



District 17N Newsletter

69 Lions Clubs serving communities in southcentral and southeast Kansas

January 2023



Governor's message

New year — new energy

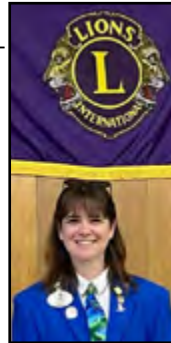
HAPPY NEW YEAR DISTRICT N and Welcome 2023!! I am so happy to see the renewed energy that a new year brings us all! As we approached the end of 2022, I feared the dreaded December 31 drops in membership, but you guys pushed right through that with growth, not loss and we started the month positive 16 members for the first time in many, many years!

As the first two weeks of the new year have passed, that has continued, and as I write this article on January 13, we are currently up 29 members across the district!

I cannot applaud you all enough, it has been a hard fought battle to keep ahead every month, but so far you have done it and I know it will continue for the rest of the year! I hope you are looking ahead at those new members to engage them in service projects and activities within your clubs and possibly to encourage some new leaders to step into officer or chairperson roles. It will be time for nominations and elections soon enough, now is the time to start seeking out those talented individuals that will lead us into the next year.

My team and I have also been working very hard to make our way to each and every one of the clubs within the district and celebrate your milestones, your service and your amazing members, it has been such a wonderful year so far and I am humbled to be leading such an amazing

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District 17N
Cabinet Meeting
Zoom — Feb 25

District 17N
Convention
April 21-22, 2023
Independence

2023 State
Convention
June 2-3
Hays

Lions Club
International
Convention
July 7-11
Boston, MA

Great Plains Lions
Leadership Institute
July 28-30
Marysville, MO

Kansas Lions District 17N

69 Lions Clubs serving communities in southcentral and southeast Kansas

District Governor

Lori Horton

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bilyeuskies@hotmail.com

2nd Vice District Governor

Shari Neidhardt

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Get Social with us!

Follow us on Facebook: [KansasLionsDistrict17N](https://www.facebook.com/KansasLionsDistrict17N) • Twitter: [@kslions17n](https://twitter.com/kslions17n)

District website: kslions17n.org

Kansas Lions on the web: kansaslions.org • Lions International on the web: lionsclubs.org

Governor's Message

Continued from previous page

team! Now that we are over the halfway point, I fear the rest of the fiscal year will go by quickly, but I cannot wait to see what's around every turn. As always, I ask you to continue to share your love of Lions with your friends, co-workers, neighbors and everyone around you, that is our best recruiting tool. Many clubs have taken advantage of the Membership Recruitment Grant that was available from LCI and the success of that is showing in those numbers. We are hoping to apply for and receive an additional grant for the second half of the year, but we'll have to be patient and see if that's in the cards for us.

So far this fiscal year we have celebrated the clubs each month that have recruited the most new members. July's winner was Lyndon Lions, August was Colwich Lions, September AND October was Pittsburg Lions, November was Wellington Noon Lions and December was Newton Lions.

One new member at a time is how we turn this organization around, but equally as important is to keep every wonderful current member continuing to serve in your club. They are the foundation that we build a strong structure upon! Great work to all these clubs, thank you for letting me reward you with CAKE! Will your club be the next lucky recipient of a cake from Celebrations by Lori? Stay tuned.

Congratulations to the Peace Poster sponsored by the Bel Aire Lions Club that was selected to represent the Multiple District in the International competition, it was an amazing poster, such a talent!

First Vice District Governor

New year a good time to assess goals

Happy New Year District 17-N!! WOW! YOU have really started 2023 with a BANG! The last numbers I saw as



I was preparing to write this article was plus 29 new Lions in our district! I am so excited for the clubs receiving these

Next, I have a couple of favors to ask of you all, the first is to continue to take the time to report those service hours on MyLion, you all have done a great job so far! I know it is a challenge, but it is part of the job and it has to be done. Don't hesitate to reach out to myself or any member of my team to assist if you need it, that's part of our job, to make you successful and we love to do it!

