



We Serve

Magnolia Lion



We Serve

June 2026

State Convention Review

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 Convention...

The river city of Vicksburg was the site of this year's Lion State Convention, May 1-2, 2026. The convention kicked off Friday afternoon with officer training and various committees meeting.

Later that evening, Lions were invited to attend the annual Lions of Mississippi Hall of Fame induction banquet. Lions Wally Cox, PID B.M. Stone, PDG Jimmy Boyd and Lion Jeff Cannon were inducted as a part of this year's class of honorees. Our Master of Ceremonies, PDG Richie Dickson and PDG Greg Crapo, in keeping with the convention's theme, donned All-State Band uniforms and led the Lions through a successful evening. We would like to congratulate all inductees, as well as their families, for this prestigious honor.

Saturday morning, Lions made their way to the general business session. We were welcomed to Vicksburg by Mayor Willie Thompson. Next, in-

formative reports were presented, highlighting the multiple district's service projects. What happened next was a special surprise. Our guests, PID Jerome Thompson and PID Pat Vannett, each took a moment to talk about services that Lions offer to their communities.

They then turned their focus to Mayor Thompson and asked if he wanted to be a part of an organization that, like him, gave so much back to their community. Mayor Thompson said, "Yes" and he became the state's newest Lion!

Feature presentations followed. First up was heart transplant recipient Timothy Lewis. Timothy shared his story with the Lions and what the Transplant Games were doing to increase awareness for the need for organ, eye and tissue donation. He thanked the Lions for their support of Team Mississippi. Lion Jeff Cannon, Director/Manager of the Lions All-State Band and recent inductee into

the Lions of Mississippi Hall of Fame talked about his journey from member to Director/Manager. At the conclusion of his presentation, Cannon was awarded the title of Director/Manager Emeritus.

Hard to follow, but PDG Greg Crapo provided an excellent update regarding his candidacy for International Director. District meetings were conducted following lunch.

Immediately after the districts dismissed, PID Pat Vannett spoke about strategies to increase membership in MD-30. Her presentation was sponsored by the Past District Governors Club and was well received. The convention concluded with the District Governor's Banquet. PID Jerome Thompson was our keynote speaker. And he delivered an inspirational address to take back to our clubs. He also took time to make several award presentations. **(cont. on page 3)**

Cannon Named Director/Manager Emeritus

Lion Jeff Cannon was recently awarded the title of Director/Manager Emeritus of the Lions of Mississippi All-State Band. Cannon received his latest honor following a presentation he made in the general business session of the Lions of Mississippi State Convention held in Vicksburg. Council Chairperson Cindy

Bamburg applauded Cannon for his many years of tireless service to the band and then asked members of the All-State Band Committee that were present to join her along with Cannon at podium. She then presented Cannon with a Certificate of Appreciation along with a beautiful piece of crystal, awarding Cannon with

his new title.

The night prior Cannon was inducted into the Lions of Mississippi Hall of Fame. Cannon was recognized as the most successful Director/Manager in the band's history winning 26 Lions International Parade Championships.



We Serve



Lions Clubs International FOUNDATION

Status of Donations

July 1, 2025 – April 30, 2026*

*Includes donations made at the state convention

	30-M	30-S
Total Donations	\$17,535	\$13,321
Donation Goal	\$26,265	\$22,707
	67%	59%
Last Year LCIF Donations	\$22,954	\$12,392

**LCIF “Tell-A-Thon” is Sunday, June 7th.
Watch for links on social media.**

 LIONS SIGHT FOUNDATION 	
	White Cane Campaign
	2026
District 30 M	\$22,118.00
Avery McKinley District M	\$700.00
Light for Sight	\$1,450.00
District 30 S	\$34,656.00
Avery McKinley District S	\$700.00
Light for Sight	\$925.00
ACH Contributions	\$1430.00
Other: Tailtwister- state convention / chicken raffle	\$421.00
State Convention - Drawdown (net)	\$860.00
Gun Raffle Contribution	\$5,112.00
Network for Good, Paypal Giving Fund, etc.	\$88.81
Multiple District 30	\$70,160.81

Convention continued...

PID Jerome Thompson presented the International Presidents Certificate of Appreciation to the following:

30-M Cabinet Secretary Celia Carter, PCC Tommy Ragan, Tupelo Lions, Betty Swanzy, Greater Columbus,

Juanita Horton, Biloxi Lions, Lion Craig Sawyers, Hazlehurst Lions.

