



District 17N Newsletter

68 Lions Clubs serving communities in southcentral and southeast Kansas



January 2024

See you there!

Rally, convention coming up

HAPPY NEW YEAR LIONS!! I hope you all have enjoyed the holiday season and are looking forward to a new year full of hope and promise! I know you have been working extra hard during the holidays serving those in need with kindness and compassion.



As you plan the second half of this Lion year I hope you will include attending the events coming up. The first event is Mid-Winter Rally in Junction City on January 19-21. This a great opportunity to meet with Lions from all over our state, have fun learning new things and finding out more about the Kansas Lions foundations. Many exhibits will be there as well. Past International Director Deb Wasserman will be one of the special guest speakers, as well as our own Miss Kansas, Courtney Wages. More information is included in this newsletter.

On March 1 and 2 your District 17-N Convention will be held in Ottawa. Joining us will be Special Guest Speaker International Director Marie Cuning from Arizona and her Partner in Service Lion Rosemarie Gabriel. Friday night is for FUN, FOOD and FELLOWSHIP! I hope you will join us for a fun evening and then onto a day full of a number of

Continued on next page

Save the Date

MidWinter Rally
January 19-21

Courtyard by Marriott

Junction City

REGISTER NOW!

More on page 10

Third District 17N
Cabinet Meeting

February 17

Via Zoom

Watch email for more
details, link

District 17N
Convention

The Bottle House

Ottawa

March 1 & 2

Registration on
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Kansas Lions District 17N

68 Lions Clubs serving communities in southcentral and southeast Kansas

District Governor

Pam Bilyeu

Lyndon Lions Club
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Vassar KS 66543

785-817-3833

bilyeuskies@hotmail.com

1st Vice District Governor

Shari Neidhardt

Towanda Lions Club

7400 NW Ayr Road

Potwin, KS 67123

316-304-3644

19Faith58@gmail.com

2nd Vice District Governor

Ron Colbert

Valley Center Lions Clubs

121 Southwind

Valley Center KS 67147

316-755-2824

frdneagle@aol.com

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

activities including electing our District Governor and First and Second Vice District Governors for the 2024-2025 Lion year. There are some foundation seats to fill as well as bylaw and constitutional amendments to vote on.

Our District Peace Poster winners will also receive their recognitions. Those who have completed the Environmental Challenge will be recognized and those attending will chose the People's Choice winner.

The service project is receiving donations of non-perishable foods. We will be honoring some of our fellow Lions as well as remembering those who are no longer with us. You will also find more information and registration forms in this newsletter.

Second Vice District Governor

New year, new adventures ahead

It is the end of the year and the beginning of a new year and adventures. It is the time to reflect on what we accomplished and how it will help us in the new year.



The new year may bring some new ways to set up events that clubs will do. You may make new friends and clubs, attend District and State Meetings, and a lot more. Questions to answer, new people to meet, review what we did last year, and make changes to improve your club's projects.

Plan to attend the Mid-Winter Rally, January 19-21,

As we move into this New Year I encourage each club to continue to invite friends and "new friends" to join our Lions Family. Congratulations Hesston Lions Club! They won the Membership Challenge in November with three new members and they are the club highlighted in this issue. I want to thank the clubs who are reporting their service on MyLion. This report shows what areas of LCI Global causes we are meeting through our services as well as what areas need more attention. Thank you for donating to LCIF (Lion Clubs International Foundation) and helping people both near and far. So far our District has raised \$11,700 of the \$40,000 goal for this Lion year. Thank you for shining your Lion's light in your communities and doing your part in "Changing Our World!"

Yours in Lionism,

in Junction City. In March attend the District17N Convention in Ottawa.

This is also the time to start to think about what position you may want to do as a club president, 1st vice president or 2nd vice president, Zone Chair, or chair of one of your club's projects. Become a part of growing your Lions Club or step up to serve at the district or state level.

On another note: My wife Dorothy and I wish all of you a Happy New Year. I hope that in the coming year, we will be the best district in the state and I will be able to visit more clubs.

*Ron Colbert
2nd Vice District Governor*



First Vice District Governor

District 17-N Lions - Welcome to 2024

Believe it or not, it is 2024. I hope that your holidays were filled with joy, good health, and a chance to recharge your Lions service spirit.

