

# Mid-South Lions

## 2025 - 2026

### Handbook





**Anyone can be a  
Mid-South Lions  
CHAMPION**  
**[www.midsouthlions.org](http://www.midsouthlions.org)**



## OFFICERS

### President

Larry Boettcher  
Marceline, MO

### Vice Presidents

Ken Maddox  
Reservoir, MS

Rick Bailey  
Fayetteville, AR

Gena Shelhamer  
Bartlett, TN

Jim Korich  
Rolla, MO

### Secretary

Leanna Rich  
Lonoke, AR

### Treasurer

James Wilkerson  
Madison, MS

### Trustees

Angela Decker  
Heber Springs, AR

Terry Boettcher  
Brentwood, MO

Marvin Vinson  
Humboldt, TN

Barron Caulfield  
Water Valley, MS

### Immediate

### Past President

Ann Butler  
Bartlett, TN

### C.E.O.

Brad Baker

November 2025

To all our Mid-South Lions

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SERVICE TO YOUR COMMUNITY AND IN PARTICULAR TO THE NEEDY SIGHT AND HEARING IMPAIRED! There are many ways you can personally, and as a club, help those in need through the various service projects at your disposal. Mid-South is one of those that can make a difference in the lives of people from YOUR community.

Many of you have asked for information about Mid-South, and I hope this handbook will answer some questions about YOUR organization.

As you know, Mid-South is supported by the Lions of Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri, and west Tennessee. Mid-South provides care to patients from your district, and we cover an area of fourteen districts—almost 200,000 square miles with a population of over 12 million. We provide comprehensive care from exams to treatments to remedies to surgeries and follow-up care at no cost to patients.

The ONLY way we can continue this type of charitable care is through partnerships with physicians and medical facilities throughout our service area. Through collaborations with the University of Tennessee ophthalmology department, the Hamilton Eye Institute Surgery Center, the Methodist University Hospital, Memphis Eye and Cataract Associates, and many other friends of Mid-South, we can provide many dollars of medical care for each dollar spent. Our current medical partners are listed at other points in the handbook, and we appreciate all their sacrifices on our patients' behalf.

More than 80 percent of our funding comes from Lions Club-related sources. We spend more than 80 percent of every dollar donated on direct patient care. Providing Mid-South services is directly related to Lions contributions. You can personally make a difference in the lives of the sight impaired from your area through our Booster Club and Champions program. There are brochures in your packet for distribution to your friends that will explain how they can change lives by making a tax-deductible contribution to Mid-South.

Thanks again for your support of Mid-South. Anyone is welcome and encouraged to attend Mid-South events. Some of this year's events include our golf tournament on June 5 and annual meeting on June 6, plus the HEI Cataract-A-Thon in June, our quarterly meetings on August 8 (zoom only), and in Mississippi in November. Please put all these dates on your Lions calendar and try to avoid conflicts whenever possible. Everyone is invited to attend our meetings.

Join us for fun, fellowship, and service as we continue to provide "A Miracle A Day" in YOUR community.

Together in Service,

*Larry Boettcher*

PCC Larry Boettcher  
President 2025-2026 and CHAMPION

## ABOUT THE PROGRAM



Mid-South Lions Sight And Hearing Service, Inc. was founded in 1942 by a committee from the Memphis Downtown Lions Club. The organization was started to provide quality sight care to indigent people from the Memphis area. The logic of this action was that by inviting Lions from all over Memphis to participate in this service, more people could be helped. The collective power of Lions from all over four states has enabled Mid-South to provide the gifts of sight and hearing to over 40,000 people.

Patients falling within federal indigence guidelines (these are set by Congress every January) are eligible to receive service provided they are sponsored by any Lions Club. Most Lions Clubs that sponsor patients are also contributors to Mid-South. The suggested giving amount is only \$25 per member, but many clubs contribute much more. While there is no cost to patients or clubs for medical care, Mid-South does require a donation (currently \$250) for hearing aids. Clubs are also responsible for the purchase of eyeglasses if they are prescribed. A full list of club responsibilities and current financial guidelines is included in your packet.

There are very few sight-related services that cannot be addressed through Mid-South clinics; however, elective or cosmetic-only procedures, brain tumors or other cancers do not fall under Mid-South's services. Currently, due to financial restrictions, we have a waiting list at most of our locations. All cases are treated as critically needing care, but some conditions are more emergent than others. The ultimate decision on prioritizing cases is made by physicians.

The usual VISION referral process goes something like this: a prospective patient contacts the local Lions Club about a vision problem; the Club refers the patient to a local optometrist for an exam (we REQUIRE a diagnosis on the application); then if a condition exists that is beyond the help of eyeglasses, the Club then refers the patient to Mid-South (see Club Responsibilities for detailed instructions) by filing a completed application; once Mid-South determines the patient meets financial guidelines, the patient is put on the appropriate clinic's waiting list; the clinic then contacts the patient to set up an appointment; the patient's first visit is almost always an exam only; if surgery is required, then the physician sets up that appointment; surgery is then performed and a follow-up appointment is made, and the process continues from there. A patient is approved for ONE YEAR from their first appointment date. After that, the patient must be reapproved by the referring Lions Club prior to further treatment.

