recycling old eyeglasses and learning about vision screenings



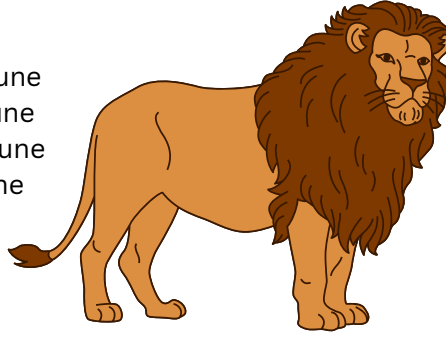
VIP Christmas Party



# Welcome to our PRIDE

## July 2024

Barbara Allison- Black Mountain McCune  
 Carl Andersen- Black Mountain McCune  
 Carolyn Hughes- Black Mountain McCune  
 Grant Helms- Black Mountain McCune  
 Chuck David Jr.- Lake Lure  
 Christina Towery- Sherrills Ford



## August 2024

Gary Ridenour- Asheville Greater  
 Alma Bush- Black Mountain McCune  
 Luke Farmer- Candler  
 John Sutton- Candler

## September 2024

Charles Vanderkolk- Weaverville  
 JoAnna Vanderkolk- Weaverville

## October 2024

Jeff Oxendine- Long View

*Until we*

Lion Ethel Rhodes

July 30, 2024

1 year of service

Hendersonville Lions Club



*meet again*

Lion William Richard Hood Sr.

August 8, 2024

18 years of service

Rutherfordton Lions Club

ATLEAST 6 MULTIPLE DISTRICT 31L LIONS THAT WE KNOW OF THAT HAVE LEFT THE STATE OF NC DUE TO LIVING CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE HELENE



Congratulations Lion Monica of the Lake Lure Club on being honored with a Melvin Jones Fellowship!

## SHOUT OUTS



Congratulations to Canton Lion and Pisgah High School Leo's Advisor Stephanie for being recognized as Haywood County Schools' Teacher of the Year!



Congratulations to the Sherrills Ford Lions Club for achieving Lions Clubs International Club Excellence Award for the 2023-2024 Year. Pictured is District Governor Dawson presenting the award to the club president of the 2023-2024 year, Lion Tammy.

Congratulations to the Etowah Lions Club for achieving Lions Clubs International Club Excellence Award for the 2023-2024 Year. Pictured is Immediate Past District Governor Susan presenting the award to her home club's president of the 2023-2024 year, Lion Dick.





# UPDATES

## DEADLINE & ADJUSTMENTS FOR OUR YOUTH PARTICIPANTS



**Deadlines established by Lions Clubs International remain the same.**

November 15th

- i. Peace Essay submissions postmark deadline to District Governor Dawson Hart [address in directory]. If possible, please also email a digital copy is possible as judging will be taking place virtually.
- ii. Peace Poster submissions- email a picture of the entry to DG Dawson Hart at dawsonhart313@gmail.com, with a note of the measurements.

JUDGING: Judging of the Peace Poster and Essay competitions will take place virtually. The winning peace poster will be requested to be mailed in an art tube to MD31 Council Chair, Lion PDG George Suggs [address listed in directory] immediately following the judging to proceed to the next level of competition, Multiple District.

**Ideas for expanding the impact and community relations with the Peace Contests**

- Seek a visiting exhibit or display at the local art museum, library, or other public facility such as town or city hall to showcase all peace poster entries for the community to enjoy.
- Correlate with your peace essay entrants who are not advancing in the competition in publishing their peace essays and or seek a public reading opportunity such as that of a city hall meeting, library activity session, or a coffee shop poetry slam session.

“Make Your Mark” ~International President Frabricio Oliveira

**With the aftermath of Hurricane Helene, the future holds unknowns. Below for your reference are scheduled dates, hoping these may still be able to occur.**

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>November</u></p> <p>Friday, 11/2nd: Buncombe Co. Association for the Blind VIP Christmas Party?          11/8-10th: NCLF &amp; COG Meetings &amp; Camp Dogwood          11/12th: Reopening of the Lions Cottage at the Boys and Girls Home of NC          11/16th: District Cabinet Meeting Via Zoom          11/24th: District Convention Planning Meeting via Zoom  <b>Diabetes Awareness Month</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>December</u></p> <p>Sunday 12/1: Christmas Party for Rutherford County VIPs          Saturday 12/7: Christmas Craft Bazaar @ Camp Dogwood          Thursday 12/12: Rutherford College LC VIP Christmas Party  <b>LOOK OUT FOR: Camp Dogwood applications</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>January</u></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>February</u></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>March</u></p> <p>3/14-3/15: District Convention at Camp Dogwood          3/20-3/23: Regional Learning Leadership Institute @ Camp Dogwood          Contact DG Dawson if interested</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>April</u></p> <p>4/3-4/9: Clean Up Week @ Camp Dogwood          4/11-4/13: NC Lions State Convention in Greensboro  <b>Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>May</u></p> <p>Camp Dogwood Season Begins!  <b>COME VOLUNTEER! WE NEED YOU</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>June</u></p> <p>Saturday, 6/14: EOY Celebration at Camp Dogwood at NOON  <b>COME VOLUNTEER @ Camp Dogwood!</b>   <b>WE NEED YOU</b></p>





## District Cabinet Meeting

When: Saturday, November 16th, 2pm

Where: Via Zoom

How: A Zoom link will be shared out as we get closer to the date

### Submitting Newsletter Stories, #WhyIamALion, and Rooted in Lions Submissions

When: continuously

[stories submitted by the 15th of each month will be guaranteed in the next newsletter edition]

