



# District 17N Newsletter

69 Lions Clubs serving communities in southcentral and southeast Kansas



March 2023

## 2023 Convention Issue Come to Independence April 21-22!

Lions are invited "Into the Wild" at the District 17N 2023 Convention, April 21 and 22 in Independence.

Our theme is drawn from the signature project of our host club, the Independence Lions, maintaining Kiddyland at Riverside Park, also home to the Ralph Mitchell Zoo.

The convention kicks-off Friday evening with a 7 pm awards dinner at the Independence Historical Museum and Arts Center, 123 N. Eighth Street.

Meet our guest, International Director Lee Vrieze and his wife, Lion Mary. ID Vrieze and District Governor Lori Horton will present district recognitions and awards after dinner.

Independence Lions will host breakfast Saturday morning beginning at 8 am at Kiddyland, 400 Mickey Mantle Way.

The convention moves back to the Historical Museum & Arts Center for delegate certification beginning at 9:30 am. Elections and voting on a bylaws amendment (details on page ??) is at 11 am.

ID Vrieze will provide the weekend's keynote address following lunch at noon.

The convention wraps up with a district service project at 2 pm.

**Find the convention registration form and more information on pages 10-13**

### **ID Lee Vrieze to speak at district convention**

International Director Lee Vrieze from Jim Falls,



Wisconsin is the special guest at the 2023 District 17N Convention.

ID Vrieze was elected to

serve a two-year term as a director of Lions Clubs

*Continued on page 11*

## Kansas Lions District 17N

69 Lions Clubs serving communities in southcentral and southeast Kansas

### District Governor

**Lori Horton**

Pittsburg Lions Club  
1015 N Broadway St  
Pittsburg KS 66762

620-235-1454

celebrationsbyl@yahoo.com

### 1st Vice District Governor

**Pam Bilyeu**

Lyndon Lions Club  
22690 Melody Lane  
Vassar KS 66543

785-817-3833

bilyeuskies@hotmail.com

### 2nd Vice District Governor

**Shari Neidhardt**

Towanda Lions Club  
7400 NW Ayr Road  
Potwin, KS 67123

620-752-344

19Faith58@gmail.com

### **Get Social with us!**

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

District website: [kslions17n.org](http://kslions17n.org)

Kansas Lions on the web: [kansaslions.org](http://kansaslions.org) • Lions International on the web: [lionsclubs.org](http://lionsclubs.org)

## Calling all District N Lions to Independence

Convention 2023 is coming up very soon in Independence, and you all need to attend! Every member, not just officers... this means YOU—April 21-22,



check out the sign up info on page 12.

We will be celebrating a phenomenal year of growth and excitement in the district and will welcome ID Lee Vrieze and his wife, Lion Mary from Wisconsin. Consider an ad in the program booklet from your club to show them how we do it in District N.

Remember, the year is not over yet and we still have work to do. Some secretaries are still struggling with service reporting, please let us know how we can fix this for a clean end to your term! If your club hasn't made their annual LCIF donation, now is the time. The need

is so great, please don't leave this important foundation out of your budget.

As always, thank you all for the amazing work in recruiting, we are growing members and keeping the awesome ones that have been long serving too! Keep it up! There is a refill on that Membership Development grant so if your club has planned an event, please email the details to me for approval and you may be able to get reimbursed for those expenses.

As a final note, sincerely, thank you for the opportunity this year to serve the Lions of District N, it has and continues to be an honor and a privilege that I will forever cherish. Let's wrap up the last 4 months of the year with a great big "Job well done" to this team!

*Respectfully submitted by Lori L. Horton  
District Governor 2022-2023 MD 17-N*

## The promise of spring, renewal...and elections

The signs of spring are showing up all around us! Jonquils are starting to show their buds in my yard, smoke fills the air with the spring grass burn offs and birds are gathering and building nests to pre-



pare for eggs to be laid. With warmer temperatures just around the corner, it is also time to start preparing those plots for gar-

dens as well. Have you selected that Environmental Project yet?

With this promise of spring coming we can also look forward to our upcoming District 17-N Convention! District Governor Lori and the Convention Team have a lot in store for us. Each club should plan on sending at least one member to represent your club and submit your vote for the upcoming District Governor, First Vice District Governor, and Second Vice District Governor as well as other business of our District.

This is a great opportunity to meet Lions from around our district and share ideas and resources.