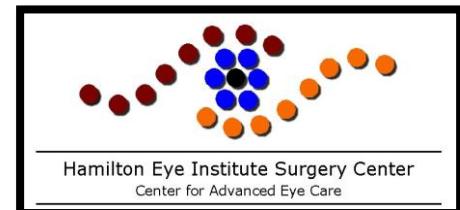
***Incomplete applications (all questions must be answered fully) or failure to be referred with a letter and diagnosis from an eyecare professional will cause the application to be returned to the club for full completion. Doing this only delays service to the patient so it is imperative that clubs use their local service providers prior to applying for Mid-South Lions service.***

*“The ultimate expression of generosity is not in giving of what you have, but in giving of who you are”...Dr. Johnetta B. Cole*

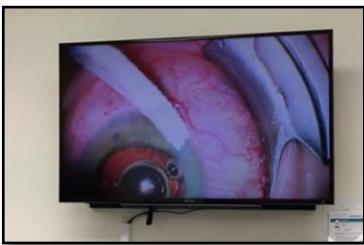
The people who are really our Miracle Workers are the doctors and facilities who cooperate with us to provide care. Without the donation of physicians' services and facilities discounts, there is no way Mid-South could continue to provide care to those in need.

Our longtime partners, the University of Tennessee, Hamilton Eye Institute Surgery Center, Methodist University Hospital, MECA, ophthalmologists from all over our four-state area and the facilities listed below are true HEROES to over 40,000 people who have received their sight or hearing through our program.

Without the Lions of our four states, none of this would be possible. **THANKS!**



Here are some of the faces of the key component of our organization, the people who successfully treat our patients:



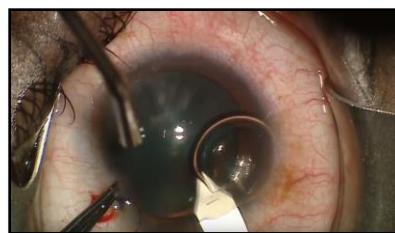
and surgical expertise in treating patients from northwest Arkansas.

## ARKANSAS:

Our newest cooperating facilities include The Eye Center of Northwest Arkansas and the Outpatient Surgery Center in Fayetteville. They have already demonstrated a charitable heart



*The Eye Center Staff*



*Dr. Dan Bennett,  
Columbus Eye Center*

## MISSISSIPPI:

Dr. Dan Bennett, a member of the Columbus East Lions Club, stepped up to help Mid-South patients many years ago. His efforts on our patients' behalf have led to dozens of sight-saving treatments.

## MEMPHIS EYE AND CATARACT ASSOCIATES



MECA and their ophthalmology team has worked with Mid-South Lions patients for many years and continues to provide cataract surgeries at no cost to Mid-South through their annual Cataract-a-Thon. To date over 200 people have received the gift of sight through our partnerships.

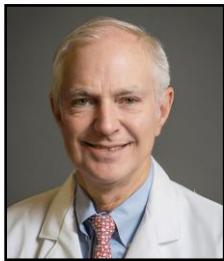


Church Health believes in caring for one another as we'd all like to be cared for. That's why we commit every day to making the highest quality health care accessible to all. With services that span all ages, including the youngest of us, and that treat the whole person, we make medical access possible. With the support of our partners, volunteers and donors, we conduct an average of 60,000 patient visits a year.

## MEMPHIS AREA:

In 1942, Mid-South's founding fathers were delighted when they discovered that ophthalmologists in the Memphis area were willing to donate their time and talent to help the Lions provide sight to those less fortunate. Since then, Mid-South has been working with the University of Tennessee and Methodist's hospital facilities.

Currently, UTHSC provides the bulk of our professional care in Memphis, still at no cost to Mid-South. They also support Mid-South through their Lions Club. Here are just a few of our medical miracle workers:



*Dr. Chris Fleming*



*Dr. Natalie Kerr*



*Dr. Brian Fowler*



*Dr. Elliott Kanner*



*Dr. Matt Wilson*

The Charles Retina Institute is also a long-time partner of Mid-South. The surgeries these doctors provide are usually emergency cases where sight hangs in the balance.



*Dr. Robert Vestal*



*Dr. Steve Charles*



*Dr. Stephen Huddleston*



*Thomas Ocular Prosthetics*

Thomas Ocular Prosthetics provides life-like orbs for patients who require an artificial eye. While this obviously does not restore vision, the difference in self-esteem is priceless.

These world-class providers and many others make Mid-South the "Miracle A Day" organization it is today.



Mid-South's miracles are made by many elements working together. The only way our patients have any chance to receive care is because these factors work together: Our medical partners must continue to provide deeply discounted services (if we had to pay full prices, it

would be impossible for us to continue); our volunteers in the field must continue to find patients who need to be referred (without patients there would be no need for Mid-South); our Lions Clubs must continue to make annual contributions to Mid-South (we can't survive without Lions Club funds) and individuals must continue to participate in our fund-raising events (these funds are essential in the summer and fall). So here are some ways you and your club can help fund medical care for the sight and hearing impaired from YOUR community:

### **OPERATING FUND**

This is the most important fund of all. Club contributions are almost always put into the operating fund so that Mid-South can function. Most times these funds pay for patient services, anesthesia, facility fees, radiology, and hotel bills. These funds also are necessary for office expenses, salaries, phones, computers, supplies, travel, convention registrations and meeting expenses. Sometimes these funds are used to match grants. Please make every effort to budget funds for Mid-South each year. Even with all our discounts, we still need cash to make things work.

