



VOL.4, NO. 1

LIONS ROAR



Connecting the clubs, communities & needs for the
Lions of Central and Southeastern Virginia. We Serve!

JULY 2021



DOUGLAS X. ALEXANDER

International President

Douglas X. Alexander, from Brooklyn, New York, USA, was appointed to the office of first vice president by the Lions Clubs International Board of Directors on January 9, 2020. President Alexander is a retired vice president for J.P. Morgan Chase Bank.

A member of the Brooklyn Bedford Stuyvesant Lions Club since 1984, he has held many offices within the association, including club president, zone chair, region chair, vice district governor, district governor, cabinet secretary, cabinet treasurer and DGE group leader. He also served as a Lions Eye Bank transporter, a member of the District and Multiple District PDG Association, a trustee of the New York State and Bermuda Lions Foundation and was appointed as the Lions representative to UNICEF-New York from 2012-2014. He has served on the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum Planning and Host Committees and has been a presenter at several USA/Canada Forums.

In recognition of his service to the association, he has received numerous awards including the club Lion of the Year, Club President's Award, the Robert J. Uplinger Service Award, several District Governor Appreciation Awards, and the Multiple District Membership Growth Award. He is also the recipient of numerous International President's Certificates of Appreciation, seven International President's Awards and the Ambassador of Good Will Award, the highest honor the association bestows upon its members. He is a Dr. Franklin G. Mason Fellow, a W. P. Woods Fellow and a progressive Melvin Jones Fellow. In addition to his Lions activities, President Alexander is active in numerous professional and community organizations. He has served as chairperson of the advisory board for the New York Urban League and as a board member of the St. Francis DeSales School for the Deaf. He is also a recipient of the Congressional Record Award. President Alexander has two daughters, and his partner in service, Shabiki Cazabon, is a Lion and a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow.

It is my privilege to serve as 24I's District Governor for 2021/2022. Leadership has been a passion of mine for many years, having opportunities to lead business, nonprofit, and governmental organizations. I believe that a positive and vision focused approach as a leader is a must to create an environment that allows an organization to grow and prosper.

There is no better service organization than Lions Clubs and we have boundless potentials to effectively serve the humanitarian needs of our communities. Our limitations as an organization are many times self-imposed. As your District Governor, I will challenge ALL Lions to check your heart and ignite your passion for service.

My vision for the coming year is to Grow Through Leadership and Service. We can only achieve this by having a singular vision and purpose to SERVE. We are not successful by measuring the amount of money we raise, but how effectively we use those funds to make a positive difference in people's lives. We are not successful by measuring the number of hours we serve, but by the impact our service makes on our communities. We are not successful by measuring the number of members in our club, but by the number of members in our club that serve.

Are you ready to embark on a journey of service? Are you hungry for growth in leaders? Are you yearning for a positive environment that will attract new and younger Lions? I AM READY!! The time is NOW. Join me on this journey.

I'm looking forward to serving our district as its governor but more importantly, serving Lions in District 24I.



GREG COLE

District Governor



HELEN PERSON

1st Vice District Governor

As you read this, your District 24-I leadership team is putting into place the final touches for the 2021-2022 Lions year. It is my distinct privilege to be elected to the office of 1st Vice District Governor to support the vision and work of District Governor Lion Greg Cole as we support our clubs in the post-pandemic year.

I am Lion Helen Person, currently serving my second year as President of the Charlotte Lions Club and a member of the Lions Eyeglass Recycling Mobile Unit and Lions of Central Virginia Mobile Health Unit committees. A Lion since 2007, I grew up in a Lions household and have seen firsthand the life changing benefits for a community touched by its local Lions club. In 2020, I completed the Faculty Development Institute, as well as Regional Lions Leadership Institute. I have served as Chair of Zone C, as well as Region 2 Chair in both Districts 24-I and the former 24-B. In 2017-2018, I served as Cabinet Secretary. A native of Georgia, I am a 1976 and 2010 graduate of the University of Georgia with an ABJ in Journalism (Public Relations & Advertising), as well as an MHP (Master of Historic Preservation). I am Vice President/Director of Marketing for Benchmark Community Bank based in Kenbridge and with 17 branches in Southside Virginia and northern North Carolina, am a Certified Financial Marketing Professional through the American Bankers Association, and serve as Chair of the Marketing Committee for the Virginia Bankers Association.

My goal for this Lions year is simple: to assist District Governor Lion Greg with the goals and objectives he has set for our district. In the process, I am looking to become better acquainted with the needs of our Lions, assist them with invigorating their members, and getting connected beyond the local club.

