

District 8L Newsletter

January 2021

Message from the District Governor

Hope everyone has had a safe and health holiday. Now it's time to get our act together. What a roller coaster ride! Only four clubs (Ruston, Springhill, Downtown and our Leos) are not meeting at this time. I have had the opportunity to visit with 16 of the clubs in our district 8-L. Although, it has been a challenge because some were not meeting due to COVID, then they were, and now they are not again. This has been a wear-out, to say the least! Big Kudos to those clubs I have visited. Your district needs you...more importantly, your communities need you. We need your service now more than ever!



The clubs have all been welcoming and friendly. Most have cut back with service projects but continue to thrive. It is so important right now not to give up on your clubs. You would be doing your communities a great disservice. Think of all the good you have done in the past. You are more valuable now than you have ever been. Continue with your social distancing, mask wearing, hand washing, and above all caring hearts. We are going to get through this....I would like to make sure we are all left standing when this nightmare is over. We are strong....you are living proof of that.

Three clubs in our district earned the Club Excellence Award for 2019-2020 year. Special congratulations to Minden Evening, North Shreveport, and Shreveport Red River for working so hard to achieve club excellence. Every club could benefit from accepting the excellence challenge. Start now!

Service hours are being reported better now than ever, which helps create funds for Lions to be used in our communities during times of emergencies. We have used 4 disaster grants this year already in our district. They were both pandemic and hurricane related. These funds may not have been available to us if folks weren't willing to provide service and report it.

Our GAT team has been busy scheduling and providing training at various sites in the state. If there is a particular item you would like training on please contact me and I will forward information to GAT team.

Please resume with your club meetings ASAP and contact me with information so I may come and let you know what else is going on with Lions. It's more than you can imagine.

At this point, we are still planning to hold the state convention in Bossier on April 9-11. Please register online or mail it in – but REGISTER NOW!!

**FIND YOUR PURPOSE,
BECOME UNSTOPPABLE.**



Join a Lions Club, help make a difference.

District Officers 2020-2021

District Governor.....	Tina Hickey
1st Vice District Governor.....	Jerry Madden
2nd Vice District Governor..	Debbie Schillings
District Secretary.....	Ed Ball
District Treasurer.....	Krissy Shelton
Region 1 Zone Chair.....	Debbie Schillings
Region 2 Zone Chair.....	Sherrie McMurray
Region 3 Zone Chair.....	Mimi Stoker

Save the Date

- Jan 16—LLLCC—Anacoco, LA
- Jan 23—VDG training—Port Barre, LA
- Feb 27-28—LLEF—Alexandria, LA
- Feb 25-27—Leesville, LA Rodeo
- April 9-11—Bossier State Convention

Important Contact Info

- Terry Harkey—Newsletter Editor
magnetfencing@gmail.com
- Scott Harkey—District Administrator
jscottharkey@gmail.com



Find us on
Facebook

**District
e-House**





CHARTER ANNIVERSARIES

**Louisiana Animal
Rescue Angels (LARA)**
January 7, 2020

North Shreveport
January 10, 1952

Ruston
February 22, 1946

Haynesville
March 12, 1926

The first person to read this
and email the editor gets a
special gift.



**Don't forget
to recycle
eyeglasses.**

Global Leadership Chair

IPDG Terry Harkey

Happy New Year! We are half way through our Lion year and goodness gracious, I hope 2021 gives us a break! It has been such chaos.

My wish for this coming year is for each Lion to realize that HE or SHE are the leaders of this organization. I need ALL of you to a) recognize that, b) take a deep breath and c) step up to serve in your club, your region, your district or your multiple-district!

With less than 6 months left in this Lion year, everyone needs to be thinking about club leadership. By February, your executive committee/board of directors should be discussing potential leaders for the coming year. LCI asks us to submit our newly elected leaders by May 15th. If you work backwards, you need to start your election process no later than April 1—and clubs that meet once or twice monthly may need to begin as early as February. Encourage members early to take leadership.

