

IN FOCUS



**Winners-
Dickson Lions
Club**

THIRD ANNUAL GOLF BALL DROP
The Third Annual Golf Ball Drop was held on Saturday, July 27th at the Hermitage Golf Course. We raised \$9,380 so the winner will receive \$938. Thanks to Lynn Wright who spearheads this fundraiser. Thanks to all who sold or bought tickets.

Above: Executive Director Dianne Corlew, Dickson Lions Clubs Members Patrick and Francis Scott, and Lynn Wright.

Right: Lynn Wright is wading through the 1,876 balls to find the winning ball.



Thanks to all who turned out to help with the Golf Ball Drop. Broadus and JoAnne Weatherall, Jennifer Moore, Wade Wilson, Josh Moore, Judy Denning, Debbie Ponder, RJ Manula, Bobby Bass, Francis Scott, Patrick Scott, Evan Jones, Chelsea Jones, Gunner Fuller, Thom Smelser, Tawyna Buster, Emily and Lynn Wright, Bill and Ashea Dearing, Alex Martinez, Carl Webster, Beverly and Tony Webster, Tashena Martinez, and Dianne Corlew.

Special thanks to our young golf ball picker uppers: Jax Martinez, Cora Larson, KC Brown, Langley Brown, and Caris Larson.

Crusade Against Darkness Specialty License Plates

PDG Cliff Swoape gave the Crusade Against Darkness Specialty License Plate report while dressed in his appropriate pirate attire that he wore throughout the campaign to emphasize the project. Four members of the MT Campus Lions Club were recognized for spearheading the idea: Orion Leslie, Samantha Swoape, Katherine Mangione, and Cliff Swoape. Metal prototypes were sent to Cliff for final approval and have been returned for production. The MT Campus Club passed around a sample of the plates for all to see.

PDG Cliff announced that the State of Tennessee will make half the revenue (minus production costs) to MTLSS and the first payment of \$32,677.20 was deposited into the MTLSS account. He also said we will continue to receive income on future sales.

Middle Tennessee Lions Sight Service presented Cliff with a Knight for Sight Recognition for all the work he has done with this fundraiser. PDG Cliff was the creator and researcher for this fundraiser. He has worked diligently on this two-year fundraiser.

When the plates arrive Cliff will be driving around with a plate that has "0001" because he initiated the sales. Dianne will be driving plate # "1000" because of her unwavering belief that we would make our required goal of 1000 plates.



Poverty guidelines increase

Several new Poverty Guidelines possibilities were presented. A vote was made to increase the poverty guidelines to 130%. That is what the State of Tennessee uses for SNAP and other programs. This will allow us to approve more people for services. New Poverty Guidelines have been posted on the website: www.mtlss.org. under For Lions Club.

Investment Committee Report

Last year we received monies from the estate of Lion David Lawrence. The Investment Committee along with the Board of Directors voted to invest those funds in order to insure the future of MTLSS. We invested \$400,000 with the intent to not touch the funds until they had doubled. At that point, we will only draw from the interest. We invested the funds last July. PDG Phil Barnes gave the investment committee report and reported that in the last statement the balance was \$485,631.06.



Application Review Committee Report

PDG Tommy Goetz gave the Application Review Committee Report. The Committee reviewed and approved 12 applications this year. Four applications were denied due to income too high. PDG Tommy shared the touching story of three of the patients helped this year.

We helped 19 patients with surgery during this last fiscal year.

We covered 26 cataract surgeries.

We are presently in a position to consider more applications this year.

Nominating committee

Lion Emily Wright gave the Nominating Committee report. She gave the slated list of Board or Director members for 2024-2025.



PCC Ron Anderson inducted all the Executive Officers and Board of Director members for 2024-2025.

RECOGNITIONS

President Lynn Wright recognized Bobbye Kassing. She has served on the Board for two terms and is rotating off the Board. We appreciate her service and support.

PDG Mark Kassing was recognized for his support to MTLSS. He has gifted MTLSS with some realty stock.

Past President Beverly Webster was recognized as she will be leaving her Board position. We know she will continue to support MTLSS.

Each were presented a MTLSS glass.



Outgoing President Lynn Wright was presented with a President recognition.

He has served as a great President during this past exciting year. Lynn has also spearheaded our Annual Golf Ball Drop. Lynn will continue on the Board as Immediate Past President this next year.

