

# 2019-2020 BRIGHTER Visions NEWS

north carolina lions  
annual fund drive

A Mission to Care, to Enrich and to Serve our North Carolina Citizens

## NORTH CAROLINA



Lions, Inc.

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Executive Administrator	PDG W. Durden Dean durden@ncdionsinc.org

## BRIGHTER VISIONS COMMITTEE

State Chairperson	PDG Michael H. Schwartz schwartz5483@gmail.com
District 31-L	Frances Coates administrator@mccunecenter.org PDG Marti Henry himrt8@att.net
District 31-I	Bill Mathers billmathers13@yahoo.com
District 31-O	PDG Laraine Dupree leo100@windstream.net Jamie Lockhart Harryjameslockhart1@gmail.com
District 31-N	Robert C. Block Jr. lionrobertblockjr@gmail.com Gene Goetz ggoetz00@gmail.com
District 31-S	VDG Allen Swaim allenswaim@gmail.com

## New Brighter Visions Campaign Starts July 1

*District Governors Set Minimum Goal Of \$583,560 For 2019-2020*

District governors in Multiple District 31 have pledged to raise a minimum of \$583,560 for the 2019-2020 Brighter Visions Campaign.

Contributions benefit the programs and services provided by North Carolina Lions, Inc., our state's charitable organization.

Brighter Visions money makes up 49.2-percent of the NCLI budget. It supports Camp Dogwood, the matching funds program, mobility canes, edu-

cational grants, the deaf-blind retreat, the mobile screening unit, low vision aids, health education programs, organ and tissue procurement, and our state's recycling program.

District governors establish a minimum per member goal for clubs in their respective districts.

Contributions can come from clubs, individuals and the business community. The annual campaign kicked off on July 1 and ends on June 30.

### Minimum District Pledge

District 31-L	\$88,560
District 31-I	\$150,000
District 31-O	\$125,000
District 31-N	\$100,000
District 31-S	\$120,000
	<b>\$583,560</b>

## Matching Funds Program Relies On Fundraising

Matching Funds is a North Carolina Lions, Inc. program that can assist Lions clubs in Multiple District 31 to help North Carolina residents who have a financial need with eye exams and eyeglasses.

The program also can help the blind and visually impaired with a monetary grant that can be used to pay for medical procedures, low vision equipment and software, and prosthetic eyes.



Program rules and applications can be viewed and downloaded at [www.ncdionsinc.org](http://www.ncdionsinc.org).

NCLI has \$65,000 in the 2019-2020 budget. Payments will be made as long as there is money in the fund. Contribu-

tions to Brighter Visions goes to Matching Funds.

Under the standard program, clubs can be reimbursed 50-percent of their payment for an eye exam and eyeglasses, up to a maximum of \$100.

Grants range from \$600 to \$1,250, depending on the service provided. Grants requests must be preapproved by the NCLI Executive Board with services provided within 90 days of approval.

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2018-2019 2017-2018

District 31-L	\$66,450	\$78,884
District 31-I	\$142,695	\$162,262
District 31-O	\$122,436	\$128,761
District 31-N	\$85,608	\$87,551
District 31-S	\$91,621	\$112,065
	<b>\$506,726</b>	<b>\$569,523</b>

Figures as of June 30, 2019

## BRIGHTER VISIONS KICK-OFF SCHEDULE

District 31-L	Aug. 24	1:00 P.M.	The Chariot 715 N. Church Street, Hendersonville
District 31-I	Aug. 28	7:00 P.M.	Pine Lake Country Club 5504 Lebanon Road, Mint Hill
District 31-O	Aug. 18	2:30 P.M.	Durham Lions Club 1850 Hillandale Road, Durham
District 31-N	Aug. 17	1:30 P.M.	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints 1610 Boykin Bridge Road, Clinton
District 31-S	Sept. 7	2:00 P.M.	Wendell Lions Club 700 Lions Club Road, Wendell



# NCLI Continues To Serve Despite Lower Contributions

*Ninety-Two Counties In Multiple District 31 Directly Benefitted From The Brighter Visions Campaign*

## BV Campaign State Chairperson Says 100-Percent Participation Is Possible

**By PDG Michael H. Schwartz**  
*State Chairperson*

The 2019-2020 Brighter Visions Campaign has kicked off with a goal of raising \$583,560 for North Carolina Lions, Inc.

I would like to thank every district, club and member who made a contribution last year. While we were short of our 2018-2019 fundraising goal, we still raised a lot of money for NCLI.