- Lion Helen Person, 1VDG, District 24-I

Fellow Lions: I am Lion Homer Cook and you have chosen me to be the Second Vice District Governor for 24-I. I thank you for the opportunity and I will work to justify your trust in me. I am a retired Naval Surface Warfare Officer, a Certified Financial Planner and hold a Coast Guard License as an Unlimited Chief Engineer. I have been a Lion since 1995 when I joined Oceanside Lions. I was jokingly referred to as the visiting Lion since I was working in the Oil Service industry, on boats, and gone for six months out of the year. I retired in 2018 and decided it was time to get deeply involved with Oceanside Lions and community service. I am a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, Graduate of Lions Faculty Development Institute, Regional Lions Leadership Institute, and have completed the requirements to receive my Masters from Lions University when I attend the USA Canada Forum this fall. I have served as President of Oceanside Lions, Zone O chair and Secretary for 24-I.



HOMER COOK

2nd Vice District Governor

As a Second Vice District Governor I am in a Support role. My job is to help the District Governor accomplish his goals. I plan to visit a lot of clubs and find out how the District can help you improve your club. I will be actively looking for candidates to serve as Zone and Region chairs. Clubs do not get a vote at the District cabinet meetings but the Zone and Region chairs do. We need Lions in these positions who will represent the clubs in their areas. Service is what Lions are supposed to do. I believe that increasing our service and visibility in the community will help us grow stronger as individual clubs and as an organization. My train of thought follows what a farmer does: Plant the seed, tend what you have planted, enjoy what you helped grow. I have been fortunate enough to help with two community gardens, you get to see the entire cycle. If you show the community that you care, they may want to learn more about you. I like chess and enjoyed spending time at the Norfolk Juvenile facility playing chess with the young people there. This may not be fertile recruiting grounds for Lions but if you can help one young person to make a better decision in life, by thinking about the next move in chess, it is worth the time.

I thank you for trusting me to be Second Vice District Governor, I will strive to justify that trust.



Leadership development allows organizations like Lions to shape the culture and strategy of the organization. For Lions, our purpose is the same as our motto, 'We Serve'. In order to accomplish our goals we need strong leaders who understand how to create and develop action plans and motivate their members in order to achieve these goals. It is important to incoming District Governor Greg and the Global Action Team to see our District and its clubs to start getting back to normal after the past year. To do this, DG Greg has established the Club of Distinction program. In an effort to strengthen our club leadership we ask that your incoming officers attend officer training, properly report leadership trainings, attend District functions like the Fall and Winter Conference, hold trainings at club meetings, this includes a membership training that all members, including new members can benefit from. When we create stronger members, stronger leaders, we are better able to accomplish our purpose, we are better able to give back to our communities.

Thanks,

Lion Heather

THIS IS YOUR WAKE UP CALL!

COVID was a bad dream!
People need Lions to
help. We need to enlist
more Lions!



Hello Fellow Lions, my name is Mack Stevens and I am your Global Membership Team Coach. The past year has been a rough one, but people need Lions now almost as much now as they did in 1917 with the influenza pandemic. People were stuck in their houses behind masks for over a year and vaccinations began. Does this sound familiar? An organization was started by a group of Chicago businessmen and organized by a man named Melvin Jones. He didn't want to be president, but he was willing to serve as secretary to document everything and start a movement to serve people in need. He wanted to offer the same opportunity to likeminded people in similar groups and they became Lions Clubs International.

I know that you have experienced the feeling of being there for someone when they needed you most. Why not find ways to offer that same experience to friends, family, and coworkers. Don't pester them to be a Lion, give them a chance to be a part of something huge, wear your pin proudly, have fun, give freely, lead by example and people will want to be in your clubs. If they don't see the value then maybe they aren't meant to join your club. Some people may want to start a club of their own. Educate people about who we are and what we do. Show them how to help others and have fun doing it.

Visible, grass roots, hands-on community service projects run frequently is what will give people a chance to enjoy the experience. Fund raisers allow us to have the funds to run these projects but can prove to be detrimental to the effort. Projects do not have to be grandiose, but larger projects will provide the need to invite more volunteers. Projects that require many hands typically do not need a lot of experience – clean the park for example. A visual is always good – messy park in – clean park out! I know we all crave the feeling of seeing our work pay off but you never know what the person you bring in will do. They may be the next Melvin Jones!

