



Georgia Lions Camp



June 2020

The year really started at the State Convention in Callaway Gardens on May 17, 2019. This was the date of the Organizational meeting which was held to approve the Members at Large and committee members. The Directors Manual was distributed to all in attendance.

This coming year I wanted to add to our traditional summer camp activities so an Advisory Board was appointed. The members either work in the blind field, are a parent of a blind child or are blind. Camp past Presidents were invited to join as was Mike Williams who was Acting Executive Director. The Advisory Board Chairman was the camp's Vice Chairman Paul May.



Board Chair, Ed Ressler, riding lawnmower

On July 13, 2019, Lions Day at the camp ended the summer camp of 2019 with Lions visiting the teenage campers. The summer sessions ended up with a total of 64 campers. In addition to our traditional camp activities, tandem bikes were purchased and became a big hit with the campers. Several other new activities were added such as bowling. Among other items discussed was the approval of a raffle for an Alaska Cruise with the winner being drawn at Christmas Camp and the approval for Christmas Camp the weekend of December 12 to 15, 2019.

The Finance Committee immediately went to work on the Budget. The Georgia Lions Camp operates on a calendar year so the Budget for 2020 has to be prepared and approved at the Fall meeting.

Rental groups filled out the Fall activities at the Georgia Lions Camp. In October the Georgia Lions Camp began using CampDoc to register our campers and maintain their records. As we progress with this system, we will begin a transition to an all digital system reducing the paperwork that we now require. The same information will be required but not done on paper. For those that do not know, there are 24 pages for each application to come to camp. Some are for general information, some are releases for the climbing wall and horses and most important are the medical records. The best part is that once a camper registers and that information is entered it is retained and the next time they register they simply need to update their information. The reason this was started in October was so that we could use registrations for Christmas Camp as a trial and see if, one, it would work for us and, two, what changes would we have to make for summer camp. There were 37 campers at Christmas Camp 2019, up from 27 the year before.

The second meeting of the Board of Directors was held in Perry, Georgia on November 2, 2019. The conversion of the Staff Lounge to 4 ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant bedrooms had been approved but the Buildings and Grounds Committee missed the fact that we needed ramps and railings for some of the exits. The B&G Committee also recommended fixing some of the sidewalks at the camp that do not meet ADA requirements. A motion was made and approved to apply to LCIF for a matching grant to complete these items.

The dates for Summer Camp 2020 were approved. The Budget for 2020 was presented and approved. The third meeting of the Board of Directors was held in Perry, Georgia and the election of officers for the Lions Year 1920-21 was held. All offices were elected. The recommended Trustees were approved by the Board. The Treasurer David White reported that revenue was within \$2500 of Budget and expenses were well below Budget. The end result was that the camp ended up with a 3.4 month reserve. The Treasurer also reported that the audit of the camp finances was complete and the 990 tax returns had been filed. Acting Executive Director reported that the Advisory Board had met and recommended a couple of changes in the summer Camp 2020 schedule. Their recommendation was to add a 5th week and modify the ages. This was approved by the Board. The Advisory Board recommended that we consider using a different program director each session rather than one for the season. Each person would be responsible for blending their program in with some of the traditional camp activities. In later discussions it was decided to call these individuals consultants rather than program directors. A report was presented about a group from Jasper, Georgia that would like to work at the camp but also would like to add eight full service RV hook ups plus some additional buildings. A motion passed authorizing further development of this plan. In an Executive Session, Acting Executive Director Mike Williams was approved as the Camp Director, thus removing Acting Executive Director from his title.

Plans were put into motion for the new concept for Summer Camp 2020. There was a need for five consultants to manage five sessions and almost immediately there were four consultants and they each picked a session. District L was beginning to plan for Lions Days July 18, 2020. The Advisory Group had recommended that we target the ages six to 12, the first session, and plan on starting the camp transportation in Atlanta to see about the feasibility of doing that. All the demographics indicate that the majority of our clients are from the metro Atlanta area. The goal was to test the feasibility and also see if that would help increase the number of campers.

All was moving along according to plan. Registration on CampDoc began and campers started registering. The consultants were planning and working with Camp Director Mike Williams for their different sessions.

Then along came Covid-19. On March 16, most school systems closed, never to open again. Adult campers continued to register but the younger camper parents were hesitant to register their child. In April the Board voted to cancel the first session but for the other sessions decided to wait until May when we had more time to see what would happen with covid-19. On May 15, the Board of Directors voted to cancel Summer Camp 2020 and Lions Day on July 18, 2020.

