



District 17N Newsletter

68 Lions Clubs serving communities in southcentral and southeast Kansas



March 2024



Ambassador of Goodwill

PDG Bernard Lee, right, received the Ambassador of Goodwill recognizing his many years of service to the Lions of Kansas, including serving as statewide eyeglass recycling chair and historian. The recognition was presented at the 17N District Convention by Past International Directors Deb Weaverling and Bill Phillippi (center) with MD 17 Council Chair Lori Horton (left).



Fun and fellowship at the District Convention. More photos inside.

Coming Up

Kansas Lions State Convention

May 31-June 1
DoubleTree Hotel
in Lawrence
See page ???

District Cabinet Meeting

June 29
Newton

Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute

July 26-28
Northwest Missouri State University
Maryville, MO
Details at
kansaslions.org

Kansas Lions District 17N

68 Lions Clubs serving communities in southcentral and southeast Kansas

District Governor

Pam Bilyeu

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bilyeuskies@hotmail.com

1st Vice District Governor

Shari Neidhardt

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2nd Vice District Governor

Clark Lindstrom

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District website: kslions17n.org

Kansas Lions on the web: kansaslions.org • Lions International on the web: lionsclubs.org

District Governor Notes

Lions roared at successful district convention

Wow!! March surely came in like a Lion at our District 17-N District Convention in Ottawa on March 1-2! We could not have asked for any better weather for this first weekend of March...so weather wise it may have come in like a Lamb, but people wise, let's just say the LIONS from District 17-N were very much present! We had 83 Lions attend the convention that was held at "The Bottle House."

We started out with 36 Lions all having a FUN get together at Prime Time Grille and Fusion Alley on Friday evening where



we enjoyed pizza, bowling, cornhole competition, and a table game or two. We greeted our International Director, Marie Cuning and her Partner in Service PCC Rosemarie Gabriel and enjoyed getting to know them and spend time with them during the evening.

Our top competition winners for the evening were: Bowling: highest scores - IPID Deb Weaverling and PDG Willie Tolle, and our lowest score winners: Lion Kathleen Burden and Lion Ron Weaverling. The cornhole winners were PDG Alcy Malkmus and Lion Robert Espinoza. Thank you to Prime Time Grille staff for all of their assistance for a FUN evening and GREAT PIZZA!!

Attending our convention were Immediate Past International Director Deb and Lion Ron Weaverling, Past International Director (PID) Bill and Lion Vicki Phillipi, PID Gene Vogel, and via Zoom PID Ed McCormick and Lion Linda. Also attending were our Council Chair Lori Horton and Kansas Lions State Secretary, Past District Governor (PDG) Dan Funke and Lion Becky and Second Vice District Governor Clark Lindstrom. First Vice District Governor Shari Neidhardt joined us by Zoom from Nebraska. Also via Zoom were Hillsboro Lions Club President Lion Larry Funk and another Lion who I missed seeing his name. Guests from District A were: Acting District Governor Margy Sundstrom and Lion Mike, Second Vice District Governor Irene Haws and Lion Linda Matthews, Past Council Chair Bobby Duvall, PDG

Carleen Rajala, Lion Vern Failor and Pam. Guests from District K were Lions Duane and Lynda Falley. We also had four guest Lions from Missouri with the KC World Outreach Lions: PDG Alcy Malkmus, Lions Robert Espinosa, Helen Hatz and Joe Austin, whose club is connected with the mission service trips to the Phillipines, which is a passion that ID Marie is involved in as well

Morning and afternoon hospitality snacks were provided by the Lyndon Lions Club and the Ottawa Lions Club. Saturday's event had the following exhibitors: Deb Tegerhoff with KSDS and her service dog, Reed; PCC Harry Stockwell with the Youth Exchange Program/Kansas Band Foundation; Lion Vern Failor with the Kansas Lions Health Programs, and PID Gene Vogel with the Eclipse Glasses display.

The Silent Auction offered many handmade items and other fun baskets to bid on. The total raised for the District 17-N Sight Screeners Maintenance fund is \$785. Thank you to all who donated and/or bid on items for the auction, and also to those who gave their time to display exhibits helping to make our convention a success!