At the beginning of the year, District Governor Pam set several substantial goals, including increasing membership, club activity reporting, and donations to LCIF. We saw positive "membership growth," but at the end of December the District went into the negative column. Our Global Extension Team is working on new clubs and we have time to recover, allowing us the opportunity to end the year with a positive membership growth total.

The district's club activity reporting percentage continues upward. The goal was to achieve 89% and we have reached 41%. Having a Club Administrator can help Club Secretaries keep up with reporting activities. "Salesforce," the new Lion Portal, is still undergoing changes so that when it does go active, reporting will be substantially easier to complete.

Club and individual donations to LCIF have reached \$13,000. DG Pam's goal was \$40,000, so we have a ways to go, but not impossible to do so.

When we look at the overall picture, your club's accomplishments during the past six months have been nothing short of amazing. There are many things going on over the next six months and I know that you will all continue to add onto the long list of service you have already provided not only to your communities, but reaching out internationally, thus helping our Association provide service worldwide.

During the next six months, we will have three opportunities to gather for fellowship and fun. Our first big event coming up will be the annual Mid-Winter Rally (January 19-21) in Junction City, with PID Deborah Wasserman as our special guest. Weekend

highlights will include recognizing the Peace Poster contest winners, the Kansas Lions Band Foundation auction, and the Saturday evening formal banquet.

March 1-2 are the dates for the District Convention in Ottawa, with our special guest International Director Marie

Cunning being on hand to help DG Pam celebrate her year as our Governor.

The final major event will be the State Convention in Lawrence, May 31 to June 1.

International President Dr. Patti Hill will be our guest of honor. If you have never attended any of these special events, I would truly encourage you to do so.

As I look forward to my final six months servings as your First Vice District Governor, I have several tasks that I must complete. There are online training tasks that Vice District Governors are required to accomplish, to include monthly Zoom meetings. In February I am slated to attend the FVDG/DGE training seminar at Saint Charles, IL, with the final seminar day to take place in Melbourne, Australia during the International Convention. To prepare for the training at Saint Charles, I am working on my goals for 2024-2025 and recruiting Lions to fill Cabinet, Zone Chair, and District Chairperson positions. If you are interested in filling a position, please contact me. All in all, it has been a fantastic journey and I am looking forward to serving as your District Governor in 2024-2025.

As I close this current article, I leave you with this inspirational quote by Ralph Waldo Emerson, "*The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.*"

*Lion Shari Neidhardt
1st Vice District Governor*





Around the District

Submit your club activities to newsletter17n@cox.net
Deadline is always the 20th of the month

Christmas parades, parties and programs to spread the holiday spirit in their communities were activities that Lions from across the district were involved in this season. Here's just a sampling of the many events



Wichita Downtown Lions ringing bells for the Salvation Army



Wellington Lions' Operation Holiday provided gifts for 235 children in 97 families in their community.



Valley Center Lions helped a local non-profit, From The Ground Up, with Christmas for the local kids. Lions helped sort candy for stockings, organized gifts, helped with distribution day and more.



Bel Aire Lions stuffing 125 stockings with goodie's for teachers and staff of Isely Elementary.



Newton Lions organize the Christmas Parade of Lights to start the holiday season in their community.



Westphalia Lions placed a Memory Tree in the City Park, inviting the community to place ornaments in memory of family and friends. The club held a tree lighting in early December, serving hot cocoa and cookies to a nice turnout.



Lyndon Lions share some fun assembling 200+ fruit baskets for seniors in the Lyndon and Vassar communities.



Emporia Lions shared stories of their holiday Random Acts of Kindness at a Christmas Party at the historic Gufler Mansion



Goddard Lions made participation in the Christmas parade a family affair with member's children joining the fun as gifts walking alongside the Lions' float.



Osage City Lion Secretary Gary Griffith presents Lion Doug Thompson with the Claude DeVorss Award at the club's annual Christmas Party.



Towanda Lion Bob Sommers (third from left) received a Melvin Jones Fellowship at the club's Christmas party. PID Ed McCormick, (far left) and International Director (and Towanda Club member) Hans Neidhardt (second from right) presented the award. Also pictured is District Governor Pam Bilyeau, and Brenda McWilliams, Bob's daughter.



