

Georgia Lions Camp





April 2024

Hello Lions,

It's a sad time here at the Lions Camp. Most all of you know about Mrs. Gail and I's retirement plans. On the weekend of Easter, we loaded up a moving truck and began the trip to our new home - in Tennessee. Loading up 49 years of items was hard to put in a 26-foot moving truck. By the way, I could not get everything in the truck. I'll get the rest on the next trip up there.

It was a sad time for both of us as we have been here at the camp for 13-1/2 years. Both of us have enjoyed the opportunity to serve with you all. Meeting and watching several of the campers. Many who we watched as young campers who are now young adults. Watching them enjoy their time here during each one of their sessions.

The adult campers have really been a special blessing to us both. It was hard to tell them goodbye during Christmas camp 2023. This at the time would be the last time Gail got to see them. If you haven't heard the news yet? My retirement date has been extended until summer camp 2024 is over. We just couldn't let the campers down.

When I left Gail after a few days of unloading all our stuff. It was hard to tell her bye. You see, we have been married for 49 years and the only time we were apart was when I went to basic training for 6 weeks. Now it will be 4 months.

It is really quiet at the house now. Not much furniture and no pictures on the walls. No Gail to talk with as we drink our morning coffee. Every morning, she would bring us breakfast to the office. Remember we were work partners also. So, we spent lots of time together. Maybe some people could not do this. We leaned on each other when we needed to. Being apart is not easy. For now, we talk each morning and each evening. It's good but not the same. A little FaceTime helps too!

Soon I will be moving out of the house into one of the rooms in the Hellen Keller building. I have to give the new facilities manager time to make repairs as needed and paint at the house. Clay Eddins along with his wife, Whitney, two sons, Ross and Everett are hoping to move in some time in June.



When you meet Clay, you will see how much of an asset he will be here at the camp. He has been working here since last September and is constantly getting used to what it takes to maintain the camps buildings and grounds. He is young and plans on staying around for a long time. Their sons are 7 and 4 years old and I told him that this is the greatest place to raise a family.

On the weekend of April 5-7 was to be his first-time overseeing work weekend. We have to schedule these days around rental groups usage and hope not to interfere with Lions events. Unfortunately, that weekend was District O's district convention. They could not make it. I hate to report it but I must, no one else came to help either. As I had no response by the Thursday evening before, I had to cancel. Don't worry! We will give you another opportunity to come work and meet Clay. The Month of May is wide open. Most likely it will be the weekend after Mother's Day. I

wouldn't want Mom's to be mad at me!! SAVE THE DATE: May 17-19, 2024.

I am asking all of you to continue to spread the word about summer camp. We need to concentrate on the youth. 6/12 years old and the teenagers, 13/17 years old. I can't reach them all without your help. This is where it takes a total team effort. Talk with your local civic groups, schools, hospitals, businesses, anywhere you get the chance. Let's increase the attendance here.

If these are new campers and the parents have some hesitation about letting their child come to camp, have them call me at the office and maybe I can help. Campers are important to us. The more campers, the better!!

Some may ask what is this year's theme? I haven't totally decided that yet. But I will tell you that it will be a summer camp season to remember!! I am planning at least one field trip away from the camp per each session. And the at camp activities, will be awesome! Food will be great. Ms. Angela will be managing the kitchen. A couple of new cooks have been hired for the evening meals. The campers will love them.

There will be a new nurse this year. Nurse Natalie Burse recommended one of her co-workers and the paperwork has been completed. All I need now are some counselors and those Volunteer lions that have said they would come help. If you would like to commit a week to help us this summer. Contact me at the camp's office. 912-283-4320. Come prepared to work. Better yet, come to be blessed!!

Camp weeks needed. Pre-teens- June 23-28, 2024 You are asked to report to the camp on the 22nd of June. At 6:00 pm.

Adults – July 6-12, 2024. This is expected to be a large group this year. And again, you are asked to be here a day before the session starts. July 5, 2024. At 6:00 pm.

See, I let you stay and see the fireworks on July 4th!

Teenagers -13/17 years- July 14-21, 2024. This too should be a good group of campers attending. Report here at 6:00 pm on July 13, 2024.