We enjoyed hearing an enthusiastic talk from Ryland Miller, President and CEO of the Ottawa Chamber of Commerce that included some of the history of Ottawa and what Ottawa has to offer now and the direction they are going. Our second presenters were Lion Ron Colbert District Leader Dog Chair and Lion Jon Freund of the Valley Center Lions with Deb Tegerhoff and Reed of KSDS on the KSDS program and offering clubs the opportunity to have the District KSDS program come to them for presentations. Both were great learning sessions for attendees.

New leaders elected

The District 17-N elections followed with the following results: 2024-2025 District Governor – Shari Neidhardt of Towanda; 1st Vice District Governor – Clark Lindstrom, Wichita Downtown; 2nd Vice District Governor – Lion Melanie Snider, Baxter Springs. CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GOVERNOR'S!! All of the LCI Constitutional changes were adopted by District 17-N Lions with a unanimous vote.

Open Positions on the Kansas Lions Foundations

Continued on next page

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were filled by the following Lions:

Kansas Lions Band Foundation (2024-2026) – PDG Stuart Tolle, Moundridge; PCC Harry Stockwell, Wichita Downtown

Kansas Lions Foundation (2024-2027) – Lion Don Sefers, Winfield

Kansas Lions Sight Foundation (2024-2027) – PDG Richard Caldwell, Bel Aire; Lion Don Sefers, Winfield.

Thank you Nominations Chair, Lion Doug Gatewood, Galena 66 Lions, for all your work compiling our nominees. Thank you, Constitution and Bylaws Chair, PDG Chris Bauer for compiling the voting ballots and overseeing the elections. And thank you to all the Lions who have stepped up and will be serving our District!

Our luncheon was provided by “Smoked Creations” in Ottawa Kansas and consisted of Bar-B-Que beef, pork and chicken sandwiches with SC’s signature potato salad, beans, cole slaw, bar-b-que sauce and pickles. Our convention team members were the banquet servers, along with some assistance from IPID Deb Weaverling, State Secretary Dan Funke, ADG Margy Sundstrom. Dessert was Lemon, Red Velvet, Strawberry and Snicker cupcakes provided by “Creations by Lori,” our own MD 17 Council Chair, Lori Horton. Thank you all for a great lunch!

Music during our dining time was provided by Travis Martin a local musician who is a singer/songwriter from Nashville, and cousin to convention team member Lion Jenna McDaniel. Travis sang many of his own, plus country favorites and requests from the floor. He only accepted a luncheon meal for his time entertaining us! Thank you Lion Jenna McDaniel for sharing your cousin with us and again THANK YOU Travis for sharing your gift with us.



The District 17-N PDG Club held a short meeting to elect their officers for the upcoming year and a conversation with ID Marie Cuning and PCC Rose-

marie Gabriel on how to encourage more participation and membership events. Following our luncheon we had the “March of the Green” which raised \$113 for LCIF.

We began our afternoon session with the District Peace Poster “Dare to Dream” Winners presentation. Erin Ashby, Second Place winner, sponsored by Baxter Springs Lions, her mother Brittany and sister Astara were present and joined us for lunch. Erin received a check for \$50. The First Place winner, Brock Apel, sponsored by Augusta Lions received a check for \$75 and Third Place winner, Maddyn Wehlage, sponsored by the Humboldt Lions, received a \$25 check. Members of the sponsoring clubs accepted their student’s award on their behalf.

International Director Marie Cuning from MD 21 Arizona was our Keynote Speaker for our afternoon session. She shared her experience, first as a woman who is a third generation Lion, and also her amazing journey to becoming an International Director and her passion for serving. She shared a video of the Lions here in the USA joining Lions in the Philippines to provide medical care including dentistry. Those attending had an opportunity to have a Q & A session following her presentation.

The District 17-N Environmental Photo Contest Winners Photos were on display and the winners received their District Award of \$25 for each winning entry. PDG Chris Bauer of the Humboldt Lions won for Animal Life, Plant Life and Weather; Lion Dale Rein of the Wichita Northwest Lions won for Urban/Natural Landscape; and PDG Terry Weldin, formerly of the Burlington Lions, won for Service Project.