### **INDIVIDUAL GIVING**

In 1993, we began a program patterned after athletic support groups...a Booster Club. Well over \$350,000 has been generated through this program. To join, a person must contribute at least \$25 annually. This is about seven cents a day. ***Membership renews each year on July 1 regardless of the date the donation is made.***

The most important program of all is our Champions. This was developed as a convenience for donors who didn't want to bother with an annual renewal. However, it has grown into a significant source of individual giving. To be a Champion, a person must commit to donating a minimum of \$10 per month through [www.midsouthlions.org](http://www.midsouthlions.org). Many people give more than \$10, and many donate quarterly or semi-annually through their chosen method. Join today at [www.midsouthlions.org](http://www.midsouthlions.org) "CLICK TO DONATE"

***If only 10% of all our Lions became Champions, Mid-South would never have a waiting list for patients. Please consider making your commitment today...it will keep someone from going blind.***

## **SPECIAL EVENTS AND OTHER GIFTS**

INFORMATION ON ALL THESE PROGRAMS CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE  
[www.midsouthlions.org](http://www.midsouthlions.org)

### **IN-PERSON AND ONLINE AUCTIONS**

Be on the lookout for announcements about possible auctions. We do not have one currently on the books, but we could certainly develop plans for one soon.



### **MID-SOUTH LIONS GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Our annual golf tournament is sponsored by the HEI Surgery Center, and other generous donors. Next year's tournament is set for Friday, June 5 at Cherokee Valley Golf Course in Olive Branch, MS. Brochures with details are available through the office.

### **ANNUAL AND AUCTION PROGRAM ADS**

For many years, Mid-South has produced annual meeting and auction programs. Clubs, individuals, districts and even states can purchase ads in our program. Quarter page ads are \$50; half page ads are \$80 and full-page ads are \$100. You may provide your own ad copy, or Mid-South can create an ad to your specifications.

### **MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS**

Mid-South accepts memorial or honorary contributions and produces very handsome acknowledgement cards that are sent to the family and to donors. Memorials or honoraria should be \$10 or more. What a great way to remember or recognize a friend of Lionism. As always, all contributions to Mid-South are tax-deductible.



### **PLANNED GIFTS**

To provide for future service, Mid-South encourages gifts such as bequests, gifts of life insurance, stocks, bonds, or other gifts that will benefit the giver and will grant on-going service to those in need through Mid-South. Gifts of property, assets or cash can reap huge financial and estate tax benefits and can even expand inheritances through organizations like Mid-South. Mid-South Lions is a federally registered 501c3 not-for-profit. Mid-South can provide additional information on these types of gifts, or you can consult your personal tax professional to get details. Your legacy of service can live on through this type of contribution to Mid-South Lions.



## CHALLENGE COINS

Through our individual giving program you can procure a Mid-South Lions Challenge Coin. The challenge coin represents the state of our current president. A one-time gift of \$25 or more, or a recurring donation of \$10 per month or more gains you the current challenge coin. It comes in a wonderful display case and would be great for home, office, or as a gift. These funds directly benefit patients of Mid-South Lions.

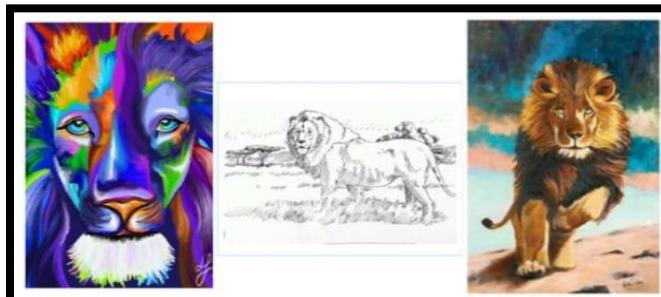
## TEE SHIRT SALES

Lion Dr. "Fab" Anbar created a fantastic lion design that we have adapted to tee shirts. Mid-South sells these tee shirts for \$25 (S-XL sizes) and \$30 (2XL-5XL). Here is a representation of these colorful shirts that identify you as a MID-SOUTH LION supporter! We have just added a BLACK shirt where the lion REALLY pops!



## CARDS FOR ALL SEASONS

Mid-South prints personalized cards for all occasions. You can get all one design or mix and match these cards printed with YOUR information. Hand-written notes get everyone's attention. Imagine the recipient of your card when they see these great lion designs with your message.



## CATARACT – A – THON

In early 2017, members of the Hamilton Eye Institute Lions Club were discussing how they could help Mid-South Lions do more surgeries and provide more service. Lion Dr. Brian Fowler mused that they did missions to Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, and other locales, so why couldn't they do a mission to MEMPHIS?

As other docs including Lions Dr. Emily Graves, Dr. Brian Fowler, Dr. Natalie Kerr, and Dr. Elliot Kanner discussed the idea of providing dozens of cataract surgeries in one day for FREE, recommendations began to absolutely fly, and a plan began to take shape. Lions Scott Shelhamer, Betty Douglas, and Brad Baker added what they could to assure that Mid-South patients would be notified, registered, assisted, and fed and receive the precious gift of sight!



By June, members of the HEI Lions Club along with medical professionals from all over the city, and even UT alumni from around the U. S. came together to provide thirty cataract surgeries in one weekend all at no cost to patients or to Mid-South.

Since that first Dr. Ivan Marais Cataract-a-Thon, there have been similar events in every non-COVID year that have provided sight to over 150 needy

Mid-South Lions patients from around the midsouth. The past couple of years our C-A-T has been adopted by the University of Arkansas Medical Center in Little Rock and they have provided dozens of surgeries to people in Arkansas. University of Missouri Kansas City and the Cokingtin Clinic will hold their first C-A-T in January 2026. Other ophthalmology programs are considering their own Cataract-A-Thons.