How: email [elizabethkhart@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethkhart@gmail.com)

**\*\*Please submit text separately from pictures\*\*** No PDF format accepted

**NOT SURE about the format jargon?**

Just email me and I will help make sure your story gets heard

### Directory Updates:

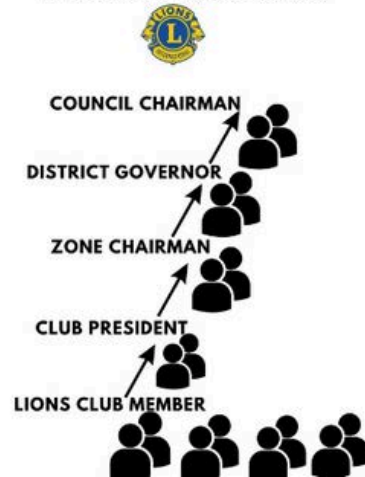
Visit the Member Login Section on the District Website

Thank you to our district historian Lion Liz for updating our history records. She went through the state history records and has found many of our PDGs missing from the district directory that will soon be added.

Phone number correction for Sherrills Ford LC President  
Mills River President email address and phone number correction

### LIONS CHAIN OF COMMAND

WHO SHOULD I ASK FOR HELP?



### NEED HELP? REACH OUT TO DG DAWSON

WHETHER IT BE AN EXTRA HAND AT AN EVENT OR TALKING THROUGH STRATEGIES AND PLANS, GIVE HIM AND HIS TEAM A CALL; DON'T DELAY. REMEMBER WE ARE ONE BIG TEAM & FAMILY



*In this family we love and support one another.*



Thank you to all the lions who have stepped up and participated in GLT Tammy's wonderful leadership development webinars in September. YOU are seen and we APPRECIATE you taking your time to seek opportunities to grow as a lion and as a club.





*Ribbon Cutting and  
Grand Re-opening*

Tuesday, November 12th @ 11AM  
400 Flemington Drive, Lake Waccamaw

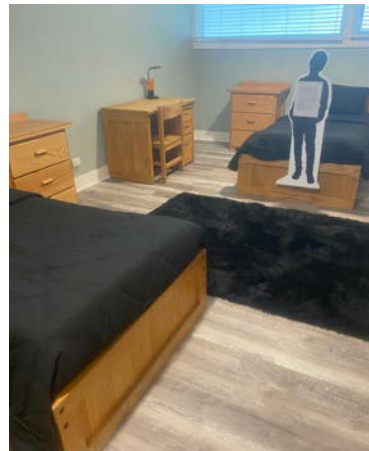
The renovation project is complete and our Lion boys will be moving back in. Please join fellow Lions, H.K. Jordan & Co, Chamber of Commerce and Boys and Girls Home staff for this momentous occasion.

District 31L Boys and Girls Homes Chair, Brittney, who also serves as the McCune Administrator, and her husband Lion Grant attended the 70th Anniversary Gala for the Boys and Girls Home of North Carolina with a spotlight on the Lions Cottage Renovation. Both Lions Brittney and Grant said, "It was something to be proud of as a Lion."

The event presented many speakers, grown adults, once kids of the BGHNC who got their foundation from being in this spectacular place. They shared how being a part of the BGHNC saved them. The eight boys who live in the Lions Cottage are excited to be able to move back into the cottage soon after months of living in other accommodations on the campus. The gala was summed up with a heartfelt moment when one of the boys who lives in the cottage performed a song on the guitar for the attendees.

First year District Chair for Boys and Girls Homes shared, "I am really glad that I got offered this position, because it is in my heart; and actually, seeing it, and hearing those stories really touched me."

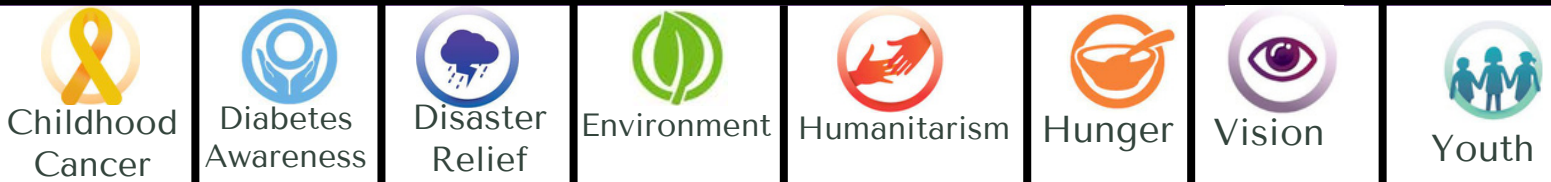
## THE LIONS COTTAGE RENOVATIONS



With the cinderblock walls updated, bright recess lighting, and proper bedroom and living furniture, the cottage boys are sure to feel much safer in their temporary home during their stay at the BGHNC.



# REMEMBER WHY



**GOAL: 1 SERVICE PROJECT PER CLUB FOR EACH OF THE 8 GLOBAL CAUSES DURING THE FISCAL YEAR**

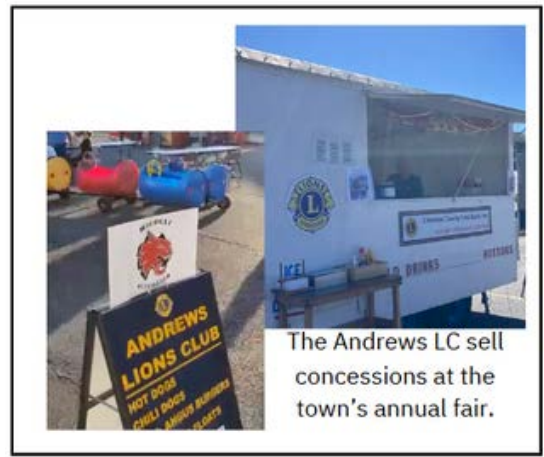
## LET'S FILL THIS PAGE UP WITH SERVICE!