We are also looking for ads for the program for the convention. This is a great way to spotlight your club. Look for more details in this newsletter and plan on joining us in Independence for a couple of fun-filled days!

How are you doing recruiting band students to attend the upcoming Lions State Band Camp in Ft Hays? We are looking forward to another amazing camp this year and we want to make sure any band student who wants to attend can. Applications are now being taken so please encourage your students to turn in their forms.

Welcome to all the new Lions who have joined us! We are so happy to have you serve beside us in our communities to help make our world a better place. Neighbors helping neighbors is what we are all about. With each community project that is offered and you take a part in, you show to your family and community how much you care for the well-being of others and the environment around you. What a wonderful legacy to leave with your families as well.

Nomination time is here for new club officers. Remember once you have voted on these positions enter all of your new officer information on MY LION. For those officers who have been re-elected

*Continued on next page*

## Viola club's annual feed a reflection of 'POSITIVE' community support

The power of numbers was never more evident than what I experienced while attending the Viola Lions Club Annual Sausage Supper on Saturday,



February 4. Viola, a small community southwest of Wichita has a population of less than 200 and current records reflect that the Viola Lions Club membership totals 13.

One could draw a conclusion that such a small group of Lions would be somewhat limited to the scope of a what their fundraising efforts could achieve. The notion "*we are too small*" does not seem to relate to the Viola Lions Club.

The Viola Lions Club, which was chartered in December 1955, just completed its 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Sausage Supper event. During the first event, it was estimated that the Lions served approximately 150 folks. Over the years the event has been very successful and the number of those served has grown substantially. This year's supper served just over 1,200 folks (not including the volunteers). This is where the real success comes in to play. Community support allows this tiny club to accomplish such a large fundraiser. Over 100 volunteers to include, local Boy Scouts, Conway

## 1st VDG message

*Continued from previous page*

to the same position it is also necessary to turn in your information as well to update your club for the upcoming Lion year. Email addresses for EACH individual is also required, rather than putting all members under one email address. LCI DOES NOT share member information outside of our organization.

Thank you Lions for ALL you do! I am looking forward to seeing you in Independence!

*Pam Bilyeu  
1st Vice District Governor, MD 17-N*

Springs FFA, local citizens, Lions from nearby clubs, and various other volunteers work together to pull off this amazing endeavor.

Although the event officially runs from 2 to 7 pm, when PCC Hans and I arrived just a couple of minutes past 2:00 pm, they had already served over 220 guests. The Lions and volunteers started on the Saturday prior to the event, cleaning and setting up the preparation and dining areas. Then throughout the week, they continued with various other tasks such as making the coleslaw, applesauce, cutting/buttering the bread, making the sausage patties, and of course, peeling potatoes. Let me just take a minute to clarify the amount of food prepared for the event. To provide the fixings to feed folks, 975 pounds of sausage, 650 pounds of potatoes, 90 gallons of green beans, 60 gallons of applesauce, 132 loaves of bread, 150 quarts of coleslaw, 56 gallons of milk, tea/coffee, and numerous cakes/pies/desserts were prepared. All the prepared food is made from their own and volunteer's "secret" recipes. The potatoes come directly from North Dakota. Yoder Meats processed 5,500 pounds of hogs; the club offers packaged sausage and other cuts of pork during the event. Estimated gross receipts was around \$20,000, with estimated expenses being around \$10,000. The proceeds allow the Viola Lions to provide services/projects within the local community and support other Lion related projects/donations.

So next time your club members comment "*we are too small*" remind them with the help of your community and others, anything is possible. Come and join in on the fun next year and witness what can be accomplished if you have community support. PCC Hans and I will definitely be attending; the food was delicious. I will close with the following quote that we have heard many times: "*Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much.*" ~ Helen Keller.

*In Lions Service  
Lion Shari Neidhardt  
2nd Vice District Governor, MD 17-N*



# Around the District

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

We Serve



Maize Lions collected more than 2,000 pairs of eyeglasses for recycling



Maize Lion Carl Donham, right, receives his 20 year chevron from Second Vice District Governor Shari Neidhardt



Valley Center Lions collected the decorated cake from District Governor Lori Horton, earned by recruiting 11 new members in January and inducted eight of those new members at a recent meeting.



Lyndon Lions welcomed new member Kathleen Burden, right, sponsored by First Vice District Governor Pam Bilyeu, left.



Osage City Lions Club Treasurer Gary Whalen presents a \$1000 check to the ECAT ladies to help out with their food pantry.