Lions Day will be on July 20th, 2024. You don't want to miss it. We hope to have some unexpected fun activities that day. Campers are inviting you to another Beep Kickball contest. A close game last year! Campers are still undefeated.

You will want to come and meet the camp's new office manager. Tonya Lastinger. Tonya was one of several applicants that was interviewed and she is the person that Gail and I felt confident would be of great service to the camp. She is a people person and has shown great enthusiasm on trying to do a good job. Eager to learn. We both think she will get the job done.

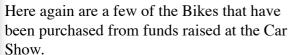
Here at the office, we are about to prepare for the annual state convention awards. Tonya says, I'm about the get my feet wet. I said, no. You are about be up to your nose treading water. The first time it can be a challenge but she can get it done!

Mrs. Gail has left her plenty notes to look at when she needs them. The book of notes she left looks like a training manual. Step by step information. David White will be most helpful when something isn't coded correctly. David is helpful in so many ways. Jay, Our Camp's Board Chairman has also offered his

assistance to Tonya if she has any questions.

Other happenings here at camp have been a few RV rentals that have came and taken advantage of the RV spots we have to offer. A couple of them have already been here three times this year. Maybe the next step to improve on these parking spots will be a load or two of gravel on each one.

The Tandem Bike storage building that is in the process of being built will also have two fully operatable bathrooms with showers. Bathrooms will aid our campers when we are outside during field activities, provide restrooms when the camp host fundraising events, and it will offer showers to RV rentals and maybe a few of the runners that participate in the annual Okefenokee 10-K and one-mile fun run.





Up date on the Pool Cover needed to replace and upgrade the one we have. I do not have the total dollar amount collected. It may be in this newsletter under the information about camp's donations. We were looking to raise \$6,000.00 to cover the purchase a safety cover for the pool and installation by a professional. Lions have responded well and we are really close to reaching the goal.

There will always be a special need or special project here at the camp. Always looking to improve the camp so our campers can come and enjoy camp in a safe and productive environment. Lions always come through to help where they can.

You all have your give back to your community projects and when asked to give the camp a little extra. You have been a blessing. So, I ask you to keep it up. The camp needs you. And always will.

In a few days we will me at the MD-18 State Convention in Dublin, Ga. I hope to see many of you there. I hope that Mrs. Gail makes it down to see you all. She had a really bad experience driving when we moved to Tennessee. She will try, I'm sure.

One thing you should know is that the camp will have its Silent Basket Auction. Each year we ask Lions and Lions Clubs to put together a Basket of goodies to place in the Silent auction. Let's make them special this year. Mr. Robert Lique is Fundraising Chair and is asking someone to stand in attendance and run the Auction this year. Gail will not be doing this, this year. We want to help where we can but we also want to say our goodbyes to everyone.

I will have all the forms, pens, and poster boards needed for the auction. I will also bring a few tee-shirts that you may want to purchase. From what I hear there are lots of great service projects you can participate in and don't forget those Legos. What a great way to put a smile on a child's face. Helping them to have a better day when it is needed. Service means a lot to us Lions. That's what we do. Let's do it better than ever. Give a little extra. Time, service, and in donations. We will reap the rewards seventy

times seven. You can't outgive! But you can give caringly.

SO:

Let's "Keep The Camp Fires Burning"



Add more Wood "Make It Burn Brighter"

Mike Williams Camp Director Georgia Lions Camp, Inc. Greetings from the GA Lions Camp Board Chairman Jay Taylor.

Our camp in Waycross GA has come a long way since its first camping session in 1980.

I am sad to report that our Camp Director Mike Williams and our office Manager Gail Williams have announced their retirement. They are retiring to the hills of Tennessee, where they will be close to their children and grandchildren. We are going to miss both Mike and Gail. Originally Mike was to leave us April 2024, but through some arm twisting, prayers and begging, Mike has agreed to stay on board with the camp until the end of July 2024. He will be with us for the entire camping season.

We have recently promoted out part time employee to Building and Grounds Manager, Mr. Clay Eddins – Clay has worked with Mike since September of 2023, but will now get to see what it is like to be onsite full time. Clay is married and has 2 children. They will be moving to the camp at the end of the school year (June 2024).

We are also happy to announce that we have hired a new Office Administrator, in Ms. Tonya Lastinger. Tonya has two daughters and three grandchildren. Welcome to the Camp, Tonya.

