



# Executive Director Message

**“The only thing worse than being blind... is having sight but no Vision”**

**Helen Keller**



**Dunden Dean  
Executive Director**

Since our founding by the Lions Clubs of Alabama on March 21, 1944, Alabama Lions Sight Conservation Association has worked diligently to provide eye screenings and surgeries to thousands of the poor in Alabama.

With the ageing of the “Baby Boomer Generation”, the 78 million citizens born at the end of World War II between 1945 and 1964, the need for our services are greater than ever before. As we age our eyes develop many problems that affect our eye sight and if not corrected our quality

of life.

The way Alabama Lions Sight delivered services in 1944 is different from the way services are delivered today. We all know that the delivery of healthcare in Alabama and all over the United States is changing and it is imperative that ALSCA change to continue to be relevant in the delivery of eye care in the future.

As I’ve traveled all over Alabama speaking to Lions Clubs I have used the term “proactive” in our eye patient outreach and service delivery. We can no longer sit back and wait for eye patients to come to us! Believe it or not, there are still Alabama citizens that do not know that Lions help with eye exams, glasses and surgeries. It is imperative that we be “proactive” to get the word out that we can help and take the services that we can provide out into the communities throughout Alabama.

Alabama Lions Sight’s “Comprehensive Mobile Eye Screening Unit” is a pilot program designed to take the delivery of eye care services and patient transportation by Alabama Lions Sight well into the future. Access to quality eye care and transportation have both been identified as critical needs for the poor and elderly in rural Alabama and Alabama Lions Sight is determined to help fill those needs with the help of the Lions of Alabama.



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On February 12<sup>th</sup> we celebrated our two year anniversary of the Mobile Eye Program! I am happy to report that the program has been a huge success with over 2,976 patients seen by our Optometrist, Dr. Kent Daum and his staff. Over 10,000 clinical diagnoses of Diabetes, Glaucoma and other eye related diseases were treated and when necessary transportation was provided to the Lions Eye Clinic at UAB Callahan Eye Hospital. Approx. 1,806 pairs of new glasses were dispensed to patients seen by our mobile clinic. We now have in operation our new self contained mobile eye truck with all the latest eye exam equipment. We are currently visiting 21 clinics a month in 16 Black Belt and Appalachian counties. Through the support of Alabama Lions and applied for grants we hope to expand into Jefferson County as well as, St. Clair, Blount and other counties in the near future.

We will no longer have to transport our exam equipment in a panel van. The mobile optometry clinic truck (see attached picture) is all self-contained and powered by a generator which allows us to perform comprehensive eye exams anywhere! The mobile clinic also has a wheelchair lift to make it accessible by those that are wheelchair bound.

Alabama Lions Sight, on behalf of all Alabama Lions, is on the grow in providing comprehensive eye care, school and community based eye screenings and serving over 5,000 patients yearly through the Lions Eye Clinic at Callahan. You're financial & moral support is needed now more than ever to continue to serve the vision needs of the poor and indigent of Alabama. Please join us in the fight against darkness!

It is with mixed emotions that I announce that I will be retiring as your executive director later this year. It is the greatest honor I have ever had to serve the Lions of Alabama over the last 5 years and the thousands of poor and indigent people we serve. Alabama Lions Sight has served the needs of over 380,000 Alabamians since 1944 and I am happy to have played a small part in providing those services.

I say mixed emotions because even though I am sad to leave Alabama Lions Sight and all the great Lions of Alabama, my wife Kathy and I are excited about the next phase of our lives! We will be moving to Mooresville N.C to be near our daughter Melissa and our grandchildren, 3 year old Liam and 6 month old Braelyn Kate.



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I'm sure any of you who have grandchildren can relate to the joy grandchildren bring into your life and we are excited about being close to them!

I cannot thank the Lions of Alabama enough for allowing me the privilege to serve!

The Alabama Lions Sight Board of Directors has formed a search committee to find a qualified individual to serve the Lions of Alabama and I look forward to working with that person to provide a smooth transition.

I will be providing a comprehensive overview of Alabama Lions Sights accomplishments over the last 5 years at the Lions State Convention at Lake Guntersville in April. I encourage you to attend and enjoy the fellowship of Lions from throughout the state!

**“The vast majority of us are blessed with sight..... but do we have a vision for the future?” I say we DO! Join and support the Lions of Alabama Vision to fight darkness for those in need!**

I would love the opportunity to visit your club to tell you more about the future of Alabama Lions Sights efforts to fight blindness.

Yours in Lionism,

Sincerely,

*Durden*

Lion W. Durden Dean  
Executive Director