

# District 8L Newsletter

April 2021

## Message from the District Governor

We are now entering the fourth quarter of our Lion's year. It appears that things are finally improving in the world. Thank goodness for all of you Lions who have hung in there. District 8-L has "the best" and most dedicated Lions and I can't tell you how much you are appreciated. We did take a hit with membership numbers. As of now, we are at -37. This number represents members we have lost due to folks just wanting to drop. It also reflects new members.

Now is the time to close that gap. In order for Lionism to continue, it is imperative to grow our membership. For the consequence of not doing this is, our organization will just die. What a shame to let our communities down. Imagine no service....no emergency relief for crisis by Lions, no summer camp for Lions camp kids, no CubSight screenings, no glasses for those who need help to see and other service your clubs provide. Because you all have service hearts, we must grow. Please ask people to come to a meeting, with no strings attached. If they are Lions' material, they will want to be a part of our great organization. Ask people you have asked before. They may have had a change of heart since COVID.

Likewise, we need current members who have never participated in leadership roles to "step up to the plate." Many of our district leaders are weary as they have recycled as officers for many years. You can be a leader! Many of the current leaders will help you in transitioning into these roles. Our knowledge is not top-secret information. We want to help. Please help us in moving the district forward.

Although a face-to-face convention is not possible this year, we are hoping to do a brief presentation virtually. Information regarding this is still pending. However, voting will definitely take place. Past District Governor, Terry Harkey is working on an on-line process for the delegates. Registration (\$5.00) instructions for voting will be posted in this publication. You must send the list of delegates to me a.s.a.p. at [rtc nurse@aol.com](mailto:rtc nurse@aol.com). If you do not send delegate names and register, you will not be able to vote. The Convention Committee will meet soon and have more information then.

LCIF representatives Michelle Waskom and Harriett Hudson will be contacting your clubs soon to schedule a visit. WE have only reached 33% of our goal for district 8-L and 46% of MD8 annual goal.

The American Rose Garden Legacy Project is complete and a dedication is scheduled for June 5 at 9:30 a.m. for those who would like to attend.

You should be determining club officers for next year, if you have not done so. PU101 deadline - May 15.

President Helen Mazier of the North Shreveport Club has graciously agreed to step in as Zone Chair for 1A & B for the remainder of the year,

Please don't just read this and push to the back of your list of to-do's. Now is the time to take action for the well being of your district.



### District Officers 2020-2021

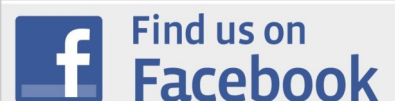
District Governor.....	Tina Hickey
1st Vice District Governor.....	Jerry Madden
District Secretary.....	Ed Ball
District Treasurer.....	Krissy Shelton
Region 1 Zone Chair .....	Helen Mazier
Region 2 Zone Chair.....	Sherrie McMurray
Region 3 Zone Chair.....	Mimi Stoker
IPDG.....	Terry Harkey

### Save the Date

- April 11—Zoom Council meeting
- April 15—30 day notice for LaCon
- April 24 —LLLCC—Anacoco, LA
- May 1-2 —LLEF—Gonzales, LA
- May 15—MD8 Virtual State Convention
- June 5—American Rose Center Legacy project dedication 9:30 a.m.
- June 19—LLLCC board—Anacoco
- June 19—Council turnover—Anacoco
- June 25—2021 LCICON Virtual

### Important Contact Info

- Terry Harkey—Newsletter Editor  
[magnetfencing@gmail.com](mailto:magnetfencing@gmail.com)
- Scott Harkey—District Administrator  
[jscottharkey@gmail.com](mailto:jscottharkey@gmail.com)



**District  
e-House**



## Global Membership Chair

PDG Mike Trainor

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Easter. As of the last report we are still on a decline of members. We have a tough road ahead of us, but I know that if we all work together we can overcome this trend. I hope by now that all of the clubs are meeting and working in their communities. We should all be ready to give our short pitch for Lionism (elevator speech) at the spur of a moment. One other thing I would like to get started up again, the campaign "JUST ASK".



