

## District 34A Newsletter

Issue 1 | JULY 2024

### International President (2024-25)

**Fabricio Oliveria** (Catolé do Rocha, Brazil)

### Theme: Make Your Mark

Everywhere we serve, every time we give, we bring kindness and compassion, change and hope. And we make our mark on the lives we touch, the communities we serve and the world we share.



As we begin our Lions Year I am inspired and encouraged by your commitment to meeting the needs in our 34A communities. I and your new District Teams are ready to assist. A few weeks back,

the District Directory was mailed to your club to help you communicate with your District and reach out if/as needed. We are planning visits to support installations, new member inductions, service projects and fundraisers. Please know that we cannot do this important mission without you. We are in this together providing a Candle in the darkness to someone in need.

Yours in Service,  
MD-34A DG Renié

### LIONS CLUB GLOBAL CAUSES



Every journey begins with a single step. ONE act of service, ONE encouraging word, ONE gift of generosity is often all it takes to bring hope where it's needed most. Over the last 100 years, the kindness of Lions and Leos has multiplied across borders, oceans, and continents. WITH over 1.4 million members, we now have an opportunity to truly change our world. The difference we're making: Improve health & well-being; strengthen communities; support those in need.

In 34A We are Making our Mark by Continuing to be "Lights in the Darkness" I inspired by Lion Ted Crona from Scottsboro Lions Club and felt a strong connection with his idea. Through the eight (8) Global Causes we, Lions, are lighting MANY candles, each one tailored to meet our communities' unique needs.



We started a church teen youth group and had them start lighting a candle each Sunday when they met. Just before Christmas, the candle went missing, we blamed them for being negligent and they were sent on a mission to find and return it. They were given directions to a local resident who gave them some food goods and directions to the next location to find the candle. Many residents participated and after they had gathered a large quantity of food, they arrived at a very dilapidated house where the candle was burning in the window. They delivered to food goods to this needy family and received back their candle. Of note, several of them, voluntarily returned at Christmas with some presents for the needy family. The lesson for them was to have their light shining so that they could see to help others.

\*\*\*\*\* SAVE THE DATES \*\*\*\*\*

**DISTRICT & MULTI-DISTRICT EVENTS**

Aug 3 – MD-34 Leadership Conference – Faulkner University  
Aug 17 – 1<sup>st</sup> Cabinet Meeting – Centre Lions Club  
Aug 24 – Leo Club(s) Team Building – Moulton Lions Club  
Oct 19 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Cabinet Meeting – Bridgeport Lions Club  
Feb 28 - Mar 1<sup>st</sup> – District Convention – Von Braun Lions Club  
Mar 25-27 – Montgomery – MD-34C  
Jun 7 – Re-dedication of Helen Keller Lions Memorial Walk

**AWARDS** (PCC Mark – HawkEye03@gmail.com / Lion Wilma ruffiwj@auburn.edu)

- Tom Jones Lion of the Year – MAY 1st
- Roderick Beddow Outstanding Club Award – MAY 1st
- Aubrey D. Green Humanitarian Award; 45 Days prior to MD convention

**HENAGAR TORNADO – Where there is a need, there is a Lion**

On Thursday, May 8, 2024, North Alabama experienced Tornadoes touching down affecting multiple communities across Limestone, Madison, Jackson and DeKalb County Alabama from the five points area of south Huntsville, Gurley to Henagar and surrounding areas confirmed by the National Weather Service. The tornado that touched down in the Henagar area was an EF-2 between County Road 425 and 322 at 10:54 p.m. three miles southeast of Pisgah. The tornado path stretched 10.22 miles long and 880 yards wide. Wind speeds peaked at 135 mph. The tornado ended at 11:20 p.m. three miles northwest of Hammondville in DeKalb County. There were several injuries, but no fatalities reported. MD-34A Lions were alerted and 2VDG Patrick and Lion Josh from Scottsboro Lions repositioned MD-34A disaster trailer at Henagar County Park Friday in preparation for Rainsville Lions led by Club President Blake Chandler to hand out needed clean-up supplies including gloves, rakes, brooms and mops. Although the Henagar tornado did not meet LCIF Emergency grant criteria, we were able to use what we had on-hand to assist the community, said DGE Renié after her site visit to Henagar. Rainsville Club President Blake Chandler shared that having the Response trailer on the ground increased Lions visibility in the community and several inquiries for membership.



The MD-34A Disaster Trailer was put to good use.

Special Thanks to the following Clubs for their Generous Donations:

Cullman Lions Club

Prattville Lions Club

Hanceville Lions Club

“Lions Helping Lions...Helping their communities



**34A First Vice District Governor**  
**Craig Gadow**  
(Cullman Lions)  
(256)736-8361  
Cgadow10@gmail.com

**34A Second Vice District Governor**  
**Patrick Lenhart**  
(Scottsboro Lions)  
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**NORTH REGION CHAIR**



**Lindell Smith** (Von Braun Lions)  
(870) 816-0462 LFSBSMITH@gmail.com

**ALABAMA MULTI-DISTRICT 34A Region/Zone Chairs 2024-2025**



**SOUTH REGION CHAIR**



(Hanceville Lions) **Robert (Bob) Manney**  
(205) 807-8290 rjmanney@yahoo.com

**Cabinet Treasurer**  
**Barry Willingham**  
(Cullman Lions)



(256)507-4601  
bwappraise@gmail.com

**Cabinet Secretary**  
**Christina Gadow**  
(Hanceville Lions)



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**District Admin PCC**  
**Linda Starr**  
(Centre Lions)



