



District 17N Newsletter

69 Lions Clubs serving communities in southcentral and southeast Kansas



August 2023

Governor's Message

New Lions year off to great start

What a great start to our year Lions! I have seen the service you are providing to your communities through the posts you share with us on Facebook. What fun it was to see our exchange students visiting the Wichita Downtown Club! Thank you PCC Harry Stockwell for getting the Youth Exchange Program up and running again! I hope you will consider hosting a youth next summer for the three weeks they come to our country and learn about the Kansas and the Good Ole' USA. We learn a lot from them as well and the country where they are from. If you would like to host a student please contact PCC Harry at H.L.Stockwell49@gmail.com



I am looking forward to hearing more about this year's exchange from PCC Harry and I believe one of the student's will be sharing their experience as well.

Thank you to those who have reported and shared your service activities and special moments with all of us on Facebook and other social media. You have taken us right along with you to fairs, parades, zone picnics, and club cookouts and officer installations, and new Lion members inductions too. Lions having fun and serving others is what we are all about!

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Save the Date

First State Council Meeting

Wichita

August 12

Details on page 5

Registration on page 9

First District Cabinet Meeting

Burlington

August 19

See details on page 8

Second State Council Meeting

McPherson

October 21

Mid-Winter Rally

Junction City

January

Kansas Lions District 17N

69 Lions Clubs serving communities in southcentral and southeast Kansas

District Governor

Pam Bilyeu

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bilyeuskies@hotmail.com

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Shari Neidhardt

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Potwin, KS 67123
316-304-3644

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2nd Vice District Governor

Ron Colbert

Valley Center Lions Clubs
121 Southwind
Valley Center KS 67147
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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

Changing the World – One Step at a Time

Boston 2023 – Lions International Convention, an experience of a lifetime. Boston was only my third International Convention and it has been over 20 years



since I attended my last convention (Hawaii 2000). During the 2000 Convention, the 1999-2000 District Governors and spouses were on hand to help spread the word about our Kansas endorsed International Director candidate, PID Ed McCormick. Moving forward 23 years, there I was once again helping campaign for another Kansas endorsed candidate, the love of my life, Hans. Additionally, what made this convention special was being able to be in attendance with District N Lions, Council Chair Lori, District Governor Pam and Lion Jerry, PID Deb and Lion Ron Weaverling, PID Bill and Lion Vickie Phillipi, PCC Diana and PDG Tom Baumann, PDG Rick Dodson, and Lion Cheryl Kerns. Multiple District 17 may have been a small group, but the Lions of the world knew that we were there. It is hard to describe the fellowship of being able to interact with the Lions from every corner of the globe. During the plenary sessions, we witnessed the change of leadership as Dr. Patti Hill became our new International President, 1st VP Fabricio Oliveira, 2nd VP A.P. Singh, and 3rd VP Mark Lyon.

International President's theme for this year is *Changing the World*. To help Lions do so, *Mission 1.5* has been introduced. The goal is to reach 1.5 million members by July 1, 2027. International Lions Leadership has "*Challenge Accepted*" and now it is our turn as the grassroots Lions to do the same. Remember the more Lions we have, the more service we can provide

to those in need. District N did a remarkable job in recruiting new members during 2022-2023, ending the year with a gain of 50 new members. You have seen what can be done and what you accomplished. Let's keep the positive movement going forward this year and show District Governor Pam, "*Challenge Accepted*."

I am looking forward to starting my official club visitations and seeing you at the First Council Meeting (Wichita) and First Cabinet Meeting (Burlington). We have a huge task ahead, but the Lions of District N have proven themselves time and again, together will achieve District Governor Pam's goals for 2023-2024.

I leave you with a quote; "*Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly.*" — **Robert F. Kennedy**

Shari Neidhardt

In Lion Service to the World

1st Vice District Governor, MD 17-N



Making an impact with our service

Year of the Lion! Does everyone feel busy in trying to learn more about the Lions organization and how your membership, leadership, officers, district level, and so forth are a benefit to the membership.



In a statement by Global Lions Event Calendar, "We're a global organization of active men and women and it shows in our calendar. Each year, we seek to make a greater global impact than the year before. One way we do this is by participating in critical, long-standing events, and by adding new ones throughout the years."

