



# District 12-N News & Views

**"In a World of Service"**



September 2012

District 12-N, Tennessee (USA)

<http://tnlions.org/>



Hello Fellow Lions:

I want to say "Thank You" to those who have agreed to work on a committee, hold a position on the cabinet and to those who have agreed to NOT block my phone number, you know who you are!! Thank you to those clubs that I visited in past few weeks, you are amazing. I have enjoyed

getting to know all of you better. I am so excited about the opportunities that a new year brings.

We have some exciting events coming up in the next couple of months. There is the USA/Canada Forum in September in Tampa Florida, the Roanoke trip for eyeglass recycling, Lions Learning Retreat, White Cane in October and Diabetes month in November. To some of you, you may look at this list and see work. I look at this list and see opportunities to be of service to our fellow friends, neighbors and those in need. Our motto is "We Serve". Are you serving your community? Are you meeting those needs around you? Are you as active as you used to be? You can change that by just giving me a call. I have a long list of things to do. More hands make for a lighter load. Call me soon.

I would like to challenge ALL Lions in District 12-N to support the Reading Action Program with me. My challenge to you is this. For every member you have in your club; donate at least 1 book to the literacy cause. Reading is something that we take for granted because we know how to read. There are over 21 million people in the United States alone that cannot read. Just to make my point, have you ever tried to read a foreign language? That is what it is like not to be able to read. So please accept my challenge and donate 1 book for every member in your club. My goal is to have 1250 books by the time District Conventions come in February 2013. Why 1250 books you ask? I'm glad you asked.

1250 is significant in many ways but there is 1 that we need help with most of all. Those of you who know me know that I mean membership. We need help. Our burden as Lions gets heavier because there are fewer Lions to "Serve". Who do you know that would make a great Lion?

As the month of September is upon us please ask yourself, "What have I done lately to promote the motto **"We Serve"**?"

I have also included in this month's News & Views some photos of clubs that I have visited in August. Don't worry if your club isn't there you will be.

Thanks for all you do.

District Governor, *Diane Wilkerson*



Elizabethton Lions Club Visit



PDG Clare Crawford honored with 50 Member Key Award



2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor Ed Gibbons visits the Johnson County Lions Club on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012. VDG Ed is on the right beside a Charter member of the Johnson County Lions Club (chartered 1953) who is Lion President Lewis Wills. Other members are Jim Vincill, Robert Wills, Bill Trathen, and Bill Adams.

**Please send your News & Views submissions to:**  
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<http://tnlions.org/subscribe-to-news-views/>

Receiving the News & Views electronically will help keep our administrative costs (therefore, member dues!) low.



PDG Kevin Storberg and his wife Ann are soliciting funds with their Leader Dog-in-training in Maryville. The Maryville Lions use these funds to provide glasses to people who otherwise might not be able to afford them. The Club purchases about 10 pairs of glasses per month in this program.

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### **Kingston Lions Club's 6th annual "Moonlight for Sight" 5K Run**

The Kingston Lions Club will hold its 6th annual "Moonlight for Sight" 5K Run on Saturday, October 6th. It begins at 9 PM; thus, the name, hoping that the moon will be shining. Walkers will be welcome, also. The route is along the beautiful waterfront in Kingston from Fort Southwest Point to near the Community Center. The Fort's cannon will announce the start. Pre-race registration is \$20, with the cost being \$25 for race night. Lots of prizes will be given in various age groups.

Participants from all Lions Clubs in District 12N are welcome. Also, anyone can participate by being a Sponsor. For Gold Sponsors at \$150, the name will be on the back of racer's shirts, in the program, and announced several times throughout the race. Silver Sponsors, at \$50, will be listed in the program and announced throughout the race.

More information and Registration forms can be obtained by calling either 865-466-8853 or 865-243-5139. Please help the Kingston Lions generate money for their sight conservation program and local service to citizens of Roane County by participating in the Moonlight Run/Walk on October 6th!

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### **Johnson City Lions Serve with Vision Screening**

An ounce of prevention is worth of a pound of cure – and when it comes to the sight of a child, prevention can make a profound difference for life. That is why Tennessee Lions led the way to establish the Tennessee Lions Eye Center at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital in Nashville , and why in 2011 the Johnson City Lions began a concerted effort to perform vision screenings of all young children in its service area.

