

MID-WINTER CONVENTION NEWS

An Invitation to the 2026 Mid-Winter Convention

From District Governors Dwayne Turner and Gene Goetz

Fellow Lions,

We are excited to invite you to the 2026 Mid-Winter Convention for Districts 31 N&S. This annual gathering is more than just a meeting—it is a celebration of our shared mission, fellowship, and the incredible impact Lions make across North Carolina.

The Mid-Winter Convention offers a chance to:

- Connect with fellow Lions from across both districts.
- Share ideas and strengthen our service projects.
- Learn from inspiring speakers and workshops.
- Celebrate the accomplishments of our clubs and members.

As District Governors, we believe this convention is a vital opportunity to renew our commitment to service, grow in leadership, and enjoy the camaraderie that makes Lions so special. Together, we will continue to build on the proud tradition of service that defines Districts 31 N&S.

We look forward to seeing you there and encourage every club to be represented. Let's make the 2026 Mid-Winter Convention a time of inspiration, fellowship, and renewed energy for the year ahead.

In Service,

Dwayne Turner, District Governor 31-S

Gene Goetz, District Governor 31-N



District Governors Dwayne Turner (S) & Gene Goetz (N)

Convention Speaker

David W. Wentworth – International Director

David W. Wentworth of Omaha, Nebraska, was elected to a two-year term as International Director at the 2025 Lions Clubs International Convention. A Lion since 1991, he has served in numerous leadership roles at the club, district, and multiple district levels, as well as faculty and presenter for USA/Canada Lions Leadership Institutes and Forums.

He helped establish KidSight Nebraska in 2016, securing funding for 20 vision cameras that have screened more than 25,000 children. Wentworth has received multiple international awards and is a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow. He and his wife, Valerie, along with their two daughters, are all Lions.



*International Director
David Wentworth*



Friday Night Fun Night

Step right up and join us for Friday Night Fun Night, where the excitement of a carnival meets the wonder of the circus! Enjoy games, laughter, and fellowship in a festive atmosphere. Bring your friends and family—come ready to have some fun and make lasting memories!

MID-WINTER CONVENTION NEWS

Tail Twister Auction & Breakfast: Fun, Fellowship, and Fundraising



One of the most anticipated traditions at our Mid-Winter Convention is the Tail Twister Auction and Breakfast. This event combines laughter, fellowship, and spirited bidding—all while raising funds to support the vital work of our Lions clubs.

The breakfast itself is a highlight, offering a hearty meal to start the day. Sharing food together creates a sense of community, and the auction adds an extra layer of excitement.

This year, the bidding will be led by PCC George Suggs, whose energy and enthusiasm promise to make the auction lively and memorable. With his leadership, members can expect plenty of fun and friendly competition as they bid on a wide variety of donated items.

Auction items will include:

- Gift baskets filled with local specialties and treats
- Handcrafted items showcasing the talents of our members
- Lions memorabilia and collectibles
- Event tickets for sports, theater, or local attractions
- Unique experiences, such as dinners hosted by fellow Lions
- Practical items like tools, home goods, and electronics

We are currently seeking donations of auction items from clubs and individual members. Your contributions help make the auction a success and ensure that we raise the funds needed to support our programs.

Most importantly, all funds raised will go directly toward Brighter Visions, helping provide vital services and vision care to those in need across North Carolina. Every bid makes a difference in someone's life.

Join us on Saturday, January 17, for this special event. With PCC George Suggs at the helm, the Tail Twister Auction and Breakfast is sure to be a highlight of the convention, blending fun, fellowship, and fundraising in true Lions fashion.

MID-WINTER CONVENTION NEWS

International Director David Wentworth to Hold Townhall, Presidents and Secretaries Meeting

We are honored to welcome International Director David W. Wentworth to our upcoming Mid-Winter Convention. He will host a Townhall session open to all members, sharing updates from Lions Clubs International and engaging in dialogue about the future of Lionism.

Director Wentworth will also meet with Club Presidents to discuss leadership, membership growth, and strengthening service initiatives. This unique opportunity allows presidents to connect directly with an International Director and gain valuable insights for their clubs.

We encourage all members to attend the Townhall and for every president to join this important meeting. Director Wentworth's vision will inspire us as we continue to grow and serve our communities.

Seminars

Just Ask: Turning Friendly Conversation into New Lions

Bringing new members into your Lions Club doesn't have to be complicated. In this seminar, you'll learn how to have natural, friendly conversations that highlight what makes your club special. We'll cover how to create a simple, authentic pitch, show off your club's strengths, and share opportunities to get involved. You'll leave with practical tips to engage your neighbors, grow your club, and make a real difference in your community, one conversation at a time.



A New Independent Path Forward for the Blind

Blind supportive technologies are advancing rapidly, creating new opportunities for independence and inclusion. This talk will highlight innovations in mobility, navigation, and information-transfer tools that are transforming daily life for individuals with vision loss. From smart canes with sensors and GPS guidance to voice-activated applications and wearable devices, these solutions enable safer travel, easier access to information, and greater confidence in everyday activities. Navigation systems now allow blind users to move through complex environments with precision, while information-transfer platforms ensure seamless communication, education, and professional engagement.

By educating Lions on these applied technologies, the session emphasizes how modern tools foster autonomy, dignity, and empowerment. Attendees will gain insight into practical applications that redefine independent living, demonstrating how technology bridges gaps and opens doors to fuller participation in society. Beyond functionality, these advancements represent a cultural shift toward accessibility and inclusion, inspiring communities to advocate for equal opportunities. This presentation encourages Lions to champion these innovations, support adoption, and envision a future where blindness is no longer a barrier to independence.