PID Thompson, along with PID Pat Vannett presented VDG Deb Storley with the Lions Leadership Award. The Leadership Award is the second highest honor that a Lion can receive.

Congratulations to this well-deserving Lion.

We would also like to congratulate Lion Dr. Walter Johnston for winning the Lions Sight Foundation Draw-down. Special thanks Vicksburg and all those who had a hand in making the convention a success.

Lions Hall of Fame Class of 2026



PDG Jimmy Boyd and Family



Lion Jeff Cannon and Family



PDG Jimmy Boyd and Lion Jeff Cannon (standing center) join other members of the Lions of Mississippi Hall of Fame at this years state convention. PID B.M. Stone and Lion Wally Cox were inducted posthumously.

District 30-M News

District Governor John Storley

Our schedule certainly has been full the past several months with club visits, chartering a new club, Boys' and Girls' Leadership Conferences, state convention, and the Mississippi Lions Leadership Institute. We chartered the McCool Lions Club on March 7th at Lake Tiak-O'Khata. We are also in the process of chartering a Leo Club in McCool. Our state convention was held in Vicksburg, Mississippi, on May 1st-2nd. Everyone had a great time, with plenty of helpful information presented by Past International Directors Jerome Thompson and Pat Vannett.

The Hall of Fame Banquet was entertaining as usual, due largely in part to our talented Masters of Ceremonies PCC Richie Dickson and PDG Greg Crapo. Several Lions were inducted. Congratulations to these deserving Lions.

The Mayor of Vicksburg welcomed

everyone Saturday morning. During the course the meeting, Past International Director Pat was able to recruit a new member for the Vicksburg Lions Club. Mayor Willie Thompson was inducted by our two visiting Past International Directors and thus became the state's newest member. After our district meetings that afternoon, PID Pat showed us ways to improve membership in our state. The conclusion of the convention was the District Governor's Banquet featuring keynote speaker PID Jerome Thompson. PID Thompson presented Presidential Certificates of Appreciation to Past Council Chair Tommy Ragan, Lion Celia Carter and Lion Betty Swanzy. PID Thompson also presented VDG Deb Storley with the Lions Leadership award, the second highest honor a Lion can receive.

Switching gears, the Mississippi Lions Leadership Institute was held at

Lake Tiak-O'Khata May 7-9th. Six future leaders received training that will prove helpful in their future endeavors. I want to thank Past Council Chair Tommy Ragan, Past District Governor Elijah Mitchell, and Past District Governor Carrie Andrepont for all the hard work they put into making this leadership institute a success. We are looking forward to training our future leaders in the years to come.

Thank you to everyone for the opportunity to be your District Governor this year. I have met many new Lions and enjoyed seeing old friends along the way. I believe the district is in good hands moving forward with District Governor Elect Debbie and her Vice District Governors.

30-M District Governor

John Storley

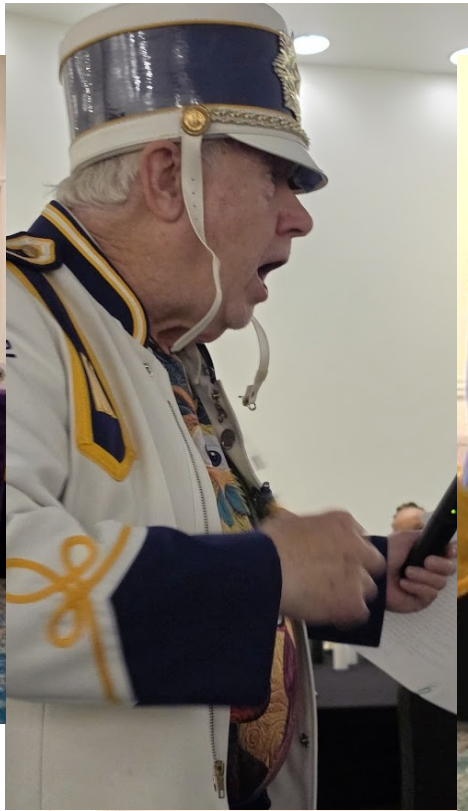


PID Pat Vannett and PID Jerome Thompson were our special guests at state convention. Their presentations were informative, enlightening and motivational. We appreciate their contribution to our annual meeting.



