

LION TALES

Arkansas Lions District 7-I No 23 / Sept. 2022



**Van Buren Lions Club
Celebrating 100 Years of Service!**

LION TALES



Arkansas Lions District 7-I No 23 / Sept. 2022



**Mountain Home Lions Club
Celebrating 75 Years of Service!**

LION TALES

September 2022—No. 23

District 7-I Arkansas Lions Clubs

District Governor
Dean Rowland

First Vice District Governor
Russell Bryan

Second Vice District Governor
Bonda Moyer

Cabinet Secretary
Rita Price

Cabinet Treasurer
Robert Harty

Lion Tales Editor
Jeff Davis
jduke22@att.net



The second council of governors meeting will be held on October 7, 2022 as part of the District 7-I convention in Ozark.

LCI has reinstated the \$35 fee charged to clubs for new members. Unless your club intends on paying the fee, you'll have to remember to include it when collecting dues from your new members.

VDG Russell Bryan is preparing information regarding clubs and the locations where they provide vision screening services. This will help the district judge where expansion may be necessary. Please provide your club's vision screening information when requested.

At the district's first cabinet meeting of the year, DG Dean Rowland announced two goals: 45 new members and 70% of the clubs reporting their service on MyLION.

Comments from District Governor Dean Rowland

Have you heard about the upcoming District 7-I Convention in Ozark, AR coming up October 7-8, 2022? Please put this on your calendar as a must attend event. The committee has been working extremely hard to make this an outstanding event for you! If you don't have a registration form to fill out, let me know and I will get you one.



The past two months have been filled with training, convention planning and club visits. I want to congratulate the Van Buren and Mountain Home Lions Clubs for their milestone club celebrations. They are doing great work in their communities! All our District 7-I Lions Clubs are active in their communities. Keep up the good work! Report your activities so we can help you celebrate your accomplishments.

I hope each club has completed or are working on their membership goals. Remember, we are shooting for a net growth of 45 members this year! Make sure to include membership drives in your activities. Then send pictures and a short description of your events to PDG Jeff Davis to be included in the newsletter.

I am so excited for the 2022-2023 year. We have so much to do! Just remember, Together We Can! I hope to see you all at the district convention in Ozark.

We Serve,
DG Dean Rowland

Comments from Vice District Governor Russell Bryan

How do you climb a mountain?

It's not really about mountains, but the system behind a successful climbing trip and summit. That system is made up of research, planning, weather stats, travel, timing, exposure, wildlife, trail exhaustion, and the list goes on. Each of these are a process and a piece of the overall system. As you probably realize, I like to climb mountains. 14ers to be exact. I've successfully climbed over twenty so far. One being Mt. Whitney, the highest peak in the lower US. There's a system for these climbs and when executed, it gives the best chance for a successful summit. One might think that the summit is the destination or the goal. However, the summit is the halfway point. The goal is to return home safely, while enjoying the thrill, excitement, challenge, and triumph of the climb. There will always be setbacks, challenges, lightning or maybe some type of animal biting a hole in a water bottle (yes, it happened). And sometimes....well you just don't reach the top. Mt. Russell (that's the real name) comes to mind. Two attempts, two failures. I've always found that to be ironic. You would think destiny would just put me at the top. Did I fail though, or did I learn from each attempt? I'm not sure when my third attempt will be. But, I'll have more experience and a better plan and system in place the next time.



Ok, so I have rambled on about mountain climbing. How does it relate to Lions? I'm not sure, except that over the years my climbing friends and I have developed a system that delivers results. Those results being that we reach our final destination and enjoy a climbing trip along the way.

When I think about membership, I realize that I need a better system for recruiting. My club needs a better system for recruiting. It's not that we don't try. We talk, visit, invite but somewhere it's breaking down.

(Continued on next page)

VDG Bryan from previous page

Do we all need a better system? Maybe....only you and your club can decide that. You may already have a proven method or system in place to gain members. If so, we meet the 1st and 3rd Monday at noon. We'll feed you lunch.....(I'm being serious. You're invited to share, so we can learn). As we build up the clubs, others will follow.