Below: **Minden Lions** have the largest club in the state for a simple reason— they continually recruit! This past month, they received four new members. New members are allowed time to provide brief bios before affirming that they would uphold the Lions Club motto of "We Serve."

(left to right) are Lion Chris McGarity, Lion Andrew Thibodeaux, Lion Phillip Smart, Lion Campbell, and Lion Robert Kidd.



While PDG Bill Simon is a member of 8N, his recruitment of his two grandsons SHOULD be something we 8L members are imitating! Bill say: "Just how proud can one man be? God has truly blessed me today, getting family involved in the service of others. I so look forward to working with my Lion grandsons and what we can do together to make this a better world for everybody. Together we keep the light shining for others. Together we look forward to our super bowl of life giving winners. I will not live long enough to give back and count the blessings."



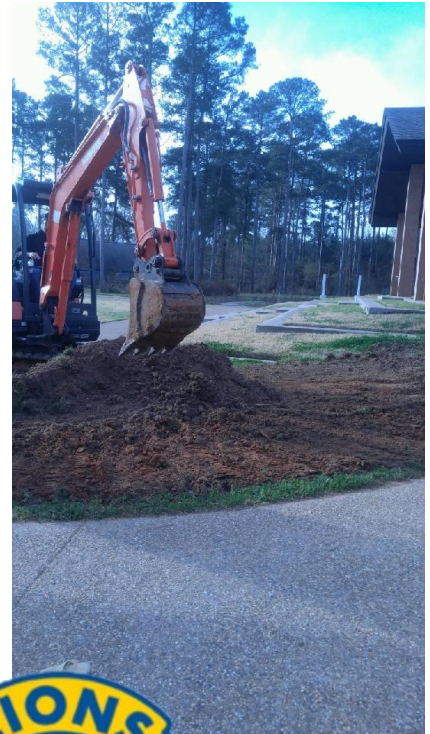


## Lion Legacy Project Reaches Completion

On March 13<sup>th</sup> members of the **North Shreveport Lions Club** and the **Northwood High School Leo Club** assembled at the American Rose Center to do some much-needed dirt work and clean up at the Lions Legacy Nature Path and Pavilion. In attendance were the President of the NSLC, Helen Mazier, the Immediate Past President and supervisor of the project, Steve Umling, Past Council Chair Bud Byrd, Leo Liaison Kevin Parr, Leo Rome, Club Treasurer Chris Umling, Lion Joseph Haltom, and yours truly, Council Chair Scott Harkey.

Due to the good planning and coordination of Lion Steve, we had three much needed pieces of equipment on hand to do the deed. We owe many thanks to Lion Joseph for not only bringing his company excavator, but for providing excellent skills in the operation of the unit. Lion Steve also showed his skill in working his tractor with attached tiller in leveling and grading the area. I was there on a skid steer moving dirt from one area to another. We removed left over bricks from the site, took down a hill on one side of the path, and redistributed the dirt around the Lions Pavilion.

The Lions Pavilion is completed. Dedication of the project is June 5<sup>th</sup>. The 800 brick pavers still have may spots that can be changed out with memorial bricks. The bricks help support the project and continue to maintain the Lion Legacy into the future. Purchase a brick by going [HERE](#) or scanning this QR Code with your phone.







## CHARTER ANNIVERSARIES

### Anacoco

April 17, 2008

### Mansfield

April 19, 1940

### Bossier City Central

May 22, 1992

### Arcadia

May 28, 1968

### Homer

May 28, 1926

### Shreveport Red Riber

June 13, 2012

### Leesville

June 17, 1942

### Florien

June 28, 1960

### Minden Evening

July 14, 1959



## Global Leadership Chair

IPDG Terry Harkey

Lions cannot afford to sit on the sidelines any longer. We cannot continue to blame this or that for the reason we are not DOING. Looking into and talking about is NOT doing. We are spending a lot of time figuring out why we can't do things instead of doing them, and our district is failing, along with our multiple district, our nation and the whole of North America.