Frankling LC selling brooms at the town's annual Pumpkin Fest.



The Rutherford College Lions Club selling brooms and Camp Dogwood tickets at the Historic Morganton Festival.



The Andrews LC sell concessions at the town's annual fair.



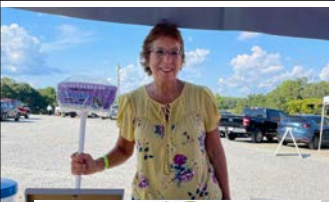
The Pisgah Forest Lions Club hosted a Friday night BINGO night. It was a fun night. Thank you for Black Mountain LC, Swannanoa Valley LC, and the Black Mountain McCune Lions Clubs for coming out and supporting your fellow lions.



The Lincolnton Lions provide parking at the Apple Festival, their biggest fundraiser of the year.



On Saturday September 14th, the Lincolnton Lions Club set up a table at the Word of Life Lutheran Church's annual Cow Pie Bingo held in Vale at Cat's Square. The event was filled with family fun. Not only did the cows come but there was a band and a variety of vendors including: food for sale, artisan crafters, and small owned businesses. They also had fun activities for the kids including face painting, animal balloons, pony rides, and inflatables for the kids to play on.





# YOUTH & CHILDHOOD CANCER



The Long View Lions club has an ongoing environment project, "Plastic to Fantastic" they participate in Trex's community plastic film recycling challenge. With their partnerships with local nonprofits and businesses who save their plastic waste for them, they have saved over 4,500lbs of plastic from landfills. For every 1,000lbs recycled, Trex sends the Long View Lions Club a free bench made of recycled material. Recently the club placed earned benches at the local Primary School.



The Andrews Lions Club help work to the Rotary Club of Murphy's Book Fair!



The Lincolnton Lions Club hosted a blood drive collecting 8 pints of blood. That's approximately 24 lives saved. Great job Lincolnton Lions!



The St. Stephens Lions Club help at a BBQ fundraiser for a local boy who was recently diagnosed with a brain tumor. #CaylorStrong



The Long View Lions Club provided Halloween fun for 300 trick-or-treaters at the town's Trunk or Treat with their ghost balloon pop game and diabetic-friendly prizes.



WITH DONATIONS FROM CLUB MEMBERS AND THE DOLLAR GENERAL, THE ANDREWS LIONS CLUB PASSES OUT OVER 200 CANDY BAGS AT THEIR TOWN'S ANNUAL TRUNK OR TREAT!



The Rutherford College Lions Club provided Halloween for 500 trick-or-treaters.



The Walkin' Roll Activities League is a league nonprofit activities league that aims to support and nurture individuals with developmental disabilities by providing opportunities and to build self-esteem and confidence in individual performance in a nurturing atmosphere. The Long View Lions Club is excited for their growing partnership with them in helping one other in their projects.

For their recent fashion show to raise funds and disability awareness, The Long View Lions Club was a model sponsor and our Lion Dawson Hart, District Governor, walked the runway with one of the models in the "Hometown Heros" segment.



# DIABETES AND VISION

## Long View Lions Club at KidFest



Diabetes Awareness

- free travel crayon packs and diabetes coloring/activity sheets
- voting for your favorite diabetic alert dog in training at Diabetic Alert Dogs of America & informational brochures
- children's diabetic story hour with diabetic characters

## DOLLARS FOR DIABETIC DETECTION DOGS



Together we were able to raise \$100 that will go to assist a NC Client of



Check out the Mills River Lions Club's new vision screening trailer! To date they have screened one school and at a farmer's market event for a total of 37 screenings with 31 referrals and plans for many more screenings this lions' year.



New Lion Chuck getting busy to work as a lion with PCC John by his side.

The Lake Lure Lions Club held their annual screening for the students attending the Lake Lure Classical Academy on Friday, September 20th. They screened a total of 168 students ranging in grades K through 12th. Nineteen students (11.3%) were identified and referred for a further eye examination. The Lake Lure Leos Club worked alongside the Lake Lure Lions members assisting students into and out of the examination room.



The Long View Lions Club, a member of the Unifour Lions Children's Sight Program, and their partner, the Good Samaritan's Farm Worker provided a free vision screening at KidFest including services in Spanish. We screened 19 children's vision with a referral rate of 32%. There was also a children's book giveaway.



On Halloween, the Lincoln Lions Club, along with help from the Long View Lions Club and District I's Bethlehem Lions Club, hosted a vision and hearing searching using the MSU at Lincoln County Senior Services' Well-o-Ween Health Fair. They screened approximately 35 seniors, recruited a new volunteer, sold many brooms, and were able to promote our District's Assisted and Independent Living Facility, the McCune Community. It was a spectacular event all around.



Lions from the Claremont and Newton Clubs set up a table at the Catawba County United Way's Race United Event. Over 20 nonprofits came together to provide this community resource fair. Pictured is Lion Connie and Lion Doris represent the Unifour Children's Sight Program letting community members know of the lions support in vision as well as offered free reading glasses.



# HUNGER AND ENVIRONMENT



During the month of August, the Long View Lions Club participated in the local food insecurity charity, The Corner Table's "Parade of Cans" food drive.



