



District 17N Newsletter

69 Lions Clubs serving communities in southcentral and southeast Kansas



April 2023

Governor's Message

Still much to accomplish this year

Happy April District N Lions! There are so many things that we still have to accomplish before the end of this Lions Year and time is quickly running out! I know you are all thinking about new club officers and getting those nominations and elections done before the end of the month. Don't forget to get them entered into MyLCI as soon as you can so that those new officers have access to the training information available in the Learning Center sooner. There will be training available at the district level too, but that is a great starting point for anyone.

If you haven't heard, the District Convention is April 21-22 and we will be celebrating so many things! First and foremost, the excitement and growth that this area has not seen in many years, I congratulate my team and all of you for keeping that going. I know it will not end on June 30! The clubs that won Membership Growth Challenges will be receiving a certificate of appreciation, I hope a representative from each one will be in attendance to receive those. The Environmental Photo contest winners will be recognized for their amazing talent as well as our winning district Peace Poster! It will be an event for fun but also to elect our upcoming district cabinet and foundation



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Events

District 17N Convention

April 21-22, 2023
Independence

LAST CALL! See pages 6-7

2023 State Convention

June 2-3, 2023 — Hays
Registration information
on pages 8-9

Lions Club International Convention

July 7-11, 2023
Boston, MA

Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute

July 28-30, 2023
Marysville, MO

Kansas Lions District 17N

69 Lions Clubs serving communities in southcentral and southeast Kansas

District Governor

Lori Horton

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1st Vice District Governor

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785-817-3833

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2nd Vice District Governor

Shari Neidhardt

Towanda Lions Club
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Get Social with us!

Follow us on Facebook: [KansasLionsDistrict17N](#) • Twitter: [@kslions17n](#)

District website: [kslions17n.org](#)

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

Governor's message

Continued from page one

members and to vote on a couple of changes within our constitution.

This is the time that your voice is heard, your club should be sending one voting delegate per 10 members in good standing to convention. We can still get them in, so email DG Lori at CELEBRATIONSBYL@YAHOO.COM or Treasurer Barb at KS YORKIES@GMAIL.COM and we'll make that happen! Our guest speaker will be International Director Lee Vrieze along with his wife Lion Mary Vrieze from Jim Falls, Wisconsin, let's make sure to show them a warm Kansas welcome!

Last but not least, I want to congratulate Osage City Lions for winning the March Membership Challenge with four new members! Also great job to Baxter Springs, Burlington, Fredonia, Lyndon, Marquette, McCune, Park City, Scranton, Viola,

Wichita Northwest and Winfield who all also added new members in March. District N is positive over 50 members right now because of all of you, I cannot thank you enough and I love you all!!

Although the year is not over, I want to take a moment to be sure you all know just how much of an honor it has been to serve you as District Governor this year, it has truly been one of the most rewarding times of my life. I have made connections and friendships that I will carry the rest of my life and they would have never been possible without this amazing organization. I have always tried to represent this District and State with the dignity it deserves and I hope I have done you all proud. I look forward to the next 2 1/2 months and how strong we can finish this year, thank you again and I hope to see you all in Independence this weekend!

Respectfully submitted

Lori L. Horton,

District Governor, MD 17-N

Come celebrate, learn at district convention

It's finally here!! I am so looking forward to seeing all of you in Independence Kansas for our District MD17-N Convention this weekend!! I know that a



lot of work has been completed to make this a fun learning experience as well as a time for us to celebrate the accom-

plishments we have made so far this year under the leadership of our District Governor Lori Horton. Come join us for a couple of days of fun, food and fellowship as we celebrate being LIONS and the service of the LIONS of MD17-N!!

Have you completed your elections for club officers? If so, secretaries please send in your new officer information when your elections are completed so we can have everything updated and current in our district records. Thank you for all your hard work in completing the individual membership data files that were sent to you by our Kansas State Lions Secretary PDG Dan Funke. We are doing our part to make sure the member information is

correct in order to have this smooth transition with the new Lions International computer programs. If you have not completed these forms for all the members of your club, please do so now and make the updates on the LCI website.

I had the pleasure of visiting the Scranton Lions on Saturday, April 15 for their annual Taco Feed. The Taco Salad was delicious! We have seen many of you reporting your service hours on "My Lion" and are so happy to see what all of you are doing in your clubs and how many lives you are touching with your programs and activities. Thank you for all you do!!

