



Executive Director Message

“Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement; nothing can be done without hope.” - Helen Keller



**Barry Elliott
Executive Director**

It is that time of year that exudes with optimism and closely kin to optimism, is THANKFULNESS. I especially want to extend to all a wonderful holiday season. I am truly thankful to the foresight of the Lions of Alabama who 77 years ago established Alabama Lions Sight. Lions have made a positive impact on so many in this great state! We are so dependent upon our sight in every aspect of our lives. Yet it can and often is taken for granted by many. As Lions, we are engaged with folks that are seeking help with vision impairments. The truth is that more than 80% of vision impairments are either curable or treatable if

caught early. Lions are back to vision screenings! Over the past three months, ALS has had more than 1300 children eyes screened! It is so crucial to screen children's eyes early because a child doesn't realize he/she is having vision problems because there is no point of reference of seeing any different. Whatever the condition is, the child just thinks that is the way it is supposed to be.

While we are continuing our quest to screen in every public school, however, let me encourage you to not overlook the private sector in your communities. Private schools are usually open for Lions to come in and do vision screenings. Last week the Northport Lions did a vision screening in American Christian Academy of more than 300 students! I really commend the Lions of Northport in contacting the local TV station channel 23 and had a public news cast segment recorded that was aired Thursday, November 4th during the 5:00 news. Great job Northport Lions Club! We have several screenings on our schedule yet to do and are anxious for more.

Recently our Mobile Eye Clinic celebrated its 1000th site visit! Dr. Daum has seen more than 7000 patients and issued more than 5000 pairs of glasses! Lions are truly to be commended for the wonderful work that is being accomplished through the MEC. Vision care is being brought to the underserved and uninsured in many poor counties in Alabama that normally would have no access to care. Everyday lives are being changed for the better and many



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serious health conditions are being caught and treated as well. The MEC is operating at capacity in covering 23 counties. We have a great need to add a second truck to help more people. The ALS Gala set for November 13th, at the 4 H Center in Columbiana, we are emphasizing the raising of funds for this second MEC. As I write this article, we are only days away from this event. I believe that the Lions of Alabama will rise to the occasion! Where there is a need there is a Lion!

I have had the privilege to visit many clubs recently: Autaugaville Lions Club, Wetumpka Lions Club, Talladega Lions Club, Northport Lions Vision Screening, and MEC Celebration of 1000 sites. It is such a pleasure to serve with the Lions through Alabama Lions Sight.

My wish, to all the Lions, is for a happy holiday and a prosperous New Year!

We Serve!

PDG Barry Elliott
Executive Director