Maize Lions Club president Larry Zimmerman, right, delivered more than 5,000 eye glasses and 1,000 sunglasses to the Lions State Office in December.



Augusta Lions enjoyed a holiday party with members of the Augusta Senior Center. Dinner and entertainment by the Emerald City Chorus made for a festive evening.

Sight Foundation seeks candidates for secretary, treasurer

Per the bylaws of the Kansas Lions Sight Foundation, the foundation officers must be elected/re-elected every year.

The KLSF offices of secretary and treasurer do not have to be current or previous Board of Director members to serve, but should have appropriate skills necessary for the respective offices.

If any Lion would like to be considered for either of these two positions for the 2024-2025 Lions year, please submit a letter or notice of desire to be considered to PDG Rick Dodson (dodsonr23@gmail.com or 306 Bambi Court, Lansing, KS, 66043) no later than January 10, 2024.

The proposed slate of officers will be submitted to the KLSF Board of Directors at Mid-Winter Rally.

Hesston tops November membership challenge

The Hesston Lions Club had a previous year of losing several members from a variety of reasons, but we did not give up. Chartered in 1951, the club has 72 years of “We Serve” to Hesston. This year finds us on the rebound, with intention to continue supporting local youth activities, community involvement, and special events.

The club added three new members in November, with promise of more in the second half of the Lion year.

Our Club started with local business people—the movers and shakers of small towns.

We are proud of all the goals we have reached, and look forward to new ways.

The club Pancake Day is January 27, 2024, at the Hesston Middle School.

*Kendall Schwanke
Hesston Lions president*

Welcome to the Pride New members in November

Colwich

Evan Burke

Goddard

Bobby Wilson

Sponsor: Amanda Treadwell

Hesston

Lance Carter

Sponsor: Kendall Schwanke

Kimberly Wallace

Sponsor: Kendall Schwanke

Michael Wallace

Sponsor: Kendall Schwanke

Neosho Rapids

Jamie Roberts

Sponsor: Amanda Meek



Lions Health Program

How is your club addressing hunger in your community?

Hunger is the LCI Focus for January.

What is your club doing to help lessen hunger locally?

Here are the Global Statics from the LCI website:

- 1 in 9 people is (are) chronically hungry.
- Chances of food insecurity is 10% higher for women.
- At least 50% of children under age 5 have hidden hunger—lack of essential nutrients.
- Two billion people lack regular access to nutritious and sufficient food.
- 25% of children are growth stunted due to lack of nutritious food.

Sources: World Health Organization, WhyHunger, UNICEF, United Nations

We know of clubs helping to distribute food through a Harvesters or food bank program, or try to fill Blessing Boxes with food at least

once a week.

What is a Blessing Box? It is a box that looks like a miniature house mounted on a post in a location that hungry people can go to for some food. It is stocked with nonperishable foods and foods that can be prepared with a minimum of time and utensils.

Is there a program similar to this in your community, if the answer is NO then start such a program or help stock the ones that already exist. We know a club that brought food for this program to their Christmas Party instead of a present to exchange.

Think about this and work on such a program in your community, your club will reap benefits many times over by helping the hungry.

For more information about such a program please contact your Lions Health Program Chairman Lion Vern Failor at 785-272-6102



A Blessing Box built and installed by the Goddard Lions Club on the Goddard High School campus.

Council Chair Comments

Visiting Helen Keller's home renews focus

Kansas Lions... can you believe we are turning the page of another new year and are ringing in 2024?!

I hope this article finds you all recovering well from your holiday celebrations, happy, healthy and grateful for another bright new opportunity to start fresh.

I know we all think of January 1 as a jumping-off point for a variety of things, organizing your office, losing weight, learning a new skill. Whatever it may be, I hope it includes a little more time for your Lions Club.

Most years I close my business during the last week of the year and spend time with my family on a good old-



Ivy Green, Helen Keller's birthplace and childhood home

fashioned "road trip." This year has been no exception and we set out on December 27 for Louisiana to visit family via a side trip to Tuscumbia, Alabama.

As many Lions know, this is the birthplace of Helen Keller and her family home is an amazing place to visit. If you haven't been there, I highly recommend adding it to your bucket list!