With this in mind I will bring to your attention some of the projects that you as an individual or as a member of local club, Zone, District, State and International leadership will share the different programs available to you as a member of the club and the your community.

To start I will be doing the following in coming

months by learning as much as I can of the various programs and pass it on to your group. These are just ideas that you can use as you progress be more involved in your community, club, district and state positions. In August my goal is to visit at least five or more clubs and bring information on the goals of the district for the coming year.

I also plan to attend as many commitments as requested by district and state. Learn and teach these different groups and how they affect the club. An example would be the following: GAT, LCIF, DG,VDG,IPDG, GLT, GMT, K-1, PCC and so forth. I will keep you up to date on what I am doing and hopefully it will help you understand what it means to be a Lion.

I would like to invite each and everyone in 17N to plan on attending MD 17 Kansas, 1st State Council Meeting. on August 12, 2023 9 am to 4:30 pm at the Wingate by Wyndham, 5500 W. Kellogg Drive, Wichita, Ks. I hope to see you there.

*Ron Colbert,
17N Second Vice District Governor*

Governor's message

Continued from page 1

We may be in the heat of the summer...but it is time to think about and plan for the upcoming year. School will be beginning soon which is a great time to start talking Peace Poster Project to the Art Teachers. Other groups may also want to participate in this program as well. Check out the information on this year's Peace Poster provided by our chairman Lion Machel Smith in this newsletter.

The Lions will be volunteering again this year at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchison, September 8 through 17. Lion Jackie O'Neal of the Bel Aire Lions Club has the volunteer list for volunteers to sign up to help either during a morning shift or an afternoon. Contact

Lion Jackie at: glammother@yahoo.com. You get a great parking spot and free admission to the fair on the day you serve!

I am looking forward to our first District gathering for this year in Burlington at the Christian Church of Burlington hosted by the Burlington Lions Club on August 19 (more information on page 8). We have lots to share for this first meeting. Some fun challenges are coming up plus the opportunity to meet and share with other Lion members is always the best. Check out the info for our upcoming gathering in this newsletter. Hope to see you there.

Our International President Dr. Patti Hill has commissioned us to "Change the World" through our service and acts of kindness. I say we Lions and Leos here in District 17-N, are already doing that by "Serving Together with Kindness and Compassion." I look forward to hearing and seeing all the great service and projects you have in store for this month.

Thank you all for making a difference in the lives of others!

*Yours in Lionism,
Pam Bilyeu*



Lions Health Programs Kindness Matters Award available

Lions Clubs International LCI has five (5) initiatives that they promote throughout the year. They are: Childhood Cancer, Diabetes, Vision, Hunger and Environment, each of these are assigned a different month as the focus that month. Look in this newsletter each month for information on the focus for the month.

Hopefully we will be able to give your clubs a months notice to help in the planning stages of projects.

Did you know that there is a **Kindness Matters Award** that your club can get by doing a worthy project that month. LCI asks you to write a story about your project.

Included in this story is a description of the project, the number of people served, the number of hours served and the number of volunteers. Has any Lions Club in Kansas received this award? I have never heard of one. Wouldn't it be nice to see some of these awards in District 17.

For more information about the Kindness Matters Service Award [click here](#).

*Lion Vern Failor
Kansas Lions Health Program*



Hans Neidhardt elected International Director

PCC Hans Neidhardt, State Treasurer and a member of the Towanda Lions Club, was elected as to a two-year term as International Director at the Lions



Club International Convention in Boston in June. Here's his official biography from Lions Club International:

Director Neidhardt is a retired Colonel with 39 years of service in the United States Air Force. After retiring from his career in the military he served another eight years as a Special Education Paraprofessional/substitute teacher. Since 2020, he has been fully retired.

Inspired by their community service and camaraderie, Director Neidhardt became a Lion in 1981 after joining the Potwin Lions Club. Since 2015, he has served with the Towanda Lions Club. He has held a number of offices within the association including more

than 15 years of service as multiple district council treasurer. He has also served as the Great Plain Lions Leadership Institute (GPLLI) curriculum coordinator and registrar as well as a GPLLI facilitator.

In recognition of his service to the association, he has received numerous awards including multiple International President's Certificates of Appreciation, an International President's Leadership Award and two International President's Awards. He is also a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow.