Personally, I believe everyone's recruiting abilities can be improved with the right system, tailored to their individual personality, lifestyle, work and family. That system will change and grow over time. And therefore, not static. We all gain experience, knowledge, lowered anxiety levels and should become more comfortable with sharing how much Lions have enriched our lives thru service to others. Yet, are we hesitant? At the Mid-Winter Forum, a presentation was given on membership and the outlook of our District if we don't take action. It was not a good statistic, and it prompted me to start improving my system for recruiting. A system that I can easily follow and works alongside and in harmony with my long work hours, busy family life and supports my clubs overall membership goals. But the system can't stop with the new member initiation, it must carry on as a good sponsor. I can relate to new members being at the summit of the mountain we're trying to climb. However, that's not the destination. We must continue moving forward as a sponsor to develop and grow a new Lion. In the process, we will grow ourselves. The system is a success when a new member becomes a Lion in service to others.

So, how do you climb a mountain? One step (process) of the system at a time.

Membership is our mountain. Let's climb it together. Service to others is our destination.

1st Vice District Governor
Russell Bryan

MULTI CLUB WORKDAY HELPS FELLOW LION

Several months ago the back deck on PCC Myrna McGee's Bella Vista home collapsed. With the city and her property owners association both on her case to remove the debris. A call to fellow Lions was put out with members from four different clubs showing up for two workdays.

Participating in the two day cleanup were members from Elkins, Gravette, Bella Vista and Fayetteville. The first day was spent with the entire crew disassembling the remains of the second story 10 x 40 foot deck that had completely fallen to the ground. The second day one crew continued the cleanup in back while another crew made extensive, long needed repairs to PCC McGee's handicapped ramp in the front.

In all, there were eight Lions and one non member participating in the project with some working one day and others working both days. Dragging, as we were at the end of each day, it was satisfying to see our progress and know how appreciative our friend and fellow Lion was for our help.



The top photo shows the group disassembling the deck on our first of two workdays. One trailer full of debris was hauled off to be burned.



The bottom photos are of the separate crews, one finishing the debris cleanup and filling a second trailer to be hauled away and the second group removing plywood on the handicapped ramp in order to put down new decking.

WELCOME New Members

BOONVILLE

Lion Donald Whitaker sponsored by Richard Morton

CONWAY NOON

Lion Melanie Moore sponsored by Debbie Townsend

FORT SMITH NOON

Lion Lanna Hutson sponsored by John Bernardo

GRAVETTE

Lion Tylar Lee sponsored by Al Blair

PEA RIDGE

Lion Rita Sheppard sponsored by Lori Rogers

DISTRICT NEWS

7-1

1st QUARTER CABINET MEETING

On August 20, 2022, the first quarter district cabinet meeting was held using Zoom. The meeting opened with welcoming comments from District Governor Dean Rowland. The previous meetings minutes were approved as was the final financial report form last year.

The district governor presented this year's budget, going over the details and explaining his reasonings. It too was approved.

CC Don Young and PDG Rene Roberts explained the *FLAG* program, intended to teach youngsters about flag etiquette and respect. The other three district have supported this program. A motion to support the program with a \$350 donation was approved.

DG Dean Rowland then explained his goals for this year. He is asking each club to set membership goals in order to end the year with a 45 member positive gain district wide. One new club by the third quarter is also part of the goal.

According to the district governor, clubs completing service reports is quite low and has set a goal of 70% of our clubs reporting service this year.

The meeting concluded with reports and comments from the zone chairs, GAT leaders and committee chairs, as well as comments from our vice district governors, Russell Bryan and Bonda Moyer.

ELECTION FOR 2023-24 CANIDATES ANNOUNCED

The members of this year's nominating committee, PDGs Carol Allen, Jeff Davis and Kevin Baskin will place in nomination the following candidates for district offices and positions. All members who submitted their intentions to run for district office and who meet the guidelines for that office will be nominated by the committee at the district convention, October 8, in Ozark, Arkansas.



Running for
**DISTRICT
GOVERNOR**
Russell Bryan



Running for
**1st VICE DIST.
GOVERNOR**
Bonda Moyer



Running for
**2nd VICE DIST.
GOVERNOR**
Linda Damron

First Vice District Governor Russell Bryan joined the Boonville Lions Club in 2002 and has served in one or another of the club offices every year. He has also served as Zone Chair under multiple district governors.

1VDG Russell successfully served as second vice governor last year and has already started the extensive training provided by the district and LCI before becoming district governor.

Second Vice District Governor Bonda Moyer is a charter member of the Conway Noon Lions Club. As a Methodist minister, 2VDG Bonda has been a member of five or six different clubs in two different districts as she transferred her pastoral duties to different churches.