Standing in her home, and seeing the

clothing and furniture that actually belonged to her made her story so real for me. She moves from the page of a history book to truly become a living, breathing person and it will change how you feel as a Lion!

I think the most amazing thing is to see and touch the original water pump where Helen had her breakthrough moment with her teacher Annie Sullivan and understand that those signs had meaning in words and that her life would never be the same after. It's not only a beautiful place, but the interaction of host tour guides adds to the experience. I have to attach a couple of pictures of our group including "Millie," our travel buddy who loves a good road trip! Lol!

My takeaway was a renewed focus on my Lion journey; a connection that we all need boosted from time to time. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming Mid-Winter Rally, it's going to be a fun weekend you don't want to miss!

I am continually humbled by your heartfelt support and so proud to represent MD 17 as your State Council Chair, keep up the great work that you are all doing, I can't wait to see what the rest of this year brings!!

Respectfully submitted,

Lori L. Horton, MD 17 Council Chair 2023-2024



IPDG (District 33K) Steve Langley, CC Lori Horton holding Millie, Lion Connie Weber. standing at THE water pump where Helen Keller & Annie Sullivan had their breakthrough understanding of the signed word "water."

Not pictured: official road trip photographer Lion Martin Weber.

Come Celebrate With Us

70 years of Lionism in Topeka Kansas

Sunflower Lions Club Topeka Inc.

Come hear an ID Hans Neidhardt talk about Lionism

When: February 3, 2024, Gather at 5 pm Dinner at 5:45 pm

Where: First Christian Church

1880 SW Gage Blvd

Topeka, Kansas

\$28.00 per person



Reservations must be made by January 24, 2024
to
Lion Vern Failor
Sunflower Lions Club Inc
P. O. Box 4434, Topeka, Kansas 66604
Make Checks to the **Sunflower Lions Club Inc.**
No tickets will be sold at the door

If you make a reservation but do not attend your club will be billed.

For more information contact Lion Vern at 785 272 6102 or vlfailor@gmail.com

Mid Winter Rally 2024

January 19-21 • Courtyard by Marriott, Junction City

IT'S NOT TOO LATE! REGISTER NOW!

Registration information on the following page

Join Lions from across the state for two days of fellowship, food and fun!

The fun starts Friday night with dinner and bingo! Call out BINGO and choose a gift bag with a fun (think White Elephant-style) prize. Or steal a prize from a previous bingo winner, and watch the trading begin! It's sure to be a laughter-filled evening of fellowship with fellow Lions.

Saturday's schedule is filled with workshops with information you can take back to your club, state committee and foundation meetings and much more. The Saturday luncheon recognizes our youth programs and features keynote speaker Miss Kansas, Courtney Wages of Wichita, speaking on her platform *One Vision is Not the Only Vision: Eye See You*.

Bring your checkbook—you are sure to find a treasure you want to take home in the annual Band Foundation Auction on Saturday afternoon.

The Saturday evening banquet will feature our special guest, Past International Director Debra Wasserman from Faribault, Minnesota. Wasserman served as International Director from 2008 to 2010.

Past Director Wasserman is a retired school social worker. A member of the Faribault Lions Club since 1992, she has held many offices within the association, including club president, zone chair, region chair, vice district governor and district governor. She has also served as a district leadership development chairperson and as a sector coordinator for Campaign Sight-First II.

Past Director Wasserman and her husband, Steven, also a Lion and Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, have a daughter, a son-in-law and three grandchildren



LYNDON LIONS SPAGHETTI SUPPER

January 12, 2024
4:30 – 7:30 PM

Menu
Spaghetti
French Bread
Relishes
Desserts
Tea/Coffee

AT LYNDON HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA

FREE WILL DONATION (\$10 suggested per meal)

Proceeds go to many Lyndon Lions local projects including, Scouts, and the Lyndon Library Reading Programs.

Save The Date

Lyndon Lions Club
will hold a reception.

for their

70th Anniversary



on

January 28, 2024

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Lyndon Community Center

204 Topeka Street • Lyndon, Kansas





2024 Mid Winter Rally

January 19, 20, 21

Courtyard by Marriott • Junction City, Kansas

Registrations can be mailed or can be filled out online at

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/138c502b-ce86-464b-a5f4-61ae490cd64b>

with a receipt sent by email within 20 minutes. If registration is made online, payment can be by check or cash when you arrive at Mid-Winter Rally.

