



District 17N Newsletter

69 Lions Clubs serving communities in southcentral and southeast Kansas



May/June 2023

Governor's Message

Nearing the finish line

What a difference a day can make District N Lions!! I am so humbled and proud to have been elected by the Council of Governors of Kansas as your 2023-2024 Council Chair!

The new year will bring lots of new opportunities to serve the Lions of Kansas and I can't wait! If you have club or zone events coming up this summer or fall, let me know, I would love to attend and learn more about the amazing things you are all achieving in your communities!

I know Spring is a busy time for many, weddings, graduations, showers, the list goes on, but don't forget to take a minute to appreciate all the accomplishments of the last 10 months, recognize and appreciate the hard work that everyone has put into that success.

I find myself nearing the finish line for this year and I look at a roster of 1,460 Lions in this district that had faith in me to keep them on a path of positivity for that time, I feel that mission has been accomplished and I know that DGE Pam will continue down that path during the coming year.

We have had a tough last few years, challenges that could have never been anticipated but we have made it through and grown, that is something to be very proud of!



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Events

2023 State Convention

June 2-3, 2023 — Hays

For information:

kslions17k.org

Fourth District Cabinet Meeting

Saturday, June 17 | 3 pm

Via Zoom. Watch for a link to join

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

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District Governor

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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

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That said, there is still time left in this year and the work is not quite done, we still have many clubs that haven't entered their officers for the year as well as a couple that need to pay the second half dues to LCI. Please make sure your club president, secretary, treasurer, and administrator are checking that information at www.LIONSCLUBS.org to MyLCI to keep all the info and payments current. An LCI account is very easy to set up, no harder than an Amazon or Facebook account and there is so much great information available, it is worth it, I promise! Let's work to support our officers and make sure they can be successful doing the jobs they have volunteered to do; they need appreciation and encouragement too! Once those are set up, service reporting and membership reporting will become a simple habit monthly, and we all win!

Next, let's talk about membership! We are currently POSITIVE 65 members which is AMAZING, but the end of the year is coming. Please be

looking at any members you may need to drop and try to recruit someone to take their place, let's see if we can finish this year positive by at least 50, I know we can do it! The Membership Challenge winner for April is Newton for the third time this year with 9 new members!!!! A huge thank you to Bel Aire, Burlington, Columbus, Eureka, Goddard, Halstead, Hillsboro, Parsons, Pittsburg, Towanda, and Valley Center for also growing our pride in April!

The last thing I want to add is to consider a donation at a personal or club level to Lions Club International Foundation. While we thankfully haven't needed them yet this year, LCIF is always ready in times of disaster, we need to support their efforts to support us. If you have questions, reach out to a member of the DG team and we would love to help you in any way you need, that's what we're here for!

Have an amazing Spring, I look forward to seeing many of you in Hays for the State Convention and maybe even in Boston for the International Convention!

Respectfully submitted,

Lori L. Horton, District N Governor 2022-23

First Vice District Governor

Thanks for your vote of confidence

First I want to thank those who voted for me at our District Convention in Independence last month. I really appreciate your confidence in me. It was so much fun seeing many of you again and having a chance to catch up on what you have been up to. Congratulations to the clubs who received the District 17-N Membership Challenge Award! And to those who received the International President's Awards for our District as well. You have gone above and beyond to help shine the light of Lionism here in our district.

It was a special pleasure meeting ID Lee Vrieze and Lion Mary from Jim Falls, Wisconsin. We



enjoyed hearing about their travels and experiences and how other Lions are doing their service to others. It is amazing the kind of schedule they have serving Lions here and around the world.

THANK YOU DG Lori Horton and the Lions of Independence for a great convention! The tour of Riverside Park...even though it was a tad chilly... really reflects all the love and care you are giving back to the families in your community and beyond. My family is planning a trip down there soon to visit the Ralph Mitchell Zoo and all of the other places to go and see in your part of Kansas.

WOW can you believe we are down to the last couple of months of this Lions year!! Is there someone you would like to invite to visit your club? Membership Grant Funds may still be available for having a membership event. Check with DG Lori to find out prior to hosting if you plan on using those funds.

Service reporting has increased! Thank you! It is so important for us to have that information in order to apply for grants and for you to share how you are supporting the global causes of Lions as a club. There are so many amazing projects being offered here in our district that are not recognized because they are not reported. Shine the light of

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Second Vice District Governor

Your efforts have resulted in success

The current Lion's year is quickly coming to a close. On April 20-21 we were honored to have ID Lee and Lion Mary Vrieze join us in Independence for our District 17-N convention. Congratulations to the Independence Lions and a host of others for putting on a great event.