MID-WINTER CONVENTION NEWS

Cabinet Meetings at the Mid-Winter Convention

At the upcoming Mid-Winter Convention, each district will hold its official Cabinet Meeting, including elections for 2026-2027 officers to ensure strong leadership across North Carolina.

Voting delegates must obtain Voter Registration forms from their Cabinet Secretary before the convention to participate. Additional agenda items will be shared later, with discussions aimed at guiding our districts into the future.

These meetings are vital to shaping leadership, strengthening our organization, and uniting members in service. All are encouraged to attend and support their clubs.

District Governor's Banquet



The highlight of the Mid-Winter Convention will be the District Governor's Banquet, held on Saturday evening, January 17. This special event will feature International Director David W. Wentworth as our keynote speaker, bringing inspiration and vision to Lions across North Carolina.

Guests will enjoy a delicious meal prepared for the occasion, followed by the exciting Camp Dogwood Raffle Ticket Drawing, offering chances to win while supporting our foundation's mission. The evening will also include recognitions and honors, celebrating the outstanding service and leadership of Lions who have made a difference in their clubs, districts, and communities.

The banquet is not only a time of fellowship but also an opportunity to hear directly from an International Director, gain valuable insights, and celebrate the collective impact of Lionism. We encourage all members to attend this memorable evening. Come share in the camaraderie, enjoy the festivities, and be inspired as we continue to grow and serve together.



Club Recognition/Ad Form

Help Support a Lions Tradition



The International Association of Lions Clubs Districts 31-N&S Mid-Winter Convention

January 16-17, 2026 Holiday Inn

203 SW Greenville Blvd.
Greenville, NC 27834

Send Ads & Pictures in Color



Ad Prices

Full Page	\$100.00
Half Page	\$ 70.00
Quarter Page	\$ 50.00
Eighth Page	\$ 35.00
Front InsideCover	\$150.00
Back InsideCover	\$150.00
Back Cover	\$200.00



E-mail Ad Copy to: PDG Carlton Metts
carltonvmetts@gmail.com or call: 252-259-4140

NEED HELP WITH DESIGN IDEAS?
Contact PDG Carlton Metts!!!

Make Check Payable to:

Districts 31-N&S Midwinter Convention

Mail Check & Form to:

(Enclose copy of Ad)

Lion Anne Metts

2001 Williamson Drive
New Bern, NC 28562

******* AD DEADLINE – December 27, 2025 *******

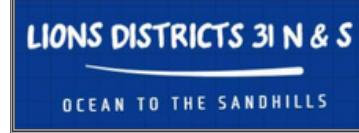
Club Name _____ Email _____
Business Ad Name _____
Contact Name _____ Phone _____ Ad _____
Size _____ Amount \$ _____

2026 Districts 31-N&S Mid-Winter Convention Registration



HOLIDAY INN

203SW Greenville Blvd.
Greenville, NC 27834
Phone: 252-355-8300
January 16-17, 2026



NAME TAG REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

<u>Lion / Guest Name</u>	<u>Club Name / District</u>	<u>Circle Ones that Apply</u>	<u>Circle Honors</u>
_____	_____ / _____	FFN TTB Lunch DGB	MJF-JSF-WLW-SLS-HOF- NCLF Amb-VIP Amb
_____	_____ / _____	FFN TTB Lunch DGB	MJF-JSF-WLW-SLS-HOF- NCLFAmb-VIPAmb
_____	_____ / _____	FFN TTB Lunch DGB	MJF-JSF-WLW-SLS-HOF- NCLFAmb-VIPAmb

MEAL REGISTRATION

Friday Fun Night, Jan. 16, 2026 – 6:30 PM
Backyard Cookout Buffet w/Hamburgers

Meal Cost	Late Registration (after 12/20/2025)	Number Attending	Amount Due
-----------	---	------------------	------------

Saturday Breakfast, Jan. 17, 2026 - 7:30AM
Classic Breakfast Buffet

Saturday Lunch, Jan. 17, 2026 –12:00 PM
Chicken Noodle Soup w/Sandwich Buffet

Saturday, January 17, 2026 – 6:30 PM

District Governors Banquet - Plated
Blackened Sirloin w/Peppercorn Demi Sauce

District Governor Banquet – Vegetarian

District Governor Banquet – Gluten Free

\$30	\$33	_____	\$ _____
\$25	\$28	_____	\$ _____
\$25	\$28	_____	\$ _____
\$40	\$43	_____	\$ _____
\$35	\$38	_____	\$ _____
\$35	\$38	_____	\$ _____

Total: \$ _____

MEAL REGISTRATION DEADLINE – JANUARY 7, 2026

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE to: Districts 31-N&S Lions Mid-Winter Convention

MAIL TO: Lion Joelle Lynde (Ph: 919-219-1724)

1003 River Dee Court
Apex, NC 27502-4153

OR **ADD DEBIT/CREDIT CARD INFORMATION – Visa or Master Card**

INCLUDE: DEBIT OR CREDIT CARD NUMBER:

EXPIRATION DATE: _____ **SECURITY CODE:** _____ **ZIP CODE:** _____
(\$3 Fee Charge for use of Debit/Credit Card)

Hotel Information: Call – Holiday Inn, 203 SW Greenville Blvd., Greenville, NC 27834 at **PH: 252-355-8300** to make reservation by December 19, 2025. Room rate is \$110.00+tax for Queen or King ---Call Early!!!!