The benefit of all this was that it appeared that the concept of consultants in lieu of one program director would work and will probably be tried again. CampDoc also was working. There was some extra work involved because everyone does not have a computer or could not figure out how to do it or just said they were old school and prefer to fill out 24 pages rather than use a computer. That requires them to have to fill out all 24 pages every year whereas those that used CampDoc to register only have to select their session and update their paperwork.

Donate to the Georgia Lions Camp!

Let's see, so far this Lions year we have had cancelled District Conventions, cancelled joint meetings of the Council of Governors and cancelled the State Convention. How much money have you saved with all that?

District Conventions was an estimated \$25 plus a room if you had to spend the night. Council of Governors meeting, minimal unless you are a District Governor. State Convention in Atlanta. If you were coming there, you probably were spending around \$150 per night for Friday and Saturday night plus meals.

Let me be kind and say \$300 plus taxes, parking and hospitality book. Just guessing, but on the low side say there were 300 Lions registered for the State Convention. Quick and simple math, not the new modern method, says that there was 300 X \$300 or \$90,000 that Lions did not spend. At the same time, your Georgia Lions Camp did not receive any donations from the Silent Auction because it was cancelled. Now you can pay it forward to help your Georgia Lions Camp recoup some of that lost revenue. Pay part of your savings forward. Follow the lead of the jar shown above. Send some of your savings directly to the camp, not through your Lions Club. A gift of \$100 would be great and much appreciated and help recoup some of the lost revenue.



Jar of money



Climbing wall shelter

On July 10th, 2020 the camp will host a group from Jasper, Georgia; First Baptist Church of Jasper. This group has been here on two previous occasions to help the camp with several projects in 2014 and 2016.

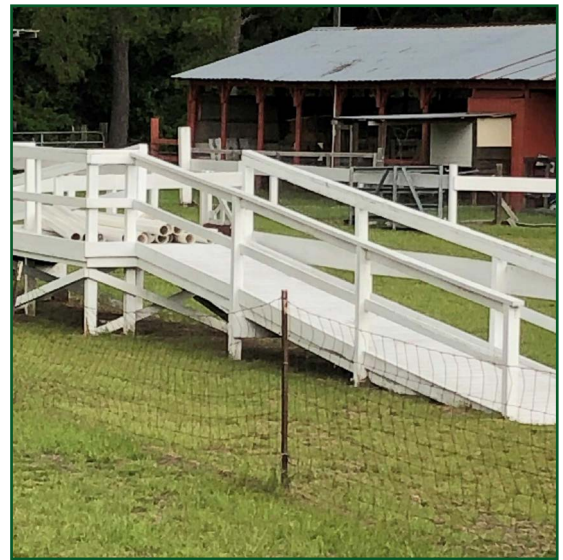
Projects such as the building of a Handicap Ramp for campers at the Horse Arena, widening the Horse Arena, Shelters at the fish pond and a Large Shelter out by the Climbing Wall, many other projects are also done while they are here.

First Baptist have been helping non-profits for over 38 years. They plan organize and perform necessary work that helps non-profits towards helping others. They are a volunteer group of about 80. Over the past two visits they have parked over at Laura Walker State Park and have also done some volunteer work for them.

This group performs these projects at no cost to the non-profits. They are self-sufficient. They provide and prepare their own meals, snacks, water. During their visits here at the camp they enjoy treating the campers to kettle corn. They have sat and enjoyed the talent shows put on by the campers. Many volunteer to help in other areas of need here at the camp.

This group had planned to come again this summer but with the current conditions of the COVID-19 Virus their plans have been changed. However, they are sending down a group of 20 to provide labor for the completion of the Landings, Ramps, and Safety Rails needed at the building that has been renovated. (Staff Building)

While they are here, they also plan to upgrade the sidewalks that will help bring the camp up to ADA Standards. 4 of our sidewalks are too narrow for safe passing for campers or those who are in wheelchairs. To help with this sidewalk portion of this scheduled work, I am seeking help from Lions who can come down a couple of days to work on the removal of the old sidewalks. The time frame for this help is the present date: 6/5/2020 till 6/27/2020 and from 7/5/2020 to 7/10/2020. The more we can get done before this group arrives will be most helpful.



Ramp at horse shelter

If you or some of your club members are interested in helping over the next few weekends (or week days) which ever works best for you, please contact Camp Director Mike Williams. 912-283-4320 or email director@glcb.org.

Want to win a T-shirt, sweatshirt or collared shirt from the Georgia Lions Camp? We've started a contest for you to learn about the camp. In the newsletters and on the website will be information about the camp. All that will be available to everyone. Each month there will be at least one question in the Georgia Lions Camp Newsletter.