With just under two months remaining, we can see the finish line to a very successful year, especially in the area of membership growth. Our success some say is that there is "something in the water," while

others claim it is the reward of getting one of District Governor's outstanding cakes for having the biggest membership gain each month. But honestly, whatever one might think, we all know that everyone's effort throughout the district has been the real "key" to our success. If we keep up our efforts, then we have a real shot at having a positive membership growth not only for our District, but with the help of the other districts, for Multiple District 17 as well. A new "bar of success" has been sent, it is proven that Kansas Lions can be successful, so let's not stop now, but continue the positive growth in the years to come.

As was mentioned during the District Convention, we also made history this year within Multiple District 17 as the first district to have all three leadership positions filled by lady Lions. It has

First Vice Governor

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Lionism on your club and club members by reporting your activities each month.

Congratulations to all of the new club officers! We are looking forward to serving with you in the upcoming Lions' year. Remember to send in all of your new officer information so they can be included in our Multiple District 17 Kansas Lions Directory. I encourage you to go to the website at Lionsclubs.org and sign in to your account. If you

been such a pleasure to serve with District Governor Lori and First Vice District Governor Pam, as your Second Vice District Governor. During voting at the convention, next year's leadership was approved. Elected to serve during 2023-2024 are DGE Pam Bilyeu, 1VDGE Shari Neidhardt, and 2VDGE Ron Colbert. As DGE Pam divides up the clubs for us each to attend, I look forward to visiting those clubs that I will be assigned.

Over the next three months, Kansas Lions have several opportunities for celebrations, fellowship, and training. At the top of the list is our State Convention in Hays, June 1-3, with International President Brian and Lion Lori Sheehan as our official guests. As part of the convention, Lions have the opportunity to attend both the Friday night Jazz/Ensembles concert and the Saturday Kansas Lions Band concert. Then off to Boston and the Lions International Convention, July 7-11. Plans are underway for Kansas to host an ice cream social for ID Deb and Ron Weaverling, as she completes her two-year assignment as International Director. At the end of July Kansas Lions can attend either Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute or Midwest Advanced Lions Leadership Institute in Maryville, MO. Both of these training venues provide some of the best leadership training available. Applications and general information for both can be found on the kansaslions.org website, under GPLLI.

"If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself." ~ Henry Ford

In Lion Service

Shari Neidhardt, 2nd Vice District Governor, MD 17-N

do not have an account, follow the instructions to create one. Then once in the portal select Learn, from the menu on the left side select content. The online course for each club officer will be in the selection offered. This is a great way to start your officer training and it is available for you to do whenever it is convenient for you.

Thank you for your ongoing contributions to LCIF. Together we have helped to make a difference in lives both near and far. Where there's a need...there's a Lion!

Yours in Lionism

Pam Bilyeu, First Vice District Governor, MD 17-N

Yes, we did – together as a team

As you read this final Second Vice District Governor article, we are only days away from starting a new “Lions Year” and a new chapter in MD 17-N history. District Governor Lori used “Rosie the Riveter”



for her DG pin design and who would have guessed that twelve months later, the Lions of MD 17-N would accomplish the impossible. It has been an honor and pleasure to serve with DG

Lori and First Vice District Governor Pam, as your 2nd VDG. If a person were to look in the Webster dictionary under teamwork, I believe they would see what the DG Team accomplished this year. Thanks to your support all year and especially at our District Convention in April, I now am looking forward to serving with District Governor-Elect Pam and Second Vice District Governor-Elect Ron Colbert as your 1st VDG (2023-2024).

So, in the closing days of the current year, take a few deep breaths, relax, reflect on our accomplishments, and be ready to go full speed in the year to come. People state there are very few sure things in life, but we know one of those sure things are that

there will always be service projects and those in need, of our help as Lions. Lions that stay busy and involved will prosper. To do so, we will always need additional members to help us provide service to others. Will the new year see the fantastic results in membership growth that our District enjoyed this year? Well, we have proven that it can be done, but it will take all of us, as a Team. As we know, DG Lori provided a special cake for the monthly membership winners. I'm not sure exactly what DGE Pam is planning. As a note of caution, if the monthly winners are offered a ride on her and Lion Jerry's pontoon boat, with Lion Jerry at the helm, just say thank you and stay on dry land.

The next couple of months will be busy for me. PCC Hans and I will celebrate 48 years of marriage in June, International Convention (Boston) and GPLLI/MALLI (Maryville, MO) in July, MD 17 Council Meeting (Wichita) in August, and USA/Canada Form (Reno, NV) in September. As soon as the new DG Team works out which clubs we are going to officially visit, I will contact my assigned clubs to schedule the visitations. I am looking forward to see each of you in the coming months.

“Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.” – Andrew Carnegie

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



Lions Health Programs

Making an impact one project at a time

The Lions Health Program wishes to THANK all of the Clubs that participated in one or all of the health-related programs offered by LCI. Remember Presidents Sheehan’s slogan *Together We Can*. To me it is a better place because you Lions work together to provide service to others.