This year the committee has a lofty goal of attaining 100-percent participation of clubs in Multiple District 31. Every North Carolina Lion is a member of NCLI and our state organization deserves our support.

The programs and services provided by NCLI benefits the people of our state. But in order to continue the level of service we have come to expect from our charitable organization we must raise the money needed to fund our programs, such as Camp Dogwood.

As of last year's deadline, 45 clubs in the multiple district had failed to contribute one dollar to the campaign. Yet, almost all of these clubs are located in a county which received a direct benefit from NCLI.

This year, I am asking our district chairpersons to concentrate their efforts on these zero clubs and encourage participation. Every dollar contributed to our Brighter Visions Campaign helps.

If a club cannot meet the district governor's minimum per member goal, the club can still make a contribution. Even members themselves can contribute with the credit going to the club.

More than 6,000 people were served in 2018-2019, thanks to the programs and services offered by North Carolina Lions, Inc., our state's charitable organization.

Money contributed to NCLI through the Brighter Visions Campaign paid for a majority of the costs, despite lower than projected income from last year's fundraising.

The campaign is responsible for 49.2-percent of income needed to support NCLI.

Residents from 92 of the state's 100 counties received some sort of benefit from NCLI-funded programs, according to the organization. Last year, the cost to provide the services exceeded \$1 million.

Camp Dogwood, our recreational facility for the blind and visually impaired located in Catawba County, hosted 565 people from 81 counties in the state.

It costs the state organization approximately \$1,300 per person for a five-night stay at camp, most of which is raised through Brighter Visions.

## VIP Asks Lions To Support Brighter Visions Campaign

*North Carolina Lions' Charitable Organization Does More Than Just Hand Out White Canes*

Ruth Haines knows firsthand the importance of the Brighter Visions Campaign.

Because of the money contributed to North Carolina Lions, Inc., the Asheville resident has been able to attend Camp Dogwood for 11 years.

Brighter Visions money pays a large portion of the operational cost for our state's blind and visually impaired to attend.

Haines loves being able to spend a week at camp. In fact, she rescheduled cancer treatments so she could attend this year. "Camp Dogwood is a fantastic place. I can attend because of the Lions," she said.

Lions clubs in 45 counties in Multiple District 31 applied through the Matching Funds Program to NCLI for reimbursement of a portion of the cost of providing 746 eye exams and 895 glasses last year.

Under the Brighter Visions-funded program, clubs can be reimbursed 50-percent of the cost, up to a maximum of \$100. The program also offers higher reimbursements for medical procedures, low vision equipment or prosthetic eyes.

More than 4,203 people received free vision screenings through use of the See the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Mobile Screening Unit, another service that receives most of its funding through the campaign. Clubs pay a fee to reserve the unit.

Lions clubs in 29 counties reserved the mobile screening unit last year for a total of 60 event.

Another campaign-funded program offered by NCLI is providing support and mobility canes to the blind and visually impaired. Last year, 274 canes were distributed in 62 counties



at a cost of more than \$8,000 to the organization.

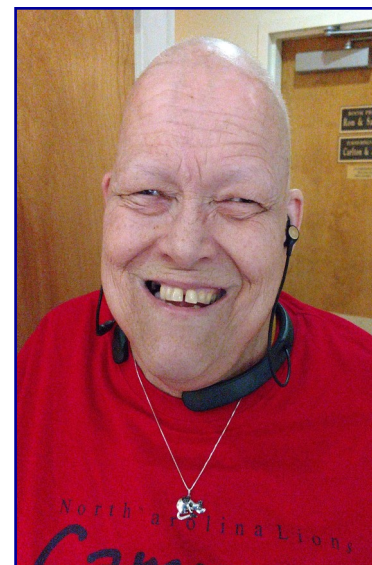
Blind and visually impaired individuals can apply for a new cane every 24 months. First-time users must be evaluated by the Division of Services for the Blind before they can apply for a cane.

Three educational grants of \$1,500 per year were awarded by the NCLI last year through the campaign-funded program which is available to the sighted children of blind and visually impaired parent(s). Based on financial need, the program is renewable up to four years and the student must maintain a 2.0 GPA.

Haines encourages clubs to participate in the campaign because NCLI does so much to improve the lives of North Carolinians in need. "It is more than just handing out white canes," she said.

"Brighter Visions allows the Lions to do what they believe in, to provide services where it's needed the most. That's why people become Lions. So NCLI needs our support," she said.

Haines was so enthused about the work of Lions, she became one. A 10-year member of the Valley Springs Lions Club, she currently serves as its president.



Ruth Haines