Our search continues for our next Camp Director. We have interviewed a few candidates but have not found the right person yet. We will, but are glad to have Mike with us for one more camping season. It also gives former and current campers the opportunity to say goodbye to Mike.

Lastly, the Camp needs YOUR support. Running a camp takes funding. We have always relied on the support of the Lions of GA and that is still true today! If you haven't supported the camp in a while, please consider making a monetary donation. You can also call the camp and schedule a day to come down and tackle a project. Mike will be glad to have the help! Don't forget Lions Day at the Camp, July 20th 2024. Come see what is going on at YOUR Ga Lions Camp and make a difference in the lives of our campers!

Respectfully, Lion Jay Taylor Board Chairman GA Lions Camp Inc.



Hello,

I am delighted to introduce myself as Tonya Lastinger, the newly appointed Secretary for the Georgia Lions Camp for the Blind located in Waycross, Georgia. It is with great enthusiasm that I embark on this journey, eager to contribute to the mission of this esteemed organization.

In assuming this role, I am committed to upholding the high standards set by my predecessor before me. With dedication and perseverance, I aspire to honor her achievements and make meaningful contributions to the camp's future endeavors.

Prior to joining the Georgia Lions Camp for the Blind, I served as the property manager of Ware Hotel and the Bunn Building apartment complexes and properties in Waycross, Georgia, for over four years. Additionally, I have accumulated over seventeen years of experience working with the state of Georgia, which has equipped me with a diverse skill set and a deep understanding of organizational operations.

Outside of my professional pursuits, my greatest joys stem from spending time with my two daughters and three grandchildren. I am passionate about engaging with the public and fostering connections with individuals from all walks of life. Whether in professional or personal settings, I pride myself on my ability to cultivate meaningful relationships and collaborate effectively with others.

As I embark on this new chapter, I eagerly anticipate the opportunity to meet with the campers and Lions community in the coming months. Your warm welcome into this esteemed organization is deeply appreciated, and I am excited to contribute to its ongoing success.

Thank you for entrusting me with this role.

Warm regards, Tonya Lastinger





Georgia Lions Camp, Inc. 2024-2025 Board of Trustees

Chairman of Trustees
PCC Paul May
18-N Lions Club: Milledgeville Lions Club
C: 478.453.7285
pafastphoto@windstream.net

18-L (1st year 1st term) 2024-26

PDG Pam Williams

Lions Club: South Cobb

C: 678.557.1118

lionspswm21_22@yahoo.com

18-I (1st year 2nd term) 2024-26

PCC Richard Brown

Lions Club: Covington

C: 770.402.9822

rwb1327@gmail.com

18-O (?? term) 2024-26

Lion

Lions Club:

C:

18-L (2nd year 1st term) 2023-25

PDG Al Hernandez

Lions Club: Marietta East Cobb

C: 706.346.7249

lionalhernandez22 23@aol.com

18-I (2nd year 2nd term) 2023-25

Lion Brian Donegan

Lions Club: Lawrenceville

C: 404.630.2910

doneganbrian1@gmail.com

18-O (2nd year 1st term) 2023-25

Lion Brian Hirsch

Lions Club: Columbus

C: 706.315.2539

bchirsch@gmail.com

2024-2025 Board of Trustees

18-N (1st year 2nd term) 2024-26

Lion Linda Bishop

Lions Club: Lyons

C: 912.526.5242

blindabishopcpa@gmail.com

18-N (2nd year 1st term) 2023-25

Lion Billy Faulk

Lions Club: Louisville

C: 706.962.1207

bfaulk1971@gmail.com

Ex-Officio Member *

Finance Chair: PDG Chris Sullivan

Lions Club: Statham

C: 770.652.6012

dapat@bellsouth.net

*THE CHAIRMAN OF FINANCE COMMITTEE IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

Revised 03/06/2024

Upcoming Events 2024

Summer Camp Registrations are now open

MD-18 Lions State Convention: Dublin, Ga. April 26-28, 2024

Mother's Day May 12, 2024

Rescheduled Lions Service Days at the Camp Work Weekend - May 17-19, 2024

> Rental Group #1 June 3-7, 2024

Rental Group #2 June 10-15, 2024

Summer Camp Staff Training June 16-21, 2024

> Summer Camp begins: June 23,2024

Summer Camp Ends: July 21, 2024

LIONS DAY at The Camp July 20, 2024



Georgia Lions Camp, Inc.





