



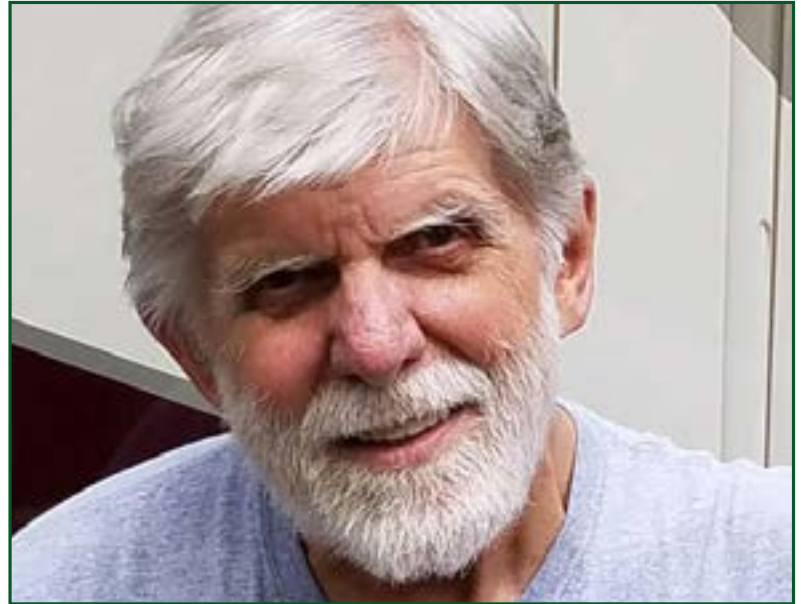
# Georgia Lions Camp



June 2021

As I reach my term limit as Chairman of the Board I would like to reflect on the last two years. For those of you that don't know, I have served your camp when my position was called President and they were two year terms. I served two of those terms and now two one-year terms as Chairman for a total of six years.

My involvement with your camp started back in 1993 when I attended a work weekend in the Spring. I was awarded a gift of a nail that was able to puncture the sole of my boot and thus my foot, requiring a booster shot to prevent infection. I am here to tell you, the infection of the Georgia Lions Camp has never cleared up and with all the steroids and cocktails they gave me when I had Covid-19, I am accepting the fact that the infection from that day at the camp will only clear up when I die.



*Chairman: Ed Ressler*

Back some twelve years ago, schools let out in mid-May and didn't start again until late August. Now they finish the end of May and begin early August. We used to have six weeks of camp with one two-week session and would have up 150 campers. Gone are the days when Lions would come to Lions day, meet the campers and stay for a talent show in the evening, hold hands and sing "All night, All day." Things change but life goes on and so does the camp. Maybe we need some of those good old days when everyone would slow down and enjoy life and share the good times.

I would like to mention some of the highlights of the past two years. First, we stopped changing titles every time we had management changes. The Board appointed Mike Williams Camp Director, removing the acting portion of his title which used to come and go. All through this he held fast and did what was asked of him. For a short while we even had an Executive Director but he left after about six months. At one time we had a Camp Director and Buildings and Grounds Director. Now all we have is a Camp Director who also has to try and take care of the grounds and an Office Manager.

I became Chairman July 1, 2019 and one of my goals was to have online registration to try to simplify our twenty four-page application. By using CampDoc, we were able to have everyone register online and submit their physical forms directly to the program. First the campers create a profile which stays in the program so when they register for the next session, all they have to do is log in and update their information. This was completed in October 2019 in time to use it for Christmas Camp. Registrations for Christmas Camp are smaller so this gave us a chance to get used to the program and see if it is feasible. If campers prefer paper applications, we will send them an application but then the office has to enter their information.

The second order of business was Christmas Camp 2019, which was a success as it usually is but that was followed immediately by Covid-19 and everything was in limbo. Try as we might and regardless of how much positive thinking we had, camp was cancelled for the summer.

