



Executive Director Message

“What we have once enjoyed we can never lose. All that we love deeply becomes a part of us.” – Helen Keller



Barry Elliott
Executive Director

The lion year of 2018-2019 is rapidly coming to a close. When you are reading this article, our state convention will have concluded.

Alabama Lions Sight (ALS), as the charitable arm of the Lions of Alabama, is tremendously dependent upon the Lions of Alabama. The vision care given to the indigent and visually impaired could not be accomplished without your help and donations! Individuals and clubs have been and continue to be the engine that financially propels this great work! Several years ago, two awards were created to recognize individuals and clubs who contributed to ALS. There is the Founder's Award in recognition of a contribution of \$500.00. The highest award

is the Helen Keller Legacy Award for contributions of \$1000.00. I wanted to include a picture of these beautiful plaques so that all could see how prestigious they are. Any individual or club having contributed these funds are entitled to these awards. It certainly would be in order for any club to recognize individuals in their club for their service as an end of the year award. If you are interested, then give the office a call, and we will be happy to verify those numbers for you so the plaques can be ordered!

That having been said, it appears that several clubs are waiting to near close of the lion year to make their annual donations. Often many donations are made at the state convention each year. Let me encourage each club to not delay. The service Lions are providing in vision care is continuing to increase as well as the cost, in order to accomplish it. I hope that many of you had the opportunity to be present at the state convention this year. If you were not, please call **205-325-8519** to schedule me to visit your club, so that you can learn more of what so many together are doing to prevent blindness!

The newly engaged partnership ALS has with the Alabama Department of Public Health is really developing into a promising area of service! Talks have begun to find ways that this pilot program can expand after the trial period is over at the end of July. Certainly we hope to expand beyond the four counties to include more areas of underserved residents of Alabama.



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Concerning our vision screenings currently averaging 15,000 per year hopes to significantly increase into the hundreds of thousands. We certainly cannot say enough about the continued partnership the lions have with UAB Callahan Eye Hospital. Thousands are seen in the Lions Clinic every year! I was just given the figure for last year at 3981 from the hospital! As we look forward in celebrating 75 years of service next year, Lions can be proud to serve more than 400,000 during those years. I am so blessed to be able to work with you in providing vision care to so many.

We Serve!

PDG Barry Elliott
Executive Director