

The Lion's Roar

Fair Grove Lions Club

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Special points of interest:

- District 31-E White Cane goal is \$166,000 (\$115 per member).

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White Cane History and Kick-Off

In 1921, James Biggs, a photographer from Bristol, England, became blind following an accident. Because he was feeling uncomfortable with the amount of traffic around his home, he painted his walking stick white to be more easily visible. In 1930, the late George A. Bonham, President of the Peoria Lions Club (Illinois) introduced the idea of using the white cane with a red band as a means of assisting the blind in independent mobility, white canes were made and distributed, and the Peoria City Council adopted an ordinance giving the bearers the right-of-way to cross the street. News of the club's activity spread quickly to other Lions clubs throughout the U.S. and overwhelming acceptance for the white cane idea by the blind and sighted alike quickly gave can users a unique method of identifying their special need for travel consideration among their sighted counterparts. Also in 1931 in France, Gully d'Herbemont recognized the danger to blind people in traffic and launched a national "white stick movement " for blind people. She donated 5,000 white canes to people in Paris.



Today, white cane laws are on the books of every state in the US and many other countries, providing blind persons a legal status in traffic. Blind and visually impaired people in many countries use the familiar white cane with a red band at the bottom. In 1964, the US congress approved a resolution authorizing the President of the US to annually issue a proclamation designating October 15 as National White Cane Safety Day. Lions help increase awareness of this "symbol of independence" – and the laws governing its use – during international white cane events.

White Cane Kick-Off

The District 31-E Lion's White Cane Kick-Off on Monday, August 31, was well attended with over 200 Lions members participating at Jay's Seafood in Albemarle. Fairgrove was strongly represented with 10 of our own Lions present, with a donation of \$1,000 in hand. Approximately \$20,000 was raised altogether that evening. After placing the winning bids for the cream pies, Mary M. and Cherie J.



engage in some pies in the face with good-natured victim Chris Beck! The White Cane Fund is used to pay for NC Lions Foundation programs and services including helping blind campers attend Camp Dogwood, purchasing

eyeglasses and paying for medical expenses through the Matching Fund Program.

Fair Grove Lions Club



Md 31, District 31E
 Club Number:011507
 502 Willowbrook Drive
 Thomasville, NC 27360

Editor, Judy Black
 Tel: 763.226.7215
 E-mail: jedwardh0814@aol.com

WE SERVE

We're on the Web!
www.fairgrovelions.com

Also see 31-E on the Web!
<http://www.lions31e.org/>

September 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 No Lions	8	9	10 HB Margaret C!	11	12 HB Harold L!
13	14	15	16 Hill's anniv!	17	18	19
20 Cline's anniv!	21	22	23	24	25	26 Every- bodys Day HB Donnell M
27 HB David R!	28 Moody's anniv!	29 Davis' anniv!	30			

Coming up . . .

Saturday, September 26, Everybody's Day (need Lion's booth & Vision Van volunteers)

October is Lions Membership Growth Month!

Wednesday, October 7, Raffle Dinner, Thomasville Primary School

Thursday, October 8, Lions World Sight Day

Monday—Thursday, October 12-15, VIP Fishing Tournament

Preventing Blindness and Improving Sight, World Sight Day October 8

For more than 11 years, Lions World Sight Day, held annually in October, has focused attention on eliminating preventable blindness and improving sight. On World Sight Day, Lions clubs around the world conduct special sight-related projects including collecting eyeglasses, conducting vision and diabetes screenings, and planning educational programs to inform their communities about the importance of eye health – and diseases such as diabetes that can impair sight

International World Sight Day Event: Lions Clubs International also sponsors an annual international event on World Sight Day. In 2009, Lions will observe international World Sight Day in the Czech Republic. [President Eberhard J. Wirfs](#) will preside over the events, which include:

- Lions members from the Czech Republic will screen the eyes of nearly 100 kindergartners in two schools in Prague. Lions are partnering with Prima Visuz and local ophthalmologists to provide the free screenings. Prima Vizuz is a non-government, non-profit organization that provides free vision testing for preschool-aged children in the Czech Republic.
- Lions and ophthalmologists will conduct a community education seminar on the importance of eye health at the Lions International Educational Centre of Ophthalmology (LIECO) in the teaching hospital at Kralovské Vinohrady Medical Faculty of the Charles University.