Next year's CAT at MECA is in January 2026. There will be a seminar on our C-A-T at the 2026 USA/Canada Forum in Memphis.



Our hope for the next June C-A-T is to be allowed to host Lions who will become "Guardian Lions" for patients and be liaisons between the clinical staff and families. Your hands-on experience will inspire you with that "Lions moment" and make you even more dedicated to serving those in need.

*Dr. Ivan Marais*

This would not be possible without the assistance of area surgeons, med techs, and nurses as well as Alcon, Novartis, American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery as well as MECA, HEI Surgery Center, UT Ophthalmology, Church Health Center and other generous partners.





## SPECIAL FUNDRAISERS TO ELIMINATE BLINDNESS

Because we know how hard you work to raise funds, Mid-South is reluctant to ask you to do more, but to address the growing number of requests for service, it's become necessary to ask Lions Clubs to go an extra mile. We are asking every Lions Club to hold a special above-and-beyond your current contributions fund raising event sometime this summer. These extra funds will be used for patient care and should help reduce our waiting lists. Please make plans to join this effort...even if you just ask your Club members to become Champions (one Club does this very successfully).

Instead of standing out in the hot sun working another White Cane Day or Pancake Day, ask Club members to commit \$10 per month to become a Champion. I'm sure many members would prefer that to working another labor-intensive project. And those funds would continue to benefit our patients throughout the year.

### **“THE MONARCH”, “THE CRUSADER” & “FAB LION”**

In 2003, Mid-South commissioned nationally known wildlife artist Phillip Crowe to create a one-of-a-kind painting, “The Monarch”. In 2015, we asked Little Rock artist Holly Tilley to create a dynamic partner for “The Monarch”. This beautiful and colorful rendition of a running lion is titled “The Crusader” (after Helen Keller’s admonition for us to join the crusade against darkness). You can get your own hand-numbered and signed print of either of these wonderful works of art. Give them to visiting dignitaries, Lion-of-the-Year recipients, people who help with your eyeglasses or screening programs, or just get both for your home or office. You can order by contacting our office or get details at [www.midsouthlions.org](http://www.midsouthlions.org)



The newest offering of Mid-South Lions art was produced by Dr. Fab Anbar (from UTHSC) in 2022. We've named this the “Fab Lion”. It can be reproduced on metal or glass.



THE MOST CONVENIENT AND EFFECTIVE WAY TO GRANT MIRACLES LIKE THESE ARE THROUGH THE CHAMPIONS PROGRAM. YOU CAN PERSONALLY GIVE THE GIFTS OF SIGHT OR HEARING READ ON THE NEXT PAGE TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN BECOME A PART OF THIS EXCITING AND GROWING PROGRAM...HERE'S A HINT:

[www.midsouthlions.org](http://www.midsouthlions.org) “CLICK HERE TO DONATE”



A Champion is defined as someone who is a hero, a defender, a booster, or friend who is the best at what they do. You can become a Champion of Mid-South's cause by authorizing Mid-South to set up a direct withdrawal from your bank account or charge to your credit card. Donations can be set up as monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or even annually at a minimum of \$10 per month. It's the safest, most secure, and most consistent way to provide sight and hearing to those in need. PLEASE BECOME A CHAMPION TODAY!

Our website [www.midsouthlions.org](http://www.midsouthlions.org) has multiple buttons and links to create your own donor account, an account YOU control. The amount and frequency of your gift is totally up to YOU. Please consider this option as your way to personally provide the gifts of sight and hearing to those in need through Mid-South.

### CONTRIBUTING ON THE WEB WITHOUT ANY COST TO YOU

Help support Mid-South Lions by joining our cause on several internet sites including Kroger and Goodsearch. Go to [Kroger.com](http://Kroger.com) or [goodsearch.com](http://goodsearch.com) and designate Mid-South Lions as your charity. Purchases you make through Kroger will generate a percentage of the proceeds to Mid-South without costing you another cent. If you use goodsearch.com as your search engine, for every search, Mid-South will receive a penny. Separately, these amounts are not significant, but if we get enough people using these sites, Mid-South patients will reap the rewards of your purchases...and it won't cost you anything extra! Please consider these easy ways to help Mid-South.



# WHAT MID-SOUTH CAN DO FOR PEOPLE IN YOUR AREA



The best way to serve people in your area who cannot afford sight or hearing care is to refer them to Mid-South. Remember that there is no cost to patients and clubs only pay for transportation, eyeglasses, and hearing aids. Physicians who help Mid-South patients can treat practically any sight-related problem and our audiologists are experts at prescribing and fitting hearing aids. These are a few conditions addressed by Mid-South.

Removing CATARACTS is the most prevalent surgery performed through Mid-South's clinics. Cataracts are usually found in people over 50 years of age involving a calcified covering of the lens of the eye. Most of the time surgery is the sole treatment for removing cataracts. The surgery is done routinely on an outpatient basis.



ESOTROPIA, EXOTROPIA AND STRABISMUS are terms used to describe crossed eyes. There are several therapies used to correct these problems with the last resort being eye muscle surgery. Patches, glasses, and other methods are tried to strengthen the affected eye. If all else fails, surgery can be performed to adjust the eye muscles. These treatments are best if found early in life and are tremendously successful in restoring vision.