She has served countless club offices in Conway and elsewhere, as well as being a zone chair and cabinet secretary in district 7-O.

A member of the Gravette Lions Club since 2019, Zone Chair Linda Damron has just completed two successive terms as club president, where she lead the club to positive growth and increased service. She currently serves as club treasurer and co-chairs the club's vision program. She also administers our ARF grant for that program.

Lion Linda is starting her second year as zone chair

Running for **L.O.A.F. TRUSTEE: Robert Harty**

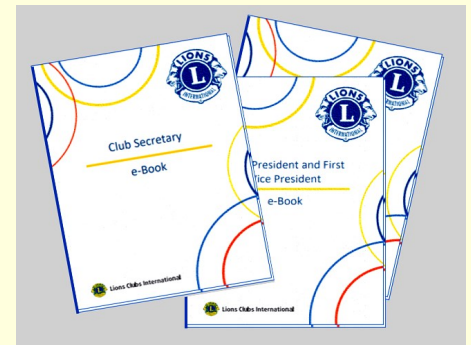
Cabinet Treasurer Robert Harty is a charter member of the Elkins Lions Club, having served as club treasurer the entire time. He currently serves as district cabinet treasurer.

L.O.A.F. trustees serve three-year terms beginning on January 1, 2023.

OFFICERS, ZONE CHAIRS TRAIN ONLINE

Again this year, as she has in the past, PCC Myrna McGee serving as Global Leadership Team leader for the district has been using Zoom to conduct workshops for club officers. Lion Myrna is also the GLT for our multi-district, so the programs have been for club presidents, vice presidents, secretaries and treasurers state wide.

For training, the offices have been separated with each session offered multiple times. Participation, especially from our district, has been good according to PCC Myrna.



Lions Club International stresses training along with leadership and personal development. Strong leadership is good for the club and our communities.

ELECTION DELEGATES NEEDED

PDG Jeff Davis, Election Chair, is reminding clubs there still are a few more days to select your club's delegates for the election of this year's officers. The election will be held online using ElectionBuddy® the week following the convention, October 10—14, 2022.

Each club is allowed one delegate for each ten members (rounded up) on record a year ago. If you haven't already, send your list of delegates (name & email address) to jduke22@att.net. The deadline for registering delegates is September 26, 2022

CLUB NEWS

Projects - Fundraisers - Member achievements - Programs

VAN BUREN Reports:

Lion Clifford Lyon

The Van Buren Lions Club was chartered on August 17, On August 17, 2022, the Van Buren Lions Club celebrated its 100th anniversary during their regular meeting at noon in Van Buren. Our special guest at this meeting was Senator John Bozeman who himself is a proud Lion. He spoke briefly to the club about what Lions Club has meant to him and the many good services that we provide to our communities. We had 52 persons in attendance for this meeting. The Club also hosted a banquet the night before at Heritage Church with many area Lions Club officers and members attending. Club President Clifford Lyon gave a talk about the early leaders of our club and how they served the community of Van Buren from 1922 to 1934. District Governor Dean Rowland also spoke about the need to have more interaction with other clubs in our district.

While deciding how to mark the occasion, 22 members of the club opted to partner with the City of Van Buren to construct the Van Buren Lions Club Mayor Gene Bell Park at 11th and Chester Street. The park will have a playground, benches, and picnic tables. Work will begin this summer and the park is expected to be completed this fall. Contributions are still being accepted for picnic tables' sponsorships and bricks for the walkways may be purchased for \$100 to help "Pave the Way", contact Club Treasurer, Joe McDaniel at mcdnlp@currentlv.com or 678-314-0041. The total cost of the project is around \$100,000.

The late Bell served as mayor from 1978 to 1990 and was instrumental in the growth of Van Buren. He was also a member of the Lions Club for more than 56 years. The Lions Club believes that honoring him in this way is the perfect tribute to one of the most respected leaders in our community during our Centennial Year of celebration. In addition, the playground area will be named in memory of Raymond Allen, a long-time community supporter and Lions Club member.

The motto of the Lions Club is "We Serve." The club strives to be a community asset and a source of humanitarian services. The Van Buren Lions Club was chartered in August 1922 in the dining room of the city's First Baptist Church. The new group was sponsored by the Fort Smith Lions Club.



MOUNTAIN HOME Reports:

Lion Lisa Vetter

The Mountain Home Lions Club was chartered on June 20, 1947 and recently celebrated their seventy-fifth anniversary. The anniversary was combined with their annual banquet and held August 11, 2022 at the Big Creek Country Club.