In addition to his Lions activities, Director Neidhardt is active in numerous professional and community organizations including more than 40 years of membership with the American Legion. He is the recipient of several military distinctions and honors including KSANG Company Grade Officer of the Year, the USAF Legion of Merit, and the Kansas Medal of Excellence.

Director Neidhardt and his wife, Shari, also a Lion and a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, have two children, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



'Dare to Dream' is Peace Poster theme

It is almost that time of year for the Annual Peace Poster Contest.

Students ages 11, 12 or 13 as of November 15 are eligible to participate in the International Peace Poster Contest.

Kits are available now and the deadline to purchase the kit for this year is October 1, 2023. We will be judging for the District 17-N winner at the District Cabinet Meeting November 18 in Towanda.

I will need the posters to me by November 17 or they can be brought to the District Cabinet Meeting by someone in your club who will be attending. I know on the International website it says they must be postmarked to the District Governor by November 15, but with the way the post office is, I need them in hand by November 17. It takes two to three days for me sending something via the



USPS to make it to the business next door to my office. So please plan accordingly.

Remember you need one kit per group that you are sponsoring such as a school, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, etc.

The direct link to order your Peace Poster Kit is <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/start-our-approach/youth/peace-poster#deadlines>

My mailing address for the Peace Posters is:

Machelle Smith
511 S. Main Street
Galena, KS 66739

First Council Meeting August 12 in Wichita

The first Council Meeting of the new Lions year is Saturday, August 12 at the Wingate by Wyndham, 5500 W. Kellogg Drive, Wichita.

This meeting has been consolidated this event to one day, making it more accessible.

Learn about the latest initiatives and services available and network with other Lions and share ideas for the future.

The agenda is as follows:

- 9 to 10 am - Kansas Lions Band Foundation
 - 10 to 11 am - K-I
 - 10 to 11 am - Information Technology and Public Relations joint meeting
 - 11 to 11:45 am - Budget and Finance
 - 11 to 11:45 am - Round Robin with PID Ed McCormick, Jackie O'Neal, and Gary O'Neal - "What Does it Take to Start a New Lions Club and Keep it."
 - Noon - Lunch and Speaker. Baked potato bar with all the fixings, salad, bread, dessert, and drinks.
 - 1 to 2 pm - Service Project: three interesting and exciting ventures that are hands-on to provide service to your community.
 - 2 to 2:30 pm - Q and A with ID Hans Neidhardt and IPID Deb Weaverling
 - 2:30 pm - Ice Cream social
 - 3 to 4:30 pm - State Council Meeting
- See page 9 for a registration form. Meal reservations are due August 7.

Welcome to the Pride

New members in June

New Member

Arkansas City

Evelyn Shoup

Girard

Judy Collins

Kincaid

Brandon Benedick

Ty Gables

Newton

Avery Anderson

Craig Douglass

Matthew Hamm

Westphalia

Avery Blaufuss

Wichita Northwest

Steven Dunn

Winfield

Donald Bromlow

Sponsor

Sue Lancaster

Wilda Pentola

Blake Thompson

Blake Thompson

Daniels Heinze Jr.

Daniels Heinze Jr.

Daniels Heinze Jr.

Michael Blaufuss

Scott Helmke

Ralph Royston





We Serve

Around the District

Submit your club activities to newsletter17n@cox.net

Deadline is always the 15th of the month



Wellington Noon Lions presented the flag at a June 28 baseball game between the Wellington Heat vs the military War Dogs.

See the club's Facebook page for a video of the club marching with the flag in the annual Wheat Festival parade: <https://www.facebook.com/noonlionsroar/videos/754614959746334>



Wichita Downtown Lions Club was visited by two visiting Lions Club International Foreign Student Exchange and their sponsors. Africa is from Spain and Aura is from Finland. Also pictured are Downtown Lions Clark Lindstrom and PCC Harry Stockwell.



Lion Peggy Dilsaver-, center, a member of Wichita Northwest Lions was recognized with a Melvin Jones Fellowship. Also pictured is PDG Dale Rein, left, and Tom Stewart, right.



Goddard Lions served up watermelon, hot dogs and more before presenting a fireworks show for the community on July 1. Lions Gordon Grimm and Dave Hundley are pictured slicing up watermelon for some of the more than 1,000 people who attended. Photo courtesy of Hathaway IMAGES.