District 31L club, Bethlehem Lions, along with District 31L Clubs of Claremont, Long View, and Valdese in addition to volunteers from JustServe.Org volunteered for an urgent packing session at the Backpack Program of The Corner Table. We packed 800 foodbags for less fortunate school children for the weekend.



**GASTONA LIONS  
SEPTEMBER FOOD DRIVE  
COLLECTED AND DONATED  
OVER 70LBS OF FOOD  
TO CRISIS ASSISTANCE MINISTRY'S  
FOOD PANTRY**



The Long View Lions Club and their community volunteers completed their quarterly street clean up with the Adopt-a-Highway Program removing 13 bags of trash from the streets in town.

## ...AND MORE...

These service pages are just a glimpse into the heart and service of the lions and clubs of District 31L. There is much more services and work being done than can fit on these pages or of which we know. This is especially true in this rebuilding time of the Western NC.

\*\*\*I would love to include your club's service projects but can't if I don't know about them. I try my best to keep up with the happenings of the district through Facebook posts and talking with Lions friends, but I am not able to catch all the wonderful work and heart that the Lions are pouring into their communities. To be sure your club is heard, email pictures and a short blurb to newsletter editor Lion Liz at [elizabethlkhart@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethlkhart@gmail.com) \*\*\*

There is much "boots on the ground" work of disaster relief, of everyday survival and care going on.

I hope these pages inspire you and lift you up to do even more service where you feel led.

For the unpictured...here is just a glimpse of some of what we know is going on...again, there is much more service being done that we can ever know. Thank you. Thank you for your heart, lion.

[Zone 5: Doing laundry for veterans group in Asheville](#)

[Mills River LC: Meeting with the Town Council about the town's needs with many damaged roads and downed trees, work with the food bank](#)

[Greater Asheville LC: Transporting clothing donations to those in need, serving meals to hundreds of veterans](#)

[Swannanoa Valley LC: Delivering supplies, cooking meals](#)

[Sand Hill & Swannanoa Valley LCs: Warehouse work loading/unloading supplies](#)

[Black Mountain McCune LC: Volunteering with local church](#)

[Valley Springs LC: volunteering with the local food bank](#)

...and to the many clubs hosting collection drives and fundraisers for the Hurricane Helene relief efforts





## McCune Moments

### Cottage Ladies Tea- the ladies of the cottages gather together for an afternoon tea

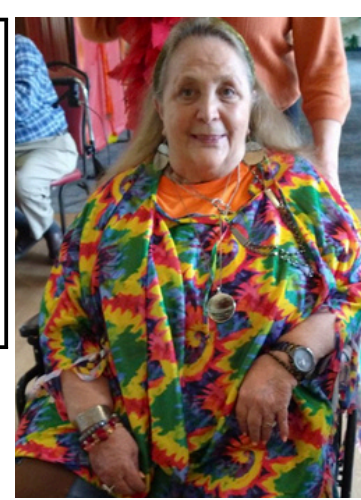


### Banana splits make Black Mountain McCune Lions Club's meetings, even better!



Long time McCune resident and Lion Kim, many of you may know from her participation as a Camp Dogwood Camper, as a fisherman of the NC VIP Fishing Tournament, and for her special talent for remembering birthdates, had her life's dream fulfilled by the Twilight Wish Foundation. On Wednesday, September 4th in the glimmering city of Las Vegas, Lion Kim met her all-time favorite music legend, Donnie Osmond. With her feet propped in a fancy chair, Kim got to visit with Donnie for 45 minutes. She was tickled pink when their meeting was over, and he pushed her in a wheelchair to the elevator in the building. Along with meeting Donnie Osland, from the picture you see, she got to meet some show girls and had the privilege of singing three songs karaoke at a piano bar. The entire experience was just "fuvy" as Kim would say, and Donnie Osmond was friendly, absolutely wonderful, and as sweet as could be. Kim's adventure to Las Vegas was a once-in-a-lifetime and one that will never be forgotten. We are so happy for your Kim! Thank you to the Twilight Wish Foundation for bringing such joy to our Kim!





Lions Elizabeth, Mary, and Joanne help pass out the candy buckets to residents as they prepare for the trick-or-treaters.



The kids loving having their picture taken with Belle [Administrator Brittney] and the Beast [her husband Lion Grant]



Thank you to District 31L Clubs for all your help in making some Halloween fun and magic for our Marjorie McCune Community residents and the local community. Many clubs donated candy and some lions and leos came to help at the event. The Board President, PDG Curtis of the Mills River Club was there along with leos from Charles D. Owen High School Leos Club, and lions from Black Mountain McCune, Swannanoa Valley, Valley Springs Lions Clubs. Residents, lions, and leos lined the hallways welcoming 131 kids and 150 adults through their doors for a boo-tastic time! This Halloween was most special creating some normalcy back for the community as they continue to recover from the aftermath of Hurricane Helene.





North Carolina Lions  
**Camp Dogwood**  
 Clean Up Week  
 Wrap-Up



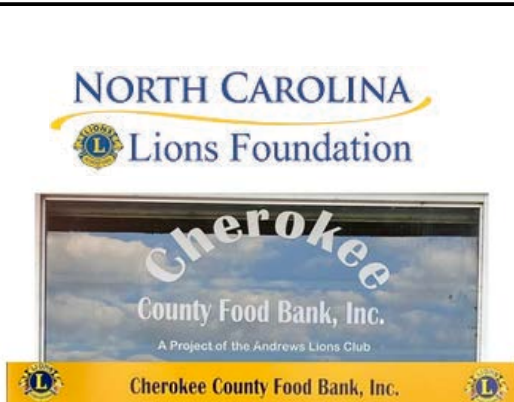
Thank you to the Lions from across the state and all five districts of 31: L,I,O,N,S that came out and helped with the fall clean up week at camp.

