



We Serve

Magnolia Lion



We Serve

March 2025

State Convention Preview

White Cane Funds:

- MS Lions Eye Bank
- Deaf Camp
- All-State Band
- Diabetes Awareness
- Sea and Sun Camp
- Leadership Conferences for Boys & Girls



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River City Hosts State Convention

Well, we’re gonna have a convention...right here in River City...

The Mulberry Hotel located in Vicksburg, Mississippi will be the site of this year’s MD-30 State Convention, May1-2, 2026. We have secured a rate of \$119 per night plus tax. Space is limited so you will want to go ahead and make your reservation ahead of the cut off date of April 1, 2026. When making reservations, use block number 050126LIO.

Activities will begin Friday with various committee meetings being held across the afternoon. A training session for club officers and zone chairmen will also be on tap. The day will culminate with the Lions of Mississippi Hall of Fame Induction Banquet.

Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m., Lions will gather for the Multiple District’s general business session. Committee and project reports will be on the agenda.

Featured presentations will include Jeff Cannon, Manager of the Lions All-State Band.

Cannon has an interesting perspective, as a former band member that became “The Leader of the Band”.

PDG Greg Crapo will also give an update regarding his candidacy for International Director for Lions Clubs International.

We are also planning a special treat. A representative of Transplant Team Mississippi will give a presentation of how donor families and transplant recipients come together to promote the need for organ, eye and tissue donation by competing in the Transplant Games held every two years and how the Lions are helping to assist in these efforts.

Immediately following the general business session, Lions will be dismissed to have lunch on their own which can be enjoyed at the hotel’s bistro or you may walk up the hill to Washington

Street and enjoy one of the many eateries on the historic brick road.

After lunch, Lions will gather and meet in their respective district meetings to take care of business pertinent to their district. Elections will follow.

Next, the Past District Governors will host this year’s Lions Sight Foundation drawdown. Snacks and treats will be provided, along with the opportunity to rekindle old friendships and network with Lions from other clubs. Drawdown tickets are now available and can be secured through a Lions Sight Foundation Trustee. Costs are \$20 per ticket for a chance to win \$1000.

The convention will come to a close with the annual District Governor’s Banquet. PID Jerome Thompson will be our keynote speaker. This year’s agenda and venue promises to make this convention in the “River City” one to remember!



Lions Clubs International FOUNDATION

Status of Donations

July 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025

	<u>30-M</u>	<u>30-S</u>
Total Donations	\$6,682	\$8,376
Donation Goal	\$26,265	\$22,707
Percentage of Goal	25%	37%
Last Year LCIF Donations	\$22,954	\$12,392

Lions Bestow Blessings During the Holidays...

Blessing Sent – Blessings Received. Lions in Mississippi are bestowing blessings from McComb to Meridian and Jackson to Gloster. People with physical disabilities have safe and affordable housing communities through the Lions Sight Foundation, and this holiday season many of those residents were blessed with holiday food baskets.

The McComb Lions provided holiday food baskets to residents at The Willows and Pine Hills communities.

We obtained donations from Wayne-Sanderson Farms, Ma Belle Sausage, Flowers Baking, Corner Market, Piggly Wiggly, Hutchison CPA's, Pike National Bank, Aston Court, McKenzie Poultry Farm and Seth Touchstone, while Lions Tony Nettles and Linda Long filled the holiday boxes. VDG Tony Nettles organized the drive and made sure the residents had a holiday meal fit for a king. Boxes included: a large pack of boneless chicken breasts, Ma Belle sausage, a loaf of bread, crackers, grits and Oat-

meal, snack bars, pies, 6 cans of veggies, potatoes, rice, a can of chili, two cans of chicken noodle soup, 2 packs of ramen noodles, a 3 liter coke product, a roll of paper towels and toilet tissue and a box of Kleenex.

Boxes were delivered December 19th by Lions from McComb and Biloxi, with Lions International Director candidate PDG Greg Crapo, who also serves as Secretary of Housing for the properties. Property managers Sheila Hughes and Amanda Richoux echoed the sentiments of their residents that a true blessing had been received. A special thanks to the contributors, Lions and volunteers that gave a little Christmas cheer at this special time of year.

GOD IS GREAT!



Members of the McComb and Biloxi Lions Club delivered holiday food baskets to the residents of the Willows and Pine Hills communities.

