



District 17N Newsletter

68 Lions Clubs serving communities in southcentral and southeast Kansas

September 2023



Governor's message

Is your club up for a challenge?

WELCOME FALL! Or... at least it will be in 20 more days! We are hoping to leave behind the extreme heat of the summer and welcome cooler days as we move into the time for fall Lion service projects and events.



Thank you to all of you who attended our first District meeting for this year and a big THANK YOU to the Burlington Lions Club for hosting! We were welcomed by the Mayor of Burlington, Stan Luke, who shared what Burlington is all about. We were offered many choices of food and drink, headed up by Lion Wanda Weldin, and PDG Terry Weldin handed out door prize giveaways of Lion items.

Thank you PDG Chris Bauer for your presentation on the new Lions International website which currently is due to launch around the middle of this month. We learned how the Valley Center Lions Club does its club orientation and induction for new Lions presented by Lion Ben Neiderhiser. The best foundation a club can have for their members is club orientation. Trivia was fun and educational...including the variety of responses from participants!

Continued on page 3

Save the Date

Second State Council Meeting

October 21
McPherson Community Building

Second District Cabinet Meeting

November 18 | 10 am-2 pm
Hebrews Cafe
Towanda

MidWinter Rally

January 19 & 20
Courtyard by Marriott
Junction City

District 17N Convention

March 1 & 2
The Bottle House
Ottawa

Kansas Lions District 17N

69 Lions Clubs serving communities in southcentral and southeast Kansas

District Governor

Pam Bilyeu

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2nd Vice District Governor

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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

First Vice District Governor

Interesting adventures and trips

Since my last article, I have really been busy and enjoying every minute. District 17-N was well represented at the end of July with five Lions attending training in Maryville, MO.

Lion Clark Lindstrom and Lion Jon Ramirez completed the Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute curriculum and Lions Melanie Snider, Barb Shattack, and I completed the Midwest Advanced Lions Leadership Institute curriculum.

I have started to make my assigned club visitations and so far, I have visited eight clubs. Each and every visit has been amazing. Who ever said a small club cannot accomplish huge tasks never met the Clubs of District 17-N. The title of this article has more that meets the eye. One never knows where adventures and trips will take you.

On the lighter side, my visit to the Ottawa Lions Club had us showing up at the wrong location, but thanks to the Lions Secretary, we soon arrived at the correct location. Then my visit to the Neodesha Lions Club, the meeting location in the directory found me at the restaurant that was vacant. However again, thanks to a Lions member that pulled up beside me, I only had to walk around the corner from where I was parked. Finally on my first attempt to visiting the Caney Lions Club, I had the wrong date, and was within 30 miles of town before realization set. Oh well, on our return drive, Lion Hans and I stopped at Toot's in Howard, Kansas and I had a Fudge Monkey. Maybe I planned it that way.

As stated in a previous paragraph, our clubs are really making a difference, as they fulfill our Lions motto, WE SERVE.

In that regard, let me share some of their service stories. The Neodesha Lions make 700 pounds of chocolate peanut clusters as one of the major fundraisers (they always sell out). While visiting with them, I was shown their special Lions Bell, which the club won at the 1925 International Convention in Cedar Point, Iowa, for having the largest number of attendees. At that same convention Helen Keller challenged the Lions to become Knights of the Blind in the crusade against darkness.

During my visitation to the McCune Lions Club, I was briefed on the plans for the upcoming Fall Festival. During the evening's discussion, I was made aware of two projects that they undertook. A short drive

from the meeting, PDG Gene and Lion Terry Allen provided me a tour of the new pavilion they have constructed for public events and the Tunnel Cave. Not a real tunnel or a cave, rather a very large greenhouse, in



which all kinds of vegetables and some fruit is grown. The bounty from this project is provided free of charge to McCune residents.

For a small club with only 13 members, there is no question that they understand the true meaning of WE SERVE.

As I visit the various Lions Clubs, I always make a point to recognize those "long serving members." These Lions have never given up on serving others and in many cases, they are the historical knowledge of the club. While visiting the Independence Lions Club, I was amazed at the multiple projects and services they accomplish. One project that really took me by surprise is that each fall, they coordinate the efforts to provide 250 flu shots to community members, free of charge. Now that has to be a "new one" for many of us Lions.

As I come to a close for this article, I want to remind you of International President Patti Hill's theme, *Changing the World*, so I will leave you with this quote, "Don't feel bad if people remember you only when they need you. Feel privileged that you are like a candle that comes to their mind when there is darkness." ~Anonymous.

The world has a lot of "need," thankfully there are Lions to meet that need.

*In Lion Service to the World,
Shari Neidhardt
17N First Vice District Governor*

Second Vice District Governor

Defining different roles in Lions Club

Welcome to the month of September. If you remember, I said I will tell you about different parts of the Lions Club and how they work.