Inman Lions Tim Nichols, left, with 25 years and Delmer Regehr, right, with 35 years of service, received chevrons presented by PDG Willie Tolle, center, at a recent pancake feed. The Inman Lions approximately \$4500 to help a local family with medical expenses.



Moundridge Lions welcomed new member Sam Nauman, center. He was sponsored by Lion Aaron Bailey and inducted by PDG Dewayne Willis, right.



### Good Apples

Bel Aire Lions received the USD 259 Good Apple Award for the club's support of Isely Elementary School. The club was recognized while volunteering at the school's book fair, where they gave a \$1,000 donation.



Hesston Lions Club Second Vice President John Buller (second from left) was presented the Melvin Jones Fellowship at a recent meeting. The presentation was made by President Ken Schwanke (far left), PDG Patrick Laham from the Augusta Lions Club and Past District Governor Richard Caldwell from Bel Aire Lions Club.



### Master Chefs at work

Independence Lion Carl Gyll, back, is making his delicious hamburger soup as an alternative to ham and beans for the club's recent fundraiser. PDG Ray Rothgeb, front, checks on the ham and bean soup.



Arkansas City Early Bird Dick and Mary Schneider and Lion Bob Matthews are celebrating their 87th birthdays this year. These members have 118 years combined membership — imagine the combined volunteer hours these folks have put in?



Winfield Lions inducted new six members at their March 8 meeting. From left: Ralph Royson, Membership Chair and sponsor; Tyler Ratliff, new member; Barry Thompson, sponsor; Don Bromlow, new member; Ashley Meyer, new member; Gary McCutcheon, Lion Tamer; Rev. Blake Orr, new member and his sponsor, Willie Tuttle; David Ross, new member, and Dee Ledy, club president and sponsor of Ashley Meyer.



Lion Betty Zeka, with assistance from her sister, Valerie Zeka Ledesma provided the program a program on Childhood Cancer, one of five global causes of Lions Club International. They shared statistics of Childhood Cancer then shared many aspects of the 19-month journey their 3-yr-old niece, Sicily Evelyn Zeka, and her family, endured as she battled bi-lateral Wilms Tumor, a rare cancer of the kidneys. Sicily was a spunky, brave, strong and beautiful girl and fought hard. She lost her battle just shy of her fifth birthday, in 2010. The Sicily Zeka Memorial Scholarship is given yearly to a Wellington High School graduating senior pursuing a career in the medical field, as Sicily one time claimed she wanted to be a doctor or cancer nurse while in the hospital.



## Welcome to the Pride

### New members in February



New Member	Sponsor	Osage City	
<b>Bel Aire</b>		Clayton Holnberg	Gary Whalen
Karen Terrill	Janes Schmidt	Bobby Rickel	Gary Griffith
<b>Derby Noon</b>		<b>Pleasant Valley</b>	
Sean Smith	Brock Stuhlsatz	Jamie O'Toole	Jeannie Montgomery
<b>Fredonia</b>		<b>Wellington</b>	
David Morris	Peggy Ogle	Michelle Meeks	Michelle Wellington
<b>Neodesha</b>		<b>Westphalia</b>	
Sharon Jackson	James Jackson	Dan Highberger	Jerry Smith
<b>Newton</b>		<b>Wichita Northwest</b>	
Stephanie Canada	Greg Nickel	Keith Mann	Scott Helmke
Brent Guthrie	Robert Burke	<b>Winfield</b>	
Marilyn Schill	Greg Nickel	Ashley Meyer	Loretta Ledy
Cassandra Schmidt	Aimee Monares	Blake Orr	Willie Tuttle
Karen Stahl	Rachelle Scott	Tyler Ratliff	Ralph Royston
		Kat Smith	Chester Smith

# Environmental photo contest results

Congratulations the following Lions who won in the 2023 District N Environmental Photo contest:



**Animal Life**  
PCC Hans  
Neidhardt,  
Towanda



**Plant Life**  
Lion Jackie  
O'Neal, Bel Aire

**Urban or  
Natural  
Landscape**  
Lion Karen Tolle,  
Moundridge



**Weather Phenomenon**  
Lion Iris "Rusty" Peterson,  
Bel Aire



**Environmental Service  
Projects**  
PDG Chris Bauer, Humboldt

# Delegates to vote on by-laws change

Delegates at the District 17N Convention will vote on a by-laws change. Lions Clubs International recommendations adding the following two sections to the District By-Laws under Article III Duties:

## AMENDMENT # 1

Section 8: **GLOBAL EXTENSION TEAM COORDINATOR** (if the position is utilized during the district governor’s term. Under the supervision of the district governor the district GET coordinator is a member of the District Global Action Team.

