



Executive Director Message

“Fellow-graduates: duty bids us go forth into active life.” – Anne Sullivan



**Barry Elliott
Executive Director**

In June 1886, Anne Sullivan graduated from Perkins School for the Blind at the age of 20, as the valedictorian of her class. Her life, up until this point, had been a very difficult life, but seven years later, she was recruited to become the teacher and lifelong companion of Helen Keller. Within a few months of working with Helen, the conventional way of teaching vocabulary words to Helen wasn't working, so Anne began teaching words to Helen that she found interesting. The rest is recorded for prosperity. The interesting thing to me is Anne's thirst for making a difference by being engaged with Helen. As Lions, what

better encouragement could we receive than the lesson of involvement coming from Anne Sullivan? Making a difference in our world, our communities, and for individuals by service is certainly a motivation for being a lion!

Lions across the good state of Alabama are doing just that. Just a few of the recent club visits, I have had the good fortune to visit, are included on this page. Opelika Lions Club, Atmore Lions Club, and the Talladega Lions Club are only three examples of Lions who are active in life. The generous donations that these and all Lions Clubs throughout the state make it possible for Alabama Lions Sight (ALS), to be “Knights of the Blind.” While space doesn't allow me to include all the clubs and their activities, I want to give special recognition to these three. Opelika Lions Club yearly financial contributions to ALS and involvement in local vision screenings help Lions provide vision care to the indigent people of Alabama. The Atmore Lions Club leaned of the tremendous success of the Mobile Eye Clinic (MEC) at the quarterly board meeting and in less than a week presented ALS with a 1% donation (\$3000.00) as the first to contribute to the fund for a second MEC.

Let me encourage you to log onto our website, www.alsca.org, if you haven't in the last week. There is a great deal of information that has been added lately. I am especially pleased that the video for the Vision Health Initiative with the Alabama Health Department and ALS is now implanted on our website. Also, you will find a couple of links to TV interviews concerning



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ALS in pull down windows. We now have the MEC schedule, along with the clinic and phone numbers, to call and make an appointment for an eye exam through December of this year. "Like" our Facebook page and share our posts to help get the word out so that those who need our services can find access to what you as Lions are providing. There will be ads in some local newspapers, radio spots, and more interviews as time allows. The website is constantly updating concerning the Mobile Screening units for all three districts as they are busy doing vision screenings.

I am truly humbled to being involved in such important and needed service that you as Lions are making possible through ALS. There are many important areas of our service that I would love to visit your club and report to you. Please schedule a time for me to visit and show your club some of the videos. There isn't a better time than now to being a Lion!

We Serve!

PDG Barry Elliott
Executive Director