The second is to consider adding that LCIF donation to your club budget or to your personal budget. Kansas has historically received far more in grants from LCIF than we have ever contributed and we need to recognize the importance of supporting this amazing foundation. They do so much good work around the world, but locally as well and we are very blessed to have that available to us.

Before I close I want to add that there is further information about the Sight Foundations' Eclipse Glasses project in this newsletter. If you have any questions, let me know, it is such a great idea and orders are due soon so don't wait to bring it to your clubs attention.

Here's to a great 2023, I hope to see many of you at upcoming meetings, the Mid Winter Rally or the next District cabinet meeting on Zoom (February 25), watch for a link in your email and please plan to attend from the comfort of your couch! LOL! Also add the District N Convention to your calendar, April 21-22 in Independence, our guest speaker will be International Director Lee Vrieze and we are planning a really fun weekend!

*Respectfully submitted,
Lori L. Horton
District Governor, MD 17-N*

new members, and especially for these new Lions joining us and serving in their communities!

With the Mid-Winter Rally occurring this weekend in Junction City, it is a great reminder that we are only five months away from the end of this Lion year. How are your club goals coming along? Have you been able to complete the service projects you wanted to do for the first half of the year, and plan the next ones that will carry your club through to the end of this Lion year? How has your club attendance been?

Have you reported all of your volunteer hours and

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Second Vice District Governor

Amazing Lions providing outstanding service

Games' not over, we still have two quarters to play! First and foremost, I hope that the holidays brought you happiness and the New Year good health. I cannot believe it, but another calendar year has come and gone; I must have misplaced some weeks somewhere.



However, we still have six months remaining in our current Lion's year to be successful by ending it with a positive membership growth.

District 17-N Lions worked extremely hard in attaining new members and retaining current

members to show growth in the first half of the year. District Governor Lori and the DG Team could not be any prouder of what you have accomplished.

In my 40 plus years as a Lion, I cannot ever remember such a positive reaction in our Lions striving to gain new members. Now that we have had some time to re-energize and enjoy some time with family and friends, it is time to keep up your remarkable membership efforts.

Remember, you are not alone in this endeavor, the

DG Team is here to help you in any way that we can. International President Sheehan's theme, "Together We Can, Together We Will" will be the key to this year's success story if we continue moving forward. There are still four more months to win a membership cake, made and delivered by our very own District Governor Lori.

As quickly as the first half of the year went by, we can expect the second half of the year to do the same.

There are several key events happening over the next six months: the third District Cabinet Meeting (by Zoom), February 25; District 17-N Convention in Independence, April 21-22, and Kansas Lions State Convention in Hays, June 2-3.

As I reflect back on the last six months and the privilege of making my official visits to the Lions Clubs that I was assigned, all I can say is "wow." Truly amazing Lions doing outstanding service, where ever needed. I hope to get an opportunity to see many of you again at the upcoming events.

In closing, I leave you with a special quote by Henry Ford, "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."

In Lions Service

Lion Shari Neidhardt

2nd Vice District Governor, MD 17-N

First VDG Pam

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service projects on My Lion? Have you shared photos on our District Facebook page or in this District Newsletter? We want to applaud your successes as well... and by sharing them with us we can do just that. Have you added to your club new members? Share what your club is doing within your community such as: Facebook, or similar media pages, the local newspaper; and include pictures in the articles. This will help to keep your community informed on how Lions are serving in the community, as well as encourage community members to join your club. Always include when and where your club meets and contact information.

I am looking forward to having our district have a record number of students at the 2023 Kansas Lions

State Band Camp at Ft Hays State University in June. Have you talked with your local school band directors and students that you have sponsored in the past couple of years and shared the plans for this year with them? We hope to have enough students to take a Kansas Band to the International Convention in Boston in July. How awesome that would be to see our Kansas students take part in this great experience!