GLAUCOMA is one of the leading causes of blindness in developed countries. There are several treatments including medication, laser procedures and tear duct surgery. Glaucoma is caused by elevated pressure in the eyeball and affects people of all ages. Glaucoma patients' peripheral vision is affected, as shown in this picture.



In the past few years, we have purchased equipment for the Hamilton Eye Institute Surgery Center that allows us to treat serious retinal problems, diagnose and treat glaucoma cases and establish the finest pediatric eye center in the world. Prior to these purchases the high expense and low success rate of treating DETACHED RETINA cases made them prohibitive. However now through LCIF grants and support from the area Lions and Lions Clubs, and other entities, surgeons from the Charles Retina Institute treat these cases in the HEI facility. Many times, detached retina is caused by DIABETIC RETINOPATHY or trauma.

HEARING AIDS is the predominant diagnosis of all Mid-South hearing patients. We use partnerships with Unitron, Starkey, Emtech and other companies to purchase devices to relieve hearing loss.



PROSTHETIC EYES are sometimes required to assist patients. Mid-South provides those through a partnership with Thomas Ocular Prosthetics.

**WHILE MID-SOUTH PROVIDES COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE, WE CANNOT PROVIDE PRIMARY/INITIAL EXAMINATIONS OR EYEGLASSES.**

## WHAT YOU AND YOUR CLUB CAN DO FOR MID-SOUTH

### **SEND SOMEONE TO VISITING LIONS WEEKEND!**



There are several things that you can do to promote and support Mid-South and the service provided to people in your area.

1. Attend Mid-South meetings. We need your input and leadership as we decide how best to conduct the business of Mid-South. From fund-raising projects to the expenditure of funds, your voice is very important. If you can't come, you can send your sight and hearing chair or another club representative. Our board is made up of mostly Lions, so there are leadership opportunities for you as well.
2. You are one of the main cogs in our communications mechanism. Please help us get the word out to your club members and community by following through on communications you receive from Mid-South. The service we provide is very important to your club and to those in need from your area. Please use every means at your disposal to spread the word about Mid-South and what we can do to help people. If you need any information, please go to our website [www.midsouthlions.org](http://www.midsouthlions.org) or contact our office at 888-546-6042.
3. Encourage your club to invite a Mid-South representative to be your program at least once per year. We have individuals who are dedicated to bringing the Mid-South message to your club personally. Or if you prefer, we have several interesting and informative videos that you can download from YouTube or our website or get from the office.
4. Encourage your District Governor to invite representatives from Mid-South to speak at your district convention. We need direct contact with multiple clubs at these venues to spread our message of service.
5. Please ASK people to become Booster Club members or, better yet, Champions. You do not have to be a Lion to support Mid-South. Over 80% of all Mid-South funds come from Lions Clubs or Lions. Without this support, we would not be able to continue making miracles for people in your community.
6. Our business hours are 8:30 am – 4:30 pm Monday through Friday and our contact information is [info@midsouthlions.org](mailto:info@midsouthlions.org) or call us at 888-546-6042.

**AND SEND SOMEONE TO VISITING LIONS WEEKEND!**

## RECOGNITION PROGRAMS

### THE EDWIN DALSTROM DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

At the request of some of our past presidents, Mid-South created this award named for our first president. Since its inception in 1994-1995, clubs have honored over 2,200 people with this award that can only be given by Lions Clubs, Districts or Multiple Districts (in other words, you can't buy this award). We hope this award will encourage clubs to donate at least \$1,000 per year so they can honor one or more of their members. ***The \$1,000 must be donated during a single Lions year and previous years' donations cannot be carried over for future presentations.***



For those truly distinguished recipients who have been awarded more than one Dalstrom Award, we have the Progressive Dalstrom pin, much in the same spirit as the Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowship. The handsome new pin will feature different color pins for each award received.



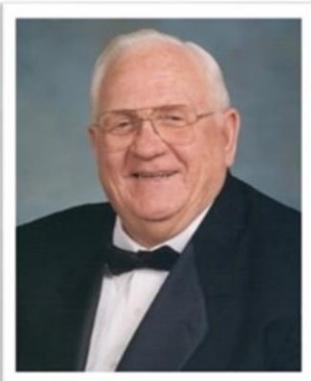
### L. B. BAKER HALL OF HONOR

The L. B. Baker Hall of Honor was established by the Past Presidents in November 2003 as an award that recognizes many years of outstanding service and leadership in Mid-South. The Hall of Honor is named in honor of Mid-South Lions Past President L. B. Baker.

L. B. Baker was a member of the Trumann, Arkansas Lions Club for 41 years and a Past District Governor. He was involved in Mid-South for over 25 years, serving as President in 1984-1985. L. B. was a man who dedicated his life to serving his community. He was one of Mid-South's most passionate supporters, and a larger-than-life leader of our organization. So, in November 2003 he was the first inductee, and the namesake of our Hall of Honor.

Since establishing the Hall, only the most ardent and long-time Mid-South supporters have been inducted. Each inductee mirrors and exhibits the same call to service that people remember in L. B. Baker. And although he passed away in March 2006, his legacy lives on through his children, grandchildren, friends and Mid-South.