Guest speaker was District Governor Dean Rowland, who also inducted officers for the new year.

As part of their annual banquet, special awards were presented to Lion Glenn Priebe, the longest Mountain Home club member having joined in 1975. Lion Phil Garner, a Lions since 1979, received a special Membership Achievement Award.

The Edwin Dahlstrom Distinguished Service Award was presented to club president, Cindy Costa, who also was named Lion of the Year. The Jerry Strobel Community Service Award was given to Past President Glenn Priebe.

Second Vice President / Auction Chair Mia Schwierzke was awarded a Melvin Jones Fellowship.



FAYETTEVILLE Reports:

Lion Ruth Cohoon

GARAGE SALE ➡



Fayetteville
Lions Club

Saturday, October 8 - 7 to 3
Mt. Comfort Church of Crist
Fayetteville

The Fayetteville Club has an impressive list of upcoming programs including Tim Scott from Devil's Den State Park.

Plans are also being made and items being collected for their garage sale planned for October.

GRAVETTE Reports:

Lion Jeff Davis

It is a busy summer in Gravette. In addition to our weekly bookmobile service, Care and Share service, food drive and monthly health checks, we participated in the five weekly session of the Gravette Library's Summer Reading program, finished the benches at the cemetery and held a raffle.

Club member Linda Damron made the quilt and member Jeff Davis handcrafted the banjo offered as raffle items. Despite the slow start because of a hassle with the state over permits, the raffle raised more than we expected.



With nearly 150 youngsters participating in the Summer Reading program this year, the event had to move to a larger area and more volunteer help was needed. Our Lions Club was responsible for counting out the award-beads given out for time spent reading.



Started earlier this spring, we finally finished replacing the wooden seats on the benches in the sitting area we maintain in our local cemetery.

Now that school has started, we will again be working with the Gravette and Decatur schools to provide vision screening to all kindergarteners and pre-k students. We are also talking with a home schooling group and a private school about screening.

White Cane Day, our annual Crockpot Festival and Trick or Treat on Main Street are coming up too.

We were disappointed that we did not have a float in this year's Gravette Day parade..... We built a float, we just couldn't get the truck started the day of the parade!

RUSSELLVILLE Reports:

From DG Dean Rowland



District Governor Dean Rowland reported having a great time with the Russellville Lions as they celebrated the year end at a lakeside retreat in Russellville. In addition to enjoying a great meal and live musical entertainment, the club gave out their annual awards and inducted new officers for the 2022-23 year.

FT. SMITH NOON Reports:

Lion Marty Houston

A recent speaker was Patti Kimbrough, the executive director of the Good Samaritan Clinic in Fort Smith. The clinic will be turning 20 years old next year. Patti told us that the Osteopathic college has been a tremendous help, with students donating their time and assisting volunteer doctors and retired physicians. She added there are no luxuries at the clinic, but the benefits the clinic provides to the community for residents who do not have health insurance or cannot afford adequate health care are numerous.



The club welcomed back one of our members, who has been away graduating college. Lanna Moore had recently contacted me expressing her desire to be active with the club once again. Since she was last with us a few years ago, she worked her way through college, received her degree and is now a clinical therapist at Bly Thomas Mental Health Counseling in Fort Smith. We are so happy to have Lanna back with us and involved!!



Another speaker was Kaci Handlery, the director and professor at the Osteopathic College School of Physical Therapy. Dr. Handlery talked with us about some of their projects including a CrossFit gym, the first of its kind in Fort Smith. Many of the people who use CrossFit are wheelchair bound, some have Parkinson's and the exercises help work upper body and arm muscles.

Our club began work for our annual White Cane Day fundraiser at Walmart on Rogers Avenue. Lion Joe is helping chair this year's White Cane Day, Saturday October 8th. It is an away game for the Arkansas Razorback football team and should work out well in staying away from conflicts.

BOONVILLE Reports:

Lion Russell Bryan

Snack Program:

The Booneville Lions held a meeting at the Boys and Girls Club of South Logan County. The meeting was to discuss with the director of the programs we have sponsored and continue to support. We also toured the facilities and were given the opportunity to ask questions about the daily operations and needs of the club and the youth in our community. We discussed in depth about the need for a snack program and our continued support of the program. The program ensures all kids going to the club get a snack before leaving, one full meal once a week and in some cases, snacks will be sent home with a child in need. We proudly support the snack program and made another \$250 donation. This is a great way to help fight hunger in our community. For a few, that snack may be the last meal until school the next day.