District Governor Lori Horton, and 2nd VDG Shari Neidhardt and I are so excited for all the success we are seeing in District 17N clubs and all of the membership chevrons we have been able to present recently. We are honored to serve with so many great Lions! "Together We Can" and we are achieving great things here in our corner of Kansas!

Please stay warm and safe during this winter season.

Pam Bilyeu

1st Vice District Governor, MD 17N



We Serve

Around the District

Submit your club activities to newsletter17n@cox.net
Deadline is always the 10th of the month



Walton Lion Glenn Esau receives a 50 year membership chevron from Second Vice District Governor Shari Neidhardt.

Bel Aire Lions President James Schmidt presented membership chevrons to Lion Rusty Peterson for 30 years of service. and PDG Richard Caldwell for 10 years of service



Wellington Lions welcomed six new members in January. PDG Patrick Laham, left, and DG Lori Horton, right, inducted the new members, pictured with their sponsors, from left: Betty Zeka, Sue Denny, Coni Adams, Daphne Adams, Kati Elmore, Travis Reitz, Michelle Wellington, Daniel Yonash, Jeri Hunt, Tanya, Chancellor, Kailee Ritchey



Towanda Lions presented two Melvin Jones Fellowships at the club Christmas dinner in December. From left, District Governor Lori Horton with Melvin Jones recipients Vice President Rich Herrmann and Secretary Jerry Carlin, with Past International Director Ed McCormick.



Ottawa Lions Charles Porter (top) and John Osladil received membership chevrons from First Vice District Governor Pam Bilyeau. Lion Porter has 45 years of service, and Lion Osladil is celebrating 10 years of service.



Cedar Vale Lions treated the second graders to a pre-Christmas lunch with a special guest. Each of the students received a personalized blanket.

Lions Health Programs Childhood Cancer is February focus from LCI

February's theme as designated by Lions Club International is Childhood Cancer. We ask each club to have a program on this theme in February.

Here are some statistics from the LCI website:

- Every 2 minutes a child is diagnosed with cancer
- One in 285 children in the U.S will be diagnosed with cancer before age 20
- There is a 90% cure rate in the U. S.
- It is estimated 1 in 10 will die
- 57% of childhood cancers go undiagnosed in parts of the world
- 80% survive in developed countries; 20% in lesser developed countries

These statistics are shocking and we Lions need to find a way to help this vital cause.

What is your Lions Club doing to work with these children and their families in your community, country and the world? Why not find a program on cancer in your community and invite someone to give a program on Childhood Cancer.

For more information contact LCI, the American Cancer Society or for help contact Lions Health Program Chair, Lion Vern Failor at ulfailor@gmail.com

Recruit now for 2023 State and International Bands

Multiple District – 17, Kansas Lions, the New Year is officially here and it is time to contact your local schools and band students about the 2023 Kansas Lions Band opportunities.

The most critical (timing wise) is the Kansas Lions International Marching Band. Eligible students from the 2022 State Band and the High School Band Directors should have gotten a flyer early last fall. The cost of going to Boston (July 5-11) is \$2350.00, which includes the fee for attending the State Band camp.

Remember also, the Band Foundation is offering to provide \$400 off the fee, so that leaves \$1700 needed to send a student to Boston. Deadline for International Band is **February 17**. If we do not get 60 applications by that date, the trip will have to be cancelled.

The second opportunity is for the students to participate in the 2023 Kansas Lions Band camp, to be held at Fort Hays State University, May 30 to June 3, 2023. Cost of the camp is \$250 and the deadline for the band camp is May 6, 2023. Our special guests at the State Convention will be International President Brian and Lion Lori Sheehan from Bird Island, Minnesota.

The Band Committee really needs your help in making the contacts with your local high school band director/students, getting students signed up (application and medical form completed), and helping them financially with the

camp cost.