Here are just a few of the projects you have done: We had *STRIDES* walks, Diabetes Camp Scholarships, vision screening of somewhere estimated over 20,000 youth statewide, food drives and give-aways, funds raised for cancer research, eyeglasses collection and glasses sent to other countries, tree planting and stretchable plastic collected for a free bench through TREX, park and roadway cleanup, and the list goes on and on.

As you complete a project please let LCI know about your project and post the volunteer hours. LCI has made an attempt to provide material and promotion supplies so it is easier for you as a club to promote these areas in your local communities. If you need help just ask for it.

As I write this I think of the 3-year-old little boy in a daycare that has glasses after we found that he

had astigmatism. The daycare director said “he is more attentive and colors inside the lines now.” Well, guess what he can see clearly now THANKS to a Lions Club doing vision screening.

Think about the youth that you sent to a diabetes camp through a camp scholarship. Do you know the impact you made on that youth? Have that youth come to a District Cabinet meeting or club meeting as a program and asked them to relay their experience and you will want to send more youth next year.

How many pounds of stretchable plastic has been recycled and kept from a landfill? How many families have more food to eat because your Lions Club collected food and funds and then sent them to a food bank? How many youth and children see better for life because you took the time to vision screen in a school or daycare? How many eyeglasses did you buy?

Only YOU Lions can answer these questions. Keep up the good work of the Lions. **Remember “WE SERVE.” Your community needs YOU.**

*Lion Vern Failor
Kansas Lions Health Program*



Welcome to the Pride

New members in April



New Member	Sponsor	Parsons	
Burlington			
William Little	Terry Weldin	Brienne Cunningham	Don Cunningham
Goddard		Debra Shaw	Tom Shaw
Anthony DeVoll	Dan Funke	Tom Shaw	Verlyn Bolinger
Terry Runberg	Dan Funke	Pittsburg	
Halstead		Bethany Foster	Derek Coates
Elizabeth Hingst	Myrla Haury	Lacee Mernado	Lori Horton
Hillsboro		Valley Center	
Jeremy Jost	Richard Riemer	Alison Denison	Keith Harimon
Newton		Brett Denison	Keith Harimon
Samantha Schaefer	Robert Burke	Don Schuler	Richard Bartel
Luke Simmering	Erin McDaniel		



We Serve

Around the District

Submit your club activities to newsletter17n@cox.net

Deadline is always the 10th of the month



Girard Lions helped with some spring cleanup at the Raymond Community Home. Lions - Bill Gifford, Wilda Pentola, Steve Cole, Dr. Jay Yost, Steve Thompson, Dan Duling, Chris Leritz.



Wellington Lions got a close look at KSNW's Storm Tracker mobile weather unit and heard a program on tornadoes in Kansas by Lisa Teachman, the Wichita television station's chief meteorologist.



Clearwater Lions cooked and served for about 120 students and staff at the Clearwater Intermediate School Spring Fling.



Derby Noon Lions Club presented the club's \$1,000 annual scholarship Alayna Bohaty from Derby High School and plans to attend Newman University in the fall. Alayna has overcome incredible challenges throughout her life and the club hopes that her experiences help her reach her goals to become a pediatric oncologist.



Augusta Lions Club participates in the Downtown Augusta Adopt-A-Pot project, filling pots at State Street and 4th Ave.

The 53 participants in the Humboldt Lions Club Annual Fishing Derby enjoyed a sunny Saturday morning of fishing on the Humboldt Golf Course pond.



Bel Aire Lions serviced 300 cars with shredding and electronics recycling at a recent event in their community. A total of 8,900 pounds of shredded document weight. That equates to 75.6 trees saved by recycling paper.