Over three days, all together Lions members put in over 500 hours of repairing and freshening up the camp saving the camp in labor costs.

A SHOUT OUT TO DISTRICT 31L CLUBS WHO VOLUNTEERED:

- Etowah
- Rutherfordton
- Sherrills Ford
- West Hickory VIPs

# HURRICANE HELENE RELIEF UPDATES

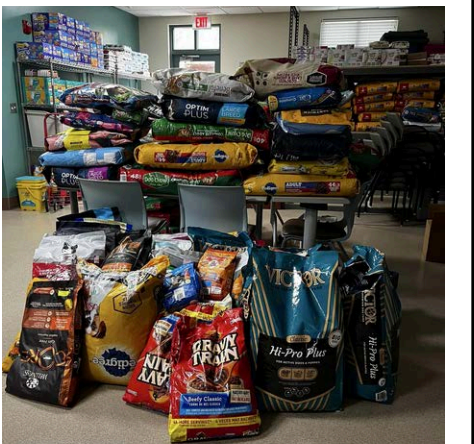


Monday, October 28th:

Today was a full day of service at the North Carolina Lions Foundation with lion ties all around. Truck deliveries of donations from Connecticut and Massachusetts Lions arrived. Less than two hours later, 14 pallets were reloaded and transported to Andrew's Cherokee County Food Bank, Inc., which so happens to be ran by the Andrews Lions Club.



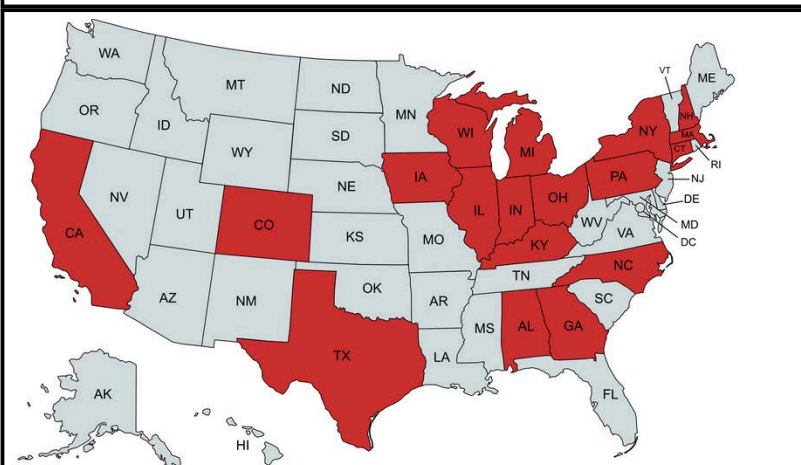
Tuesday, October 29th:  
 Dog and cat food was delivered to a shelter in Catawba County that is supplying animal rescue and shelters in Western North Carolina.





Thursday, October 31st & Friday, November 1st:

Three trucks from Lions in other states totaling 14 pallets plus some loose packed items were taken into the Spruce Pine area.



An updated map of the states that we know of Lions who have reached out in Western NC relief. Please note, with so many donations coming into via Amazon packages, it is hard to ensure that these include all states. To the best of our knowledge, these are the states of which we know.



**Volunteers Needed**  
**MONDAY, November 4th**

**AND**

**TUESDAY, November 5th**

**@**

**Camp Dogwood to unload a truckload delivery of  
Western NC relief supplies**

Contact Lion Tammy for more information  
Overnight accommodations will be provided if needed



**MD31L Clubs efforts operate two HUD apartment complexes for those with low-income.**

UPDATES ON THE SUNSHINE HILL APARTMENTS IN SPRUCE PINE RAN BY THE SPRUCE PINE LIONS CLUB WITH SUPPORT FROM THE SHELBY LIONS CLUB



The apartments are fine, but a couple of cars received damage. Lions Chad and Paula of the Spruce Pine Club Chad went there daily for the first 3 weeks after Helene hit to bring supplies, water, meds, oxygen, medical personnel etc. There were times they were back and forth 4-5 times in one day. The apartments had no water or electricity, and it became a full-time job caring their residents. The lions were surprised how much medical attention was needed. The First Baptist Church and Grassy Creek Baptist Church helped them with all of their needs. Everything is turned back on now, and they have returned to their regular lives. Additionally, Lions Chad and Paula delivered supplies to other HUD apartments post-Helene.



**LIONS LOVING LIONS ACROSS THE STATE**



A new Lions club, less than a year into its establishment, the Ramseur Community Lions Club Branch received a blessing of a load of socks from Kayser-Roth Hosiery and toothbrushes from Ramseur Family Dentistry. Their plan is to assemble toiletry bags to deliver to Western NC and are looking for clubs who would like to join in this project.

Thank you District 310!