It quickly became apparent that having to borrow the district's camera every time we scheduled a screening was a problem, so, as Lions will, we found a way to raise the \$5,000-plus needed to purchase a camera of our own. It was received in April, 2012, and after a few startup problems, the program is now up to speed. A group of dedicated Lions led by C.B. Willis and PDG Dennis Powell are now performing 2 to 3 screenings every month at area day care centers and kindergartens.

Through August, 288 children have been screened, with screenings currently scheduled for over 150 more. We expect to screen 1,000 or more each year. For more information, please visit our website:

<http://johnsoncity.tnlions.org>



Lion Sterling Winn trains Lion Paul Easlic to perform screenings at a Johnson City area daycare center.

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### **Upcoming Lions Learning Retreat info:**

Information for the 10th annual Lions Learning Retreat to be held in Manchester on January 11-12-13, 2013 is now available!

Go to this web page for a brochure, registration form, gift basket contest information, hotel details, and training session topics:

<http://tnlions.org/2013-lions-learning-retreat-details-announced/>

Early registration deadline is November 15, 2012. Please plan to attend and help make this event a huge success!

Lions B.J. & Carolyn Blankenship, Chairs

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## ***Lions and LCIF. . . Wish Comes True at White Stag for Darrell's Dream Boundless Playground New Equipment Designed to Promote Interactive Play for Children of All Abilities***

**JULY 16, 2012, KINGSPORT, Tenn.** – Tennessee State Parks joined the Friends of Warriors' Path State Park, the Kingsport Lions Club and members of the community for a tour and ceremony dedicating interactive new playground equipment at the park's Darrell's Dream Boundless Playground.

The OmniSpin® Spinner equipment was donated by the Kingsport Lions Club, through a grant from the Lions Clubs International Foundation. Others providing funding or in-kind contributions to cover any shortfalls included Landscape Structures, James A. Street Associates, Clean Play 123, Redi-Mix USA, Friends of Warriors' Path State Park, LaQuinta Inn, and local Lions Club members.

"Anyone familiar with C.S. Lewis' fantasy story of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe remembers that if you catch the White Stag, your wish will be granted," said Mary Steadman with the Friends of Warriors' Path. "So it was for the Kingsport Lions Club and Friends of Warriors' Path State Park on a recent tour of the park's Darrell's Dream Boundless Playground. This was truly an unexpected gift from the Lions Clubs International Foundation and their generosity has been a 'wish come true' effort for our entire community."

According to Steadman, this fateful tour included Lions Clubs International Foundation Chairman Sid Scruggs III, along with the Kingsport Lions Club's own Doug Haseltine, and ultimately resulted in the installation of the OmniSpin® Spinner. This rotating playground structure offers children of all abilities, including those who utilize wheelchairs, valuable vestibular sensory stimulation and encourages interactive play. Other features of this unique "merry-go-round" include high-back seats; transfer points from wheelchair or walker; durable and colorfast craftsmanship; and a speed limiter for added safety.

"As that tour progressed along the perimeter of the playground's Lions Narnia™ Braille Trail, Mr. Scruggs saw many instances where children with various challenges were assisted by buddies of all abilities, and asked us if they needed anything more in the playground," Haseltine recalled. "Mary briefly described the accessible OmniSpin® Spinner and Mr. Scruggs got on his cell phone." Haseltine added that after only a few calls, "Mr. Scruggs was certain the Foundation could help grant the wish for an accessible merry-go-round."

"This is not the first time the Lions Clubs International Foundation have demonstrated their generosity to Darrell's Dream," said Steadman. "It was thanks to gifts from various Lions Club organizations and the Lions Clubs International Foundation that the Lions Narnia™ Braille Trail opened at the park in 2009."

Betty DeVinney, president of the Friends of Warriors' Path, said the support from Lions Club members – both locally and internationally – has been amazing. "The Lions Club members understand how elements of play offer very important developmental abilities to people of all abilities," said DeVinney. "The Lions' focus on helping the vision impaired has been a natural link with Darrell's Dream. They've been wonderful, both for the monetary gifts and for the hundreds of volunteer hours they have contributed to making Darrell's Dream a reality."