His/her responsibilities include:

- (a) Work with the district team (including the district governor and vice district governors) to ensure new club goals of the district are met and sustainable.
- (b) Identify opportunities to charter new clubs in communities, or within groups of a larger community, that are not served or are underserved.
- (c) Collaborate with district leadership to build a team of capable of completing the tasks required in the successful chartering of a new clubs including membership recruitment, leadership development, and engagement in meaningful service projects.
- (d) Develop a plan and timeline for each potential new club following proven processes for new club development including site selection, needs assessments, identification of sponsoring clubs and guiding lions, informational and organizational meetings, and charter member recruitment.
- (e) Understand and communicate the process and policies of new club development to team members and ensure that accurate information is conveyed to prospective members.
- (f) Enable the success of new clubs by helping sponsor clubs establish mentoring relationships with the new club officers and educating Guiding Lions on expectations of the new club.
- (g) Train and involve Lions interested in new club chartering to expand the district’s ability to charter new clubs
- (h) Ensure new club applications are complete, properly approved, and submitted efficiently.

Section 9: **DISTRICT MARKETING CHAIRPERSON.** Under the supervision of the district gov-

ernor, the district marketing chairperson is responsible for marketing and communications efforts and directly supports the District Global Action Team. His/her responsibilities include:

- (a) Work with the district team to identify and support opportunities for marketing large-scale events, programs, and initiatives.
- (b) Collaborate directly with the district Global Membership Coordinator to direct any membership leads that comes through marketing channels to appropriate clubs.
- (c) Support the district governor and district Global Action Team with marketing and publicity guidance.
- (d) Review club submissions for the Lions International Marketing Award with the district governor.
- (e) Support district funding opportunities.
- (f) Manage district social media channels and websites, either directly or through an established district marketing committee.
- (g) Maintain a full understanding of the Global Brand Guidelines.
  - a. Champion appropriate and consistent use of global brand assets in all district activities.
  - b. Support use of approved brand templates for story and publicity development.
- (e) Encourage clubs to fill the role of the club marketing chairperson.
  - (a) Ensure consistent support for the club marketing chair, holding meetings, trainings, and providing marketing guidance and best practices.
  - (f) Promote the good works and newsworthy stories of LCI and LCIF to Lions and members of the media, through social media channels, and to external audiences.

## Renumber current Section 8 to Section 10



# ID Lee Vreize

Continued from page 1

International at the association’s 104th International Convention, June 24 through June 28, 2022.

Director Vrieze works professionally as an information technology infrastructure manager and has obtained multiple computer certifications, including CISSP, VCP, CCNA and CMNA. His over 40 years of information technology experience has included over 11 years of information technology consulting, technical designs and implementations, project management, and personnel management.

He has been an active member of the Jim Falls Lions Club since 2001 and has held multiple offices within the association including district governor, vice council chairperson, multiple district global membership champion, multiple district resolutions constitution and bylaws chairperson, and multiple district technology chairperson.

In recognition of his service to the association,

he has received numerous awards including the International President’s Award, the International President’s Leadership Award, multiple International President’s Certificates of Appreciation, and the GAT Chairperson’s Award. Director Vrieze is also a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow.

In addition to his Lions activities, Director Vrieze has been active in numerous professional and community organizations, including Information Systems Security Association, Moose International and Knights of Columbus. He is an active member of his church and serves as cantor and parish council member.

Director Vrieze and his wife, Mary, also a Lion and Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, have been married for over 43 years and have two children, two grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Both Director Vrieze and Lion Mary been recognized at the multiple district level as Progressive Birch-Sturm Fellows and have served as Presidents of the Wisconsin Lions Foundation.

## Governor team, foundation representatives on ballot

Delegates to the 2023 District N Convention will be voting on leadership positions and the by-laws change outlined on the previous page.

Offices to be voted on include:

- District Governor:** Pam Bilyeu. Lyndon Lions Club
- First Vice District Governor:** Shari Neidhardt, Towanda Lions Club
- Second Vice District Governor:** Ron Colbert, Valley Center Lions Club

- Kansas Lions Foundation** (two year term): currently Helen LeBlanc, Valley Center Lions Club
  - Kansas Lions Band Foundation** (two year term): currently Stuart Tolle, Moundridge Lions Club and Shari Neidhardt, Towanda Lions Club
  - Kansas Lions Sight Foundation** (three year term): Gene Allen, McCune Lions Club and Marla Larison, Baxter Springs Lions Club.
- Nominations will be accepted from the floor for any of the foundation positions.