# L. B. BAKER HALL OF HONOR INDUCTEES



\*L. B. BAKER 2003



\*CHRIS  
HOLBROOK  
2004



\*ED DALSTROM  
2004



\*CLIFF PIERCE  
2004



\*MAX  
FURBRINGER  
2004

NOT PICTURED: \* HARRY WILSON 2004



\*DR. LOUIS LEVY  
2004



\*JOANN ROWE  
2005



\*DR. RALPH  
HAMILTON  
2005



\*FREDDIE JOYCE  
2005



\*LARRY MARTIN  
2005



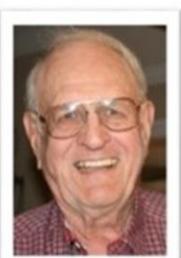
CHRIS AND LISA  
CLINTON  
2007



\*CHIEF SIEVERS  
2008



MARY SMITH &  
\*DR. BARRETT HAIK  
2009



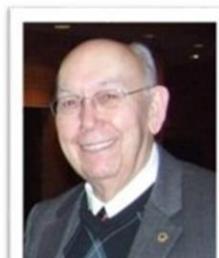
B. G. TATUM  
2014



\* HENRY LAMB  
2014



BILL FREEMAN  
2016



\*FLOYD SCHRIBER  
2016



DR. CHRIS FLEMING  
2017



\* BUD DEAN  
2019

# L. B. BAKER HALL OF HONOR INDUCTEES, CONTD.



\*BRIAN STARON  
2021



\* HOWARD  
JENKINS  
2022



BRAD & MONA  
BAKER  
2022



\* HARLEIGH  
BAXTER  
2022



GREG CRAPO  
2023



EILEEN SMITH  
2023



NATALIE KERR  
2025



ELLIOTT KANNER  
2025



MATT WEBBER  
2025

## NEW INDUCTEES WILL BE ADDED IN 2026

### MID-SOUTH LIONS STAFF



BRAD BAKER  
CHIEF EXEC. OFFICER



BETTY DOUGLAS  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR



BIANCA GIBSON  
ADMIN & MARKETING



TIFFANY SCOTT  
OFFICE ASSISTANT

**MID-SOUTH LIONS SIGHT & HEARING SERVICE**  
**OFFICERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND TRUSTEES 2025-2026**  
(to be voted on at the annual membership meeting June 7)

**OFFICERS:**

President      Larry Boettcher (MO)  
1st VP:        Ken Maddox (MS)  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP:       Rick Bailey (AR)  
3rd VP:        Gena Shelhamer (TN)  
4<sup>th</sup> VP:       Jim Korich (MO)  
IPP:            Ann Butler (TN)

SECRETARY (2027) Leanna Rich (AR)  
TREASURER (2026) James Wilkerson (MS)

***TERMS END 2027***

DIRECTORS  
(AR) Matt Webber  
(MS) Wayne Ross  
(MO) Wendy Williams  
(TN) Marty Greenberg

**AT LARGE**

At Large: Dr. Jill Blue (MO) ++  
At Large: Dr. Elliott Kanner (TN)  
At Large: Art Ritter (AR)  
At Large: Carol Allen (AR)  
At Large: Cathy Simpson (MO)  
At Large: Cindy Bamburg (MS)

***TERMS END 2026***

DIRECTORS  
(AR) Norman Dickson  
(MS) Andy Kalinowski  
(MO) Phyllis Krebs  
(TN) Dr. Eileen Smith

**AT LARGE**

At Large: Greg Palmer (MS)  
At Large: Teresa Wieck-Martin (MS)  
At Large: Gina Boettcher (MO)  
At Large: David Butler (TN)

***NOMINATING COMMITTEE (1 YR TERM)***

Chair\*:  
AR: Matt Webber  
MS: Mike Dowd  
MO: Phyllis Krebs  
TN: Scott Shelhamer

*++ non-Lion members*

***TRUSTEES (TERMS END)***

TN: (2029) Marvin Vinson  
MO: (2026) Terry Boettcher  
MS: (2027) Barron Caulfield  
AR: (2028) Angela Decker

**MID-SOUTH LIONS COMMITTEES  
AND DESCRIPTIONS**  
***As paraphrased from the Mid-South Lions bylaws***

Each Mid-South committee has a representative from every state. These positions are suggested by the state's vice president and approved by the board of directors. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please contact your state's vice president (as listed on page 23). You do not have to be a Lion to serve.

***EXCEPTING THE PAST PRESIDENTS, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND NOMINATING COMMITTEES, MID-SOUTH LIONS COMMITTEE MEETINGS ARE OPEN.***

**CASE SERVICE COMMITTEE**

Most of this committee's work consists of reviewing patient reports at quarterly meetings. The group makes recommendations to the board of directors regarding changes in procedures that may affect the delivery of patient care, application process, and guidelines for patients to receive service. The third vice president is the chair of this committee.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The finance committee reviews any and all aspects of the assets, liabilities and investments of the corporation. These reports are considered during the quarterly meetings.. The group considers budgetary recommendations each March. The treasurer serves as chair of this committee. The fourth vice president shall serve as an ex-officio member of this committee.

**FUND RAISING COMMITTEE**

Fundraising is the responsibility of every member of the corporation. The fundraising committee supervises the organization and management of all major fundraising activities of the corporation.

**GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

The governance committee considers changes in the articles of incorporation and bylaws that are designed to make Mid-South more effective in serving those in need. The chair of this committee shall also serve as parliamentarian. The second vice president shall serve as chairperson of this committee.