After cancelling Summer Camp we turned to Christmas Camp, 2020. Appeared that Covid-19 had eased up a bit and we could have camp with restrictions but we couldn't have camp. The Thursday before camp, Camp

Director Mike didn't feel well so out of precaution, we scrambled and notified everyone that we were having to cancel Christmas Camp. Camp Director Mike tested positive Friday morning so we made another good decision because Gail would be quarantened and myself, my wife and the camp nurse, our daughter would all be quarantened.

Lion Brian Donegan had reached his term limit as a member of the Board and was heartbroken because the camp means so much to him. I suggested to Brian in the Fall of 2019, that maybe we should have an Alumni Association. Brian started a Facebook page called the Georgia Lions Camp Alumni Association. Next I asked Brian what he thought about an Alumni Reunion at the Camp including campers, all staff and Camp Directors. Again, Brian thought it was a great idea and the REUNION was born. Now they have a steering committee and are actively working on the plans. This will happen over Memorial Day weekend in May 2022.

Camping 2021 is fast approaching and Camp Director Mike and Program Director Krista are busy putting the final touches on the programs. Since there was no camp in 2020, the camper numbers can only go up. However, the pandemic is still with us so it has affected some of the registrations. The older groups which could get vaccinated are about the average number. The teenagers are lower and we feel that is because they couldn't get the vaccine and the parents felt they would be safe staying home. The preteens' numbers never got to a point where we could justify that session so it was cancelled. Some we were able to move to the appropriate to the teenage group and some had other commitments that would not allow them to attend a different session. This summer will be a good camp but not what everyone would like it to be.

Several things have been done in an attempt to recruit more campers. Director Mike and I traveled to Orlando and attended the Florida Lions State Convention. The reception was excellent and we both feel that campers from Florida will start attending our camp. There is no Florida camp so those that use to attend the Florida Lions Camp go elsewhere. Contact has been made with the Parents of Blind Children, a division of NFB in Georgia, Florida, South Carolina and Alabama telling them about our camp programs. There was also a meeting with a staff member from the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind in St Augustine, Florida.

Several years ago there was an Enhanced Family Camp which had great promise. That concept allowed one camper and one parent/guardian to attend a week of camp. There were sessions for the parents to learn about resources to help them while the camper could just be a camper.

After hearing that many parents would not let their child go somewhere unless they were there to protect them, we created Family Camp for up to five family members to attend a weekend camp and see their visually impaired child can try everything camp with them in attendance. This weekend camp can have as many as 10 families attend. Parents will be able to see the difference in their child in a matter of days while having the family attend with them. The target age is five to 12 years old and the visually impaired

child cannot have attended our camp before.

There were numerous accomplishments that do not directly relate to the current camper situation. The Board approved renovating a building into ADA compliant rooms that we could use for married campers and/or families. The work was completed and the necessary inspections done. Certificate of Occupancy has been received. Serta Simmons donated four queen size beds and frames and 8 twin mattresses. All that is left is some furniture and we are close to completing that process.

Working in unity with the First Baptist Church of Jasper, we have completed the installation of four RV parking spots that include, water, 50/30 amp power and sewage. The camp already had six RV parking spots but they did not have sewage, just water and 50/30 amp electric. The Jasper First Baptist Church come to the Georgia Lions Camp on a three year rotating basis. Their ministry is to bring youth and adults and teach the youth some trade skills. Previously they have stayed at the Laura Walker State Park and spent several thousands of dollars. Now they come to our camp, spend the money they are saving to buy material for a project to be completed in one week.

It's back! That's right. After being cancelled last year, Lions Day at the Georgia Lions Camp (GLC) is back. Mark your calendars for Saturday, July 17, 2021 as the GLC at 5626 Laura Walker Road in Waycross, Georgia will open its gates and welcome Lions from across the state to visit our camp and see what a marvelous facility we have in our own backyard. Please encourage your whole club, family and friends to attend this exciting day and see the camp in action.

Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. with activities starting at 9:00 a.m. Activities will include tours of the camp, interaction with the campers, Memorial Brick Laying Ceremony, beeper ball and lots more fun.

Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. consisting of pulled BBQ pork, baked beans, cole slaw, potato salad, rolls, drink and dessert for \$10.00. Upon completion of lunch, Dan Parker, a blind machinist/racer from Columbus, Georgia will be the guest speaker followed by a talent show presented by the campers. This year's Lions Day will be hosted by District 18-N.