Bel Aire Lions helped with a fireworks tent, supporting Northwest High School Girls Basketball team. Pictured, left to right, is Lion Mike Thomas, Lion Kim Thomas, Lion James Schmidt, Kara, the coaches wife, and Lion Kenny Fischer.



Newton Lion Erin McDaniel, left, is presented a Melvin Jones Fellowship by Daniels Heinze Jr. Lion Erin was recognized for her dedicated service to Lions and the Newton community. She serves as the club's communications/marketing chair and has also organized the Halloween Walk and Parade of Lights for many years.

Sharing the Bounty



Colwich Lions plant and tend a community garden and share the harvest with almost daily drop-offs at the public library.

Council Chair Comments

New year, new role and new way to serve

Happy New Year Kansas Lions! To recap so far, it has been eventful to say the least! I was proudly elected by the Council of Governors to serve as your 2023-2024 State Council Chair and I am looking forward to serving you all this year!

As I turn my attention from just District N to the multiple district of Kansas, I am so proud of how well the clubs did this last year with recruiting, service reporting, LCIF donations and training. We saw growth all over and I know it will continue this year. The District Governor teams in all three districts are working hard to assemble the best people to help attain these goals and they will need all your support.

There are so many events coming up including our health screening booth at the Kansas State Fair in September, please sign up to help if you can!

The first State Council meeting of the year will be on August 12

in Wichita and the first District N Cabinet meeting will be on August 19 in Burlington. If you wonder what goes on beyond your club or would like to know what those dues are used for, these are your opportunities to learn and ask questions, please try to attend at least one, all are welcome! These meetings are always a perfect time to share with other clubs and learn from each other and most of all, have fun!

On a personal note, I hope to attend as many of your events as possible but I need a little forewarning, so be sure to send them to me via email at celebrationsbyl@yahoo.com so I can add them to my calendar, I can't wait! The last year of sharing your successes in fundraising and more has truly been one of the highlights of my



life, I have never had more fun and I am grateful that you let me join in for a while!

Let's make this year even more successful than the last by continuing to work TOGETHER to share our love of Lions, our spirit of helping, serving and giving back to our communities and most of all to selflessly share our gifts and talents to "Change the World"! This is the message of International President, Dr. Patti Hill and what a wonderful and timely message it is. Remembering why we all joined Lions and leading with Kindness, Love and Compassion reminds me of a quote from Arthur Peter, I leave you to ponder it: "Helping one person might not change the whole world, but it could change the world for one person."

Here's to another amazing year for Kansas Lions, remember... WE SERVE!

*Respectfully submitted by
Lori L. Horton,
2023-24 Council Chair MD 17*

REASON #3 TO REPORT SERVICE

INSPIRE SERVICE

By sharing our impact, Lions and Leos inform, inspire and grow our global legacy of service.




First district meeting to be in Burlington

The Burlington Lions will host the first District Cabinet meeting on August 19 from 10am to 2pm at the Christian Church of Burlington, 1401 Cross Street.

Training on the new Lions International website will be offered, as well as learning what is new with Lions and an opportunity to meet this year's District 17N team.

Cost is \$8 for lunch. Please RSVP to District Secretary Melanie Snider by **Friday, August 11** and to order lunch at: lionmelsnider@gmail.com.

1st State Council Registration Form

August 12, 2023

Wingate by Wyndham - 5500 W. Kellogg, Wichita, Ks

Lion(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State and Zip: _____

District: _____ Club: _____

Yes – I plan on attending the First State Council Meeting

Number of Lions for Lunch _____ \$14.00

Total Cost _____

_____ I have enclosed a check for the above amount. Mail to:
Lions State Office
231 S. Tyler Road
Wichita, KS 67209

_____ I will pay at the event with either check or credit card.

ALL FOOD RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY AUGUST 7, 2023

Notice – If you make reservations and do not attend you are still responsible for payment,

Directions to Wingate by Wyndham - 5500 W. Kellogg. Coming from east or west get off at Ridge Road from Kellogg and go north to Taft Street, (first stop light) turn right on Taft Street and go as far as you can go to the east where you will see S. Hoover Road. Turn South on South Hoover Road and go almost to US 400 (Kellogg). Look to your left and you will see the hotel. Enter on the south side.

Email or mail this form to the state office at kansaslionsoffice@gmail.com by **August 7, 2023**