Vice District Governor Deb Storley was awarded the Lions Leadership Award. The Lions Leadership Award is the second highest honor that a Lion can receive. The award was presented by PID Jerome Thompson and PID Pat Vannett.

Convention Scrapbook



A Year That Reminded Me Why WE Serve !

My term as District Governor will soon end and I find myself reflecting on how quickly the past year has passed. Twelve months can seem like a long road at the beginning, but once you're in it, the days and milestones move faster than expected. I am deeply thankful for what this year has meant and for the people who made it possible.

Every Past District Governor remembers that first moment after being sworn in—the quiet, honest thought that goes through their mind: How am I going to do this?

Leadership can feel heavy at the start, but Lions teach you quickly that no one serves alone.

This year was a reminder of that lesson repeatedly. I was fortunate to serve alongside two Vice District Governors who embodied that spirit. First District Governor Tony Nettles and Second Vice District Governor Monty Wilson were constant sources of encouragement and action—always with “I’m here for you, What’s next?” and “How can I help?” Their loyalty, energy, and willingness to step in made even the hardest days lighter.

Two roles quietly carried an extraordinary amount of responsibility: District Secretary and District Treasurer. I was blessed to work with the best, Secretary Lion Joe McCormick and Treasurer Lion Gerald Gardner. Their reliability and dedication allowed the rest of us to focus on serving our clubs and communities with confidence.

District 30-S is also blessed with Past Council Chairs, Past District Governors, and Global Action Team leaders who generously share their experience and wisdom. My Cabinet with veterans, and up and coming leaders, assisted our district to grow stronger

while we intentionally made room for new Lions to learn, lead, and step forward. That balance—honoring experience while welcoming fresh perspectives—has been one of our strengths this year.

A year filled with goals and rewards. Here's just a few highlights.

One of the fundamental goals for this year was to achieve membership growth, and the outcome has been encouraging. With the short time remaining in the 2025–2026 Lions year, District 30-S has sustained an average positive gain growth of 18 members since October 2025. This steady increase marks a significant milestone, as such consistent growth has not been realized in nearly twenty years. It is important to recognize that this achievement is not the result of chance; rather, it stems from a shared belief in our mission and the collective effort to invite others to join and contribute. And, at the same time retaining the members who share in our mission and passion to serve.

The impact of district-to club-to member communication is evident through our membership growth. The monthly District newsletter kept clubs updated on LCI messages and global events, important LCI and district deadlines, dues payment fact sheets, service project suggestions, the importance of reporting service projects, and how other clubs gain visibility in their communities and the same could be said regarding our the District 30-S Facebook page. Many clubs in MD30 have posted their club activities and upcoming events, milestones, and encouragements. Social media is a fast way to keep members informed and notified.

Cabinet and District meetings took place, training on the Lions Portal, Club Officer, and Leadership was

available, with members encouraged to participate. In August, International Director Chris Carlone from Louisiana came to Mississippi to advise MD-30 concerning membership strategies. ID Chris reviewed our last five years of membership trends, noting that growth has remained negative, and offered ideas for reversing this pattern. Alongside club recruitment efforts, establishing at least two new clubs with twenty or more members by June 30, 2026, would provide a strong foundation moving forward. The most rewarding announcement for MD-30 was when PDG Greg Crapo (Biloxi Club) officially announced his candidacy for the position of International Director. With Mississippi still mourning the passing of our last International Director, PID Howard Jenkins whose term was 2005-2007, his announcement was the shot in the arm Mississippi needed. If PDG Greg is elected to fill one of the five open positions, Mississippi will have its first international representative in over 20 years.

Greg 4 ID !!! We Believe !

District 30-S is proud to have secured funding from the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) to implement the Lions Quest Program at Russell Academy, east of Meridian. With this support, the district will introduce the program for students in grades 5 through 8, starting in the 2026–2027 school year. This initiative demonstrates the district's commitment to empowering young people and promoting positive change within the community. Other clubs in the district are eagerly awaiting the outcomes of the Russell Academy Lions Quest program, hoping to determine if it might be beneficial for their own communities.