So, I will start by explaining what a District Governor (DG) is: If you look in a dictionary it defines the two words as follows: District: "It is a territorial division." Governor is "head of a political unit and governs control and direct policy."

As it pertains to Lions Club it's a person that leads a group of clubs in a specific district. It's a voluntary position and the governor provides guidance and support to the clubs in the geographical district, including leading the leadership team with club visits and representing the district's interests on the state council. This is just a small part of Lionism.

In the next few months, we hope to bring more individuals into the Lions Club throughout the district. We have so much to offer that we need to be sure the local community is aware of what we do every day—not just host an annual pancake feed or other event.

We approach the public with the idea that they would enjoy belonging to any group that cares for the community. If you know a leading man or woman in your area of influence, then you should ask them to attend a meeting. Ask them to join in the fun and make an impact in their community.

I am looking forward to the three clubs I will be visiting this month. If you have any questions, I will do my best to provide an answer or help get the information for you. I will have the new State and District pins at a cost of \$7 a set. I will also have copies of the state directory for purchase at \$5 each. See you soon.

Ron Colbert

2nd Vice District Governor

Governor's message

Continued from page one

The 2023-2024 District 17-N Cabinet members were inducted by our new International Director Hans Neidhardt, who encouraged us all as we begin this Lion year. Thank you ID Hans!

Looking forward there are some fun challenges for clubs to be a part of. Our Environmental Challenge is for clubs of District 17-N to do a NEW environmental project this year. Each club who participates will be recognized for the project they complete and also have a chance to receive the District 17-N Environmental Challenge "People's Choice Award" at our District Convention on March 1 and 2. Look for more information and the form to complete on page 10 of this newsletter.

Our Membership Challenge is also included in this newsletter. The first winner of this challenge is the Goddard Lions Club who had the most new Lion members for the month of July. Congratulations Goddard Lions! The Lions light is being shined on them in this newsletter as well. Look on page 9 for more information on completing the Membership Challenge.

PEACE POSTER TIME!! I hope your club is participating with this fun project with the schools and/or youth groups in your communities. We will be picking the District 17-N winners at our next gathering and cabinet meeting on Saturday, November 18 from 10 am-2 pm at the Hebrews Café in Towanda. (Peace Poster details were in the August newsletter, available on the district website).

Welcome to our team PDG Nancy Moore of the Caney Lions Club! PDG Nancy will be serving as the Zone 3 chair serving the Caney, Coffeyville, Coffeyville Daylight Defenders, Fredonia, Independence and Neodesha Lions Clubs.

Our District 17-N LCIF fundraising goal is \$40,000.00. All monies collected go directly to funding the needs both near and far through this foundation. We hope you will help us achieve this goal!!

Please remember to report your service projects, volunteer hours on MYLION. Thank you for sharing on our social media pages what you are doing too! It's a great day to be A LION!!

Yours In Lionism,

Pam Bilyeu

District Governor 17-N



We Serve

Around the District

Submit your club activities to newsletter17n@cox.net

Deadline is always the 15th of the month



Temperatures in the 90s didn't stop Wellington Lions from a recent park clean-up project in Veteran's Park. The small park was established by the late Basil Martin in honor of brother who died in World War II and all Wellington WW II veterans. The city mows the grass, but the landscaped areas were not being cared for. Eight Lions spent a warm evening—they waited until 8 pm to start to escape the worst of the heat—cleaning up the park.

Arkansas City Early Birds member Evelyn Shope talks with Cowley College students about Lions Club during orientation week at the college. Campus and community organizations and churches set up tables to show incoming students what's available in the community. "The Early Birds have participated for several years and have garnered much interest. Mostly International students haven't heard about the Lions Club and we fill their heads with We Serve examples," says President Sue Lancaster. She adds that sweet treats on the table helps garner the student's attention.





Newton Lions (above) grilled the hot dogs and Walton Lions served up watermelon for the Zone 12 clubs on a hot August evening. Hesston, Hill-sboro, Newton, and Walton Lions were there, as well as District Governor Pam Bilyeu.



Lions Newell Newkirk and PDG Terry Weldin of the Burlington Lions Club put up shutters and repaired a picnic table for a senior citizen in need of Lions service.



Long-serving Independence Lions Lion Paul Fairbank (1968), left, and Lion Frankie Stark (1971), right, with First Vice District Governor Shari Neidhardt

Two-thirds of District 17N clubs contributed to LCIF

Thanks and gratitude go to those Lions Clubs and individual members in 17N who contributed to the Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF). The end-of-the-year total for LCIF raised by District 17N was \$21,708.06 with 45 out of 68 (66%) District Clubs contributing amounts ranging from more than \$3,000 to \$10. Again, thanks for making this year important.

