



## CHANGE A LIFE: BECOME A VIP AMBASSADOR

*In Honor of Dr. Lacy and Esther Presnell*



Your support is greatly appreciated. NC Lions:  
"creating a better quality of life for those we serve."

## The Event and History

The North Carolina Lions VIP Fishing Tournament is the largest gathering of visually impaired in North Carolina and is believed to be the largest event of its kind in North America. The project has grown from a local tournament serving 12 blind children to 550 participants from North Carolina and North America.

Through educational and recreational activities, the three-day event provides VIPs opportunities to eliminate negative attitudes often associated with blindness and to accommodate their need to enter mainstream America.

Participants arrive on the Outer Banks on a Monday, are housed in local hotels, have six meals, go fishing on two head boats and four ocean fishing piers for a day of recreation, participate in seminars and independent living training, and visit with vendors. The closing awards banquet on Wednesday offers motivation and awards. More than 200 volunteers follow the same schedule as they assist the VIPs throughout the annual event.

The NC Lions VIP Fishing Tournament Inc. is a not-for-profit organization defined in section 501 (c) (3) of the IRS code.

The board is comprised of elected representatives from the Columbia, First Flight, Lower Currituck, Manteo, Nags Head and Wanchese Lions Clubs in District 31-J, a part of the International Association of Lions Clubs.

The event provides three days of recreation, fellowship, and independent living workshops designed to help visually impaired persons (VIPs). The North Carolina Lions VIP Fishing Tournament celebrates its 35th anniversary in 2017.

We'd love you or your club to join our army of volunteers come tournament time. If you can't, however, you definitely can make a meaningful impact by becoming a VIP Ambassador to help fund a deserving individual's participation. It's easy: simply fill out and return the form on the reverse side. We appreciate the assist!

Questions? Call Gwen White: (252) 441-4966 or email: [whiteink1@earthlink.net](mailto:whiteink1@earthlink.net)

Gwen White, Executive Director  
NC Lions VIP Fishing Tournament  
P.O. Box 140  
Columbia, NC 27925

North Carolina's version of the great orator Will Rogers, Dr. Lacy Presnell and Esther, his wife of more than 60 years, have lived their lives as a wondrous adventure filled with truth, laughter, incredibly interesting events and service.



DR. LACY PRESNELL AND ESTHER

Photo courtesy of Debbie Hicks

Their conversations bounce from children to grandchildren, family, education, friends and Lions from around the world.

They share stories and speak candidly about those who touched their hearts as they traveled the world. Behind everything is a story just waiting for Lacy's charming style of telling and yes, embellishing the tale. Esther just smiles and makes sure he does not distort the facts too much.

Lacy tells about how a blind man, Fletcher Womble, impressed on him the true hardships of being blind. "As a young man, I felt a necessity to lend a hand when I observed this blind man standing on the corner day-after-day with his little red rusty wagon and a small tin cup selling pencils. This was his living and the only future he would ever see. He had to look forward to this effort every day rain or shine to make his living."

Lacy felt compelled to do something to improve the situation. He became a Lion because he knew they helped the blind. He joined the Bennett Lions Club at the invitation of his principal while working as a young teacher at Franklinville High School. At the same time, he and Esther were just recently married and he was continuing his education at nearby Elon College.

Lacy says the most memorable things to him in his Lions career have been advocating to the State Legislature for the blind and visually impaired, establishment of the NC Commission for the Blind, working to improve funding for the Commission for the Blind, lobbying to have a social worker for the blind to cover each of the state's 100 counties and representing North Carolina Lions while serving as a Lions International Director. While an International Director, he worked with fellow Directors to establish the Melvin Jones Fellowship.

He takes pride in serving on the Governor Morehead School Board of Directors and the formation and success of the Raleigh Lions Clinic for the Blind. The Presnells are most proud that their children became Lions in Raleigh and Henderson, continuing the legacy of family service through Lions membership.

Compiled by Ken Bucher, Penny Rummel and Gwen White



## Become a VIP Ambassador

### In Honor of Dr. Lacy and Esther Presnell

Help us continue the largest VIP event in the world, the North Carolina Lions Visually Impaired Persons Fishing Tournament on the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

Cherished internationally for its excitement, fun and educational independent living experience, the NC Lions VIP Fishing Tournament has received world-wide acclaim for its program.

Becoming a VIP Ambassador, you or your club will help us continue to expand the event and ensure the continuation of this remarkable event locally and internationally. Future plans include invitations to other statewide winners to compete in an international tournament right here in North Carolina.

The North Carolina Lions VIP Fishing Tournament is where Lions walk next to those we serve.

Questions? Call Gwen White: (252) 441-4966 or email: [whiteink1@earthlink.net](mailto:whiteink1@earthlink.net)

**VIP AMBASSADOR** • Yes, I'd like to become a VIP Ambassador. Enclosed is my \$250 donation. In honor of Dr. Lacy and Esther Presnell, donors will receive a VIP Ambassador plaque and lapel pin.

**I can't become an Ambassador at this time, but I would still like to donate.**

\$25     \$50     \$75     \$100     Other \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name/or Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Needed: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this VIP Ambassador Form to: Gwen White, VIP Fishing Executive Director, P.O. Box 140, Columbia, NC 27925

Make Checks payable to: NC Lions VIP Fishing  
We also accept MasterCard, Visa and Discover

The NC Lions VIP Fishing  
Tournament is a charitable 501(c)(3)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Card#: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (required): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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[www.ncvipfishing.org](http://www.ncvipfishing.org)