**MEETINGS COMMITTEE**

The meetings committee supervises scheduling, organization & manages all regularly scheduled and special meetings.. The first vice president shall serve as chairperson of this committee.

The **NOMINATING COMMITTEE** is elected by the membership at the June meeting. Their function is to recruit potential office holders, certify them as candidates and present them to the board at the March meeting.

The **PAST PRESIDENTS** committee is made up of all past presidents of the association.

## 2026 MEETINGS

MARCH 7

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Meeting  
Methodist University Hospital, Memphis, TN

APRIL 10-11

VISITING LIONS WEEKEND  
Hamilton Eye Institute, Memphis, TN

JUNE 5

Mid-South Lions Golf Tournament  
Cherokee Valley Golf Course  
Olive Branch, MS

JUNE 6

4<sup>th</sup> Quarterly and Annual Membership Meeting  
Hamilton Eye Institute, Memphis, TN

JUNE 14

HEI CATARACT-A-THON

AUGUST 8

1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly Meeting  
VIA ZOOM ONLY

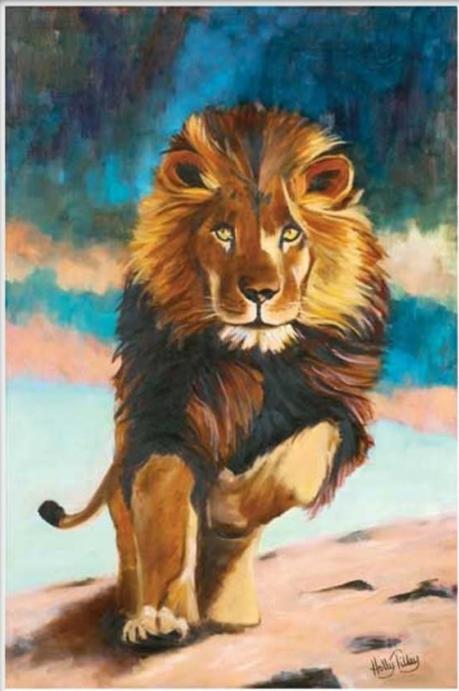
SEPTEMBER 3-5

USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum  
Renaissance Convention Center, Memphis, TN

NOVEMBER

Date and Location in Mississippi TBD





"The Crusader"  
BY HOLLY TILLEY



1,000 / 1,000

THE MONARCH  
BY PHILLIP CROWE

*Crowe*

The Crusader by Holly Tilley  
Commissioned in 2015

The Monarch by Phillip Crowe  
Commissioned in 2003



Fab Lion by Dr. Fab Anbar  
Commissioned in 2022

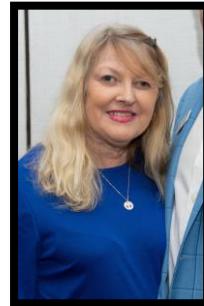
**MID-SOUTH LIONS LIMITED EDITION PRINTS,  
TEE SHIRTS, OR GREETING CARDS ARE AVAILABLE.  
CALL THE OFFICE OR GO TO  
[www.midsouthlions.org](http://www.midsouthlions.org)  
FOR DETAILS**

## OUR 2025 – 2026 OFFICERS

*(to be voted on at the membership meeting on June 7)*



Our 2025-2026 president is  
PCC Larry Boettcher  
Marceline, MO



Vice Presidents for 2025-2026 are, from L-R 1<sup>st</sup> VP 1<sup>st</sup> VP Lion Ken Maddox from Reservoir, MS, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Lion Rick Bailey from Fayetteville, AR, and 3<sup>rd</sup> VP Lion Gena Shelhamer from Bartlett, TN, and 4<sup>th</sup> VP Jim Korich from Rolla, MO



The 2025-2026 Secretary is PDG Leanna Rich from Lonoke, AR; and the Treasurer is PCC James Wilkerson from Madison, MS.

VDG Ann Butler is our Immediate Past President from Bartlett, TN

**MID-SOUTH LIONS OFFICERS  
AND THEIR DUTIES**  
***As paraphrased from Mid-South Lions bylaws***

*All officers of Mid-South Lions are presented by the Nominating Committee for election during the annual membership meeting in June of each year. Each Lions Club has one vote for every 10 members at a Mid-South Lions membership meeting.*

**President:** The president shall preside at all meetings of the membership of the corporation and/or the board of directors. Except for the nominating committee and past presidents committee, the president shall be an ex-officio member, with no vote, of all committees. The president shall in concert with all the vice presidents appoint all members of standing committees except the nominating committee and past presidents committee. The president shall have the authority to create and appoint Ad Hoc committees. The president is a member of the board of directors.

**Vice Presidents:** There is a vice president representing each state (Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee). Once VPs are elected they move up the chairs until serving as president.

If the president is unable to perform the duties of president, the vice president next available in the order of ascendancy shall perform the duties of the office of president with full title, authority, and responsibility. Vice presidents assist in recruiting committee members from their respective states. The president and/or board may assign other duties as needed. The vice presidents are members of the board of directors.

**Secretary:** The secretary keeps minutes of all meetings of the membership and board of directors. The secretary gives notice of all meetings, maintains record of attendance and membership, and performs such other duties as may pertain to this office. The secretary is a member of the board of directors.

**Treasurer:** The treasurer works with the CEO and reviews financial records of the corporation to ensure proper procedures and reconciliation of accounts. The treasurer, in cooperation with staff, reviews the current budgetary status and make reports as necessary to the board of directors. The treasurer is a member of the board of directors and is an ex-officio member of the Finance Committee.

