

Strengthening the Pride Through Involvement

Hello Fellow Lions! The title above is another quote from International President Joe Preston's theme song, which 26 of our 36 clubs have heard and some of you have sung along with me, 1VDG David, and 2VDG Paul on the occasion of our visits to your clubs. You have heard me challenge each of you to get involved in your club's activities and to make sure your "Service Hours" are reported and recorded by your club Secretary.

We have finally received the Welch Allyn PediaVision SPOT vision screening cameras in our district as well as in Districts 32B and 32C. Now it is time for all of us to become "Involved" in the vision screenings in our local schools and day care facilities. As part of the preparation for the future use of these cameras, I searched the SC Department of Education website to see just how many schools we have in our district. In District 32D alone, there are 291 schools and they are all waiting for the Lions of 32D to go to work and help our local children Pre-K thru 12th grade determine if they have any eye sight problems. Of those Lions that are already at work with the cameras (Greenwood, The Mathews, Ninety-Six, Tega Cay, Abbeville, Due West), we are finding as many as 15% to 25% of the children have vision problems and need further eye screenings. Many have eye sight problems that could result in the loss of eye sight in one or both eyes if left undetected. To give you just one example of what has been found, the Greenwood Lions were doing a screening of students in their area and one of the little girls was detected to have serious problems with her eyes (I believe I heard she was 4 years old), so the Lions provided the information to the school nurse and the child was seen by an Eye Specialist shortly after the screening. Information was passed back to the Lions, that if the condition had not been caught, when it was, the little girl may have lost sight in the eye permanently. That is just one example of the feedback we are getting as a result of the use of these cameras.

At present, we have cameras available in the following locations: Abbeville (I have custody of one camera), Greenwood, The Mathews, & Ninety-Six Lions have a camera; Lexington (Bill Barkley has custody of the second 32D camera); Tega Cay Lions have a camera, River Hills/Lake Wiley Lions have 2 cameras, Cayce-West Columbia Lions have a camera, and SCLCS has 3 cameras. In addition to the existing cameras, I just received word that the Blythewood Lions have been provided the funds from the Fairfield Electric Co-Op to purchase a camera and the Hickory Tavern Lions Club is in the process of raising funds to purchase a camera for the Laurens County area.

So, as you can see, we have plenty of vision screening cameras and equipment in our District to accomplish a great deal of eye screenings, now we need the Lions interested and



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committed to doing the screenings in all 291 schools in our district. Please don't let that number overwhelm you and dampen your enthusiasm. We obviously cannot do all of these schools right away. This will take some planning and coordination. However, what can be done now is to get into the schools and let the Superintendent or Head Nurses know that we have these amazing pieces of equipment and that we are willing and able to work with them in setting up screenings for all of their students. We can do this and we will do this! "We are the Lions and we Won't be Denied"!

Now is the time for the Lions of District 32D to get "involved" in the sight conservation of the young people in our District and "show the world what we are made of"! I am available to do vision screening where ever you are able to set them up. Call me as soon as you have contacted your schools to arrange for a date to do the screening. I have developed a SPOT camera calendar and I am eager to fill in the dates. Thank you for getting INVOLVED!

Hope to see you at a Vision Screening soon!

"Strengthening the Pride thru Education and Communication"

District Governor Rick Pressly