DELEGATE FORM	
Club Name _____	Lion _____
This certifies that the above named person is a duly elected <input type="checkbox"/> Delegate <input type="checkbox"/> Alternate To the District 17-N Lions District Convention in Independence, KS on April 22, 2023 And said Lion is in good standing with their club. The Club President or Secretary attests to this appointment.	
_____ President or Secretary Signature	_____ Delegate/Alternate Signature
NOTE: This form must be presented upon registration at the District Convention. Clubs are entitled to one voting and one alternate delegate for every 10 club members, or major part thereof. All Past District Governors have a vote, independent of club delegates ***PLEASE HAVE THIS FORM COMPLETED AND BRING IT WITH YOU TO THE CONVENTION***	

# Into the Wild!

Kansas District 17-N Convention April 21-22  
Independence Historical Museum & Art Center

123 N. 8th St • Independence Ks

With International Director Lee Vrieze and  
Lion Mary Vrieze from Jim Falls, Wisconsin



## Friday, April 21

6-7pm Social Hour and Registration Open

7pm Banquet

Mixed green salad with Mandarin oranges and walnuts (vinaigrette dressing), roasted eye of round and Yukon potatoes, steamed veggies, rolls, dessert and drink

8pm: Awards presentations by ID Lee Vrieze and DG Lori Horton

## Saturday April 22

8am Breakfast at "Kiddyland" inside Riverside Park & Ralph Mitchell Zoo, 400 Mickey Mantle Way (Playground entrance is on the north side of the zoo)

Breakfast with the Independence Lions, program and menu TBA

9:30am Registration and Delegate Certification open at the Museum & Art Center

11am Elections & vote on bylaws amendment

12pm Lunch from Dickies BBQ (see menu choices below)

1pm Program by ID Lee Vrieze and Mary Vrieze (Q&A with the ID following)

Optional group service project will follow the program

Convention Registration \_\_\_ @ \$5 per person \_\_\_\_\_

Friday Banquet \_\_\_ @ \$16 per person \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Breakfast \_\_\_ @ \$8 per person \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Lunch \_\_\_ @ \$15 per person \_\_\_\_\_

Choose sandwich & side (all meals include chips, cookie, drink):

Sandwich: \_\_\_ Chicken Breast \_\_\_ Chopped Beef Brisket

Side: \_\_\_ Baked Potato Casserole \_\_\_ Baked Beans \_\_\_ Caesar Salad

**TOTAL DUE** (make checks payable to Lions MD 17-N) \_\_\_\_\_

**Meal reservations due by April 10 — no exceptions**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Club \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Send registration to Barb Schattak | 330 Washington | Lyndon Ks 66451

### Hotel Info

Comfort Inn • 3000 W. Main St • 620-332-2222 • Lions Convention Room Rate \$105 + taxes.

Microtel Inn & Suites by Wyndham • 2917 W. Main St • 620-331-0088

Lions Convention Room Rate \$70 + taxes.

Make room reservations by April 7 for Lions Block Rate.

**NOTE: There are several other activities happening in Independence this weekend, make your reservations ASAP to guarantee availability**

**Silent Auction**  
Bring gift baskets and other items for the Silent Auction to raise funds for the District 17N Sight Screener program  
Auction opens at 9:30 am  
Bidding ends at noon

# District 17 N 2023 Convention Book



The 2023 Convention Book will be an 8 1/2 x 5.5 inch format and included in the registration packets for all convention attendees

Send payment and ad copy to  
DG Lori Horton

1015 N Broadway | Pittsburg, Kansas 66762  
Make checks payable to Lions MD 17-N

Send ready to print artwork to  
celebrationsbyl@yahoo.com

1/3 page (5 x 2.5) — \$25

2/3 page (5 x 5) — \$40

Full page 5 x 8 — \$50

**Reserve your ad space today!**  
Club/Business name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ad Size: \_\_\_ 1/3 page \_\_\_ 2/3 page \_\_\_ Full page  
Text: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Will send print ready artwork  
Please send any artwork or logos in jpg format to  
celebrationsbyl@yahoo.com  
Deadline for advertising is April 10