LIONS SIGHT FOUNDATION	2025
	2026
District 30 M	\$10,318.00
Avery McKinley District M	\$375.00
Light for Sight	\$1,450.00
District 30 S	\$15,925.00
Avery McKinley District S	\$700.00
Light for Sight	\$925.00
Other: Taitwister- st conv	\$0.00
St Conv - Drawdown	\$0.00
Gun Raffle	\$5,112.00
Network for Good, Paypal Giving Fund, etc.	\$88.81
Multiple District 30	\$34,893.81



Cataract-a-thon Answers the Challenge...

In 1925 Helen Keller addressed the Lions Clubs International Convention in n Cedar Point, Ohio and challenged members to become, "Knights of the Blind" in the crusade against darkness. This appeal transformed the organization's mission, making sight preservation and aid for the visually impaired a primary focus. Lions took on the cause of eradicating all forms of preventable blindness, even if it is just one person at a time.

It's been a little over a year ago, that I first met with Dr. Lee Moore regarding an idea that he had to provide cataract surgeries to patients with low income and little or no insurance. I had known Dr. Moore for several years as a corneal transplant surgeon that had used the services of the Mississippi Lions Eye Bank to provide donor tissue for these sight-saving surgeries. Dr. Moore had already established himself as an excellent ophthalmic surgeon but I was about to meet the man behind the doctor. He told me that he had been actively involved in international missions that touched so many needing surgeries to preserve or replace lost sight. As a result, he felt moved by his faith to do something locally that would impact the lives of Mississippians. Thus, the cataract-a-

thon was given life. The next several months plans began to be made. Meetings with doctors and staff members representing Mid-South Sight and Hearing Service were held. For years, Mid-South has provided surgeries through their resources including an annual cataract-a-thon of their own. The information that was gleaned from their years of experience was priceless. Using parts of their model as a template for our event, we began to secure the support of medical supply companies and drug representatives to provide most of the materials needed to perform a successful procedure. Additional costs regarding disposable supplies were picked up by the Lions Sight Foundation of Mississippi. Surgeons, Anesthesiologist, surgical assistants and nurses all volunteered their services. The patients we met could not have been more appreciative for everyone involved and for having their vision restored. On February 9, 2026, nine Mississippians had their vision restored due to the

generosity of the staff of the Eye Group of Mississippi and the Lions Sight Foundation of Mississippi. Plans are already being made for the next event.

Mike Flynt, Editor, Magnolia Lion



Lion Mike Flynt (left), Dr. Lee Moore (center), and Lion Paula Gray (right) are all smiles after the successful completion of the inaugural Lions Sight Foundation Cataract-a-thon.



(left photo) Patients are taken to the OR where their cataract is surgically removed and replaced with a new intra-ocular lens. (center photo) The patient is then taken to the recovery area for a brief stay. (right photo) Finally patients are examined a few hours later after their surgery is complete and prior to their discharge.

District 30-M News

District Governor John Storley

The first half of the Lions' year is over, and it has been a busy six months. My leadership team and I have been busy visiting clubs and planning for the Mid-Winter convention.

Speaking of our convention, we had a rough start to our Mid-Winter Convention due to ice and a massive snowstorm that effected the northern part of the state. I will say all of the guests who attended the event enjoyed reuniting with fellow Lions. Based on the theme of Dr. Seuss and the Cat in the Hat, "Good Eyes, Great Readers," we collected new and gently used children's books at the Mid-Winter Convention as a part of a district service project. We collected about 35 books that Lion Pamela Hubbard will donate to the Diamond Club. They are in the process of creating a library located in the Grenada Headstart Center.

Our event started Friday with registration and a meet-and-greet with our special guest, Past International President Douglas Alexander. Despite the inclement weather, we had our district business meeting Saturday morning. As a result of the weather, we had approximately 20 people meet in person while another 26 joined us via Zoom. Lion Rose Coffey Graham was confirmed as the incoming 2nd Vice District Governor. I also had the privilege of announcing that the McCool Lions Club has inducted its 20th member, and we are working on scheduling their charter night. The date, time, and location will be sent out later.