To make reservations for the GLC Lions Day, contact Gail Williams via email at [secretary@glcb.org](mailto:secretary@glcb.org). Please provide name(s), club and number of people attending. Make all checks payable to the Georgia Lions Camp, Inc.

Be sure to make your reservations by Friday, July 9 so we may get an accurate count on how many Lions/friends will be attending.

For more information on Lions Day, contact Camp Director Mike Williams at 912-614-1118.

**GEORGIA LIONS CAMP  
Awards 2020-21**

**State Awards**

Dr. C. M. Cunningham Award is presented to the District Governor with the highest per capita contribution

DG Mark Anners, District 18 N

Thomas T, Purvis Award is presented to the club president with the highest per capita contribution.

First Place     Bainbridge Lions Club  
Second Place   Woodbine Lions Club

Don Anderson Award is presented to the club president for the highest increase in per capita contribution over the previous year.

First Place     Thomaston Lions Club  
Second Place   Bulloch County Lions Club

Keep the Camp Fires Burning Award is presented to the club president for the highest total donation per capita for “Keep the Campfires Burning”.

First Place     Bulloch Lions Club  
Second Place   Tucker LaVista Lions Club

Treasurer’s Award is presented to the club president with the highest total dollar contribution.

First Place     Bainbridge Lions Club  
Second Place   Woodbine Lions Club

Greetings and Happy June!

My name is Brian Donegan. Some of you may know me as a President of the Lawrenceville Lions Club. Others might know me as a former member of the Camp Board of Directors. But way before all that I was a camper for ten summers. This was a very exciting time back when I was a kid. The weather was warmer, the nights were longer, school had either just let out (or was about to), and all that meant the countdown to the greatest week (or two) of the year!

The Georgia Lions Camp for the Blind (as we called it back then) helped me become who I am today. I’m not alone. That’s why I’m proud to be President of the GLCB Alumni Association. Memorial Day weekend of 2022 we’ll be holding our first Alumni Reunion Weekend. If you’re a former Camper, Staff, Counselor, Director etc. you’re more than welcome. For more info you can e-mail me [DoneganBrian1@gmail.com](mailto:DoneganBrian1@gmail.com)

In the months ahead, I can’t wait to share stories and memories of the camp (mine and others) through this column every month. As they say, stay tuned!

-Brian Donegan

## THE CAMP NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The Georgia Lions Camp newsletter is created to let the Lions of Georgia know what is happening now, next month and in the future at your camp. Information we have received says that there are 4600 Lions in Georgia but only 3000 are in the Constant Contact list at the state office. There are no Leos receiving this information and they are supposed to be our future Lions. We at the Georgia Lions Camp request that if you receive our newsletter, please share with your club and friends. If your club is sponsoring a Leo Club, share the newsletter with them but also send us the contact information for them so we can add them to a group and assure them that they receive the information.

Last Fall Lions and friends of the Georgia Lions Camp met the challenge and caused me to spend \$2000 of my own money to match donations received with a total of \$4420 raised. That amount during the pandemic was a great boost for the camp.

However, now is the time for a bigger and better **CHALLENGE** but this time you get to make the current Chairman and Chairman elect spend their money.

From May 1 to December 31, 2021 the two Chairmen will match up to \$5000 total in donations to the CHALLENGE. As we did last fall, it must be on a personal check, marked CHAIRMAN'S CHALLENGE in the memo field and must be postmarked by December 31, 2021. If you prefer not to write a check, you can use PayPal which is available on the Georgia Lions Camp website which is [www.glcb.org](http://www.glcb.org).



Challenge Coin Front



Challenge Coin Back

Again, any donation amount is appreciated but this time we have a CHALLENGE COIN that has the camp logo on the front and Keep the Camp Fires Burning on the back. For a donation of at least \$100 you will receive the coin plus a 3D display to place the coin in, if desired. We have included pictures of both sides of the coin in the display in this newsletter.