Physicists would tell you the four strongest forces in the universe are, in their order of strength,

1) the strong nuclear force, 2) the electromagnetic force, 3) the weak nuclear force, and 4) gravity, but I would agree there is one stronger than all of these! It is STATUS QUO. As Lions, we are not innovating, evolving, and moving forward. We are stuck in our usual routines and traditions.

Two mindsets are hindering our growth of membership, leadership, and service. These two are provincial clubs and uncommitted members.

What is a provincial club? This is a club that never looks outside of their community. They don't participate in zone meetings, cabinet meetings, conferences, or conventions. They do not realize the advantages of involvement with the district and LCI. There are literally hundreds of ways to utilize our international organization. There are dozens of grants available to assist with projects for your community. Without communication with the zone chair, the district governor is not aware of needs of the clubs and doesn't offer assistance. The value of "we" is lost to this kind of club. And there are large provincial clubs that are remarkably successful locally, but do not realize their potential could be extended even further! They have the depth of membership to provide leaders.

Uncommitted members are those who attend (or not) and volunteer (or not) but are not committed to Lionism. We don't want to get rid of these members, we want them to evolve!!

I am issuing a challenge to every Lion in District 8L. It has 6 parts:

Poke your head up and look around to see what other clubs are doing. (This happens at almost every zone meeting!)

Examine your club operations. Find something you think you can improve and target that.

Attend club board, zone, cabinet meetings and strongly encourage others to do the same.

Expand YOUR knowledge. There are dozens of courses available for free on LCI. You can get training for an office that maybe needs to be improved.

If you have been a club president, step up your game and become a zone chair. Zones are a critical element to district operations. We need a new one every year!

Change from being an observer to a participant. Your job is to move forward to the next level – whatever level that is. Don't be afraid to change.

If you can do at least 50% of this, you will see a dramatic change in your club FOR THE BETTER. Lions Clubs International is an incredible service organization. We do not want ours to be the generation that lets it die for lack of commitment. Step up and serve.

## LCIF District Coordinator

Harriet Hudson



Lions Clubs International  
**FOUNDATION**

# First Vice District Governor Jerry W. Madden



Lions of 8L.

As we speedily approach April Fools Day, let's not be fooled into thinking all will be well as it once before. But we changed, we adapted, we learned and for that hopefully, we will be stronger for it. As had been hoped for but not attainable, the Louisiana State Department of Health advised our committee to not hold an in person convention this year due to COVID restrictions. Ok, then where do we go from here? We change, we adapt, we learn and we go virtual. Wanted it, NO, take it YES. The in person convergence of our La. State Lions only increases our desires to help each other, our desires to just be together and share what makes us tick. Miss it, yes, but our day will come again and the face to face get-togethers at convention will return.



## PEACE POSTER DEADLINE COMING!

Early November is the Club DEADLINE  
Early December is the District DEADLINE

Packets are \$12.00 purchased from LCI Store.  
Now available through August.

Don't Miss Out!

How about a club project that takes almost NONE of your time, offers great public relations opportunities, supports children's art, , delights club members, parents, teachers ,and children and costs less than \$15?

It's already here!! The Lions Club International Peace Poster Contest does ALL of that and more. Find an art program (in school or out) and get the support of the teacher. That teacher can use this contest as one of the required art projects for the students.

The international winner receives \$5000 and a trip for the student and parents to the next international convention, which 2022 is in New Dehli, India! There are other \$5000 winners at the international level. Our state has an amendment on the books to give a monetary prize to our state winner. OUR district gives a \$200 prize to the district winner.

It is so easy and so rewarding. Please consider sponsoring a Peace Poster Contest in your area next July.





# Louisiana Lions Children's Camp

Camp Director, Ray Cecil

We're still here! The winds didn't blow us away and the ice didn't win either. Although we may have been the warmest spot in District 8-L during the deep freeze week - our low was 8 degrees.