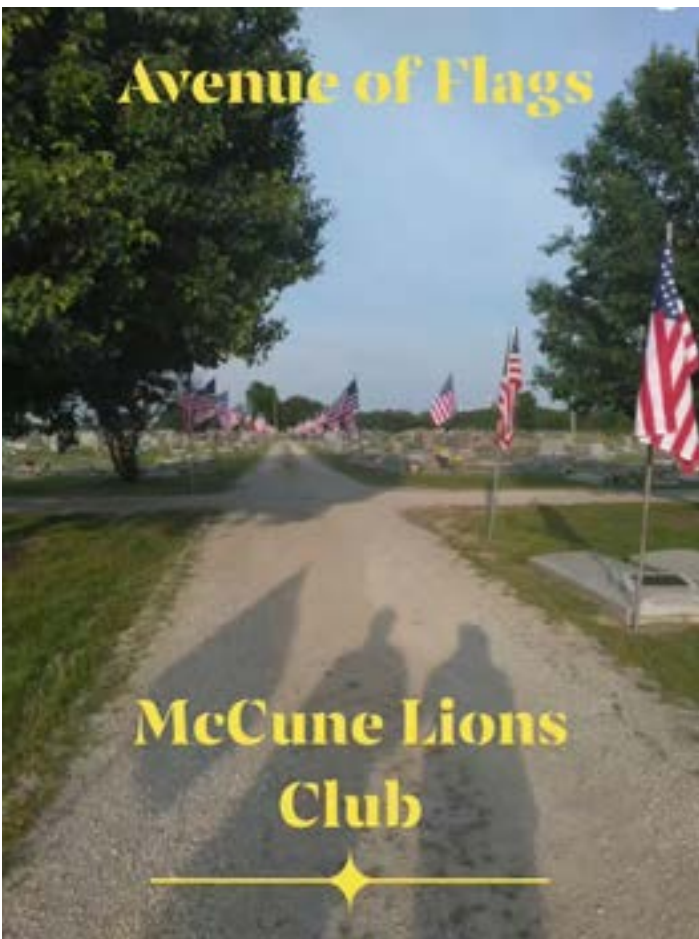
Colwich Lions Club community garden will soon have produce available to the community.



Parsons Lions participated in the Parsons Memorial Day parade with a Lion float pulled by a vintage tractor



Winfield president Dee Ledy presents a 10-year membership chevron to Vice Presiden Ralph Roystin



McCune Lions provides an Avenue of Flags at the cemetery for Memorial Day. See their reel on Facebook for more pictures



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Making end-of-year donations —

Don't overlook support for LCIF this year

The Lions' year will be ending on June 30, 2023, so there is time for Clubs in District 17N to consider or begin organizing donations to the Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF). As of April 18, District 17N has donated \$14,160 to LCIF with 24 of the 68 Clubs (35%) participating so far. This falls far short of the goal set at \$35,573 at the beginning of the 2022-2023 year. We realize that many clubs and individuals set aside so much of their funds at the end of the Lions' year by June 30. If clubs are planning to do this, Thank You. Those clubs that have donated so far, another Thank you.

Earlier it was asked that clubs begin a 100% Club



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION

Member donation. The amount given by each member does not have to be large but can start their quest of building up funds for their Melvin Jones Recognition. From what information received some clubs have considered this program including **Goddard, Humboldt, Derby Noon, and Wichita Downtown Lions.**

Remember that LCIF has helped Kansas with grants and disaster aid as recently as the Anover tornado in April 2022, so funds do not only pertain to international events.

PDG Richard Caldwell
LCIF Coordinator, MD 17-N
teacher.caldwell@gmail.com



Winfield Lions Past President Lion David Fritzlen is stands amidst the thousands of cans collected in the club's new "Lions Can Do" project to recycle cans with benefits to the Cowley County Humane Society.

Winfield's 'Lions Can Do' partners club with local Humane Society

Winfield Lions Club's newest "Partnering" project called "Lions Can Do" is with the Cowley County Humane Society. Club members are picking up aluminum cans from two drop-off locations in Winfield and three in Arkansas City and delivering them to the Humane Society and loading a semi-trailer with them.

Once the semi-trailer is as full as possible, a distribution company from Wichita picks up the semi-trailer and transports the cans back to Wichita and the Humane Society receives a check for recycling the cans. It's a win-win for all involved.

Other members of the Winfield Lions Club, Lions Gary McCutcheon, Ralph Royston, Vice President, Barry Thompson and Treasurer Betty Anderson (with husband Duane) have helped with collections.

District Convention 2023



ID Lee Vrieze took some Kansas City Chiefs swag back to Wisconsin ...and a Rosie the Riveter rubber duck!



District 17N Governor's team, from left, First Vice District Governor Pam Bilyeu, Lyndon; District Governor Lori Horton, Pittsburg, and Second Vice District Governor Shari Neidhardt, Towanda.

Bel Aire Lions helped out with food for the Community Access Program in Independence, the largest food bank program in southeast Kansas.



Club Excellence Awards — Lions accepting awards on behalf of their clubs were, from left: Don Sefers, Arkansas City, Jess Larison of Baxter Springs, Fern Tasker Evans of Lyndon, Karen Tolle of Moundrisge, Millie Weber of Pittsburg

Four Lions were recognized with Presidential Certificates of Appreciation during the 2023 District 17N Convention, April 21 and 22 in Independence. The certificates were presented by visiting International Director Lee Vrieze and District Governor Lori Horton



Lion Ferne Tasker-Evans of the Lyndon Lions Club

Zone Chair Andy Taylor of the Independence Lions Club



PDG Ray Rothgeb of the Independence Lions Club

PDG Gene Allen of the McCune Lions Club