It's exciting to see so many new members joining clubs in our district! People are definitely becoming more aware of WHO Lions are and what Lions are about in many communities across our district. The biggest factor for the reason people are joining is YOU! You have invited new members to come join you to help change the world in your communities.

Thank you for your donations to LCIF and helping us continue the multitude of humanitarian work we are able to do serving people near and far with the spirit of Lionism! You are making a difference!

I am honored serving as our district's First VDG.

Continued on next page

We grow the leaders of tomorrow

The mark of success of any organization is their ability to nurture the potential of future leaders within the organization and to ensure their continued success in future opportunities. As you read this article, there will be less than three months remaining in the current Lion Year. Shortly, club delegates at the District N convention will be voting on the 2023-2024 District Governor, First Vice District Governor, Second Vice District Governor, and open Foundation positions.



In addition, our District Governor-Elect will be seeking individuals to fill (13) Zone Chair and (6) District Chairperson positions for next year. So, are you ready to raise your hand and say “Governor, I’m ready to help by filling one of your positions.”

It may be hard to move out of your “comfort zone” to accept new roles and responsibilities. However, just think of the rewarding experience that you will gain by stepping up to the challenge.

I was hesitant of getting out of my comfort zone, especially when it came to speaking in public. Some of you may recall my experience at Mid-Winter Rally (several years ago) when International President Barry Palmer called on some Lions to come to the front of the room and speak. I was frozen in place, shaking, tears running down my face. Little did he know about my fear to get up in front of a crowd and speak. Being able to speak to 200+ band students has never been an issue, but speaking to a group of Lions was a different story.

VDG Pam

Continued from previous page

Thank you for your support these past two years! I hope I have your vote as well in our upcoming elections to be your next District Governor for the 2023-2024 Lion year. My desire is to continue serving you and leading our District in another successful year.

Remember DG Lori told us at the beginning of

What made the change for me? The first big step was Lion Eric Tweedy (17-A) encouraging me to get up in front of a group at the 2021 USA/Canada Forum and speak about my volunteer participation within the Awesome Breast Forms group. This miracle was followed up by me completing 2022 Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute training. Having served as your Second Vice District Governor this year has truly been an honor and I look forward to the opportunity to serve as your First Vice District Governor.

Earlier I mentioned the “rewarding experience” of serving at the District and Multiple District level. The opportunity to grow as a potential future leader is just one of the benefits. Other benefits of accepting new roles includes the opportunity to see first hand the outstanding projects and services the Lions are accomplishing. During my 23 “official club visits” this year, I got to know and see so many new things about specific clubs that I have not been personally in contact with in many years. The fellowship, hospitality, hearing of different and new ways of being a successful club have been something that I feel so blessed to have experienced. So don’t underestimate your ability to serve Lions in a new role; you will not regret taking the leap out of your comfort zone.

I will close with the following quote. “*May your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears.*” ~ Nelson Mandela

In Lions Service
Lion Shari Neidhardt
Second Vice District Governor, MD 17-N

this Lion year... “We Can Do This” and you have shown us just exactly what our International President Brian Sheehan challenged us with... “Together We Can” and in District MD17-N...Together We Have!

See You at Convention!

Yours in Lionism,
Pam Bilyeu,
First Vice District Governor, MD 17-N





We Serve

Around the District

Submit your club activities to newsletter17n@cox.net

Deadline is always the 10th of the month



Second Vice District Governor Shari Neidhardt, left, presented Chevrons to four Madison Lions at a recent meeting. Lions Larry Dewitt and Tony Fankhauser received 45-year Chevrons, Mary Meyer received a 15-year Chevron and Corey Stutesman received a 10-year Chevron.



Emporia Lions recognized President Tammy Edmiston with a Melvin Jones Fellowship, presented by from Treasurer Cole Cassity at a recent meeting.



Baxter Springs Lions Club welcomed three new members, Josh and Abbey Ames and Christopher Sneed, all sponsored by PCC Jess Larison, right. DG Lori Horton, second from right, inducted the new members.