**Immediate Past President:** The immediate past president shall be the chair of the nominating committee and serves as secretary of the past presidents committee. The immediate past president is a member of the board of directors.

## **IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**

ARKANSAS LIONS STATE OFFICE ..... 501-834-5111

LEADER DOGS FOR THE BLIND ..... 888-777-5332

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL ..... 630-571-5466

**MID-SOUTH LIONS OFFICE ..... 888-546-6042**  
**..... 901-543-5466 (LION)**

**MID-SOUTH LIONS FAX ..... 901-543-5464**

MISSISSIPPI LIONS EYE BANK ..... 601-420-5752

MISSISSIPPI LIONS STATE OFFICE ..... 601-420-5752

MISSOURI LIONS STATE OFFICE ..... 573-635-1773

SAVING SIGHT ..... 800-753-2265

TENNESSEE LIONS CHARITIES ..... 800-741-4089

TENNESSEE LIONS STATE HQ ..... 800-741-4089

WORLD SERVICES FOR THE BLIND ..... 501-664-7100

Email: [info@midsouthlions.org](mailto:info@midsouthlions.org)

Website: <http://www.midsouthlions.org>



## **MID-SOUTH LIONS - A BRIEF HISTORY - 1940 – 2025**

1940 – Members of the Memphis Downtown Lions Club, Harry Wilson and Max Furbringer talk about a program on how the Lions could do more for the community than just provide eyeglasses.

1941 – Dr. Louis Levy, Dr. E. C. Ellett and PDG Clifford Pierce provide information on how the Lions can accomplish cataract and other eye surgeries for those in need.

The Downtown Lions meet with other Memphis Lions at the Hotel Gayoso to form a committee to explore what options are available.

1942 – Working with local ophthalmologists, the Lions form the Mid-South Sight Conservation Association. The Association elects Lion Ed Dalstrom President, Max Furbringer Vice President, W. A. Crenshaw Secretary and Harry Wilson Treasurer.

In December, the Association is chartered through the State of Tennessee and establishes offices in the Memphis Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital on Madison Ave.

1951 – By a vote of the Lions International board of directors, Mid-South is allowed to use “LIONS” in its name and becomes Mid-South Lions Sight Service, Inc. .

1970 – Mid-South moves its offices to the Methodist Hospital on Union Ave. By this time, Lions from Arkansas and Mississippi have become an integral part of the organization.

1989 – Following the lead of Lions B.G. Tatum, Larry Martin and Herb Marshall, Mid-South adopts hearing as a partner program and the name is changed to Mid-South Lions Sight And Hearing Service, Inc.

1992 – Missouri Lions become a part of Mid-South

1994 – The Mid-South Lions Booster Club begins raising funds from individuals

1995 – The Ed Dalstrom Distinguished Service Award is initiated

1996 – Mid-South establishes a satellite clinic in Rogers, Arkansas through the Boozman-Hof Regional Eye Center. The CHAMPIONS of Mid-South begin regular donations.

2003 – The past presidents and board establish the L. B. Baker Hall of Honor

2007 – Mid-South’s offices are moved to the Hamilton Eye Institute

2012 – Mid-South honored as a “Champion of Change” by President Obama and Lions Clubs International

2018 – Cataract-A-Thon established by Mid-South and the HEI Lions Club

2022 – Celebrating 80 Years of Miracles. Over 40,000 people have received care.

2022 – 2023 – Introduction of the “Challenge Coin” for Champions

2024 - Bill Freeman Award Established honoring outstanding individuals serving Mid-South

2025 – Received \$99,500 LCIF grant to assist in equipment purchase for HEI Surgery Center

2026 - Mid-South Lions will facilitate hosting the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary USA/Canada Forum in Memphis



*Bill Freeman Award*

Presented in recognition  
of achievements, service,  
and dedication to  
Mid-South Lions  
and our patients

*Bill Freeman  
Inaugural Award 2023-2024*

**The Bill Freeman Award  
Was established in 2024  
To recognize  
Exemplary Achievements,  
Service, and Dedication  
To Mid-South Lions  
And our Patients.**

**Recipients:**

**2023-2024- Bill Freeman  
2024-2025 – Greg Crapo**

The annual Bill Freeman Award is chosen by the  
Executive Committee from recommendations  
from the President of Mid-South Lions.



**MEMPHIS  
2026**

**The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum  
Will be held in MEMPHIS  
On September 3-5, 2026**

**Please make plans to attend and  
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES  
Are available.  
Contact Lion Tashena Martinez  
[liontashena@gmail.com](mailto:liontashena@gmail.com)  
For details and to sign up**



## Congratulations

The Memphis Award Program recognizes outstanding local businesses that serve their local market. Each year, we identify companies that we believe have achieved exceptional marketing success in their local community and business category. These are local companies that enhance the positive image of small business through service to their customers and community.



In 2013, Mid-South Lions  
was recognized as  
Best Social Service Organization  
by "Best of Memphis"

The Inaugural Crystal Award  
For Outstanding Philanthropic  
Organization  
Presented to Mid-South in 1989

# Recognition of Mid-South's service

The HOPE Award  
Presented by Methodist Hospital  
Volunteer Association



Memphis Federation of the  
Blind Presented Mid-South  
Their Appreciation Award 2006



Recognized by President Barack Obama  
And Lions Clubs International as Champions of Change 2012