(256)557-1808  
lstarr@tds.net

**LCIF**  
**Jerry Stephens**  
(Athens Lions)



(906)332-0251  
Jassoocrew@gmail.com

**Global Membership Approach (GMA)**



**PID Jerome Thompson** (Moulton)  
(256)340-4762  
LQchangesLives@gmail.com

**Global Leadership Team (GLT)**



**Heather McCann** (Guntersville)  
(256)486-8071  
moondancerham@gmail.com

**Global Service Team (GST)**



**Dustin Phillips** (Shoals Area)  
(256)810-1301  
Dphillips1@una.edu

**Global Membership Team (GMT)**



**Alice Sams** (Von Braun)  
(256)658-0313  
Afriendsama44@gmail.com

**Global Extension Team (GET)**



**Sharon Price** (Guntersville)  
(256)293-1213  
mamagooseskitchen@gmail.com



**NORTHWEST Zone Chair:**  
Florence, Killian, Cherokee, Tusculmbia, Shoals Area  
**BRIAN BRIGHT**  
(Guntersville Lions)  
(256) 470-0867  
brianboodieboodiebright@gmail.com



**NORTHCENTRAL Zone Chair:**  
Elkmont, Athens, Pacesetters, Von Braun, Madison, Gurley, Decatur (Von Braun Lions)  
**Dr. WILMA RUFFIN**  
(256)656-3449  
ruffiwj@auburn.edu



**NORTHEAST Zone Chair:**  
Bridgeport, Scottsboro, New Hope, Guntersville, Marshall Area, Rainsville  
**DANA CHILDS**  
(Guntersville Lions)  
(256) 298-1049  
Danachilds87@gmail.com

**WEST Zone Chair:**  
Red Bay, Russellville, Moulton, Eva, Falkville  
**LINDA COTTEN**  
(Cullman Lions)  
(256) 339-2352  
cuallinda@gmail.com



**SOUTHWEST Zone Chair:**  
Haleyville, Hamilton, Double Springs, Brilliant, Wingfield  
**Dr. GINGER HOGELAND**  
(Cullman)  
(256) 339-2511  
Ghogeland@ccboe.org



**CENTRAL Zone Chair:**  
Holly Pond, Cullman, Fairview, Hanceville, Blountsville  
**SCOTT STAROSTA**  
(Cullman Lions)  
(770) 827-6580  
scott.starosta@gmail.com



**EAST Zone Chair:**  
Fort Payne, Centre, Gadsden, Hokes Bluff, Rainbow City, Hokes Bluff Tawanna,  
**CLAUDIA McELHANEY**  
(Ft. Payne Lions)  
(256) 630-5143  
cpweaver17@gmail.com



BUILD A TEAM of club officers to help support the Global Membership Approach.  
BUILD A VISION, assess needs, and set goals.  
BUILD A PLAN to achieve our goals.  
BUILD SUCCESS...execute your plan, maintain accountability, and adjust as needed.

**Club Officer Installaion Ceremony – Hokes Bluff & Hokes Bluff Tawannah Clubs (June 29, 2024)**



**International Convention in Melbourne, Australia**





**Remembering Our Fellow Lions Who Have Passed... Tuscumbia Lions Club...DG Susan Harrell**

## Susan Harrell Obituary

Obituary published on Legacy.com by Morrison Funeral Home - Tuscumbia on Apr. 25, 2024.

The Funeral service for Susan Hale Harrell, 69, of Leighton, AL will be Friday, April 26, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. at Hatton Baptist Church, also located in Leighton. Brother Stan Mitchell will be officiating. The family will receive friends and loved ones for visitation from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. preceding the service. Interment will follow at Midway Memorial Gardens in Moulton, AL.

Susan, who passed away Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at her home, was born March 07, 1955, in Dearborn, MI, to Joseph and Irene Hale. She was preceded in death by her father and mother and her loving husband, Rod Harrell.

She is survived by her son, Jeremiah Bretherick; her daughter, Jennifer Mears; her stepdaughter, Beth Myers (David); her two brothers, Joe Hale (Yvonne) and Paul Hale (Jose); her sister, Angela Benson; her three grandchildren, Payton Lanier, Madison Mears, and Rowyn Myers; and several nephews and nieces.

Susan attended Colbert County High School and completed her master's degree in psychology at the University of North Alabama. She cherished her 29-year career with the state of Alabama which began while working for Senator Bobby Denton, followed by working as a Career Counselor at Northwest Shoals Community College, and finally with the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services as a Rehabilitation Counselor for the deaf and blind. After retirement she continued utilizing her desire to serve others by dedicating her time as a devoted member of Hatton Baptist Church, providing guided tours at the Helen Keller Birthplace, supporting the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired, and serving as a member of the Tuscumbia Lions Club, most recently as their District 34A's current District Governor.

Pallbearers will be Tyler Bretherick, Josh Tidwell, Jose Luna, Payton Lanier, Madison Mears, and Leah McVay.

Memorial donations may be made to the Helen Keller Birthplace at <https://helenkellerbirthplace.org/donations/>