December 3rd, 2022

7AM - 11AM

Lions Club 68th Annual
Pancake Breakfast
Booneville Community Building



GOOD TO KNOW If you are ever interviewed.

If you have been a Lion leader for very long, there is a good chance you have already been interviewed by the media about the Lions Club or one of your Lions projects. If not yet, it's not unreasonable to expect that you will be interviewed sometime. Here is a "talking points" sheet that DG Dean Rowland recently came across. Beyond media interviews, these are many of the same questions prospective new members are likely to ask. With these points, you'll be ready for any interview.

WHAT DO LIONS DO?

- Lions around the world serve by improving the health and well-being of others, strengthening their communities and protecting the vulnerable.
- We help our global neighbors through the support of our Foundation, Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF). LCIF has awarded more than \$ 1.1 billion in grants to support Lions humanitarian projects. In 2020, LCIF donated millions of dollars in emergency grant funds during the Covid 19 pandemic to provide critical supplies and equipment to communities struggling with this health crisis.
- Internationally, we empower youth through our Peace Poster Contest, youth camps and exchanges, and the Lions Quest program that has helped provide positive life skills to over 16 million students.
- Last year, Lions helped more than 300 million people around the world through service donations and advocacy work.

Conversation Starter Tip: Share a story about a meaningful service project you participated in.

WHO ARE LIONS?

- Our motto is "We Serve" and Lions put it into action every day. We're caring men and women who come together to be the difference in our communities. We believe we can do so much more together than we can alone.
- With Lions clubs in more than 200 countries and geographic areas, we serve all people and we are made up of all people. We believe that diversity is our strength. We appreciate individual and cultural differences, and we embrace the experiences and talents of others because together we are more.

Conversation Starter Tip: Talk about why you became a Lion.

WHY SHOULD PEOPLE BE A LION?

- When you become a Lion, you become part of a local club and a global network of volunteers working together to make a difference.
- A Lions club is a great place to develop your leadership skills and put them into action. Plus, you'll get first-class training and great resources from our global organization.
- A Lions club is a group of people like you who've decided to take action and help others. Lions form unique friendships and meaningful connections that can last a lifetime.
- There is nothing quite like the feeling of making someone's life better.



Conversation Starter Tip: Describe what being a Lion means to you.

HOW DO I BECOME A LION?

- If you are interested in joining (CLUB NAME), you may contact us at (CONTACT INFO).
- You can also find and contact your local Lions club by visiting www.lionsclubs.org.

WHAT IS LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL?

- Lions Clubs International is the largest service club organization in the world, with more than 1.4 million members in 48,000 clubs serving 200 countries and areas worldwide. Since our founding in 1917, we have been proving that where there's a need, there's a Lion.

HOW DID LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL START?

- In 1917, Chicago business leader Melvin Jones asked a simple and world-changing question — what if people made a commitment to improving their communities? More than a century later, Lions Clubs International is the largest service club in the world, with millions of members acting on the same simple idea — when Lions come together for the good of humanity, there's nothing we can't achieve.

COMPELLING QUOTES/MEDIA PITCH STARTERS: When applicable, you may choose to use these quotes or phrases when you pitch the media your story idea.

- Lions Club founder, Melvin Jones, once said, "You can't get very far unless you start doing something for somebody else."
- Mahatma Gandhi once said, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." As Lions, we serve our communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding.
- Helen Keller said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." Our Lions around the world take this quote to heart and prove that where there's a need, there's a Lion.
- Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is 'What are you doing for others?'" Lions around the world are answering this question by putting kindness and service into action.
- Lions believe kindness matters. But kindness needs to be backed up by action — that's where we come in.
- When caring people join together, roll up their sleeves and take action to make their community better, it's a beautiful thing — and an incredible feeling for everyone involved.

Are you ready for the CONVENTION?

ARKANSAS LIONS DISTRICT 7-I ANNUAL CONVENTION



October 7th & 8th, 2022
The Methodist Church (Gardner Building)
Ozark, Arkansas



Past International Director
Bill Phillipi

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

PID Bill Phillipi from Marysville, Kansas has been a Lion since 1974 in Marysville and has served many club and district positions including district governor, council chair and GAT Area leader. He was elected in 2015 to a two-year term as an international director. The past director has also served the USA / Canada Forum as a presenter and co-chair and has received many top Lions leadership awards.