**Thank you**



**LCIF**

**LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION**

GRANTS RECEIVED BY MULTIPLE DISTRICT 31 (NC) THIS LIONS YEAR

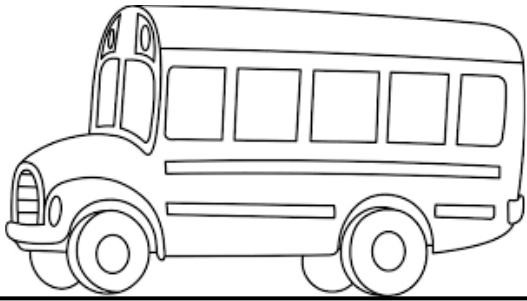
DISTRICT L- \$15,000 DISASTER RELIEF GRANT- CLOSED  
DISTRICT I- \$15,000 DISASTER RELIEF GRANT

MULTIPLE DISTRICT 31 (NC)- WE RECEIVED A GRANT THAT WILL COVER 99% OF THE COSTS FOR HOSTING THE REGIONAL LIONS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

THE ONLY COST TO PARTICIPANTS IS \$25 TO ENCOURAGE PARTICIPANTS NOT TO CANCEL ON THIS STATE-OF-THE-ART TRAINING EXPERIENCE FUNDED THROUGH GRANT EFFORTS

WE ARE BLESSED TO BE ABLE TO HOST THIS TRAINING SO CLOSE TO HOME. IN PREVIOUS YEARS THIS TRAINING WAS NOT OFFERED IN THE STATE OF NC, LET ALONE WITHIN OUR DISTRICT LINES





North Carolina Lions

# Camp Dogwood

## A ROAD FOR HAPPY CAMPERS

The last time campers went on off campus trips was during summer session 2019. Since then, every year campers have requested to bring this aspect of camp back, but WE need YOU to make this possible!

## SEEKING BUS DRIVER VOLUNTEERS

To make this a possibility, we need to ensure that we have 2 bus volunteer drivers for each session

### REQUIREMENTS

- A free background check completed for insurance purposes
- Hold a valid driver's license with no reports for 3 years.
- Provide a copy of your valid driver's license

Participate and complete a short series of free online training videos on sexual abuse and any other topics required by insurance

- Commit to your session and driving the bus for the scheduled trips during your session
- Be able to operate and park a 15-passenger bus in various types of traffic

### INTERESTED?

Email [tammy@nclf.org](mailto:tammy@nclf.org) for more information

### A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE...







**a weekend experience includes:**

**-learn more about your Lions' organization**

**-state of the art leadership training by Lions' Past International Directors of our NC family with skills transferable to your professional career**

**-meet, greet, and network with lions from across the state**

**-free room accommodations and meals**

[first night meal is on your own-outing with the group at a restaurant]

**You pay \$25 for a VALUE of Training worth approximately \$600**

Each year the Multiple District 31 (state of NC) sponsors lions from each district [md31l, md31i, md31o, md31n, md31s] to attend

**WHEN?** Thursday, March 20th-Sunday, March 23rd

**WHERE?** Camp Dogwood

**HOW?** Contact DG Dawson for more information  
dawsonhart313@gmail.com or (828) 302-6957





President  
2024-2025  
PDG Wayne Faber



The Passing of the Gavel Tradition  
Past Presidents of NCLF pass the gavel down the line to the new president,  
PDG Wayne Faber



Outgoing NCLF President, PDG Steve McLaurin



Past International Director,  
Dr. Lacy Presnell presenting the  
Home of the NCLF President Flag



Guest Speaker  
Past International Director  
Gwen White



The Council of Governors consists of all five  
District Governors in the state of NC, The  
Council Secretary/Treasurer, and the  
Council Chair. At the installation, the COG  
was represented by District L's DG Dawson,  
PCC Gary-the council secretary/treasurer,  
and the Council Chair, George who is home  
to District L.

~THE SHERRILLS FORD LIONS CLUB- MOST CAMP DODGWOOD TICKET SALES 23-24

~DISTRICT L- EXCEEDED THEIR PREVIOUS 3 YEAR AVERAGE IN BRIGHTER VISION CONTRIBUTIONS

~PDG CURTIS-RECOGNIZED FOR HIS SERVICE AS THE NCLF TREASURER FOR 2023-2024 AND  
WAS INSTALLED AS THE NCLF TREASURER FOR 2024-2025.





The USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum was held in the vibrant and friendly city of Louisville, Kentucky, from September 5th to 7th, 2024. Lions from both sides of the border gathered for this inspiring event, and the impact of these three days will ripple through our clubs, communities, and beyond.

The forum kicked off with a powerful vision from Fabrício Oliveira, the 2024-2025 Lions Clubs International President. His message emphasized that every Lion—regardless of background or role—can make a significant impact, and it closed Saturday evening with Trish Wilson’s vibrant perspective on life that left us all energized and ready to continue our service journey.

The heart of the forum was the shared learning environment. Over 80 seminars covered a multitude of topics, from building successful clubs to innovative fundraising. My favorite was “Artificial Intelligence and How It Can Change Lions”. Lions leaders from diverse backgrounds came together to exchange experiences, ideas, and best practices.

There were lots of vendor exhibits that also provided education and insight. My husband Mike and I learned about the inspiring efforts from the organization Water by Women, the innovative technology of Nano Droppers, and the promotion of independence from Mobility Worldwide. And much, much more!

The positive energy in the convention center was contagious, but the best part of my weekend was having my name drawn from the raffle to win an original painting of a lion painted by the Thursday Night dinner speaker, Sam Glenn! The sale of raffle tickets for this and 5 other paintings raised thousands of dollars for Children with Cancer, and it looks amazing in my living room!

In summary, the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum 2024 was a beacon of inspiration, camaraderie, and purpose. As Lions, we left Louisville with renewed dedication to service, knowing that together, we can create positive change.

