Lions are people of courage, so I believe as Lions the best is yet to come! Our batteries are recharged, the opportunities to renew our involvement in our communities have been increased, we cannot but expect to see greater service!

Lions, our service in the fight to prevent blindness remains a focal point in our communities. Since our Mobile Eye Clinics have been suspended since March 16, there is a backlog of folks eager to have their eyes examined. We are anxious to return but cautious to resume. Since we are in a constricted space in the Mobile Truck we will have to wait till the numbers indicate that our patients and staff will be safe. Dr. Daum and I are watching it closely and will move forward as safely as we can.

Lions, I wish that I could bring the big news that we all have been anticipating, but we did not receive the line item appropriation from the state budget that we had hoped. Our efforts have not been for naught. In the past two years of working towards approval, the Lions have made positive strides! The process from the beginning was known as long and daunting. I will just say that this year we started out as being in, then we were out, then we were back in, and lastly, we were out. The real progress that we can hang our hat on this year is that we have changed the process! Going forward entities that Alabama Lions Sight will be able to submit a bid to the State Education fund, along with any other party, and be evaluated to specific qualifications and then a bid will then be awarded. This should be a level playing field for us and anyone to compete for the opportunity to conduct vision screening in our public schools. I am truly grateful to the Lions who have worked in this behalf and our legislators who saw our ability, passion, and accountability.

I would like to thank those who serve on our Board of Directors. We have had a very active board this year with involvement from every member! We will be losing several members, rolling off the board, due to length of service, according to our bylaws. I especially am
appreciative for your great leadership! If you as a lion are interested in finding out more about our board, please give me a call or email. The Board had planned a wonderful celebration for our 75th Anniversary that was to be held on May 1, that of course was cancelled. The celebration was also a fund raiser to purchase a second Mobile Eye Clinic truck. Three clubs have already sent their donations for this purpose with $9,000.00 designated for the truck. ALS will continue to make plans to raise the needed funds for this purpose. Stay tuned for future announcements!

A tremendous thank you goes out to those Lion Clubs who have donated this past Lions year. I know that this is an exception this year, considering many fundraisers of clubs being canceled and your monies being not what they normally are. Still, many clubs have continued their support. ALS is grateful in whatever the size of your donations.

God bless you in your efforts to serve your communities. Be of great courage and believe.

We Serve!

PDG Barry Elliott
Executive Director