Lions and guests will have two



opportunities enjoy band performances; the Friday night Jazz Band/Ensembles groups and the Saturday morning full concert band. 2022 was a rebuilding year, given the cancellation of the 2020 and 2021 camps due to COVID. The 2022 band had 155 students, with your help, we can be successful in getting 200+ students. On behalf of the Kansas Lions Band Committee, thank you for your continued support of our band program.

Application for both programs and the medical release forms can be downloaded from the MD 17 website. Using Google, just search for Kansas Lions Band and the link will take you directly to the band page. If we can answer any other questions, please contact us at 7400 NW Ayr Road, Potwin, Kansas 67123, or by email at lnwizardo-foz@gmail.com or 19faith58@gmail.com.

*Respectfully,
PCC Hans &
2nd VDG Shari Neidhardt
State & International Band
Committee, Co-Chairs*

Lessons from America's largest club

Have you heard of Seal Beach, California? It's a coastal city in southern California, part of the Los Angeles metro area. And it's home to the largest Lions Club in the United States, with more than 400 members.

The city of Seal Beach itself is only about 25,000 in population. So what's their secret to such a large club membership?

Lions International recently shared a [video \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M_cZ4g-wSAU\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M_cZ4g-wSAU) about the Seal Beach club and what they've been doing to engage their community and expand their service in meaningful ways. Some of the key takeaways:

Make the club fun and visible – Their club participates in or manages almost every community event in town. They use signage, pop-up

tents and even a custom wrapped van to make sure the Lions branding is unmistakable everywhere they go. They make sure the community sees Lions out making a difference and having fun together.

Don't be afraid of change – The club re-evaluated their traditions and asked, are they relevant? And they made some changes. For example, they found that people under the age of 30 aren't into vests, but they will wear a Lions t-shirt.

Involve family and youth volunteers – Club members bring their families to service projects and let kids join in to help. The club also sponsors two Leo clubs, and they all work together on service projects. The Leos clubs have now become a membership pipeline for the club, with many former Leos

growing up and joining Lions.

Empower Lions to serve in ways that are meaningful to them – Their club does over 120 service projects a year. There's such a variety of projects that everyone can find something they connect with. And they're always open to new ideas from their members.

With so many members, the Seal Beach Lions can accomplish a lot for their community. Our clubs in Kansas obviously don't have all their resources (yet!), but we can learn from them and scale the efforts to fit our clubs. What are the ways your club can follow their example?

More members = more hands in service!

*Erin McDaniel
Public Relations Chair 17N*



Winfield Vice President Lion Ralph Royston and President Lion Dee Ledy show a banner to celebrate Winfield's 150 years and Winfield Lions Club's 102 years, which will be displayed at all Lions Club events and fundraisers during this calendar year.

Order Solar Eclipse glasses by March 1

There is still time to order eclipse glasses through the Kansas Lions Sight Foundation (KLSF).

The Sight Foundation is inviting your club to participate in a Lions service project promoting a statewide vision safety program which also has revenue potential. This program was developed in anticipation of the two upcoming Solar Eclipses: October 14, 2023—Annular Solar Eclipse, and April 8, 2024—Total Solar Eclipse.

KLSF is taking preorders for eclipse glasses certified by ISO 12312-2, the international standard for safe, direct viewing of the sun, assuring vision safety. Glasses will be sold to clubs in increments of 50, costing the club \$1/pair. Your club will then be able to sell the glasses at community events for an average of \$2-\$3 per pair.

The Sight Foundation has created a packet of information to help you promote the project and sell them to community partners.

Order forms and payment are due before March 1, 2023 (review the order form on the following page for specific payment details.)

To request the packet of information send an email to PID Gene Vogel at pidgene@aol.com.

If you have any questions, please contact one of Lions below:

District K: Sylvia Reinhardt, poorfarmer@eaglecom.net, 620-921-0130.

District A: Lion Eric Strimple, estrimp81@msn.com.

weldicat@hotmail.com, 785-331-7757.