1976 Society Member Application

SHARE YOUR GIFT OF SIGHT

The 1976 Society Commemorates the founding date of the Georgia Lions Camp, Inc. Persons who choose to be a part of this Society pledge to contribute at least \$19.76 a month for the year they are a member, or \$237.12.

Your gift will be credited to your listed Lions Club.

NAME:		
	STATE:	
HOME PHONE:		
CELL PHONE:		
EMAIL:		
PAID BY CASH:	MONTHLY: QUARTERLY:	ANNUALLY:
CREDIT CARD TYPE:	VISA MASTERCARD	DISC AMEX
NAME ON CARD:		
CARD NUMBER:		
EXPIRATION:	CSV:	
BILLING ADDRESS:		
STATE:	ZIP:	
LIONS CLUB:		

Mail to Georgia Lions Camp, Inc., 5626 Laura Walker Road, Waycross, GA 31503 *Donations may also be made using PayPal

Camp Finances Y-T-D thru MARCH 2024

Fiscal Year 2024 started out better for us than it has in years -- our task, is to keep it UP!

We have slipped a little in MARCH -- We need Club and Individual contributions to stop the downward trend that is now starting. As you can see (see section 1 below) we have already spent \$13,301.87 MORE than we have taken in. We had a decent Cash level, so we absorbed that amount -- but that is hurting our Cash Balance. We need your support to build our Cash back up.

All Contributions need to increase during the upcoming months so we are prepared for our 2024 Summer Camping Season. Support is needed from ALL Lions so that we can provide a great Camping Experience to our Campers.

Our Camp Director, Mike Williams, would be glad to hear from anyone willing to provide assistance -- he will be glad to coordinate your 'hands-on' services -- or financial contributions.

We are asking ALL Lions Clubs AND Individual Lions to step-up and help support our Camp financially. We need your support!

THANK-YOU TO ALL CONTRIBUTORS -- ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME!

1 ----- Operational Income vs Expenses -- Y-T-D thru MARCH 2024

Total Actual Income Thru MARCH 2024 61,076.66

Total Actual Expenses Thru MARCH 2024 74,378.53

NET Operating Income Thru MARCH 2024 (13,301.87)

2 Club Contributions Y-T-D thru MARCH 2024						
	<u>18L</u>	<u>18I</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>18N</u>		
# of Clubs Contributing in 2024*	5	18	9	12		
% of ACTIVE CLUBS Contributing	12%	36%	18%	25%		
Contributions by District for 2023	21,057.00	5,568.32	7,950.00	12,430.96		

^{*} Numbers are low -- but only ONE month is reflected -- help your District to Improve the numbers

3 ----- DISTRICT Year over Year COMPARISON -- as of MARCH 2024

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	Ahead / (Behind) 2023
18L	8,623.74	21,057.00	12,433.26
181	11,052.64	5,568.32	(5,484.32)
18O	7,900.00	7,950.00	50.00
18N	13,279.15	12,430.96	(848.19)
MD18	40,855.53	47,006.28	6,150.75

As you can see above (in section 3 above) -- ONLY 2 of our 4 Districts are contributing more in 2024 than they did in 2023. This needs to IMPROVE -- we only have 3-months before Camping Season starts. We need ALL Districts to keep their contributions ahead of last year.

We need YOUR help to do this.

With your help, we can <u>make 2024 the best year yet!!</u> <u>ALL</u> Contributions are appreciated!

Thank-You!

David E. White,

1976 SOCIETY - March 01, 2024 - March 31, 2024

Thank you to the following Lions of Georgia that are making a special individual contribution to the Camp.

NAME

Lion John M Coward Lion Joann Huff Lion Joann Smith

LIONS CLUB

National Hills Thomson Camelia Winder-Noon

CENTURY CLUB - March 01, 2024 - March 31, 2024

Thank you to the following Lions of Georgia that are making a special individual contribution to the Camp.

Brick Memorial Garden - March 01, 2024 - March 31, 2024

Thank you to the following Lions of Georgia that are making a special individual contribution to the Camp.