KNIGHT FOR SIGHT RECOGNITIONS

Many Clubs have made donations throughout the year. All Clubs who make a \$500 donation can recognize a Knight for Sight.

Mt Juliet West Wilson recognized two Lions from their club. Past President Kenneth Thomas and President Carl Webster.





Shelbyville Lions Club recognized Marc Majors with a Knight for Sight. Marc has been a strong supporter of Middle Tennessee Lions Sight Service. He works to update some of the older CCTVs. Marc is coming onto the Board of Directors this year. and we are excited to have him.

Manchester Lions Club is a small club. They have a pecan year and have chosen to donate their pecan proceeds to MTLSS. This year they choose to name two Knight for Sight recipients- Maurice Pittman and Linda Walden. Accepting the plaques is Club President David Harrison.



**WHERE THERE'S A NEED,
THERE'S A LION**



Board Member Gary Overman was working the MTLSS Golf Ball Drop Booth at the Chapel Hill Tractor Pull. He saw this sweet little baby girl. She had no noise protection for her little ears. And it was LOUD there!!! He gave her Mom his noise reduction earmuffs. Thanks to a Lion, her future hearing was saved.

OUTGOING PRESIDENT LYNN WRIGHT

What a great year we have had at Middle TN Lions Sight Services. We have reached new heights for access to funds. We want to thank Cliff Swoape in his efforts with the MTSU campus Lions in establishing our new license plate. The support from funds raised will expand how we can help those needing cataract surgeries and help us update services to others with devices to improve sight. Thanks to all those who helped in presales of the plates. Also, I want to thank everyone who helped me with the Golf Ball Drop. These efforts bring us all together working for the same goals for MTLSS. And personally, I want you to know I was humbled to have had the opportunity to serve as President for MTLSS. It has been a blessing to me be involved with all of you. I look forward seeing what we can accomplish this next year.

Again my thanks! PCC Lynn G Wright

INCOMING PRESIDENT CHRIS ROSS

Dear MTLSS Family, Friends, and Supporters,

I am honored to serve as the president of MTLSS for the Lions year 2024-2025. Over the past few years, our organization has experienced significant growth in areas such as Lions Club member participation, quarterly meeting attendance, financial stability, and the number of surgeries performed. However, our journey of growth is far from over!

Our vision statement reads: "To bring aid in the restoration of vision for the disadvantaged" (MTLSS.org). The mission of restoring vision is ongoing, and the costs associated with this vital service will continue to rise. It is my hope and prayer that we can ensure MTLSS is in a strong financial position, so that no one is ever denied the gift of restored sight due to a lack of funds.

I greatly appreciate everyone's hard work this past Lions year, particularly in license plate sales, the golf ball drop, Knight for Sight donations, and promoting MTLSS services. It is crucial that we continue to raise funds and promote our license plate sales. Remember, we must maintain the state's minimum required number of license plates for motorcycles and autos. If we fall below this threshold, our plates will be removed from display at the county clerk's office, and we will be unable to sell new plates (Pirate Cliff and his crew would certainly be displeased—Arrrrr!).

As we continue to raise funds through our efforts, we must also focus on educating Lions Clubs in our district about the services MTLSS provides. We serve Middle Tennessee, including all clubs in District 12-I and 12-S. No one in our district should have to live with cataracts when we are here to help. I challenge each of you to return to your home clubs and other local clubs and share the exciting updates about MTLSS! It is essential to have quarterly updates at our clubs, as new members or guest speakers may be unaware of the services we offer.

Lastly, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks:

- To our Past President, PCC Lynn Wright, for your guidance over the past year.
- To our Executive Director, Dianne Corlew, for your leadership and vision for our organization.
- To the MTSU Campus Club and Cliff Swoape, for your efforts in launching our license plates.
- To PDG Phil Barnes (Vice President), Ashea Dearing (Secretary), and Brenda Butler (Treasurer), for their service on the executive board this year.
- To Josh Lowe, Thom Smelser, Wade Wilson, Emily Wright, Celia Anderson, Tommy Goetz, Chelsea Jones, Francis Scott, Carl Hirston, Tom Irwin, Marc Majors, Tony Webster, Tawyna Buster, Daryl Justice, Tashena Martinez, and Gary Overman, for their dedication as Directors on the MTLSS board this year.
- And finally, to everyone reading this newsletter—fellow Lions, supporters, and community members.

It takes us all working together to restore vision!

In Lionism,
Chris Ross
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