



Executive Director Message

**“The greatest tragedy in life is not death....but a life lived without purpose”
Dr. Miles Monroe**



**Durden Dean
Executive Director**

As we begin our new Lions year I would like to encourage all Lions and their clubs to reflect for a moment on the importance of sight in a child’s education and life!

A child that cannot see properly struggles with reading, math, visual arts, comprehension and the list goes on and on. Without proper vision a child will fall further and further behind in school and will become a prime candidate to become a drop-out.

Lions can prevent this from ever happening and save this child from living a life of unfulfilled dreams! “How” you may ask? The answer is **“early childhood eye screenings”**.

Alabama Lions Sight has partnered with Lions Clubs International to be an active participant and enthusiastic supporter of the **“Lions KidSight USA”** program. The program is designed to target children from 6 months old to 6 + years old to make sure they start life off on the right track.

A child with poor vision has no point of reference like an adult to know whether they can see properly! They believe that what they see is how everyone sees. For those with poor vision a whole new world opens up to them once they receive their first pair of glasses! Lions can and do make this life changing event happen through school and community screenings.

I am challenging each and every club in Alabama to reach out to your local school systems to schedule in-school eye screenings this fall to make sure **every** child in Alabama will have the opportunity to start life on the right track.

Alabama Lions Sight has properly trained and **“certified”** screeners in each Lions district of Alabama ready, willing and able to assist your club with school and community screenings.

In District A we are currently looking for new screeners after the retirement of Lions Frank & Alice Harper from the Fort Payne Lions Club, in District B we have Lions Tim & Ofie McCoy



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from the Prattville Lions Club and in District C we have Lion Yvonne Burroughs from the Eight Mile Lions Club ready to come to your community and work with local Lions clubs to make sure your children can see.

PLEASE..... Join Alabama Lions Sight in giving the gift of sight to the children of Alabama! Make **Sight** your **Purpose** in life!

During the 2017-18 Lions year, with your support, Alabama Lions Sight provided eye screenings for:

District A, there were 75 adults screened and 19 referrals. Children screened was 1170 and 186 referrals. (We are waiting on the final numbers from District A)

District B we screened 544 adults and referred 178. Children screened was 7686 and 1091 referrals.

District C we screened 1202 adults and referred 353. Children screened was 2361 and referred 548.

Our **Mobile Eye Clinic** continues to serve the neediest of Alabama with comprehensive dilated eye exams, glasses and transportation for surgeries and advanced eye care at The Lions Eye Clinic at Callahan. We have expanded the outreach program to 22 clinics in 16 Black Belt and ARC counties of Alabama and have currently served over 3,500 patients and provided over 2,400 pairs of glasses.

Remarkable progress has been made at the Lions Eye Clinic at the Callahan Eye Foundation Hospital in Birmingham. With the doubling of the operating rooms at Callahan it has allowed the Lions Eye Clinic to dramatically expand the number of indigent patients we serve. **In the past Lions year we increased the number of patients served from approx. 5,000 per year to over 7,400.**

Alabama Lions Sight is “Your” organization and it is through your financial support, volunteer support and prayers that we are able to fulfill the Lions motto and mission that “We Serve”

I challenge each Lion and Lions Club to **“Live your life with purpose”**



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Call Paula Gardner at your Alabama Lions Sight office, 205-325-8519 to schedule your clubs school and community screenings today! School will be starting back before you know it so **Don't delay, Call today!**

My final report.

As most of you know, I am retiring as the executive director of Alabama Lions Sight effective August 3rd. It has been the greatest honor and privilege of my life to serve the Lions of Alabama over the last 5 years! Any success we have had is due in large part to the dedication & support of our great office staff, Paula & Doris, our Mobile Eye Clinic staff, Dr. Daum, John & Trisha, our District eye screeners, Frank & Alice, Tim & Ofie and Yvonne, our website director Martine, our grant writer Terra, the board of directors of Alabama Lions Sight and all the dedicated Lions of Alabama.

Alabama Lions Sight is in great hands as our new Executive Director, PDG Barry Elliott, takes the reins of leadership. For PDG Barry to be successful he will need the support of all Lions in Alabama to lead us into the 2nd century of Lions service in Alabama.

Yours in Service!

Sincerely,

Durden

Lion W. Durden Dean
Executive Director