Lastly, I am here to help your club be successful in offering the opportunity. If I can help you get supplies, provide training, listen to you vent, give you ideas – please call me 757-621-9074 or email me at mackstevens@cox.net and I will get back with you. I have become a zoom guy and can set it up quick. Let's talk – Mack Stevens 24-I GMT

Fellow Lions,

I'm very excited to change hats this year to be your Global Service Team District Coordinator. It's thrilling to get back to grassroots service and be able to provide hands-on projects again! Service from the Heart will guide us this year with innovative district projects that will be outlined at the July 10 Cabinet Meeting. If you can't make the meeting, be sure to read my report for all the details.

Community Needs Assessment:

An important part of the new Club of Distinction Program under the service area is to conduct a Community Needs Assessment. Now that the world is returning to normal after the Covid-19 pandemic, it's more important than ever to reach out to community partners and evaluate the pressing needs in our communities. Your club can create your own survey or utilize the assessment provided by LCI. [This link](#) provides a fillable form for the survey. [This link](#) gives you instructions and recommendations to run the program.

Kindness Matters Service Award:

In 2019 – 2020 Lions Clubs International established the Kindness Matters Service Award. This year, District 24 – I is following this wonderful example of how to honor clubs with a district-level Kindness Matters Service Award utilizing the LCI award criteria. This prestigious award is given annually to a handful of Lions and Leo Clubs for performing an outstanding service project in one of our global cause areas. Nominated at the club level, the Kindness Matters Service Award is a challenge for Lions and Leos to develop exceptionally innovative and creative service projects with an aim of leaving a positive impact in their communities. Clubs must be in active status and the submitted service project reported in MyLion during the Lions year 2020 – 2021 to be eligible. Your club should use the following criteria to consider if a service project should be submitted for this award:

- Addresses needs within LCI and LCIF causes: diabetes, environment, vision, childhood cancer, hunger, disaster relief, youth or humanitarian service
- Demonstrates innovation and creativity
- Achieves impact of scale and long-term sustainability
- Elevates the Lions Brand



Check out the program resource overview: <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/kindness-matters-service-award> resource to learn more about what is expected of clubs and GST Coordinators throughout the process. Only one award submission per club is permitted. All applications must be typed and submitted electronically to PDG Beth Stevens, GST District Coordinator, at lionstevens@cox.net by Sunday, August 15, 2021. The application can be [found here](#). A total of eight awards will be presented at the district level and one club award recipient will be selected to be sent on to the multiple district GST Coordinator for consideration for the MD 24 Kindness Matters Award. The MD 24 winner will be endorsed by the Council of Governors to be submitted to LCI for deliberation for the 2021 – 2022 LCI Kindness Matters Service Award. Let's honor our members and communities by submitting an application today.

Together in Service,

PDG Beth Stevens

It will be my honor to serve in the capacity of PR Chair for the 2nd year. I am looking forward to being back "live" with those clubs that are just waking from "Covid Hibernation."

I saw a huge uptick in Social Media used by Clubs last year as well as from individual Lions. Clubs shared about their Golf Tournaments, fishing tournaments, Food Pantry Donations, Bay Clean up and more. Most Clubs remained active on Social Media as well as Print Media which helped keep them visible in their communities.

Here's to another great year!



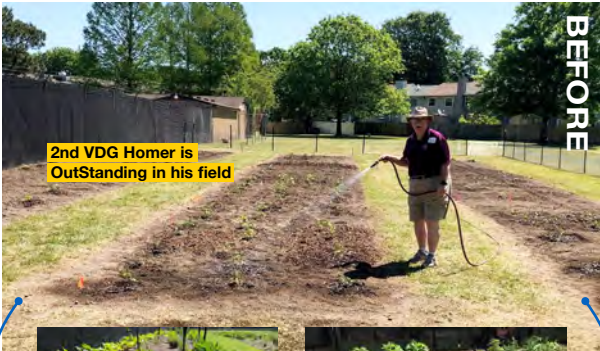
LIONS PARTICIPATE IN

TWO SERVICE PROJECTS

IN ONE COMMUNITY



Lion Homer Cook suggested to the President of the Green Run Homes Association that the Lions could help them start a community run garden. Association Manager Heidi is a ball of energy, knew the exact spot for it, gathered employees to till the soil worked with Lions and volunteers to buy plants and seeds, arranged for the Mayor and Councilmen DG Scott Durbin and other dignitaries to gather for ribbon cut and plant the garden. About 70 people attended the event with about 25 Lions in attendance. Heidi has volunteers from the homeowner's association to water and pull weeds. When the harvest comes, they will distribute the vegetables to the needy in their community. What an impact Lions made on that community.



After!



After!