NAME

Lions Dave & Dimple Forest Lions Dave & Dimple Forest

LIONS CLUB

Thomaston Lions
Thomaston Lions

Kroger

Here is another way to help your Georgia Lions Camp and it will not cost you any extra money. If you already have an account at Kroger for digitalcoupons and other saving ways, then you are almost there. If you do not already have an account with Kroger, you can use the same links below to get one. If you are not already set up to have funds donated to the camp, here is how to take care of that.

- 1. Go to Kroger.com
- 2. Sign in like you were going shopping or looking for specials.
- 3. Go to my account.
- 4. Go to community rewards. Select Georgia Lions Camp for the Blind, which is the old name for the Georgia Lions Camp.



Needs List 2024: updated 4/10/2024

Many have asked what does the camp need?

The following items will help eliminate the cost of supplies needed during camp season and beyond, maintenance and other operations of the camp.

- 1. There is a need for some pillows. Sometimes campers forget theirs and are needed here. Low-cost pillows from Walmart are sufficient. Nothing expensive. 20 pillows needed.
- 2. Bottle Water- 16oz. by the case Camp goes through 40 cases per year
- 3. PowerAde/Gatorade sports drinks- single serve bottles/24 to a case 10 cases needed the lime and red are favorite flavors
- 4. 60-gallon industrial size garbage bags
- 5. 8 Gallon trash bags 3 packs of 600 count, scented-Amazon
- 6. 1 Gallon zip lock storage bags 1 case needed
- 7. ½ Gallon zip lock storage bags- 1 case needed
- 8. Dish Detergent any brand is accepted any size bottles accepted
- 9. Pine sol floor cleaner any size accepted
- 10. Gallon size bleach- Five cases of 6 bottles per case (you do not have to buy all five cases needed)
- 11. Lysol dis-infectant spray- 2 cases of 6? cans per case
- 12. Laundry detergent- gallon size preferable- 3 cases of 6? Bottles per case
- 13. Windex window cleaner- 2 cases of 6 per case
- 14. Clorox disinfectant spray bottles 2 cases of 6 per case-(32 oz.)
- 15. Toilet Tissue any brand
- 16. Bug spray- non- DEET and DEET accepted. -20 cans spray or pump
- 17. Wasp Spray- Black Flag brand preferred. 2 cases of 12 per case.
- 18. Ant poison- here at the camp we have "ANT" issues, we need your help- bags of poison or industrial strength liquid needed. You can never ask for enough of this. All donations appreciated.
- 19. Copy paper for the office

All of the above items listed are used all through the year as needed.

"Gift Cards" are a great way for the camp to purchase other items that may not be on this list. (Movies, Board games, and other items for campers)

Items purchased can be shipped directly to the camp, (5626 Laura Walker Rd. Waycross, Ga. 31503) taken to, and distributed during our COG and Joint meetings with the Lions Camp and Lighthouse, the annual MD-18 Lions State Convention, bring items with you on our annual Lions Day event here at the camp, bring items when you come to work weekends.

Anyone can donate the above items. You don't have to be a Lions Club member.

"Please Note that, you are not asked to buy the amounts listed per item. Any purchase of a listed item is very much appreciated. If it's one item of something, a case, or several cases. Nothing is ever turned away."

Around Camp Needs:

1. New Pool cover with all hardware and cable attachments needed. Camp's pool is 30' wide and 60' length-

- * Building and Grounds Committee has mailed out a way you can help donate to this need. (**Project is Almost Funded**)
- 2. We need two sets of these bleachers-Row, 15' STANDARD Aluminum Bleacher w/ Vertical Picket \$9,277.95 (Funds Needed)

3. 2 exterior ceiling fans for the outside sitting area at the Activities Building

Casa Vieja 56" Grand Milano Modern Industrial Outdoor Ceiling Fan with Remote Control Black Damp Rated for Patio Exterior House Home Porch Gazebo Garage Barn \$249.00 each (Funds Needed)

4. 2 exterior ceiling fans for the outside sitting area at the Bar-B-Que Shelter

Casa Vieja 56" Grand Milano Modern Industrial Outdoor Ceiling Fan with Remote Control Black Damp Rated for Patio Exterior House Home Porch Gazebo Garage Barn \$249.00 each (Funds Needed)

5. 1 Commercial Chest freezer

MoTak MCF-24 77" Mobile Chest Freezer w/ (2) Wire Storage Basket - White, 115v \$1,329.00 (Funds Needed)

Maintenance Needs:

For years I have supplied my own tools to work around camp. Many of which have worn out. These Items below need to be purchased to prevent anyone else from using their personal tools to make repairs around the Lions Camp.