Towanda Lions Club hard at work on a cemetery recognition and upgrade project. Lions replaced 12 of 48 in-ground flag holders, framed and poured a slab, and set two new recognition plates honoring Veterans and Emergency Responders, and upgraded in-ground flag holders. The club plans formal dedication of the recognition plaques in May, when we set out 48 flags for Memorial Day.



Westphalia Lions at the Leroy Easter Egg Hunt



The Bel Aire Lions lent a helping hand at the Bel Aire Easter Egg hunt on April 1. There were kites



flying, food trucks, tattoos for the kids and oh yeah, about 15,000 eggs to be collected by about 1,500 kids.

Last call for District Convention, April 21 & 22

There’s still time to register for the District 17N Convention to be held Friday, April 21 and Saturday, April 22 in Independence.

Make reservations by email to District Secretary Barb Schattak at ksyorkies@gmail.com no later than Wednesday, April 19. Pay for your meals at registration.

Be sure to include your name, club name, address and phone number in your email. Include your meal choice for Saturday from Dickie’s BBQ: choice of chicken breast or chopped beef brisket sandwich and a side of baked potato casserole, baked beans or Caesar salad.

Here’s the schedule for the weekend. Events (except for Saturday breakfast) are at the Independence Historical Museum and Art Center, 123 N. 8th St.

Friday, April 21

6-7 pm: Social Hour and Registration open

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

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

Saturday April 22

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

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

10:30 am: PDG club meeting
11am Elections & vote on bylaws amendment (voting delegates should bring the form below)

12 pm: Lunch

1 pm: Program by ID Lee Vrieze and Mary Vrieze

An optional group service project follows the program (see below).

If you are attending the Kansas Lions District 17N Convention, take part in the . . .



Canned Food Drive for Community Access Center

The District 17N Convention will end on Saturday, April 22 with a Community Service Project. Please bring canned food items for the Community Access Center of Independence, which is among the largest food resources in southeast Kansas. At 2 p.m., the Lions members will go to the Community Access Center at 307 1/2 E. Pecan in Independence to drop off the food donations and sort them on the Community Access Center shelves.

Food can be dropped off upon your arrival to the convention. Large totes will be at the registration area for placing your canned food

DELEGATE FORM

Club Name _____ Lion _____

This certifies that the above named person is a duly elected

Delegate 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*****

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 (three year term): one representative

Kansas Lions Band Foundation (two year term): two representatives.

Kansas Lions Sight Foundation (three year term): two representatives.

Nominations will be accepted from the floor for any of the foundation positions.

There is also a by-laws change to add a District Global Extension Team Coordinator and a District Marketing Chairperson, as suggested by Lions Club International. The complete text of the by-laws change was in the March newsletter, available on the district website at kslions17n.org.



Valley Center Lions handed out free books and volunteered at the Valley Center Library Family Spring Party and Book Carnival. The event included crafts, an Easter Egg Hunt, and other activities.

Welcome to the Pride

New members in March



New Member

Sponsor

Baxter Springs

Abbey Ames
 Josua Ames
 Christopher Sneed

Jess Larison
 Jess Larison
 Jess Larison

Burlington

Lori Johnson

Jeanette Heath

Fredonia

Wesley Young

Brandon Tindle

Lyndon

Kathleen Burden

Pam Bilyeu

Marquette

Anthony Elmer

Scott Johnson

McCune

Sara Johnston

Marvin Johnston

Newton

Melissa Schreiber

Daniels Heinze Jr

Osage City

Mitchell Anderson
 Ryan Lickteig
 Adam Pollman
 Russ Smith

Park City

Brad Burt

Scanton

Chad Hinterweger

Viola

Zach Cooper
 Chris Klausmeyer

Wichita Northwest

Georgianna Morris

Winfield

Earlita Ross

Gary Griffith
 Gary Griffith
 Gary Griffith
 Justin Whalen

Carol Oldham

Erik Roney

Brad Farmer
 Brad Farmer

Sandra Childs

David Ross

Register now for State Convention, June 2-3 in Hays

Kansas Lions are invited to the all-new, beautiful Midnight Ranch Event Center, north of Hays, for a fun-filled and informative Lions State Convention!

We are excited and honored to host our special guest and convention speaker, International President Brian Sheehan and his wife Lori, from Minnesota! President Sheehan is a dynamic speaker and a friend to all.

Friday, June 2 will be state committee and foundation meetings, the Fourth State Council Meeting, along with seminars and guest speakers.