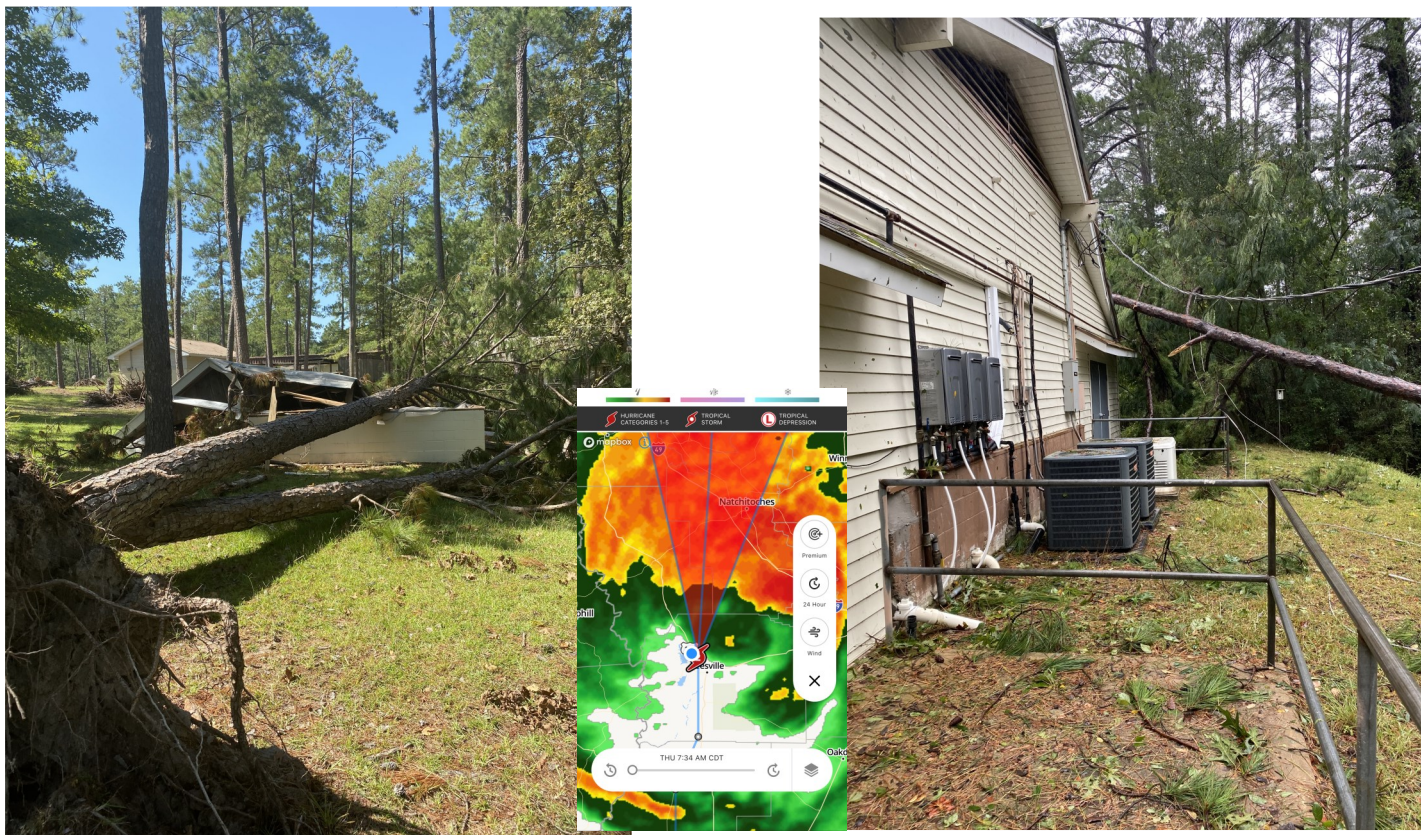
Welcome to Life 2.0. We are not having camp this summer – Summer 2021. We cannot project the pandemic status and we have not taken in the amount of funding needed to operate the summer program. The Board discussed this at the January meeting but confidently made the right choices. Everyone understands that the clubs are trying the best they can to get back in action.

We have campers and staff signing up online using an abbreviated registration. This is mainly to keep in touch and to update contact information. We have let them know that we will not be opening the summer program up.

