



# Biloxi Lions Club

## Lions Roar



Founded February 18, 1924

<http://biloxilionsclub.org>  
[www.facebook.com/BiloxiLions](http://www.facebook.com/BiloxiLions)

January 26, 2022

### District 30-S Mid-Winter Convention

It's almost here; Feb. 4 – 5! There is a sign-up sheet for people who would like to help with the Hospitality Room.

### Critical Blood Supply

Lion Cindy Bamburg brought to our attention that blood supplies all over are down to critical levels. Please consider donating your blood.

### Lions Sight Foundation Fund Raiser

The chance to buy tickets for the Lions Sight Foundation Fund Raiser will be over at the Mid-Winter Convention as the tickets will need to be turned in then. There is still a little time to buy some now!



### Change for Change

This fund raiser will end on 31 January. Please bring in all your Change for Change jars to our meeting next week.

### Guest Speaker

Our guest speaker is Josh Barton, Executive Director of Homes of Grace. While 2020 was a year filled with adversity and challenges, it allowed us to see things from new vantage points. This new year we have projects like a new women's campus and assisting Valley of Grace to get started in Kokomo, Indiana.

### Camp Wilkes

The meeting that was going to be on 20 January was cancelled due to weather. It is rescheduled for 2 Feb.

### Miss Mississippi

Our Miss Gulf Coast, Katelyn Perry, is starting her run for Miss Mississippi. Please see the extra file included with the ROAR and help her as best we can.

Homes of Grace was started by my grandfather. He felt the call to preach when he was 8 years old. But, he was born with a cleft pallet, so it was hard to understand him. He did go through several medical procedures to correct his cleft pallet, but that didn't fully correct his speech. While at that children's hospital, he became aware that maybe he didn't have it as bad as he thought. He realized that he would be returning to his home while there were

*Meetings are noon every Wednesday at the Maritime and Seafood History Museum*

several children there that would not due to their terminal illnesses.

He later got an opportunity to attend a bible college in Georgia. While in his senior year, some recruiters came to look for people to become preachers. After saying a short paragraph as an audition, he was told he did not have a future as a preacher.

He graduated from college and started selling insurance. He was approached by some people who told him they wanted to start a church in their town and was wondering if he would be their preacher. He accepted and preached in a few churches before ending up in a church in Pascagoula. While there, he came across several families where the wife and kids were trying to make ends meet and the husband was off drunk and it broke his heart. He eventually found a place in Georgia that was in the business of rehabilitating people and got 2 people that he knew needed it and took them to Georgia. He fell in love with the work they did and told the director that he wanted to start a place like that. The director told him to go home, get a Board of Directors together, and he would help him start one. It eventually became the Homes of Grace. It started with 10 acres and a trailer that were donated. Before they were ready, they started getting phone calls from people that needed help. One even found the property and just showed up. He told him that they were not ready; there was no power and no water. The guy told him that he had no where else to go so he let him stay. That was January 2, 1965.

That was my grandfather. Eventually, it was my father's turn to take the helm. Where my grandfather was very much a people person, my dad was more into organization. He decided that if we were going to be an addiction recovery program, how can we be the most successful one? So, he spent a lot of time developing the various programs that the people had to work through in-order to "graduate". He also started a woman's facility in Gautier; Homes of Grace was men only until then.

Now, it's my turn to take the helm. We are upgrading the woman's facility to make room for more people. We are also replicating! We have had people attend our recovery program from out of state. There has been about 150 from Indiana over the last 3 years. One particular person graduated

and went home and was inspired to start the same program in Indiana. This kind of sounds like what happened with my grandfather with his trip to Georgia! He brought their program here and now someone else wants to take the program to their home town!

