



# Georgia Lions Camp



May 2021

**C**amp Board Chairman, Ed Ressler along with Camp Director, Mike Williams recently attended the Florida Lions State Convention held in Orlando, Florida. In an effort to speak with the Lions of Florida who no longer have a summer camp available for the Visually Impaired and Blind community of their state.

The Georgia Lions Camp was greeted with lots of enthusiasm and many questions. The camp set up an information table to provide all who were interested some information about our camp. Information about our summer activities, sessions, and programs.

As we sat at the table on Friday and Saturday, Florida Lions as far down as the Keys would stop and ask about the camp. International Director A. Geoffrey Wade was among the many who stopped by.

Some seemed interested in why The Georgia Lions were at their Convention? They did not know that Georgia had a camp for the blind. Let alone that it was available for them to come be a participant. By being a fellow Lion and from Georgia this sparked lots of interest and gave us the chance to get acquainted with each other. We would speak with them and explain why it was important for us to share our camp with them. We shared with all that stopped by.

Florida has a much larger population in the blind community than Georgia. Youth with visual impairment in Florida have been attending Lions Camp as far away as the Texas Lions Camp. Adults attend Camp Dogwood up in North Carolina. There was no reason that we should not offer the Georgia Lions Camp's services to our southern neighbors.

These Florida Lions were excited to know about our camp. Florida Lions do offer several camps for the youth in their state. Such as diabetics, physically handicapped, etc., but nothing for the blind. The Florida Lions Camp for The Blind had to close several years ago because it was damaged by three back to back to back hurricanes. They were never able to overcome the damages!

While attending their State Convention The Chairman and I attend different luncheons and sat at different tables during the Governor's Banquet. This was so we could talk with others that may not have visited our booth yet. All of you know how passionate the Board Chairman and myself are about this camp. Talking is easy!

I was honored to sit with a group of Lions from the Coral Gables Merrick Lions Club. Now, one of the



*Information Table*



*Lions from Coral Gables Merrick Lions Club*

make it that far south. You never Know.

interesting things going on at our table was, they were all Bi-or Multi-Lingual. This ole boy is South Georgia Lingual only!!! Sometimes with the look of interest and I'm sure confusion on my face, they would explain some of their conversations with me. Felt like one of the bunch real quick like.

I was able to talk with them all and give details about our camp. With their club's location in the deep south of Florida, did not seem to deter their interest. If they had some who were interested in attending camp, travel arrangements would be made. The information i shared about the camp lit a fire. They all invited me to come visit their club and offered to show me the sights. Not sure i will ever

As I reflect on meeting many Lions from Florida i feel very confident that this is going to be a great relationship between the two states. With the facilities we currently have and our continued growth, why not share the Georgia Lions Camp. A chance to increase camper attendance. Fill the entire summer with weeks of Recreational Camp activities and programs. Become partners with all who want to attend camp here. This is a great Camp! Let's share, Let's Serve Others. That's what Lions Do!!!!

Plans are to continue this relationship and keep moving forward. Keep improving what we have and add to the activities and amenities as we grow! I see a great future with the Georgia and Florida Lions. Now let's look at some of our other surrounding states that do not offer a camp for the blind.

Let's "KEEP THE CAMP FIRES BURNING"

Mike Williams  
Camp Director  
Georgia Lions Camp, Inc.

P.S. On the following Monday morning Ed and I had a Zoom conference call with Keith at the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind. That was a great meeting!!! Great things are beginning to happen.



A token from a new friend: PDG Lion Doris Turlo - "TOGETHER WE CAN"

*Token from PDG Lion Doris Turlo*

Fellow Lions meet Mr. Lee Potter of the Monroe Lions club. (that's him pictured on the right) He has been a Lion so long he can't remember the exact date. At 95 years young I probably couldn't remember either! He became a Lion In the early 50's as best as he can remember. That would be close to 70 years of Lions work under his belt.

Mr. Potter recently came to the camp during the spring work weekend. He and his son Gary Potter along with club President Bill Owens of the Monroe Lions Club came to help spruce up the camp.

Gary who is owner Alcovy Sign Professional, Inc. provided the camp with some much-needed new



*Mr. Lee Potter*



*Gate*

He began to tell me about his trip here to the camp. He said that Gary, asked if he would like to get out of the house for a bit and take a trip to the Lions Camp? Mr. Potter agreed to come but then replied, Gary didn't tell me it was for three days.

Many Lions are great supporters of the Camp along with many other Lions service projects in their communities. Not only do they serve as Lions, many have served in other service related careers over their lifespan.

Mr. Lee Potter served as a Quartermaster for the Admiral of USS Yorktown during WW2. He worked for the Ga. Dept. of Transportation as a Civil Engineer, Bridge Dept. He was part of designing and or Inspecting most of the bridges in the State through the 80's. When he retired he began to do contract work for DOT jobs...ERS(E.R.Snell). After all these years he still tries to help where he can. Sometimes just being part of a project is all the help we need from our Mentors.

signage. While here Gary and I converted the Camp's entrance sign to now be totally lit up with LED lights Mr. Lee supervised.

As I was standing there waiting on instructions to hand over tools needed to work with, Mr. Lee called me over to speak with him. He started telling me how in the past (in the thirties!) he came to Waycross and went fishing with a friend. Describing the fishing adventure in great detail. Then he asked me if I knew this old friend of his. I smiled, and said, no sir I don't but that name is a familiar one in this area.



*Pressure Washing*



Thanks, Mr. Lee, for advising on the installation of these new signs at the camp. They really are going to help make the camp look much better. After 95 years, you deserve that little nap!!

In the April newsletter I thanked those who came for Lions Service Days here at the camp. (work weekend) Gary provided these signs to the camp at no cost. His time and service for this project is very much appreciated. I promise to keep them clean!

Thank you all for your Contributions to the camp,  
 Mike Williams  
 Camp Director  
 Georgia Lions Camp, Inc.



*New RV Hookup Sign*



*Old swim sign*



*New swim sign*

The Georgia Lions Camp will again have a Silent Auction at the Georgia Lions State Convention at the Sheraton Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia the weekend of June 4, 2021.

The items for the silent auction can be placed in the yet to be determined room starting at 3:00 P.M. on Friday, June 4, 2021. Please let the camp know the value of your item so the camp can have accurate bid sheets and the correct increments for the bids.

Bidding will begin at 4:00 P.M. Friday, June 4, 2021 with the hours for bidding to be determined. Bidding will be closed at 5:00 P.M. Saturday, June 5. Payment and collection of your winnings will be immediately after the Governors Banquet.

This is a fund raiser for the Georgia Lions Camp so please create a donation for the silent auction.

## 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.

Included in the April Newsletter is a flyer about the new Family Camp, which is August 6 to 8, 2021. Here are some of the criteria to be able to attend.

1. The camper must be either visually impaired or blind and have never attended the Georgia Lions Camp.
  2. The camper should be in a family situation where the parents are afraid to let the camper attend any function without them present. They are called Helicopter Parents.
  3. Up to four members of the family can attend camp with the camper and there can be up to 10 families. The minimum number of families is four.
  4. The ages and costs are shown in the flyer.
- Any questions, contact the camp at 912-283-4320.



# 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 4, 2021**

The Georgia Lions Camp will again have a Silent Auction at the Georgia Lions State Convention at the Sheraton Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia the weekend of June 4, 2021.

**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)