

CLUB NEWS

# Lions Club to note 65th birthday

By DON CRAWFORD and HOWARD BRYANT

Kings Mountain Lions Club was chartered June 21, 1938. A 65th anniversary birthday party will be celebrated at the Kings Mountain Womans Club Building June 24 at 6:30 p.m.

Club president W. Donald Crawford will be in charge of activities. Crawford is Kings Mountain's only Past District Governor for District 31-C having served as Vice District Governor in 1996-1997 and District Governor in 1997-1998.

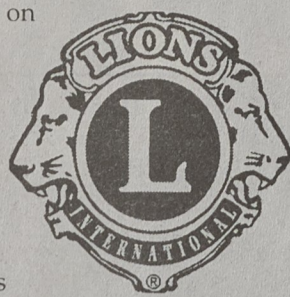
All of the original charter members are deceased. They are Howard B. Jackson, George W. Mauney, E. A. Harrill, William C. Cavney, J. Wilson Crawford, R. L. Lovell, J. A. Burns, Otis Falls, Sr., Charles D. Blanton, J. M. Cooper, Dr. Paul C. Hendricks, H. Tom Fulton, Wray Plonk, Sr., Dr. A. H. Hill, John L. McGill, J. W. "Mike" Milan, Luther Cansler, Fred W. Plonk, W. F. Logan.

W. K. "Billy" Mauney, Jr. joined the club in 1938 but was not a charter member. He is still a semi-active member. He actively served during the years he was in the N.C. State Legislature. J. Ollie Harris also continued active work in the Lions Club while he was Senator.

The Lions Club actually evolved from the thinking and work of a young insurance executive by the name of Melvin Jones in Chicago, Illinois. He was a member of a luncheon club known as "the Business Circle" and was aware of other clubs like Kiwanis, Gyro, Vontex, Optimist, Rotary, and Exchange. But these clubs were primarily concerned with furthering good business. Jones was deeply concerned about furthering unselfish service to mankind.

Jones presented his ideas to his own club and found immediate interest. The members helped Jones correspond with numerous independent clubs in various locations across the country. Representatives from a number of those clubs met in the LaSalle

Hotel in Chicago on June 7, 1917. The name "Lions" was chosen and the parent organization "The International Association of Lions Clubs" was selected.



As soon as the various clubs ratified the action of the representative members a convention was planned. It met at the Adolphus in Dallas, Texas October 8, 9 and 10, 1917. The 37 delegates and 8 alternates came from 22 cities and 8 states. Dr. W. P. Woods from Evansville, Indiana was the first International President, Melvin Jones was elected Secretary-Treasurer. A constitution and code of Ethics was adopted. From that beginning Lions Clubs International has grown so that as of February 28, 2003 there were 1,368,683 members in 45,502 clubs and 738 districts in 190 countries and geographical areas, according to LIONS magazine, June 2003)

Carrying on the work of the Lions Club has always been demanding. Many good Lions dropped from the club because they simply could not spare the time and energy that is needed to plan programs, raise funds, seek out the persons with the vision and/or other problems and deliver the services. The Lion President is the one person that everyone looks to for leadership so that all of the various committees and projects will fit together for a successful club.

Kings Mountain Lions Club presidents for the past 65 years include:

Howard B. Jackson, 1938-39; J.W. "Mike" Milan 1939-40; H. Tom Fulton 1940-41; Myron Rhyne 1941-42; Robert D. Miller 1941-42; Carl F. Mauney 1942-43; C.F. Thomasson Sr. 1943-44; J.G. Darracott 1944-45; W.L. Plonk 1944-45; H.P. Dixon 1945-46; C.D. Blanton 1946-47; W.K. Mauney Jr. 1947-

48; W.B. Logan 1948-49; Sam Weir 1949-50; H.D. "Toby" Williams 1950-51; Sam Stallings 1951-52; George Houser 1952-53; J. Ollie Harris 1953-54; Jacob Cooper 1954-55; Eugene Timms 1955-56; Dr. Nathan Reed 1956-57; J.W. Webster 1957-58; Rev. R.D. Fritz 1958-59; Richard Barnett 1958-59; Edwin Moore 1959-60; George Thomasson 1960-61; Martin Harmon 1961-62; Jonas Bridges 1962-63; Odus Smith 1963-64; Harry Jaynes 1964-65; Dr. George Plonk 1965-66; Hal G. Plonk 1966-67; Howard Bryant 1967-68; William Lawrence Plonk 1968-69; Ray H. Holmes 1969-70; Johnny Reavis 1970-71; Dave Saunders 1971-72; Richard Greene 1972-73; Bill Bates 1973-74; Jim Downey 1974-75; Johnny Reavis 1975-76; Connoe A. Allison 1976-77; Rev. C. George Sherrill 1977-78; J. Edwin Moore 1978-79; Tim Gladden 1979-80; Luther Bennett 1980-81; W. Donald Crawford 1981-82; Howard Bryant 1982-83; William "Bill" Stone 1983-84; Robert "Dougle" Davis 1984-85; Howard Berrier 1985-86; Tim Gladden 1986-87; Rev. George Auman 1987-88; John Pettus 1988-89; W. Kemp Mauney III 1989-90; Glenn Anderson 1990-91; Johnny Reavis 1991-92; Robert "Dougle" Davis 1992-93; Larry Hamrick Jr. 1993-94; W. Donald Crawford 1994-95; Joe Hardin 1995-96; Johnnie Reavis 1996-97; Glenn Anderson 1997-98; Joe Hardin 1998-99; W. Donald Crawford 1999-00; Johnny Reavis 2001-02; W. Donald Crawford 2002-03; W. Donald Crawford 2003-04.

