



Executive Director Message

“A pessimist sees the **difficulty** in every opportunity;
An optimist sees the **opportunity** in every difficulty”

– Winston Churchill



Barry Elliott
Executive Director

As the Lion year of 2020 -2021 draws to an end, perhaps as never before, Lions have been challenged in ways that defines who we are. The difficulties of a world pandemic have brought out the best of Lions in what we do. New innovative service opportunities, membership growth, and club meetings. The Lions of Alabama are among the most optimistic people in the world, and I am proud to be associated with them in directing Alabama Lions Sight (ALS).

You will see a picture of the little smiling face of the Plusoptix camera that ALS uses. We have a full complement of screeners: District A screener is Janet Davis from the Hanceville Lions Club, District B screener is Randy Smith from the Auburn Lions Club, and District C is Ronald Tatum from the Grove Hill Lions Club. Each of our screeners are very efficient, and trained in being health conscience in our recent environment. Protocols are followed so that no child is put at risk during vision screening. I am so happy to say that we are scheduling screenings again! In the months of April and May, 100's has been screened. I encourage all clubs to contact those schools and community health events and get them back on the calendar. Please do not forget to contact private schools because they are left out usually of the opportunity for vision screenings and would be a great source of screenings for your club. You might want to check with your local schools to see if they are having summer school in person. Do not take vision screening for granted! You can help save the vision of children! Their success in school and life will be greatly enhanced by proper vision care.

ALS's program of the Mobile Eye Clinic (MEC) is doing such valuable service. During the pandemic, the MEC was suspended for 136 days. It resumed in August of 2020 on a modified schedule, but I am happy to report has now resumed full schedules! A normal lion's year for the MEC will see 1500+ patients. We will close this lion year around 1000 patients. Since its inception of February 2016, the clinic has now seen over 7000 patients and issued more than



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5000 pairs of glasses. The MEC has been awarded three years running a partnership grant with Alabama Department of Public Health from the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors. This has proved to be a wonderful collaboration together. We are one of only 7 nationwide to receive this opportunity. Our partnership is expanding into even greater opportunities. We hope to share those opportunities very soon. Dr. Kent Daum has such a heart of care and service. In the picture you will see him using the chair lift on the MEC to examine one of the recent victims of the Fultondale Tornado of January this year. This gentleman had to have his leg amputated in the field the night of the storm and most unfortunately, he and his family lost a 14-year-old child as well. ALS was able to provide a greatly needed pair of glasses.

ALS is having a GALA on November 13 at the 4H Center in Columbiana, AL. It is located off of Highway 145 between Clanton and Columbiana. We will have activities during the day and banquet in the evening. This will be a fundraiser for ALS with the proceeds going towards the purchase of a second MEC. Lions prepare for a wonderful evening of entertainment, learning, rewards and giving. Think of the thousands of lives you can make a difference in raising the opportunity of providing another MEC.

Alone, it is a daunting task, but together we can make it happen! Rooms will be available for those who would like to stay overnight. It is exciting to be a Lion!

We Serve!

PDG Barry Elliott
Executive Director