The answer to the questions will be somewhere in the newsletter and on the camp website, www.glcb.org. When you know the answer, send your answer to Camp Director Mike Williams at director@glcb.org or call the camp at 912-283-4320. They will need your name and your answer. You will not be told whether you are correct or not. Your name and answer will be recorded and the person with the most correct answers wins prize. In the event of a tie, a coin flip will determine the winner.

The prize will be determined by both your choice and availability. The contest started with the April issue and the winner will be announced in January 2021.

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. What we at the Georgia Lions Camp request are 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.

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

1. Repair 4x4 post bracing damaged by carpenter bees at the Arts and Crafts Building
2. Paint bracing and post at Arts and Crafts building
3. Paint Porch on Arts and Crafts Building
4. Install Braille Signs
5. Some minor sheetrock repair in kitchen serving area and then paint ceiling
6. Replace mechanical room light with a 4' led light fixture. Arts and Crafts Bldg.
7. Repair and replace guide rope post with 4x4's and 6x6's in areas needed for better support.
8. All Guide rope post will need to be painted.
9. Trim around exit doors needs to be repaired in some areas and all need to be repainted.
10. Paint entry sidewalks at the exit doors to the bunkhouse.
11. Move guide rope post located near the end of where campers sit during horseback riding (Looking for a set of three seat aluminum bleachers for campers to have easy access).
12. Pull up carpet in kitchenette of Activity Building, prep for tile installation.
13. Foyer carpet in activity building needs to be replaced. (some floor tiles are on hand and available to be placed in this area.
14. Repair Emergency exit door at restrooms in the Dining Hall.
15. Repair damaged handrails leading to the floating dock.
16. Floating dock needs to be re-secured.
17. Paint the railing around the playground
18. Limbs on oak tree located at the rear entrance of the kitchen need to be trimmed (this may have to be done by a professional to prevent damage to the roof)
19. Memorial Garden needs to be weeded and there are sections that need new flowers.
20. Memorial Garden needs attention to where weeds are beginning to grow in between bricks.
21. Clean and paint swing frames at the fire pit area. CLEANED STILL NEEDS PAINT
22. Swings at the fire pit need to be painted.
23. Facia boards at pool shelter need to be replaced and repainted
24. Some areas of screens at the bar-b-que shelter needs to be re-stapled.
25. Paint and hang new screen door to bar-b-que shelter. DOOR PAINTED STILL NEEDS TO BE HUNG
26. Pressure wash all buildings. ONLY MAIN DORM REMAINS
27. Paint water heater room located behind the newly renovated Staff Building.
28. Paint the pump house at the pond
29. Paint the Water Tank I
30. Interior Dining Hall to be repainted (Covington Lions Club had offered to do this job before today's health issues happened) (Still can be done safely)
31. Kitchen serving area needs walls to be painted
32. Kitchen paint to match serving area.
33. Nature Trail – clean up and rocks and dirt applied where needed. Project has started with donation of crushed Asphalt (two loads) by Douglas Lions Club and Douglas Road Pavers. To build up low lying areas we still need THREE more loads of crushed asphalt and two loads of fill dirt.
34. Remove soiled carpet from (Rental House) (Directors house) Replace carpet with either laminate flooring or ceramic tile Camp has some tile- enough to do maybe three of the four rooms.
35. Install gates at two entrances to camp located near Main Dormitory: these are 28' openings and what is called cattle gates would be sufficient
36. We have several wooden picnic tables that need repairs or replacing.

Next Schedule Lions Service Work Date Is: October 23-25, 2020

Spring 2021 date will be determined by the November camp Board meeting

Upcoming Events

June 14 - July 19, 2020

Summer Camp 2020 has been cancelled. After much discussion and reviewing everything that would be necessary to protect campers and staff from the coronavirus, it has been decided to cancel summer camp 2020 at this time. Although we felt that it was possible to still have a part of summer camp the fair thing to do would be to cancel so that campers and seasonal staff can find something else for the summer.

Plans for Christmas Camp are still being made and an announcement should be released in July.

July 18, 2020

Lions Day at the Camp on July 18, 2020 hosted by District N, has been cancelled.

October 23-25, 2020

You're invited to Lions Camp Work Weekend on October 23-25, 2020. For more information, visit www.gclb.org.

**Contest Questions:
Who built the shelter at the Climbing Wall?
What did this group provide for the campers during their previous visits?**

Lions Camp Information

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

Website: <https://www.gclb.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