- Weed Eater capable (Husqvarna or Stihl preferred) \$750.00 fs240r Stihl commercial grade
- Reciprocating Saw battery operated (20V-5AMP) DCS380P1 -m 15.oah \$399.00 this is a complete saw with case and battery
- Drill bits- for wood and for masonry \$150.00
- 6'X10' utility trailer with gate that will let down to load equipment- \$2,000.00
- Paint brushes needed during work weekend tasks (30) these do not have to be expensive brushes \$100.00
- Pneumatic Staple Gun \$79.00
- DeWalt 10" Table Saw DWF7491RS 2HP 4800RPM \$1,631.25
- 12" DWS780 Double Bevel sliding miter saw \$835.00
- Justrite Safety Gas cans 5 needed \$115.00 cost per can
- Schumacher-SC1309-Battery-Charger-Maintainer-\$159.36 on Amazon

2024 Work Projects

The following projects will be updated monthly in our camp newsletter. If you see a project that you or your club would be interested in helping with, please email your interest to director@glcb.org

A New Work Day has been Scheduled Spring 2024 Lions Service Days: May 17-19, 2024

Call to schedule a special work date for you and your club! 912-283-4320 or email: director@glcb.org

- 1. Roof of porch at Activity Building will need to be re-shingled
- 2. Activity Building needs to be pressure washed
- 3. Need to replace two outdoor ceiling fans at Activities Building
- 4. Need to replace two outdoor ceiling fans at Bar-B-Que Building
- 5. Screens at Bar-B-Que building need repairs
- 6. Need to paint benches located near dorms-need to be contrasting colors to their surroundings.
- 7. Need to paint benches located at Memorial Garden -they need to be contrasting colors to their surroundings
- 8. Porch Railing at Activities building needs repairing and painting- Paint all rails and post!
- 9. New Landscaping needed at the Administration office. This is a big project!
- 10. Remove the bleachers located at the ball field (looking to replace with Aluminum Bleachers) This will become a needs list item (this will be 2 sets with five seating rows with back bracing for the top row.)
- 11. Repair roof at pool sitting area.
- 12. Replace, and paint facia boards at administration building.
- 13. Windows and Blinds in all the buildings can be cleaned
- 14. Pic-Nic tables need to be re-stained
- 15. Rocking chairs and patio furniture need to be re-stained
- 16. Activity Site Warning signs have been replaced and repaired but framing needs cleaning and painting.
- 17. Pull out canoes and see which ones need repairing
- 18. Repair broken board on canoe cart
- 19. All cabinets in the main dorm need to be checked for easy opening and closing-repair those that need repairing
- 20. Replace weathered boards on wooden ramps at the exits of the main dormitory and repaint
- 21. Repair Emergency exit door at restrooms in the Dining Hall. (Strategic Plan Project is to replace all doors in the Dining Hall. To include emergency push bars for quick exits and hand levers for entry.) Lion Young Martin is looking into getting these doors and hardware at a reduced cost or completely donated.

Upcoming Events

April 26-28, 2024

The GA Lions Camp will be holding it annual Silent Basket Auction at the State Convention April 26-28th in Dublin GA.

We encourage your club to bring a gift basket for the benefit of the Camp. This is a major fundraiser for the camp. and we need your support.

Be creative and make a basket with items that will highlight your region or area. It could be a specialty of your region or movie night, a beach trip - you name it.

We look forward to seeing each of you at the Dubose Porter Center in Dublin, GA for our State Convention.

May 17-19, 2024

Spring 2024 Lions Service Days: May 17-19, 2024

Lions Camp Information

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Georgia-Lions-Camp-Inc-152370411465833/

Website: https://www.glcb.org/
Telephone: 912-283-4320

Fax: 912-283-5130

Address: 5626 Laura Walker Road, Waycross, GA 31503

Camp Alumni Contact Information

Camp Alumni Association Contact: Brian Donegan: doneganbrian1@gmail.com