In the mean time, we are currently planning to have a staff week in late June to brush them up on camp and to get a little polish on the campgrounds itself. The one year knowledge gap created by missing last summer was already a big obstacle, and now that doubles. We will definitely have to take that into consideration when planning the 2022 program. Of Course we are making care packages for the campers!

The Capitol Campaign that the Board voted to pursue with the help of Convergent is at the onset of a feasibility study. Convergent is a company that specializes in fundraising for non-profits. Our aim is to bolster the Foundation so that it is able to continue growth and to make sure Lions Camp is adequately funded in the years ahead. This is everyone's camp and it's going to take everyone's help to make sure the gift you gave the youth of Louisiana is here for years to come. Soon we will be writing to all of the Club Presidents and and Secretaries to find the help needed to complete the tasks.

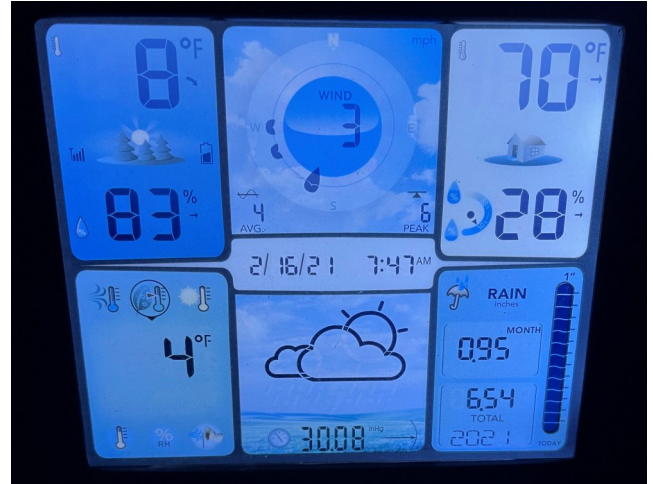
There is a Board meeting coming up on April 24<sup>th</sup> in Anacoco.







**If it's not one thing, it's another.  
But Lions always come back strong.**





# IN THE ZONE

## **Zones 1A/1B— Helen Mazier (North Shreveport)**

Bossier , Bossier Central, North Shreveport, Louisiana Animal Rescue Angels, S'port Downtown, S'port Red River

As we all know, this has truly been a trying year for all of us, but with prayer and perseverance, we are moving forward. Our clubs have taken a hit but with determination on all our parts, we will be making a comeback! The work that we do for our communities is very important to the people we serve. WE make a difference in the lives of others. No deed is too small. So fellow Lions, as your new Zone Chair, I'm here to help in anyway that I can to get our clubs back on track in our continued efforts of service. We are in need of your help to make this happen. We ask that you would please remember why you became a Lion in the first place. With all of us working together we are stronger. Let's make this team work and do what we do as Lions. Let's stay COMMITTED to SERVE.

*Editor's note: Lion Helen accepted the job for the remainder of the 2020-2021 term vacated by Debbie Schillings.*

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## **Zones 1C/2B— Sherrie McMurray (Minden Evening)**

Arcadia, Gibsland, Haynesville, Homer, Minden, Minden Evening, Ruston, Simsboro, Springhill

Lion Sherrie reports that she has not been able to get a response from most of the clubs in her zone. However, the **Minden Evening** club is meeting and planning on a big garage sale the last Friday of this April and all day that Saturday. They continue to screen vision with their partners, the **Minden Club**. They have service hours to reporting on MyLion.

If you have not been in contact with Sherrie, please touch base with her to let her know what your club is doing and whether or not you are meeting yet.

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## **Zones 3AB— Mimi Stocker, PDG (Natchitoches)**

Anacoco, Florien, Leesville, Many, Mansfield, Natchitoches

**Leesville** is back to regular meetings, attendance almost back to normal. They had a very successful Holiday Card Raffle that raised \$19,000. Drawing was done at camp on Facebook live.