cerned about boys who were neglected and underprivileged and were determined to help them. In just a few years Lions, Civitan, Jaycee, Kiwanis, Rotary and Optimist Clubs had all financed cottages. The Girls' Haven Home at lake Waccamaw had its beginning in Burnsville in December 1970 but after several moves became a part of the Boys and Girls Home.

To help finance the above named projects and several others like food and fruit baskets for blind persons at Christmas time, help on various eye or ear examinations, and technical help for vision impaired persons the White Cane Drive has been used to raise money for humanitarian needs. Through the years there have been donkey ball games, fruit cake sales, broom sales, blind made products sales, calendar sales, homemade quilt raffle, contact by mail solicitations, candy day collections, Lions gum machines, candy machines, and perhaps a dozen other ideas.

Of course, Lions have fun too. One of the pranks that Kings Mountain Lions used to do was cut off neckties. This was given up after some of the favorite Lions who were "fined" began putting wires in their ties. Then there was the time when someone brought a beautifully decorated birthday cake to the president. When he sliced into the cake it was Styrofoam. At one Lions District meeting the taittwister got an outstanding Lion to remove his coat, shirt and tie and lie flat on his back on the head table. He then reached into a large burlap bag and brought out a chicken and set it on the bare chest to eat the kernels of corn he had pulled out of his pocket.

But not all of the enjoyment comes from taittwister pranks. Some of the greatest joy comes from standing in front of Harris-Teeter or Winn Dixie collecting money for the Lions Club. So many people get out of their cars reaching in their pockets for change or bills to drop in the money jugs. They say "You Lions do more good things." And then there are those who have a little change left from buying groceries having spent their pay check and cheerfully give the Lions what is left. Yes, Lions love the people of Kings Mountain and really want them to know that "We Serve."

Great joy comes to Lions in December each year when the food and fruit baskets are delivered to the legally blind persons in the community. The gratefulness, the sincere appreciation shown by the persons that Lions visit is tremendous pay for the work that the Lions do.

There is another project that Lions began some 15 years ago. The Peace Poster Contest is annually sponsored for a select age group of Kings Mountain students. Over the years Kings Mountain has had two District winners but are still hoping for an International winner. The Lions Club is most appreciative to the Kings Mountain Herald for the annual stories on the Peace Poster Contest. Special recognition on behalf of the Lions is extended to Gary Stewart for entering the picture of the winner and printing the story in the Herald every year. Kings Mountain Lions have become more and more appreciative for Keith Falls who consistently does such a good job catering to the meals on second and fourth Tuesday evenings.

Lions Club is not just a group that one joins. Lions is a movement which members grow into. One cannot write on paper all that Lions do. Lions work is never done because the humanitarian need of mankind are never all done. Sixty-five years seems like a long time but there are many more years to come and the need for more Lions members never ceases. The men and women Lions extend a welcome to other men and women who have a deep concern about providing unselfish service to mankind now and in the years to come.

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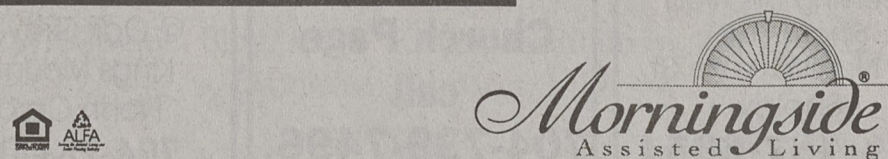


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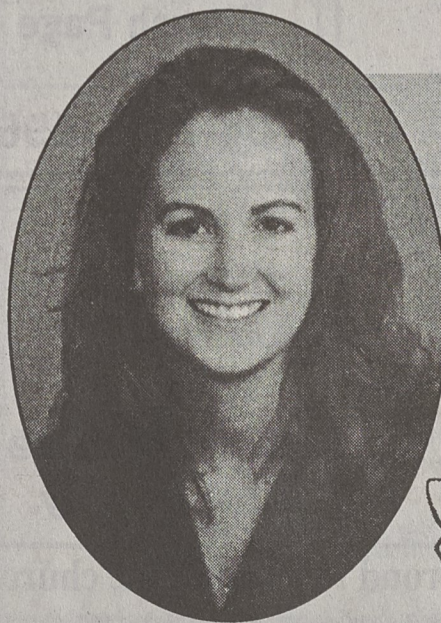
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