These contributions will be put to good use through grants to magnify the service of Lions in the areas of Diabetes Awareness, Childhood Cancer Awareness, Vision, Environment, Hunger, Humanitarian Causes and Disaster Relief locally or internationally.



For the LCIF year 2023- 2024, the goal for District 17N will be \$40,000 with an increase in participation. Funds raised can be in the form of club donations, individual one-time or recurring donations, participation in the LCIF telethons or other events, or a legacy estate donation. Lions need to remember that the amount given can be applied to those wishing to be recognized with a Melvin Jones Fellowship.

Donate online



PDG Richard Caldwell
LCIF District 17N Coordinator

'Together We Did' recognizes 2022-2023 membership gains across the district

Hello 17 N Lions, I recently visited Ottawa Lions Club to present a "Together We Did" Certificate

for the role that the Ottawa Lions Club played in the positive membership growth during 2022-2023.

Ottawa Lions Club will be playing a big role in the District Convention and other events during Lions Year 2023-2024. 17N Lions will have a positive impact on Franklin County during 2023-2024.

We must all make our best effort to serve our communities as it is "SERVICE" in our communities that will allow us to gain more hands for more service in the future.

I look forward to reading in the newsletter about the gains of our great district—District 17 N. Please contact me if I can be of any service to your club: terryweldin@gmail.com or 620-490-1461.

PDG Terry Welden
Global Membership MD 17N



GMT Terry Welden presents Ottawa Lions Club President Sarah Porter-Oakleaf a "Together We Did" Certificate for the role that the Ottawa Lions Club played in the positive membership growth during 2022-2023.

Council Chair Comments

Ready for fall with new projects, new service

Greetings Lions of Multiple District 17!

I think I can speak for us all when I say how thankful I am that summer temps are almost behind us and fall will be here soon. As I write this, Labor Day is a week away and while I can't quite figure out where this year has gone already, I'm excited for the change of seasons and am anxiously awaiting those cool crisp evenings and amazing Lions events.



I will be seeing some of you in a few weeks at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson to work the Lions Booth and it's going to be so awesome to participate in one of our largest service projects with so many members from all over the state.

Now that the kids are back in school, many of our clubs that go dark for the summer are firing back up and reconnecting with each other and their communities. There will be lots of new activities and service posted on MyLion and social media, there is no such thing as "Too Much"! Let your friends and neighbors know exactly what your club is doing, how much fun you're having and show them that they could be a part

too, remember, this is our best recruiting tool.

This year is going to be laser focused on membership growth and environmental service projects to follow our International President, Dr. Patti Hill's motto of *Changing the World*. The challenge to grow our worldwide membership to 1.5 million is achievable the same way we grew our own state last year, ONE new member at a time. We are going to break out of our comfort zones and try even more new things this year, new service projects, new fundraising ideas and so much more! Keep your heart serving, your attitude positive, your mind open and the rest will follow! I will end with a quote from Mother Theresa: *Be thankful for the small things; it is in them that your strength lies.*

Continue to celebrate those small things and small victories and you will watch them grow into great achievements.

Respectfully submitted.

Lori L. Horton,

Kansas State Council Chair 2023-2024



Lions Health Program

Plan a club activity for World Sight Week

World Sight Week is October 8-14 with October 12 being Worldwide Sight Day. As Lions Club International President Patti Hill says "Change the World" one step at a time. Lions Clubs can start the first step towards "Change the World" by observing October as Sight Month as proclaimed by Lions Club International (LCI).

Vision is one of the five LCI initiatives. In October plan an activity where you and your community can observe this month by doing a vision screening, handing out White Cane material, collecting and sorting eyeglasses, purchasing eyeglasses and an exam for someone in your community, or some other vision project you might find.

More than two billion people globally live with a vision impairment. Some of these live in your community. Is your Lions Club looking for them? For more

information go to the the LCI website and Google vision or contact Lion Vern Failor the Lions Health Program for Kansas.

Any of these projects would fit Kindness Matters Award that your club can earn by doing a worthy project in October. LCI asks you to write a story about your project. Include 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.

Look in this space for information on each of the five initiatives in the coming months.

Lion Vern Failor

Kansas Lions Health Program

Membership Challenge Feature

Goddard Club builds a legacy with 66 years of service

This active group of volunteers has been leaving its fingerprints throughout the Goddard community since May of 1956. Goddard Lions Club members have donned their bright yellow vests and “roared” the “We Serve” motto in many ways: from parks to playgrounds, from Fall Festival to fireworks shows, from ballfields to bus shelters, and met many other needs in the community.