Club stability rests on several supports. One is officer succession. If your club does not have at least a 2 year plan, you are potentially destabilizing your club and making your organizational work harder. Select at least one vice-president who will know in advance that that he/she will take the role of president in the coming term—whether that is a 1 or 2 year term. Start right now moving towards club officer stability!

Officers need training. I have applied for and received a grant for our district to provide officer training tentatively scheduled for early May. Those who have been in a position for a long time also need to be at training—not just to pick up new things for each new year, but to assist in training!

If your officers would prefer not to attend, I can come to YOUR club and do a personalized training session for your officers. Just contact me to set up a training session for your club PRIOR to July 1.



Lions Clubs International FOUNDATION



Greetings Fellow Lions!

As your district 8L service chairperson, I wanted to share with everyone about what we are doing to promote and encourage service reporting.

Reporting your service hours in MYLION is very necessary in order for LCI to know what we, Lions, on the ground are doing. LCI takes this information to large fortune 500 organizations and this helps get grant money for future grants such as disasters, projects, education and etc. In this Lions year, 4 of our 5 districts have had to apply for \$10,000 grants due to hurricane damage. LCI came through for us once again!

Reporting our hours helps show them what we are doing as volunteers on the ground level.

Also, we need to show others what we are doing. We need to get the word out that we are doing something! I know all of our clubs are volunteering and helping others, but I see little documented in MYLION. Only a few clubs are putting in their service hours and I KNOW we are all doing great jobs. Even with COVID, we continue to help others.

As I make club visits with our district governor, I am handing out information on why reporting service matters. I have recommended that these club presidents appoint a club service chairperson in LCI to take on this responsibility. Also, start off each club meeting with: "Who has volunteer hours?" or pass out a form that members can write down their volunteer hours. We have had 2-3 extra clubs do this and started reporting. So, THANK YOU ALL!

Thanks to everyone who is serving during this difficult time !!

Louisiana Lions Children's Camp

Camp Director, Ray Cecil

Our next event is here at camp on January 16, 2021 - We will have our first Board of Directors meeting on that day (Saturday Only) to get our new Directors in action and to discuss the plans for the summer.

Camp itself is doing well, we are experiencing the normal slow of the winter season. We still have a little cleanup work to complete at the Wilderness Campsite and there is a

group of Alumni Staff arriving for Board Meeting Weekend to work on most of it.

We know that the clubs are not back to full operating capacity as the club contributions from across the state are slower than normal, even for this time of the year - So we wish all of you the best in getting back in action.

We are about to publish a schedule for the summer and allow parents to do an initial registration so that those important things will be in place when we can actually decide to move forward with the summer. We're very hopeful but also realize the actual decision is a little further into the late spring. If things work well, then we will be ready, and we will need the financial support of the clubs!





Louisiana Lions Eye Foundation

by LLEF Executive Director/CEO Chris Carlone

lalioneyes@bellsouth.net

www.LionEyes.org



NEXT LLEF BOARD MEETING FEBRUARY 27th AND 28th Alexandria, LA

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!!!

Each year on New Year's Eve we celebrate the year which has just passed and look forward to the new possibilities in the year to come. The year 2020 was a unique year full of challenges which we each had to endure in our own way. The year 2020 was also a challenging one for LLEF. We understand service activities as well as fundraising suffered this year due to the epidemic, the hurricanes and all the challenges we faced. YES, we are really excited to close out this year and we are looking forward to the possibilities in the New Year to come.

It is fitting that we always end our years with celebrations like Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, New Years or any other holiday you recognize. We use this time to give thanks for all we are and all we have in our lives.

As we give thanks at the end of each year, I would like to take this time to give thanks to the LLEF Board Members from District 8-L who dedicated the time and effort to ensure that your foundation will continue to be here in the future to serve those in need.

Officer: CGO	Lion Scott Harkey, CC
DG:	Lion Tina Hickey, DG
IPDG:	Lion Terry Harkey, IPDG
1 Year Trustee:	Lion Kristine Shelton
2 Year Trustee:	Lion Debbie Schillings, 2 nd VDG
3 Year Trustee:	Lion Mike Trainor, PDG
Past President:	Lion George Edwards, PDG
Past President:	Lion Michele Waskom, PCC
Parity Vote:	Lion Jerry Madden, 1 st VDG
Parity Vote:	Lion Steve Umling

Non-Voting Boar Members:

Lion Gloria Kennedy Lynch (Past President), Lion Alan Brown, Lion Henry Brown, Lion Connie Craft, Lion David Craft, Lion Diana Smathers, Lion Chris Stewart and Lion Mimi Stoker, PDG.