Speaking for the Lions Clubs International Foundation, past District Governor for East Tennessee Lions Clubs Charles Bailey added, "Lions Clubs worldwide share the motto 'we serve.' Darrell's Dream is obviously serving a need to provide a place where children of all abilities can develop and learn from one another, and the OmniSpin® Spinner will expand that service to the community."

Darrell's Dream Boundless Playground is a place where children of all abilities can learn and play together. The Boundless Playground opened at Warriors' Path in April 2007, and is made possible through public-private partnerships. Warriors' Path is the first state park in the nation to provide a Boundless Playground for visitors. The playground is supported by the Friends of Warriors' Path, an organization that fosters conservation and educational efforts, while assisting the park in its efforts to better preserve and protect its existing facilities and resources.

Planning for the Boundless Playground Complex began in 2001 by the Friends of Warriors' Path State Park organization, led at that time by the late Darrell Rice, an active community volunteer. Supported by a growing group of individual and group volunteers and generously sponsored by many local businesses and civic clubs, the complex – named in memory of Rice – now includes play equipment and play areas designed for specific age and development groups, the Lions Narnia™ Braille Trail, the fully-accessible Anderson Treehouse, and the most recent addition of the Palmer Center Foundation Amphitheater.

"Darrell's Dream Playground continues to attract thousands of visitors to Warriors' Path State Park, while educating others on the need for accessible play areas," said Deputy Commissioner Brock Hill, Tennessee State Parks. "I want to personally thank Sid Scruggs and the entire Lions Clubs organization, along with our great Warriors' Path Friends group for their dedication toward this project."

Release from State of Tennessee Newsroom & Media Center (<https://news.tn.gov/node/9226>). For more information about Warriors' Path and Tennessee State Parks, please visit [www.tnstateparks.com](http://www.tnstateparks.com).



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### **DISTRICT 12N EVENTS CALENDAR**

- Sept. 11**—Zone Meeting, Kingsport  
Clubs: East Hawkins County, Elizabethton,  
Greeneville, Johnson City, Johnson County, Kingsport,  
Rogersville
- Sept. 13-15** – USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum,  
Tampa, FL
- Sept. 15** – West Knox Lions Pancake Breakfast, 8-10 am,  
Applebee's, at North Peters and Cedar Bluff Road,
- Sept. 24**—Zone Meeting, Caryville  
Clubs: Campbell County, Clinton, Jellico, Lake City,  
New Tazewell, Norris, Oneida, Oak Ridge, Union Co.
- Oct. 6**—District 12-N Cabinet Meeting, Powell
- Oct. 6**—Kingston Lions “Moonlight for Sight” 5K, 9 p.m.,  
Kingston
- Nov. 1**—Farragut Lions Club Wine Tasting
- Nov. 10**—Eyeglass Recycling Work Day, Roanoke, VA.
- Nov. 15**—Tennessee Lions Learning Retreat Early  
Registration Deadline

**To access up-to-date District 12N events, and  
additional details for above events, go to:**  
<http://tnlions.org/calendar/>

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### **Smoky Mountain Lions Charities—Mobile Eye Lab (Vision Van) Update:**

Work is continuing on the interior of the eye lab trailer. The partition wall is installed in the rear of the trailer, the linoleum floor has been replaced with vinyl tile. A door in the partition will be installed soon. Cabinetry and countertops will be reinstalled or replaced. Pictures will be made available soon. Stay tuned! -Editor.

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### **Eyeglass Recycling Workday—November 10**

The District 12-N Fall trip to the Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center in Roanoke, VA is scheduled for Saturday, November 10.

As in the past, Lions will meet at the Center (501 Elm Avenue) around 8:30 a.m. We'll work, have lunch, work some more, and head back to East Tennessee around 3:00 p.m.

It's always a fun (and rewarding) time sorting, cleaning, reading, and packaging used eyeglasses for beneficial reuse! **JOIN US!**

If you would like more information (logistics, hotel recommendations, etc.) or have glasses that need hauled to the Center, please contact Lion Harry Ennis at [hrennis@chartertn.net](mailto:hrennis@chartertn.net) or (H) 423-239-7681.

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