The Mid-Winter District Convention was well attended and successful. The District leadership team for 2026-2027, DGE Tony Nettles, FVDGE Monty Wilson, and SVDGE Jason Guthrie were elected. Members voted to support Camp of the Rising Sun, a childhood cancer camp relocating to Camp Kamasa in 30-S, starting June 2026. The Mardi Gras-themed event featured International Director Chris Carlone and his wife, Lion Kathy. ID Chris highlighted the importance of balancing club membership recruitment with retention. Attendees contributed non-perishable food to a local pantry as part of the district service project. The convention concluded with the Governor's Banquet of relaxed dining, story sharing, and camaraderie.

The State Convention held in Vicksburg, May 1-2, again was filled with learning, love, laughter, and surprises. PID Jerome Thompson shared his passion for the Lions Quest and how the program can make a difference in lives of youth in our communities. PID Pat Vannett, a Global Action Team Coordinator, presented a ses-

sion focused just on MD-30 (Mississippi) opportunities we may be missing in recruiting new members and starting news clubs.

Between the two conventions, five deserving District 30-S Lions received the 4th highest honor a Lion can receive...a President's Certificate of Appreciation from International President A.P. Singh. Congratulations to Lions Morgan H. Poore (Meadville/Franklin Co.), Ken Maddox (Reservoir), Shelia Spann (Madison), Juanita Horton (Biloxi) and Craig Sawyers (Hazlehurst). As my term winds down, I want to express how much of an honor it has been to serve Lions International and District 30-S. I am sincerely grateful for the trust you have extended to me. Thank you for your warm welcome during my club visits. Hearing your stories and seeing your service firsthand was truly inspiring. Throughout my tenure, I made it a priority to listen, to support our clubs, and address concerns as they arose. I am proud of the progress we achieved together, particularly in strengthening communication by launching a

monthly district newsletter and reaching a positive gain in membership. As District 30-S looks ahead, I encourage every Lion to continue their support of DGE Tony Nettles, FVDGE Monty Wilson, and SVDGE Jason Guthrie as they begin their service in the 2026-2027 Lions year.

Sharing the Lions message is not just a duty—it is a meaningful practice that strengthens our bonds and reminds us of our purpose. As we move forward with the important work that lies ahead, my hope remains clear and unwavering: that we continue to care deeply for our clubs, offer steadfast support to our neighbors, and welcome new members into this family of service.

This commitment is at the heart of what it means to be a Lion. Throughout the past year, I have consistently affirmed—and still believe with all my heart—that together, We Can Do It!

In Mississippi, our spirit is defined by service: In Mississippi, We Serve!



Lions Deaf Camp 2026

Lions Deaf Camp 2026 was a huge success. We had 14 Counselors, 3 Counselors in Training, and 9 campers. We kicked Friday night off with Dominos Pizza, Ice Cream, and a movie. Saturday started with a visit from the local Boy Scouts who graciously came to serve us a breakfast pancakes and sausage. Vickie Miller joined us for arts and crafts. This kids were very excited and the counselors fully involved, from start to finish! Our field trip this year was two fold. First stop was the War Memorial Park, where the kids engaged in learning about the water life along the coast. They moved from interactive booths around the park until it was time for lunch. We

picnicked on the park with Chick-fil-A, before boarding the bus for the next stop. Chill Sloth is an ice cream shop in Wiggins, MS; where the kids were treated to a scoop of ice

cream while getting to watch a sloth move around, eat, climb, and interact with its surroundings!

Once we arrived back at camp, we ended the night with ASL Stories and Jokes. Each counselor and camper had an opportunity (or 2) to get up and tell their favorite and/or original!

Sunday morning, we rounded up for a Bible story that encouraged the kids that God loved them just the way they are, presented awards, and gave the campers a send off.

Thank you to everyone who was involved in making this year great!

Erica Ables, Camp Coordinator



Deaf Camp 2026 campers and counselors

**Lions of Mississippi/
Lions Sight Foundation**

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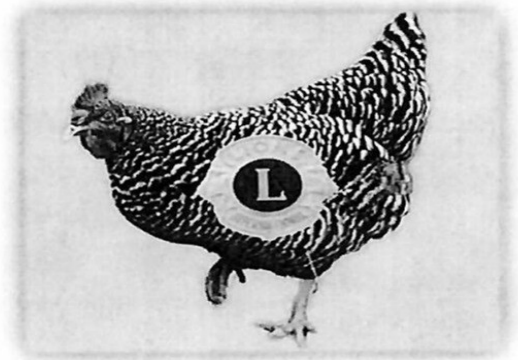


We Serve!

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