Without these dedicated Lions and all the Lions of Louisiana, YOUR Louisiana Lions Eye Foundation would cease to exist and for that we give THANKS.

Yours in service,

Chris Carlone
Executive Director / CEO
Louisiana Lions Eye Foundation



Zones 1a/1b—2VDG Debbie Schillings

Bossier City, Bossier Central, LARA, North Shreveport, Shreveport Downtown, Shreveport Red River

Hello fellow Lions!

Zones 1a and 1b are doing well. There has not been a zone meeting in this quarter but will plan a meeting in February to focus on Membership. Also, there are some clubs still not meeting and those that have met have had to cancel due to COVID. So, hopefully and with prayer, we can start over in 2021 and get back on track!!

Our next quarter will focus on MEMBERSHIP. The North American Membership initiative was developed by LCI to increase and RETAIN membership. So, therefore, you will hear more about this in 2021.

In the mean time, JUST ASK ! always works. Ask your friends and family members to a meeting!!

And as a reminder: Enter your service hours!!



*THERE IS A LION
REFLECTED IN
EACH OF US, IF WE
HAVE A DESIRE
TO HELP OUR
COMMUNITIES & THOSE
IN NEED.*

*BE YOU
BE A STRONG **LION***

SERVING TOGETHER



What are these crazy **NORTH SHREVEPORT / RED RIVER** Lions doing? They are making magic! They have turned plastic bags into a beautiful park bench! That is right! **BAGS TO BENCHES** is a challenge sponsored by TREX, a company that manufactures composite wood. Collect 500 pounds of “film” plastic (like Walmart bags) and your organization will receive a bench! We have one already, with the help of Scouts of Troup 5/ Pack 6, as well as 166# towards the next one! Google it—it is a fun project!



The Faithful District 8L Cabinet held the quarterly meeting at NSLC. Several could not come because of the virus, but with the exception of the photo, we distanced and had a very productive meeting.

GST Ar



CLUB EXCELLENCE 2019-2020

Congratulations to **MINDEN EVENING** as one of three clubs in 8L that achieved this award. And it appears this year, COVID19 will not hold them back especially with football season and Christmas! *Below:* l-r : Mary Pickett, Connie Craft, David Craft, Jessica Lewis from the food pantry, Tommy McMurray, Sherrie McMurray, Ashley Buffington, Todd Buffington, Joseph Buffington, Dru Brown , Janice Spears, and Mike Trainor.



Above: Sherrie, Dru and Bank One staff with holiday food donations for the Joe LeBlanc Food Pantry

Right top: Coach T C French, PDG Mike Trainor, Peggy Spear (Academy), Kevin McCann (Minden) Dru Brown & Sherrie McMurray

Right bottom: Minden and Minden Evening partnering for CubSight screening





CLUB EXCELLENCE 2019-2020

Congratulations to **NORTH SHREVEPORT LIONS** who have achieved this award for three consecutive years. This year, although COVID 19 forced them to cancel two of three fundraisers (Clay Shoot and Rose Day), they had an incredible Chicken Charbroil which allowed no disruption of their service projects. Fingers crossed for the award for this year!



Top: The last of 500 lbs. are bagged and ready to load and take to Home Depot Bossier for the Bags to Benches project.

Left: Around 130 Christmas bags are loaded up and ready to take to Harmony House Nursing Home for our annual Santa delivery to the very needy residents.

Right: Lioness President Helen (right) helps staff get the last of the Christmas presents onto carts to take inside as Covid restrictions kept us from delivering in person.

This is service.

Lion Laura helped package the meals, then delivered the 300 that **she purchased** (at \$10 per dinner!) to the Sheriff's Office. What a Lion!! Below: Appeared on Bossier Parish Sheriff's social media page.