**Many** is back to regular meetings but attendance is down as members wait to be fully vaccinated.

**Natchitoches** is only having 2 meeting a month, one at noon, then a night meeting with a meal. Attendance is down as we are not on our regular meeting scheduled. We have continued to serve the community with collections for food banks, purchasing eyeglasses. One of our major fundraisers – Rose Sale for Mother's Day – had to be canceled, because roses are NOT available. We are making plans for our big summer project, Lunch with Lions. We work with the parish Library to provide lunch for children that attend the summer reading program.



# SERVING TOGETHER

**Leesville Lions** annual Pancake Breakfast is scheduled for mid April. The annual 2-day Golf Tournament is scheduled for May 15 & 16 at Oakwing in Alexandria. Teams register at [www.leesvillelions.org](http://www.leesvillelions.org) select link at top right for Golf Tournament, then click the big golf ball to register.

Recently they presented a \$20,000 check to the Lions Camp, and are working to provide 8 \$1000 scholarships for graduating seniors in Vernon Parish.



Today was a special day at Lions Club. In late 2020, the Minden Lions Club Board of Directors voted to award five \$250 grants to local non-profits that are making a difference in our community – Project Reclaim, Mercy's Closet, CASA, Joe LeBlanc Food Pantry and UCAP. Representatives from the organizations joined us today and spoke briefly about their programs and discussed challenges they faced during the pandemic, success stories, current needs, and plans for the future. The Lions appreciate all of our local non-profits for being the “heart” of our community.

Pictured (left to right) are Jessica Lewis (Joe LeBlanc Food Pantry), Ron Anderson (Project Reclaim), Jake Chapman (Lions Club president), Charlotte Jones (UCAP), Charles Purdy (Lions Club secretary), Amber Bradford (CASA), Jerry Madden (Lions District 8L 1st VDG), and Diana Sanders (Mercy's Closet).

GST Ar



**Minden Evening** delivered food to Teen Challenge at Evergreen. Todd Buffington took the picture. Left to right Mr and Mrs Andy Jenkins, and Lions Dru Brown and Sherrie McMurray. We bought meats, frozen pizzas, smoked sausage, hot dogs and good that adults as well as their children would eat. Enough for several weeks. They house about 30 women with children.



# Our Governor at Work!

would think that virus restrictions would really reduce the work of our governor, but in fact it had the opposite affect sometimes quadrupling the effort to get to club visits. But she says “worth it!” loved visiting clubs that were meeting. She bought a raffle ticket the Leesville club, and she met the new secretary, Frank Russell at Bossier Lions Club. She even took on administering COVID-19 vaccines!

Below is a screen shot of her working with our 8L cabinet. Zoom meetings were the only way to “get together” over most of the last year!



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The **Arcadia Lions Club** hid 600 eggs for the 55 children at Gibsland Head Start in Gibsland . The hunt was held at the Arvis Whitman Memorial on Wednesday March 31th at 10 AM. It was GREAT fun.

Above: (l-r) Ron Whitaker, Jeff Adams , Loretta Womack , Don Smith , Deanna Curtis, and Deanna grandson is Grant Carr





Even though the **Anacoco Lions** had to cancel their annual Tail Twister 10k due to COVID restrictions, the fundraising must go on! They are conducting online sales for the products to the right!! If you can help them out with a sale, that would be appreciated.

SHOP KNIVES

SHOP UTENSILS

SHOP GIFT SETS

SHOP MIXES

SHOP BOOKS

SHOP PANS



1st VDG Jerry Madden (Minden) drops off used eyewear to PCC Bud Byrd (North Shreveport)



On behalf of her club, PDG Mimi Stoker accepted the LLEF Award for Most Vision Screenings in 2020 from Lions Club Eye Foundation President, Belinda Arceneaux, presents



## ***The Last Gong***

Each year the State Convention sets aside a period of time to call the names of each Lion who has served with us. This coming April, we will again ring the gong for each one, and we will be including both 2018-2019 in this solemn observance.

Please contact **Lion Tommy McMurray (tjmcsr@suddenlink.net)** with information regarding Lions who have passed away this year. He will need their name and the club in which they served.

On a similar note, the editor of this newsletter would also like to be contacted when a death occurs so that we may include that information in the next newsletter.