

Honoring the Trailblazers

“Old age is like everything else. To make a success at it, you’ve got to start young.” Teddy Roosevelt. As I’ve made my rounds of official visits, I have pushed the “Y” in “TRY”, youth. Working with Leos, young people, and the need to bring in younger members. That is nothing new. Every Governor I know has done that. This article is not about youth. It is the other end of that spectrum, the older Lions.

On August the 21st, I had the pleasure of presenting the Society Hill Lions Club’s Lion of the Year. It went to a young lady, Lion Fannie Johnson. Lion Fannie is 90 years old. She is proud of it and she let me know it. She joined the Lions in 2006. She is the unofficial Tail Twister for her club. Did great job of it. Told me she remembers my visits and that I talk too long. For the good of the club, she was going to time me and besides, she did want me to cause her to “miss her favorite” show. Lion Fannie is a delight and is an asset to the Lions. Oh, by the way, I did not talk as much as usual.

Fortunately for us, Lion Fannie is not alone in age and service. Yesterday, I looked at the LCI list of club roster and picked out the Lion 85 years and older and found that my District has at least 31 Lions in that category. I am sure there are more because at least one third of the Lions do not have birth years listed. I picked 85 because that is the age group of our “greatest generation.”

The most well-know is Dr. Franklin Mason from the Mullins club. He is 88 years old. The same age as my mother. We know able his service to Lions and his community. I don’t think I need to say more. If you want to learn more, I suggest a club visit to the Mullins club.

My District has two Lions that are 97 years old and are still very active. Lion Grover Gaskins from the Camden Club joined in 1942. He has been a Lion for 72 years. I just hope to live to be 72. The other is from Hartville and he is Ellis Parsons. He joined the Lions in 1949. He just received a 65 year chevron. Last year, both of these Lions received a “Presidential Certificate of Appreciation” from President Barry Palmer.

In our effort to recruit younger members, we should not forget and overlook those Lions that came before us. Those Lions that made our organization what it is today. The have set the example for us.

One of the two “Pillars of Inspiration” is in this group, Dr. Mason. The other is almost there, Lion Dick Hester from North Myrtle Beach. You can read about them in my article in the 32-C newsletter.

I am going to list those “elder Statesmen” Lions and their clubs and enrollment dates. When you see them, thank them for being there for us and the Lions.

Herbert Adams	Andrews	1962
John Dawsey	Aynor	1961
Francis Floyd	Aynor	1973
Morris Graham	Aynor	1977
WG Hucks	Aynor	1953



Randy Croom
District Governor, 32-C
2014-2015

714 Woodland Drive
Kingstree, SC 29556
(H) 843-446-8561
(C) 843-382-7325
lionrandy@hotmail.com

Marvin Skipper	Aynor	1965
Carroll King	Bethune	1952
Grover Gaskins	Camden	1942
Richard Blinkhorn	Cheraw	1986
Fred Dysand	Conway	1998
Cecil Ward	Florence Evening`	1968
Harold Brown	Georgetown	1992
Kenneth Maxwell	Georgetown	1989
Ellis Parsons	Hartsville	1949
Robert Turbeville	Hartsville	1954
Archie Rhodes	Johnsonville	1981
Harry Hazen	Lancaster	1994
Edwin Bellamy	Little River	1986
James Dingle	Manning	2009
John Atkinson	Marion	1994
Lacy Edwards	Marion	1987
Wilford Parsons	Marion	1987
Robert McLeod	McBee	1991
Franklin Mason	Mullins	1953
Howard Wales	North Myrtle Beach	2012
Relie Barkley	Pinewood	2011
Fannie Johnson	Society Hill	2006
Margaret Kirven	Summerton	2010
Robert Martin	Summerton	1991
James Russell	Sumter	1998
Marion Shuler	Sumter	1990

DG Randy