A Generous Gesture

Photo credit: Rod White, Bossier Sheriff's Office

Bossier Sheriff's deputy Sgt. Johnnie Estess receives a free lunch from a generous business owner who just wanted to say "thank you!" Laura Whitley of Finds and Designs Boutique in Bossier City provided a free lunch for all the first responders in Bossier Parish.

The Chicken Char-Broil lunch was prepared by the North Shreveport Lions Club. This is the annual fundraiser for the Lions Club to raise money for the Blind Services in our area. "This is a way for me to give back to the men and women of Bossier who protect and serve." said Laura.

She hopes that all the other first responders take her up on her offer to stop by and get a plate.



CLUB EXCELLENCE 2019-2020

Congratulations to **SHREVEPORT RED RIVER** who are first time recipients of this award. With membership being the biggest challenge to this goal, last year they managed to keep members and add a few to achieve excellence! It looks like they are headed in the same direction for this year, as they are always on the go, partnering with many organizations!



Meet Lion Andre Menard ! When she leaves her day job as an airman at Barksdale, she serves every way she can! Here she is accepting glasses from Highland Clinic.

There were supposed to be several other photos here but someone needs to shout "Lion Down!" as she is completely incapacitated with a blown out shoulder.

Hopefully the photos will be available for the April News.

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 solum observance.

Please contact Lion Tommy McMurray 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.

District 8L Legacy Project Update

A large project invariably runs into delays and more delays and the Legacy project at the American Rose Center is certainly no exception. With seemingly endless difficulties in each aspect of the project, we are finally closing in on the end. Here are some photos from before Thanksgiving. The memorial bricks are about to be placed - if you have not purchased one, please do that immediately, although bricks can be added at any time in the future. If you would like to participate in some of the dirt work and planting, we have been told late February is when the Rose Gardeners start working.



The walkways, the brick wall around the walk, and the structure itself have been completed. In the photo on the bottom you see the topless “box” of brick which will accept a signboard that will have history and info about Lions Clubs.

Soon behind the structure a wrought iron fence and Lions’ Gate will be installed.

If you get a chance PLEASE visit the Rose Center, and see the amazing ability walkway and gazebo made possible by Lions of Louisiana.



Our Governor at Work!





Gov and 2nd with Bossier City Lions Henry Burns and Frank Russell

One would think that covid restrictions would really reduce the work load 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!” She loved visiting clubs that were meeting. Here are a few from this last quarter.



Above: The Gov purchasing a raffle ticket during her visit with the Leesville Lions.



 Debbie	 Terry Harkey	 Tina Hickey	 Harriet Hudson
 Cindy	 Susan	 George Edwards	 Michael Trainor
Joe		Michael Trainor	

First Vice District Governor Jerry W. Madden



To the Lions of 8L, the following statement is borrowed but is more true today than ever before. "The times they are a changing." Change comes in many ways but our goals, our aspirations are absolute and must always be positive, not only for ourselves but for those around us. Conventions have been sparse this Spring/Summer/Fall but our MD8.

Convention will hopefully be a GO for April 9-11, 2021. Plan to attend and enjoy being with fellow Lions again. Quoting Frankie Valli from a song years ago, "Let's hang on to what we got", stay true to our motto of "WE SERVE", and plan for the future. We have a "product" to sell—helping our fellow man/woman/child. Get on your apple crates and share with others who may be looking for something new in their lives. We are it.



Second Vice District Governor Debbie Schillings

EDITOR'S NOTE: Our SVDG is experiencing severe pain with her shoulder, which has been ongoing for many months. She was unavailable to report specifically for this spot, but I have information from her through our various correspondences.

From correspondence:

If your club wishes to buy an ad for the District 8L State Convention program, this is a friendly reminder and a copy of the ad form that is needed. This is a Great Way to showcase your club. The deadline is drawing near in order for me to submit to our page designer. I have to get this to her in early January. So there is still a little time.

Thanks to all of you that have already sent me their ad and payment. As always: Thanks for being a LION!!

EDITOR'S NOTE: The 2021 State Convention Ad Form is at the end of this newsletter. Please spotlight your club and at the same time help us recover convention costs.