Bus Tour: If you are not



involved in meetings on Friday, join us for some fun in Hays. Hays Chamber will offer a short, guided tour to places of interest, followed by a visit to a beautiful church to enjoy the sounds of a huge pipe organ. We then move to downtown Hays for some great shopping or a stop at local favorite for a wine slushy!

If shopping is not up your alley, join us as we make our very own wall hangings at The Niche! Have fun with friends while you make something special for your home or for your children or grandchildren! The best part will be doing it with fellow Lions! You will be responsible for charges for your supplies. The bus will return to Midnight Ranch in time for lunch.

Cost for the tour is \$20. Registration is included on the online convention registration or on the registration form on next page. Space is limited—don't wait to register.

Scott Sproul, President/CEO of NW Kansas Economic Innovation Center will be speaking at the Friday luncheon. District 17-A clubs will present a seminar and a session will be held on the new LCI website.

Saturday, June 3 will be full of great seminars, the Kansas Lions Band Performance, food and fun. The Saturday night banquet features the keynote address by our guest speaker IP Brian Sheehan! After the banquet, enjoy casino type games, and use your winnings or purchase convention money to use for bids at our auction afterward.

There will be informational tables, a hospitality room and a PDG Silent Auction on both days.

SPECIAL REQUEST: Please bring items for the Casino Night Auction and baskets for the PDG Club Silent Auction. Casino Night auction proceeds will go to the Boy Scouts for new tents.

Meal reservations and hotel reservations are due no later than May 22, 2023.

Hotel information is on the registration form on the following page. There are several events in Hays during convention weekend—don't delay in making hotel reservations.



Kansas Lions Band Update

Let's Go Lions

As of 4/11/23, we have received 31 applications. The official deadline is May 6, I realize that we always receive several applications "late" and we still get them in.

However I need a fairly good headcount to be able to order camp shirts and let FHSU know our meal count/dorm requirements. Please contact your band directors and previous students about this great opportunity.

If you have more students than you plan to sponsor, send us the applications and Shari and I will work the sponsors. We have never turned away a student because of sponsorship. Time is getting critical, normally by now we should have 100 applications.

Don't let our band students down, we have had a remarkable Kansas Lions Band history since 1951. Lets keep up the tradition of having a great band at the State Convention.

[Click here to REGISTER ONLINE](#)

or mail in the form
on the following page by May 22



KANSAS LIONS 101st STATE CONVENTION June 2-3, 2023

All meetings and meals will be held at the
Midnight Ranch Event Center 1615 Buckeye Rd., Hays, KS.

**FREE BREAKFAST at Midnight Ranch
Friday and Saturday mornings!**

You have your choice of hotels in Hays!

Room rates for Lions will be \$104 at the Sleep Inn (785-625-2700); \$119.00 at the Hampton Inn (785-621-4444); \$99 at Avid Hotel (785-625-1101); and \$160 at Hilton Garden Inn. Fairfield Inn is close as well (785-625-3344)
These fill up fast! Please reserve your room as soon as possible.

Registration: (Free if turned in by May 1)	_____ @ \$10 or FREE _____
Breakfast: _____ Friday _____ Saturday	_____ @ FREE _____
Friday Morning Bus Tour	_____ @ \$20.00 _____
Friday Lunch – BBQ	_____ @ FREE _____
Friday Dinner – At Midnight Ranch	_____ @ \$15.00 _____
Saturday Lunch – Looking for Sponsor	_____ @ FREE _____
Convention Banquet – Partially sponsored by Hays Lions	_____ @ \$15.00 _____
	Total _____

***GLUTEN FREE _____ or VEGAN _____ upon request ***

All meal reservations must be made before May 22, 2023

A reservation made but not paid will be charged to your Club.

Lions Name _____ Lion or Spouse Name _____
Please Print circle one Please Print
Address _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip Code _____
Phone # (____) _____ E-mail _____
Club Name _____ Please Print
District **K A N**
Circle One

For Reservations go to:

<https://www.kslions17k.org/2023/03/19/state-convention/>

There is a charge to use your credit card.

Or send reservation form and payment to: **“Lions District 17-K”** and mail to:
PCC Diana Baumann 2005 Northglen Lane Hays, KS. 67601