PID Phillipi serves on several historic preservation boards and is a past mayor of Marysville. He is an Eagle Scout and has been an active Mason for 35 years.

The past director and his wife, Vickie, are both Melvin Jones Fellows and have three daughters and nine grandchildren.

Council of Governors meeting
5:00 pm Friday

Where else are you going to have an opportunity to visit with your old Lion friends, make new Lion friends, visit with your district leaders, share ideas for projects and fundraisers, learn about state projects and hear inspirational / rejuvenating presentations that make you remember why you became a Lion? Your ANNUAL DISTRICT CONVENTION, of course!

Complete the registration form on the next page and MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND!

**Arkansas Lions Shirts
& Hats Available**



**A 50/50 drawing
& Silent Auction**

Please bring items for the silent auction. Thanks



Friday evening get-together
Dinner and a project with friends!
Live music with
The Lions Share of the
Old Town String Band



Arkansas Lions
District 7-I Convention, October 7-8, 2022
Oxford Inn
 305 N. 18th St.
 Ozark, AR 72949

A-Name			
Please circle one of the following: Lion Lioness Leo Non-Member			
Club:		Highest office held:	
Mailing Address:			
Home Telephone: ()		Mobile Telephone: ()	
Business Telephone: ()		E-Mail:	
B-Name			
Please circle one of the following: Lion Lioness Leo Non-Member			
Club:		Highest office held:	
Mailing Address:			
Home Telephone: ()		Mobile Telephone: ()	
Business Telephone: ()		E-Mail:	
Accommodations: Please make your own hotel reservations: Oxford Inn (479) 667-1131 Hotel Rate is \$65 per night. Use code "Lions" for discount till September 23, 2022. Rate will be \$95 then.			
Registration Fee: Your registration fee covers the cost of all Saturday activities. Fee must be paid in full in order to participate in the Convention activities. Friday night is optional, with a separate fee for the meal; Casual Dress.			
Postmarked by:	September 23	After September 23 or onsite	First-Timer
	\$35.00	\$45.00	\$25.00
Friday night	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00
Amount Due:	\$	\$	\$
Please make check(s) payable to Lions 7-I 2022 Convention. Mail registration form and check(s) to Lion Robert Harty; 17016 Lake Sequoyah Road; Fayetteville, AR 72701			
Directions: Exit off I-40 at exit #37. Go south toward Ozark for 2.2 miles on N. 3rd St. to the stoplight. Turn Right on W. Main St. Go 2 blocks and the Methodist Church Gardner building will be on the left.			
Friday, October 7, 2022	- Registration 4:30 pm-6:30 pm - Council of Governors Meeting begins at 5:00pm. Dinner will be served immediately following the meeting.		
Saturday, October 8, 2022	- "The Lions Share of The Old Town String Band" will be entertaining all. - Donuts and juice / Registration 8:00 AM-9:00 AM - Opening Session-9:00 AM		



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Recognizing the Van Buren Lions Club's 100 Years of Service

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN
OF ARKANSAS
July 27, 2022

Mr. President, I rise to recognize and congratulate the Van Buren Lions Club as it celebrates 100 years of service to western Arkansas.

The Van Buren Lions Club was chartered on October 10, 1922, only five years after the creation of Lions Club International. Since its founding, its members have committed themselves to making a difference in the lives of people in the community and around the world.

While it began as a club to support local causes and provide networking for businessmen, a larger mission came into focus after Helen Keller spoke at the Lions Club International convention in 1925. She challenged all Lions to be "Knights of the Blind" and her eloquent plea transformed the organization, making support of sight-related programs the group's primary mission.

Throughout its 100-year history, the Van Buren Lions Club has worked tirelessly to make a difference for this cause. It hosts annual fundraisers and works with area eye doctors to recycle glasses, donating them to people who cannot afford them. In addition, members support local eye examination programs as well as the Arkansas Eye Bank and Laboratory, Lions World Services for the Blind, Mid-South Sight and Hearing Service, Leader Dogs for the Blind, Lions Clubs International Foundation, Diabetes Education and Prevention, Sight First and the Lions of Arkansas Foundation.

As an optometrist, I am proud of the great work done by this club and Lions chapters around the world. I congratulate the Van Buren Lions Club on its 100th anniversary and hope these Knights for the Blind continue to prosper in their mission for years to come.

*We are proud
of you.
John Boozman*