Due to the weather, the Balloon Quest Escape Room and nature walk activities were cancelled. Instead we had a question-and-answer session

with the Past International President Alexander, on Saturday afternoon. The District Governors' Banquet was Saturday night, again due to the weather, we had 14 brave the ele-

everyone safe. I want to thank everyone for their patience and flexibility regarding our Mid-Winter Convention. I would like to announce that we will be implementing a new pro-



Thanks to all the Lions of the District that braved the elements to attend our Mid-Winter convention in person. I would like to also thank those that took the time to attend via Zoom. (above photo) Lions participated in a district service project with a Dr. Seuss theme designed to collect new and gently used books for children.

ments and attend in person, while 26 joined via Zoom. Past International President Alexander spoke on membership growth and membership retention in Lionism, as well as his personal Lions story.

Next, Past International President Alexander presented the Presidential Certificate of Appreciation to Pamela Hubbard, Kim Bunn, and Greg Crapo, for their outstanding service and work. Due to the winter storm, we were able to donate the extra food we had reserved for our banquet to the first responders of Grenada in appreciation for their work in keeping

gram this month with the help of International Director Chris Carlone, to train our GAT team. We will also be training the incoming GAT team so we can better serve our clubs and district moving forward.

Please make plans to attend this year's Lions State Convention in Vicksburg May1-2nd.



We Serve

District Governor John Storley

30-S Mid-Winter Convention Scrapbook



(left photo) DG Storley presents PIP Alexander with his very own Elvis sweatshirt. (right photo) PIP Alexander presents Lion Pamela Hubbard with a Lions Clubs International President's Certificate of Appreciation. (below photo) PIP Alexander presents PDG and candidate for International Director Greg Crapo with a Lions Clubs International President's Certificate of Appreciation.



District 30-S

News

District Governor

Penny Edwards

Fellow Lions of District 30-S, as we enter the final six months of my 2025-26 term, I want to reflect on our membership progress. Though we began July, 2025, I encouraged all 35 clubs to focus on both new members while strengthening retention, and your efforts paid off. December's "Stop the Drop" initiative proved especially successful and despite the closure of one club, we ended the month with a remarkable net gain of 16 members, a milestone not achieved in years. A positive momentum reflects your hard work, passion, and commitment to Lionism. Let us continue building on this strong foundation in the month ahead to end June 2026 on an even more positive note. We Can Do This!

The District 30-S Mid-Winter Convention was held January 9-10, 2026, in Magee, MS, chosen for its central location. The fifteen clubs represented were: Biloxi, Columbia, Crystal Springs, Florence, Harrisville, Madison, Magee, McComb, Meadville/Franklin County, Metro Jackson, Pine Belt, Port Gibson, Reservoir, Terry, Wesson, and Vicksburg. In addition to our members, we welcomed guests International Director Chris Carlone and Lion Kathy Carlone from Slidell, Louisiana; District Governor John Storley and 1st Vice District Governor Deb Storley from 30-M; MS Lions Marketing Coordinator PCC Tommy Ragan; LCIF Coordinator PCC Andy Kalinowski and PDG Sue Wolf-Kalinowski. Friday's registration and King Cake Meet and Greet at the Holiday Inn Express offered a warm start to the convention despite the wet and chilly weather, giving members a chance to reconnect, as well as welcome new Lions.

Saturday's District Business Meeting held at Berry's Seafood and Catfish House began with a welcome from Mayor Lion Mark Grubbs, followed by introductions, committee reports, a

special presentation from Camp of the Rising Sun Fundraising Chairman Lane Myers, and elections for the 2026-27 district leadership. Congratulations District Governor Elect Tony Nettles (McComb Lions Club), First Vice-District Governor Elect Monty Wilson (Terry Lions Club) and Second Vice District Governor Elect Jason Guthrie (Port Gibson Lions Club). Looking forward to great things with this impressive leadership team for 2026-27. The highlight of the morning was ID Carlone's engaging presentation delivered with a hint of Mardi Gras. He spoke about Mission 1.5, membership recruitment and retention, service reporting and assessing community needs. He also recognized the district's newest members, Lions Ron and Dorie Eller, who were only five days into their membership with the Metro Jackson Club. ID Carlone International President's Certificates of Appreciation were given to Zone Chair Ken Maddox (Reservoir Lions Club) and to Morgan H. Poore (Meadville-Franklin County Club) for leadership and service to District 30-S.

Lane Myers, Fundraising Chairman for the Camp of the Rising Sun, a camp for children with childhood cancer, shared an important update regarding the camp's relocation from Columbus to Camp Kamassa near Crystal Springs. Drawing on his own experience as a former camper, Lane encouraged clubs to continue the tradition of volunteerism and service established many years ago. Please go to their website:

www.camprisingsunms.com to volunteer for the next camp to be held June 1-6, 2026.