LIONS PARTICIPATE IN
**TWO SERVICE
PROJECTS**
IN ONE COMMUNITY



GRHA 50th Anniversary Celebration and National Night Out

Did you know that the Green Run Community turned the big FIVE-O in 2020? Because of the pandemic we were unable to celebrate this great milestone last year. Now that we are able to gather, the date has been set, so mark your calendars for July 31, 2021. From 3 to 7 p.m. we invite all Green Run residents to join us for a grand celebration. We will be combining our annual National Night Out celebration with this event as well which means this event is going to be huge! There will be games and entertainment, representatives from several city services and loads of sponsors and local businesses in attendance. All of which are looking forward to meeting the Green Run Community. The Green Run Community has 4,905 homes and over 15,000 residents and we are the largest HOA in Hampton Roads. We are so excited to celebrate our amazing residents and our community by hosting this event. This event will be free and open to Green Run Residents and their guests. Lions will vision screen citizens through the sight and hearing van that evening. We also run an information booth to inform and involve attendees.

Two Projects that gather community resources, tie service groups and community leaders in with average citizens, are very visible and enlist the help of others in a common cause. National Night Out is a night of support for local law enforcement held across the country typically at the end of July or early august each year. Contact your local officials to see what's being done in your area and how you can help.

IN MEMORY

Patricia Kennedy
Colonial Heights Lions Club

Thomas S. Gale, Jr.
Norfolk Host Lions Club

George S. Larrimore, Sr.
Gloucester Lions Club

Richard Stephens
Norfolk Wards Corner Lions Club

Suzanne M. Kruse
Mechanicsville Lions Club

Robert W. Hodge
Williamsburg Host Lions Club

**WELCOME OUR
NEWEST
LIONS**

**Central Shore
Lions Club**

Michael C. Drummond

**Chesapeake Host
Lions Club**

Margaret G. Carey

**Farmville
Lions Club**

Anne Tyler Paulek

**Hampton Mercury
Lions Club**

Iveta Marston

**James City
Lions Club**

Lisa Garber

**New Kent County
Lions Club**

Lorraine Grace Naab

**Norfolk Host
Lions Club**

Katrina K. Quade

**Norfolk Little Creek
Lions Club**

Norman E. Jarock, Jr.

**Norfolk Middle Town
Lions Club**

Benyam Abera

Somto Azike

Neil Balram

Martha Bissah

Cynthia Davis

Ruth Frimpong

Alexis Hicks

Daniel Kumatey

Taichelle Miller

Daniel Tekyi

Kailah Watkni-Be

**Norfolk Ocean View
Lions Club**

Ruth Ann Kearney

Nancy J. Rodrique

**Portsmouth Host
Lions Club**

Tana S. Gran

**South Bison
Lions Club**

Malcom Bowen

Tristan Dunford

**Sussex County
Lions Club**

Vincent L. Robertson



In Next Month's Newsletter
find out about how
your club can be a
"District Governor's Club of Distinction"

We need
News Hounds and Tweeters
Call Lion Nina Ambrose

Please submit articles to editors
PDG Rich Evans or PDG Scott Durbin
by the 23rd of the month



Original Sight & Hearing Unit is tuned up and ready to screen

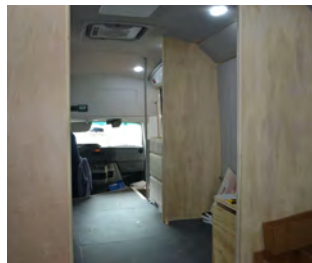
— SO ARE WE —

New Van Interior Modifications – on schedule!

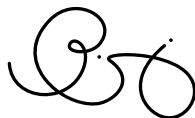


We are primed to take on sight & hearing screening again. Drivers have been vaccinated and are at the ready, eagerly committed to work with vaccinated Lions Club workers. Our original unit has been idle for months due to Covid-19, but has been given the green light to get on the road again. We will be observing Covid-19 protocols. All we need is for the clubs to energize their screening initiatives. We are eager for the requests to roll in. Call or email our scheduler, **Lion Nancy Grochowski** at 757-575-1675 or nangrochowski@aol.com

The new van is still receiving its interior modifications and outfitting to enable screeners to productively accomplish our screening mission. The Modification Committee led by **Lion Mick Grochowski** expects completion by mid to late summer. Some of the latest audio and visual equipment available are being evaluated for inclusion as on board equipment. Included are some photos so you can see the progress.






Schedule the Sight & Hearing Unit today!



THE BIGI COLLECTIVE



LET US DESIGN FOR YOU!

-  bigicreatives@gmail.com
-  Instagram: [@thebigi.co](https://www.instagram.com/thebigi.co)
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