Photo courtesy of Hathaway Images

The club’s most visible project may be Mitten Tree, a holiday help program that has provided Thanksgiving food boxes and Christmas gifts to families in need for more than 25 years. Goddard Lions Club provides the lead for this collaborative project that brings together schools, churches, other organizations and individuals to make the holidays a bit brighter for families in the community. From humble beginnings of helping a handful of families, the program now serves as many as 150 families and more than 300 children each year.

community, thanks to the plastic recycling program of the Goddard Lions Club.

The club’s principle fundraising efforts to support its philanthropy include bingo (third Saturday, Jan-Oct), the Larry L. Lee Memorial Car Show, fireworks sales and pancake feeds.

The club meets at 7 pm on third Thursday of the month, currently at Pizza Hut. After the first of the year, meetings will move back to the Goddard Community Center.

There are also many “behind the scenes” acts. There are children and adults who have received eye exams and eyeglasses, thanks to Goddard Lions. There are young people learning to always “Be Prepared” through the Boy Scouts of America, with Goddard Lions as their chartered partner. With the help of the Goddard Public Library, the Lions offers loan of durable medical equipment at no cost. There are park benches made of recycled plastic around the com-

Combine Peace Poster kit orders to save on shipping

There has been concern raised about the cost of shipping for one Peace Poster kit. I went online and pretended that I ordered five kits. The price of the five totaled about \$59. However, the cost of shipping was \$16.17 for the five I pretended that I ordered. My fake order totaled about \$75.92 for five posters plus 16.17 for shipping.

Right now, if clubs have a concern about the cost of shipping a single kit, I would suggest talking to other nearby clubs about ordering the kits together and submitting it with one club being the designated leader with the rest of the clubs paying for their kit plus adding a little bit to cover the shipping.



I hope this helps right now. I will be contacting Lions Club International and strongly encourage making this kit online where clubs can choose to download and print the important contents. We’ll see how this happens.

*PDG Richard Caldwell
State Peace Poster Chair*

Welcome to the Pride New members in July



New Member	Sponsor
Clearwater Richard Ryer	Steve Hatfield
Columbus Robert Pinnegar	Mark Winter
Goddard Nicole Judd Riley Judd	Tamera Judd Tamera Judd
Neosho Rapids Dishannon Cassity	Amanda Meek
Valley Center Greg Lehr	Richard Bartel



DISTRICT 17-N CLUB MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE



THE CLUB WITH THE MOST NEW LION MEMBERS AT THE END OF EACH MONTH WILL BE FEATURED IN OUR DISTRICT NEWSLETTER + ON THE DISTRICT 17-N LIONS SOCIAL MEDIA SITES!!

(If there is a tie, it will go to the club who registers their new Lion members on LCI first)

WE WILL INCLUDE A PHOTO OF THE LION MEMBERS OF YOUR CLUB PLUS.....WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE US TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR CLUB:

- CLUB HISTORY
- SIGNITURE PROJECT
- SPECIAL PROJECTS/SERVICE YOUR CLUB PROVIDES
- WHAT YOUR CLUB IS KNOWN FOR?
- HOW YOU SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

IT WILL BE OUR TIME TO SHINE THE LIONS LIGHT ON YOU!!

WE HOPE YOU SAY...

CHALLENGE ACCEPTED!!





DISTRICT 17-N ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE



- ❖ COMPLETE A NEW ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB PROJECT AND SUBMIT TO LION WANDA WELDIN, DISTRICT 17-N ENVIRONMENTAL CHAIR, BY FEBRUARY 15, 2024.
(THE PROJECT MUST BE ONE THAT THE CLUB HAS NEVER PROVIDED BEFORE.)
- ❖ COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW AND SUBMIT A DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT INCLUDING BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER PICTURES (CAN BE PRINTED ON COPY PAPER)
- ❖ EACH LION’S CLUB WHO COMPLETES THE ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE WILL RECEIVE THE “DISTRICT 17-N ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE AWARD” AT THE DISTRICT CONVENTION IN OTTAWA KS ON MARCH 1-2, 2024
- ❖ EACH LION’S CLUB PROJECT ENTERED WILL BE DISPLAYED AT THE DISTRICT CONVENTION AND CONVENTION ATTENDEES WILL VOTE FOR THEIR FAVORITE! THE CLUB RECEIVING THE MOST VOTES WILL RECEIVE “DISTRICT 17-N ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE PEOPLE’S CHOICE AWARD!”



#CHANGING THE WORLD



Lion Club: _____ City: _____

Environmental Project Description: _____

Submitted By: _____ Contact # _____

Submit To: Lion Wanda Weldin, District 17-N Environment Chair

727 Kennebec, Burlington, KS 66839 Email: wandaweldin@yahoo.com