Family Camp "Eye Can" is the weekend of August 6-8, 2021 for up to 10 families with up to 5 family members attending. The purpose of this camp is to allow parents of a visually impaired child see that their child can safely do all things at camp. The target age is 5 to 12 and there are two criteria: first, the visually impaired child cannot have attended our camp and second, the cost is \$100 for the entire family for the weekend.

Registration for Camp "EYE CAN" is now available online. The link is found at the Georgia Lions Camp website, [www.glb.org](http://www.glb.org), go to the camp registration link and at the bottom of the page in the red block is the link to register for EYE CAN.





# AUGUST 6-8, 2021 FAMILY CAMP – "EYE CAN!"

## What to Expect....

For the First Time Camper. Parents bring the immediate family and rally around your child with a visual impairment. There will be separate programs geared towards visually impaired campers, siblings, and parents. Campers and siblings will enjoy traditional summer camp fun! Parents will receive guidance on raising a child with a visual impairment to be independent and capable! Sessions on accessibility, legalities, and the special education process will leave the parent knowledgeable in being the best advocate for their child's success.



**Camp is designed especially for individuals with visual impairments ages 5-12 years old**

**Adapted sports and camp activities**

**A unique "whole" family experience**

**"I can do anything, just in a different way!"**

**3 days of learning and fun for only \$100/Family!**

**FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION CONTACT GEORGIA LIONS CAMP INC,**

5626 Laura Walker Rd  
Waycross, GA 31503



### Amazon.com Smile

There are several ways to help your camp receive some unexpected money and it does not cost you any extra money. Did you know that if you buy things on Amazon, and most people do, Amazon will donate to the Georgia Lions Camp. Here's how you do it.

1. Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).
2. Log in using your normal sign in. You will be sent to the amazon smile link where you start typing Georgia Lions Camp then click on search to select the camp. You are now logged in and you are linked so that a portion of your purchase goes to your camp.
3. Complete your purchase as you normally would.



### 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 digital coupons 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](https://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.

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](mailto:director@glcb.org)

**October 22-24 ,2021 is our next scheduled Service Day (please know that you can call and schedule a workday anytime the camp does not have an event going on, you don't have to wait until October).**

1. Clean and repair screens at the bar-b-que shelter
2. All Buildings!! Wash Windows-Inside and Outside-Clean Window Sills-Dust all Blinds, this is a big task and would be a good Lions Club Team Project. More than one club if possible.
3. Wooden picnic tables need repairs or replacing. **(some work has been done, need more help)**
4. **Nature Trail** – clean up debris. **To build up low lying areas we need Four loads of crushed asphalt and Two loads of fill dirt.**
5. Remove soiled carpet from (Rental House) (Directors house)
6. (Rental House) Replace carpet with either laminate flooring or ceramic tile Camp has some tile- enough to do maybe three of the four rooms.
7. Paint water heater room located behind the newly renovated Staff Building.
8. Paint the Water Tank
9. Paint the pump house at the pond
10. Paint sidewalks at the exit doors to the bunkhouse.
11. Repair Emergency exit door at restrooms in the Dining Hall.
17. Repair damaged handrails leading to the floating dock.
18. Paint the railing around the playground
19. Clean and paint swing frames at the fire pit area.
20. Swings at the fire pit need to be painted.
21. Interior Dining Hall to be repainted
22. Memorial Garden, there are sections that need new shrubbery and flowers.
23. Clean debris inside the fencing at the fish pond
24. Clean debris outside the fencing at the fish pond (front, back, and sides)
25. Clean debris at the Low Ropes Elements

Other projects will be added as the need arises.



*Nature Trails*



*Picnic Table*



# Upcoming Events

**June 20-July 23, 2021**

Summer Camp Begins in June (June 20-July 23rd, 2021) with staff training on June 11, 2021.

**July 17, 2021**

Lions Day will be on July 17, 2021.

**August 6-8, 2021**

Family camp is scheduled for August 6-8, 2021. This camp is designed for campers between 5-12 years of age and is a unique family experience.

**October 22-24, 2021**

October 22-24, 2021 is the next scheduled Service Day at the Georgia Lions Camp.

## **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](mailto:doneganbrian1@gmail.com)