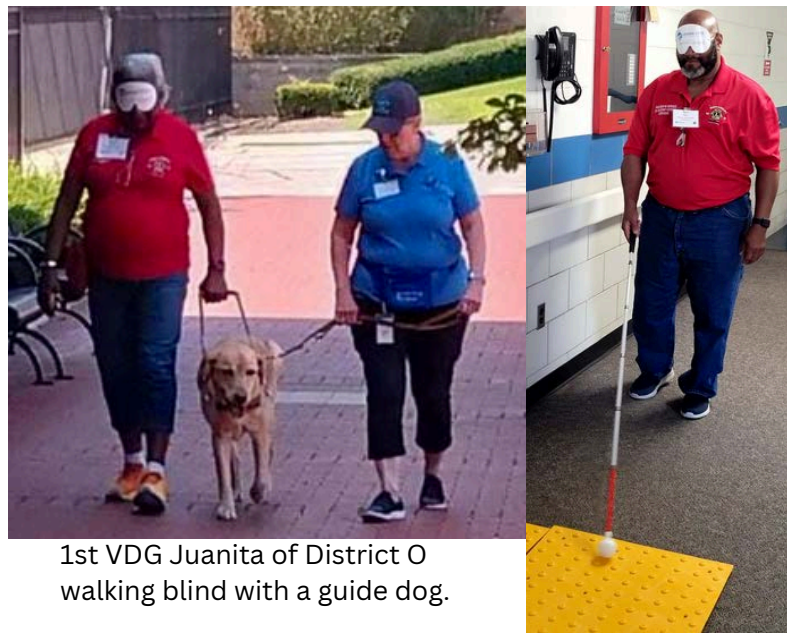
Susan O’Brien  
Immediate Past District Governor,  
Multiple District 31-O







Every year, Leader Dogs for the Blind, an organization originally started by members of a Detroit area lions club, hosts a weekend experience on their campus for First Vice District Governors from all over the country.



1st VDG Juanita of District O walking blind with a guide dog.

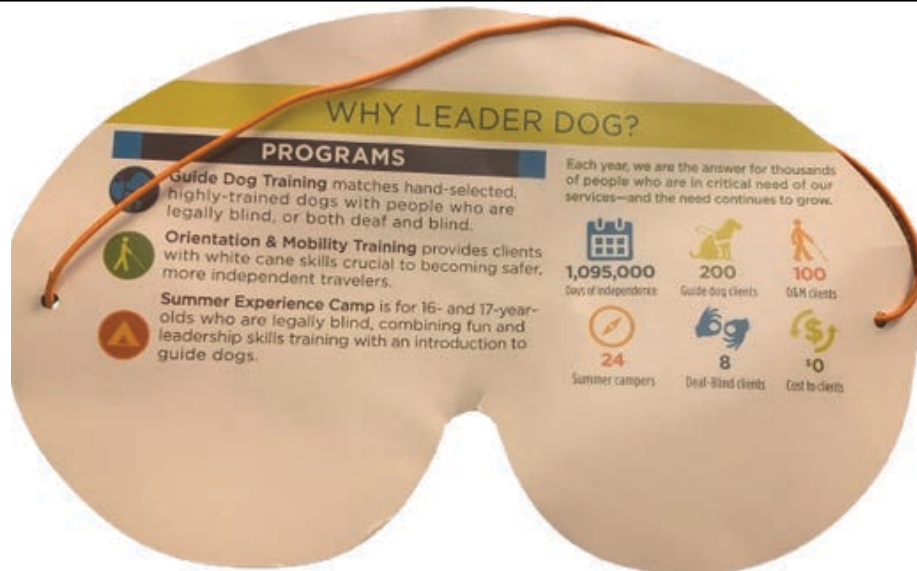
Lion Ron walking with a white cane.

1st VDG Eileen Artavia...“My experience with Leader Dogs for the Blind”

On Friday, August 23rd, I had the privilege of going up to Leader Dogs for the Blind in Rochester Hills, Michigan. What a trip that I will never forget! I met Lions from all over the country and got to share lots of great memories. From North Carolina, I was with fellow 1stVDG, Juanita Brown of District O and her Partner in Service, Lion Ron Rice of District I.

We got to take a tour of the facilities at Leader Dog and experience firsthand how it feels to walk with a white cane, walk with a guide dog and eat dinner in the dark. We also put on glasses that simulate different eye conditions. What a humbling experience to “walk a mile” in someone else’s shoes so to speak! I was asked after walking with the white cane (blindfolded) how it felt, and my response was that it was scary! Then they asked which was better? It was so much better walking with the dog, because I trusted her because of her training!

We got to hear a couple of clients’ experiences and how their guide dog changed their lives! And of course had Leader Dog’s famous chili and doughnuts for lunch. After we got back to the hotel, we had dinner in the dark. Thank goodness it wasn’t the chili and doughnuts! We were seated and given our blindfolds to put on. I was seated with the hostess of the event, and she asked why I was so quiet. I told her that not being able to see is very isolating, not only could I not see, but I also felt invisible to those around me. I am so blessed to have had this experience. I feel like it will make a better Lion and VDG!





**ROOTED IN LIONS**



Highlighted pick of the month: **SEPTEMBER**

**Unifour Lions Children's Sight**

**a partnership of lions clubs in the Great Unifour [Hickory] area**

**District L clubs: Claremont, Granite Falls, Hudson, Lincolnton, Long View, Newton, Rutherford College, St. Stephens, Valdese, and West Hickory VIPs.**

**District I clubs: Bethlehem and Taylorsville**

**Operated under the North Carolina Long View Lions Foundation Inc.**

**PARTNERSHIP = SUCCESS**



**Unifour Childrens Sight**

**Senior Sight**

**Family Sight**



<https://unifourlions.org>

In the past Lions Clubs have been very successful in their projects and service to the community, but obstacles have arisen in recent years with the lack of volunteers in our service endeavors. In response, many clubs have begun partnering with other community service organizations to increase their impact in the community.