District N: PG Terry Weldin, weldicat@hotmail.com, 620-490-1461.

Lion Gene Vogel, President KLSF, pidgene@aol.com 816-210-8382.

Lion William Witt, MD OD williamwitt@hotmail.com, 785-477-9488.

Lion Steve Cauble, Optometrist scauble@swko.net, 620-629-1312,

Lion Kendall Krug, Optometrist Retired, kkrug@krugoptometry.net, 785-498-9020

LCIF grants magnify service

When first hearing of the Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF), the thought is this organization asks for donations and money all the time. Many clubs have been faithful in their end of the year donations while individual Lions donate with the idea of what LCIF does for Lions.

Maybe more clarity is to consider how LCIF magnifies the service performed by Lions Club International and individual districts and clubs. Through grants awarded by LCIF, individual Lions Clubs, Districts and Multiple Districts can serve the needs of communities and individuals in the global areas of Childhood Cancer, Environment, Hunger, Vision, Youth, Diabetes Awareness and other humanitarian causes. Through grants from LCIF, more effort can be made to effectively serve with greater impact.

There is the idea that LCIF serves only foreign countries. This idea may not be as truthful as thought. The Lions Club International Foundation has provided the Multiple District of Kansas more than \$1.4 million in grants in various areas of need. Included but not limited are grants for disaster relief, vision-related needs, youth education programs, research, habitats, and construction projects for communities. With information, guidance, desire and finding resources, clubs or districts should be able to intensify their service through these grants.

More information about these grants can be obtained by going to lionsclubs.org en under the Support heading at the top of the page or contacting Past District Governor Richard Caldwell teacher.caldwell@gmail.com.

Welcome to the Pride

New members in December

New Member	Sponsor	
Burlington		
Derck Bucheit	Terry Weldin	
Chanute		
Marlene Marts	Maricela Benavides	
Goddard		
Kelli Black	Dan Funke	
Preston Black	Dan Funke	
Liz Blubaugh	Jamey Blubaugh	
Liz Hamor	Becky Funke	
Newton		
Frank Almedia	Suzanne Dunne	
Anastacia Barnett	Salvador Lujano	
Mariah Sanseda	Rachelle Scott	
Phil Sansdeda	Daniels Heinze Jr	

Eclipse Project Order Form



PLEASE ORDER the number of Eclipse Glasses needed for both the Annular Eclipse (October 14, 2023) and the Total Eclipse (April 8, 2024 -- most publicized) by MARCH 1, 2023, to secure the best price! If needed, the due date for a second order will be November 1, 2024.

Payments by CHECK can be made out to the "KLSF" and sent to Gene Vogel. 2101 E 29th Street, Lawrence, KS 66046. Please indicate if your club will be paying the full amount of the order now, or 50% of the order now and then the other 50% after the October 23 Annular Eclipse, which would be due by October 25, 2023.

For more information, please contact Lion Gene at pidgene@aol.com or 816-210-83820

of glasses at \$1.00 each: TOTAL NUMBER OF GLASSES: _____ x \$1.00 = _____
Or order must be in increments of 50 glasses = 1 bundle

Of Displays at \$5.00 each: TOTAL NUMBER OF DISPLAYS: _____ x \$5.00 = \$ _____

TOTAL DUE FOR GLASSES AND DISPLAYS: \$ _____

PAYMENT PLAN: _____ 100% PLAN DUE NOW _____ OR 50% DUE NOW & 50% DUE ON OCTOBER 25, 2023

List Club NON-PROFIT Kansas Sales Tax Number. _____

If the club does not have a Kansas Sales Tax Number, it is recommended that the club attain one.

Go to: <https://kansaslions.org/club-tax-forms-info>: **You can place the order without the number.**

Lions Club Name _____

Lions Club President: _____

Contact Information for Lion Placing Order and MD 17 Sub-Districts (Circle One): **K A N**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone Numbers: _____