Lions First and Last Name _____ District (Circle) **K A N**

Club _____ Email _____

Names of additional Lions attending _____

Registration (Everyone pays except LEOs)	_____	@ \$12.00	\$ _____
Leo Registration	_____	@ 0.00	\$ <u>0.00</u>
Friday Night Dinner Flint Hills Buffet	_____	@ \$20.00	\$ _____
Saturday Luncheon Little Italy Buffet	_____	@ \$18.00	\$ _____
Saturday Night Banquet Seared Sliced Beef	_____	@ \$27.00	\$ _____
		Total	\$ _____

Please note any special dietary needs and for which meals: _____

Make Meal Reservations:

Online at

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/138c502b-ce86-464b-a5f4-61ae490cd64b>

or Mail to: Kansas Lions State Office
231 S. Tyler Rd
Wichita, KS 67209

E-mail: kansaslionsoffice@gmail.com

PH: 316-773-2100

**Make meal checks payable to:
Kansas Lions (all meals must be reserved)**

**If you do not show up your club will be charged
for your reservation.**

*The final date for room
reservations is Wednesday,
January 3, 2024*

Reserve a room by calling
(785-210-1500)

*The final date for meal
reservations: is*

Thursday, January 11, 2024

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/138c502b-ce86-464b-a5f4-61ae490cd64b>

When Lions Serve...The World Changes!!



KANSAS LIONS DISTRICT 17-N CONVENTION

MARCH 1-2, 2024 OTTAWA, KANSAS



Special Guest Speaker: International Director MARIE CUNNING of Arizona, with Partner in Service, Lion Rosemarie Gabriel

Friday, March 1 - Prime Time Grill - 2204 S Princeton

6-9pm: Pre-Convention Social Fun and Games! Join us for pizza, appetizer snacks, soda and water provided, cash bar on premises for cocktails and beer. Enjoy Games including Corn Hole Competition and Bowling. RSVP for (Food preparations and reserving Bowling Lanes)

Saturday, March 2 - The Bottle House - 204 S Walnut

Breakfast on your own

9am Registration begins, Delegate Certification opens

10am Convention Activities Begin

11am Elections & Voting on Bylaws Amendment

11:30 Memorial Service

12pm Lunch: BBQ provided by Smoked Creations

Music: Travis Marvin

1pm Key Note Speaker: ID Marie Cummings (Q&A with the ID following)

2pm District Awards and Recognition



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. Bidding ends at NOON.

Service Project

Our Service Project for the Convention will be collecting non-perishable food items to distribute to local Blessings Boxes and to Osage County Help House in Lyndon. We appreciate your donations for these pantries.

Service project of filling Blessings Boxes with donated food following.

Convention Registration _____ @ \$5 per person _____

Friday Social Gathering _____ #Attending/ Bowling Y/N

Saturday Lunch Buffet _____ @ \$15 per person _____

TOTAL DUE (make checks payable to Lions MD 17N) _____

Meal reservations due by February 15 — no exceptions

Name(s) _____

Club _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

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

Convention Hotel Information

Holiday Inn Express & Suites • 2340 S. King Street • Ottawa, KS • 1-785-521-7009 Lions Convention Room Rate \$129.00+ taxes.

Make room reservations by February 1 for Lions Block Rate.

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

District 17 N 2024 Convention Book

When Lions Serve...The World Changes!!

The 2024 Convention Book will be an
8 1/2 x 5.5 inch format and
included in convention packets



Send payment and ad copy to
District 17-N Treasurer Barb Schattak
330 Washington St. | Lyndon, Kansas 66451

Make checks payable to Lions MD 17-N

Send ready to print artwork to ksyorkies@gmail.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
ksyorkies@gmail.com

Deadline for advertising is February 1, 2024



Total Solar Eclipse April 8

There is a limited
number of
Solar Eclipse Glasses
available

Order deadline is
January 31, 2024.

A free display for all
orders of 250.

Please Contact:

PID Gene Vogel

pidgene@aol.com

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