Our Unifour Childrens Sight program is proud of the partnerships we have developed and credit those partnerships with the success we are experiencing. Our first partnership was with eleven Lions clubs in the Unifour area who helped raise the funds to purchase our screening unit and equipment. These clubs also each have volunteers and certified screeners to conduct the screenings. Along with these eleven clubs are the 20 companies and individuals from the community who helped provide the funding to purchase our equipment.

In our second year of operation, we were approached by the Good Samaritan Clinic about partnering to open a free vision clinic for the community using their assets, our connections, and our volunteers. This joint venture led to the opening of the clinic in early May which has now examined over 60 patients and delivered 42 pairs of glasses. Its success is due to our partnering optometrist volunteering their time, the clinic providing the facilities, and the Lions supplying glasses through their Essilor program.

After our second year of operation, we again reached out to the community for financial support of our program. Using the vision screening results of 2023 as an achievement of our program we were able to raise 150% of our goals that will allow our clubs to use the vision van at no cost for 2024. Clubs now have those funds normally used in supporting the vision van to help secure glasses normally supplied through the VSP program. Last year the Unifour Childrens Sight program entered into the Essilor program which allows us to furnish glasses at no charge to those in financial need. With the pause of the VSP program, the Essilor program will allow us, along with partnering with local optometrists to continue supplying glasses to our communities' children in need.

Most recently the Long View Lions Club received a large donation from a local business owner whose wish was that the money be used in helping the children of her immediate community to attain vision assistance. After meeting with her and informing her of the pause of the VSP program she opened up the program to all the clubs in the Unifour Childrens Sight program which will help our eleven clubs continue furnishing glasses to the children in our Unifour community.

The Unifour Children's Sight program is a success not by itself, but by the grace of its partnering clubs, partnering Lions members, and the local business community who recognize the value we offer to the community and are willing to support us. So, if you are a Lion and interested in helping the children of your community, I urge you to seek out a partnership with the other clubs in your area, other service organizations, and your local business community in starting a KidSight vision screening program. I guarantee the help is there, all you have to do is to be brave, be willing to serve, and ask for it.

Respectively Submitted,

Lion Wayne Houser, Long View Lions Club



# ROOTED IN LIONS



**HIGHLIGHTED PICK OF THE MONTH OF OCTOBER:  
THE ETOWAH LIONS FARMER'S MARKET**



The Etowah Lions Club, located in Henderson County has been an integral part of their community since their establishment in 1954. They have been a staple in bringing the community together and starting initial institutions in town. They helped to form the volunteer fire department, lobbied for the first post office, donated the land for Etowah Park, established a trash services business, and in 2021, they launched a weekly farmer's market.

Rain or shine, weekly from May through October, you will see the parking lot of their clubhouse filled with over a dozen vendor tents. Local farmers sell in season fruits and vegetables. Other offerings include honey, herbal teas, sweets, breads, and ready to pop in the oven savory pies, quiche, and strudels. Local artisans include metal crafters, wood turners, quilters, and more while shoppers enjoy bluegrass, oldies, and old timey tunes played by three different musical groups.

In addition to weekly offerings of the freshest veggies and unique crafts, the market holds a tomato festival each August to honor and bring attention to its delicacies. The past two years the market has held a health fair to furnish information and other health services to the community. Proceeds from the market have been donated to the local food bank, Fishes and Loaves, and the Veterans Healing Farm.

One week the market was closed due to Hurricane Helene, but it reopened the following week. The Etowah Lions Club just held their last market of the season on October 30th.

Thank you to the Etowah Lions for this community endeavor. What began as a community member's request for the Etowah Lions Club to bring the community together after COVID, has blossomed into a weekly cherished community gathering enjoyed by all. The Etowah Lions Farmer's Market has been a pilot for membership bringing in three new lions into our pride. The community is already anticipating it's kick off of the 2025 season to begin next May. For more information, subscribe to the Etowah Lions Farmer's Market Newsletter or like their Facebook page.





NCLF Board and Council of Governors Meeting  
 7062 Camp Dogwood Drive Sherrills Ford NC 28673  
 November 8-10, 2024  
 Check in 3pm/ Check out 11 am

Participant(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Attending: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ Room Reservation \$75.00 nightly per  
 room Please check which nights'  
 accommodations needed. Friday:  
 \_\_\_\_\_x \_\_\_\_\_ People Saturday:  
 \_\_\_\_\_x \_\_\_\_\_ People

Credit Card Info: MUST BE  
 COMPLETED. You can cancel your  
 reservation up to 7 days prior without  
 penalty. Cancellation within 1- 6 days you  
 will be charged for meals. No show  
 cancellations; you will be billed in full for  
 meals and 50% room cost.

**Reservations are due November 1,  
 2024. After November 1, 2024, meals  
 and rooms cannot be guaranteed.**

	Cost	Person/Person
Friday Night-6 pm Saturday	\$20.00	
Breakfast 7:30 am Saturday	\$13.00	
Lunch 12 Noon Saturday Night- 6pm	\$15.00	
Sunday Breakfast 7:30 am	\$20.00	
	\$13.00	

**Info is NOT kept on file**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Card Type (Circle One)

Master Card Visa American Express

Discover

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV Code \_\_\_\_

I authorize my credit card to be charged  
 in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ with a 3% fee.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

You may also call in your reservation and  
 Card info to the number below.

For reservations please return form to:

NCLF PO Box 39, Sherrills Ford NC  
 28673

OR

Email: april@nclf.org

Fax: 828-478-4419

Or call 828-478-2135 ext.250

Meals are non-refundable.

Meal Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Room Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

**Meal payment is due with  
 reservation.**