BOSSIER²⁰₂₁

MD8 Louisiana Lions State Convention

April 9-11, 2021 • Hilton Garden Inn • Bossier City

For registration see reverse side



Bossier City Boardwalk • American Rose Center • Casinos • Walk of Stars • Barksdale Air Force Base • Bossier East End

AND MUCH MORE!



Louisiana Lions State Convention • April 9-11

REGISTRATION

Hilton Garden Inn
2015 Old Minden Road
Bossier City, Louisiana

A Name/Title _____
B Name/Title _____
 District _____ Club _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
A Email _____ Phone _____
B Email _____ Phone _____

DAY/EVENT (Price shown is per person)	Before January 15	Until March 9	After March 9	TICKETS	TOTAL
REGISTRRTION FEE ONLY (for each Lion/18+)	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00		\$5 X ____ = \$ ____ attendee(s)
COMPLETE PACKAGE PER PERSON (including registration, all meals, and events)	\$115	\$130	\$145		Fee \$ ____ x ____ = \$ ____
CHILDREN AND LEO REGISTRATION	\$65	\$65	\$65		Fee \$ ____ x ____ = \$ ____
FRIDAY, APRIL 9 • NOON Melving Jones Luncheon to benefit LCIF	\$50	\$50	\$60	Circle attendee A and/or B	
FRIDAY, APRIL 9 • 6:30 P.M. Welcome Party, Hospitality/Cash Bar				Circle attendee A and/or B	
SATURDAY, APRIL 10 • NOON Luncheon with Ukelele Gumbo				Circle attendee A and/or B	
SATURDAY, APRIL 10 • 7 P.M. Awards Banquet • Keynote Donna Townsend				Circle attendee A and/or B	
SUNDAY, APRIL 11 • 8:00 A.M. Breakfast • Guest personality Moon Griffon				Circle attendee A and/or B	
TOTAL REGISTRATION					\$

(Make check payable to MD8 State Convention) Or use QR portal below to pay with PayPal

PAYPAL PORTAL (scan with smart phone)

Mail completed form & check to:



MD-8 State Convention
c/o TODD BUFFINGTON
287 Sommersby
Minden, LA 71055

QUESTIONS? Send an email to:
lionsmd8convention@gmail.com
 or call FVDG Jerry Madden (318-401-5421)

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received _____

☐ Check # _____ ☐ PayPal

Date Deposited _____ by _____

Email Confirmation sent _____

Other _____



**Multiple District-8 2021
Louisiana Lions State Convention
98th Annual Lions State Convention
Hilton Garden Inn, Bossier City
April 9 – 11, 2021**

Program Book Advertising Request

The undersigned authorizes the insertion of their advertisement (enclosed) in the 2021 Louisiana Lions State Convention Program book.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____
Authorized Signature _____
E-mail _____
Phone _____

Please check one

- _____ **Outside Back Cover: \$300.00 (1color+black writing)**
- _____ **Inside the Cover (front or Back) \$200.00 (first come)**
- _____ **Full Page: \$100.00**
- _____ **½ page ad: \$75.00**
- _____ **¼ page ad: \$50.00**
- _____ **Business cards ads \$25.00**
- _____ **Vice District Governor's ad: \$100.00 (3"x 5" photograph + biography)**

Buck a Lion Convention Ad

Host committee is offering to all the clubs of the State, a chance to recognize all their members by participating in the "Buck a Lion" convention ad. Just send your club roster with your check to cover, one dollar per each Lion.

- Ad text, graphics, photographs and fees need to be sent to "Lion Debbie Schillings", 2021 State Convention, 262 Prysock Rd., Doyline, LA 71023
- Checks need to be made to "Louisiana Lions MD 8 Convention" with 2021 State Convention Ad in the memo line.
- **ABSOLUTE DEADLINE FOR ALL ADS IS DECEMBER 31, 2020**
- Booklet size will be approximately 4" by 9"
- Information and pictures can be e-mailed to "debbieschillings@yahoo.com"
- For more information contact Debbie Schillings, 2nd VDG 318.426.4586 or email address above