After a productive meeting followed by a parade of checks, Lions participated in the Hunger Week Service Project by filling enough non-perishable food items to nearly fill a large SUV for the Magee food pantry,

at the Overflow Church. Thanks to the generosity of our members, the goals of the Hunger Initiative were fully met, proving we are Super Heroes of Service. An afternoon roundtable discussion, facilitated by ID Carlone, focused on Lionism and organizational protocol. The afternoon wrapped up with additional fellowship in the hospitality room with enough King Cake for everyone.

Events such as this convention are only made possible through dedication of many Lions and partners. While I may unintentionally miss someone, I extend sincere thanks to all who contributed. With my sincerest appreciation to: ID Chris Carlone and Lion Kathy Carlone; Mayor Lion Mark Grubbs and the City of Magee; the Magee Chamber of Commerce; the Magee Lions Club; Peggy and Heather at the Holiday Inn Express; Kendra at Berry's Seafood and Catfish House; the Overflow Church and Food Pantry; the sponsors for the convention program; all the presenters; Lane Myers with the Camp of the Rising Sun; District Secretary Joe McCormick; District Treasurer Gerald Gardner; 1st VDG Tony Nettles; 2nd VDG Monty Wilson; PDG Elijah Mitchell; CC Cindy Bamburg for making the hospitality room cuisine and atmosphere enjoyable; Pine Belt Lions for the hospitality baskets; members who contributed food for the Hunger Week Service Project and monies to the Camp of the Rising Sun; Lions Tracie, Brian and Shelby Craddock, for the table decorations and the Biloxi Lions Club, for use of their tablecloths and napkins.

As we continue this year. I look forward to visiting the remaining clubs I have yet to meet. If your club has not contacted me, please do so, so that I may add you to my calendar and remember, the Lions State Convention will be held in Vicksburg May1-2, 2026.

District 30-S Mid-Winter Convention 1/9-10/2026 Magee, MS



ID Chris Carlone's Presentation



International Certificate of Appreciation Presentations to Zone Chair Ken & Lion Morgan Poore. Accepting for Lion Morgan was Lion David Campbell. Lion Morgan received her certificate at a later date from DGE Tony Nettles



2025-2026 District Cabinet Officers
 Sec. Joe McCormick
 Tres. Gerald Gardner
 CC Cindy Bamburg
 ID Chris Carlone
 Lion Kathy Carlone
 DG Penny Edwards
 DGE Tony Nettles
 FVDGE Monty Wilson

ID Chris
 Lion Kathy
 DG Penny
 And
 International
 Director
 Candidate
 Greg Crapo



Guest speaker Lane Myers
 Camp of the Rising Sun,
 Childhood Cancer Camp



ID Chris welcoming 5-day
 old members, Ron and Dorie
 Eller, Metro Jackson Club



District 30-S Super Heroes
 of Service project for the
 LCI Hunger Week Initiative
 Food Collection. Donation
 was made to the Overflow
 Church, Magee, MS Food
 Pantry

**Lions of Mississippi/
Lions Sight Foundation**

431 Katherine Drive
Flowood MS 39232

Phone: 601-420-5739

Fax: 601-420-5743

E-mail: Lionsofms@aol.com

New Website: lionsofms.net

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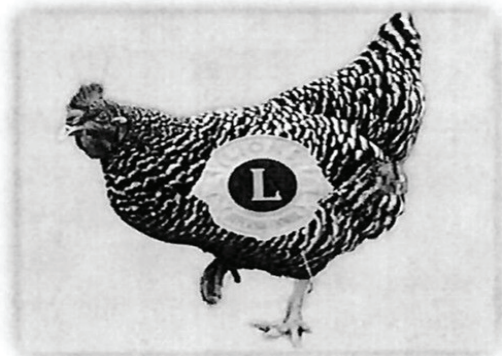
We Serve!

Cackle for the Gold

White Cane 2024-25

Avery McKinley

Contribution



NAME: _____

CLUB: _____ DIST _____

Amount enclosed (\$25 each) _____ Check# _____ Credit Card _____

Credit Card # _____ Exp Dt _____ Security Code _____

Authorized Signature _____

Mail this form, with contribution to: **Lions Sight Foundation**
431 Katherine Drive
Flowood MS 39232

Make Check Payable to: **Lions Sight Foundation**, indicate in memo area - **Avery McKinley**