The District Environmental Challenge entries were also displayed and votes were taken for the “People’s Choice Award” for the Fall/Winter Challenge: Those who participated were the Colwich Lions with the Chisholm Trail Project-Solar Farm; Maize Lions American Flag Cleaning Recycling and Retiring; Wichita Downtown Lions had two entries — the Recycling Eyeglass Cases into Personal Care kits and Planting Tree Saplings at a Community Park. Each club received an Environmental Challenge Banner for participating and the People’s Choice Award went to the Wichita Downtown Lions for Recycling of Eyeglass Cases. CONGRATULATIONS to ALL.

There is a new SPRING ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE for clubs to take part in. The deadline for entries is May 24 and they will be displayed

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Lion Scott Helmke of Wichita Northwest Lions, center, received a Presidential Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of his many hours working with eyeglass recycling at the state office. Also pictured, from left is Council Chair Lori Horton, International Director Marie Cuning and District Governor Pam Bilyeu.

Continued from previous page
at the state convention and the district gathering in Newton in June. See the flyer on page 16.

Presidential Certificates of Appreciation were presented by ID Marie Cuning and myself to two very worthy Lions of District 17-N. Lion Scott Helmke, of the Wichita Northwest Lions, for hard work and dedication as the District Eyeglass Recycling Chair and sorting operations at the Kansas Lions State office; and Lion Becky Funke, the District 17-N Newsletter Editor for the countless hours and dedication to providing an excellent newsletter for our district. CONGRATULATIONS to YOU BOTH!! And THANK YOU!!

Ambassador of Goodwill PDG Bernard Lee

The highlight of our District 17-N Convention was the presentation by IPID Deb Weaverling, PID Bill Phillippi, PID Ed McCormick and Council Chair Lori Horton of the highest award a Lion can receive. PDG Bernard Lee of the Osage City Lions was presented the Lions International Clubs Ambassador of Goodwill Award for serving the Lions of Kansas with over 20 years of collecting and sorting eyeglasses for recycling, driving thousands of miles and to deliver eyeglasses the prisons for refurbishing. PDG Bernard invited his wife Viola, of the Scranton Lions, up to receive the award with him because of the partnership they had for this service. Many comments were made around their dedication and they received a standing ovation. There are only eight Lions who have received this award in the State of Kansas. CONGRATULATIONS PDG BERNARD!!

Our District Service Project was collecting non-perishable food items to be distributed at Hope House

and the Blessing Boxes (13) in Ottawa, and the Help House in Lyndon. We collected 411 food items that were divided between the three food outreach organizations. THANK YOU LIONS!!

The PDG Club had a 50/50 raffle that raised \$386 or 2X \$193 that was won by PDG Terry Weldin. These funds are used as scholarships for Lions attending leadership training such as the Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute (GPLLI).

I want to say a special THANK YOU to District 17-N Convention Co-chairs: Lion Barb Schattak, Lyndon and Lion Teri Howard of Ottawa and the Convention team: Lions Ferne Evans, Kathleen Burden and Mary Beth Heskett of Lyndon Lions; and Lions Pat & Jim Pickett and Jenna McDaniel of the Ottawa Lions for all your hard work and helping to create a successful convention. Thank you also to the Pitt State Printing Dept. for printing our convention programs, and to CC Lori Horton for picking them up and delivering them. And also to PDG Chris Bauer for being the best tech guy EVER! THANK YOU!

Jen Crowley owner of "The Bottle House" was also a huge help in setting up our convention in her beautiful event center. Thank you so much! If I missed anyone please know that you are appreciated by a grateful District Governor and District Convention Team.

And mostly I want to say THANK YOU to my partner in service Lion Jerry, and our family for all the love and support they have given me while I serve as your District Governor. You all are the BEST!!

Thank you all also for attending our convention, and to those who were unable to I hope you will mark your calendars for next year's event.

I am honored and humbled to have this opportunity to serve as your District Governor.

Pam Bilyeu

First Vice District Governor

Recognition – as simple as a pat on the back

Visiting Lions Clubs as part of the District Governor Team is providing many rewarding experiences. Visitations provide you an opportunity to speak with club members, hear about the wonderful projects they are involved in, and recognizing members. I always review the club

roster prior to making an official visit, to see who the longest serving Lion(s) are and thanking them at the start of my comments. It is also an honor and privilege to

present “years of service” chevrons and on occasion a Melvin Jones Fellowship (MJF). During my visit to the Clearwater Lions Club, Club President Steven Hatfield asked if I would present a MJF to Lion Jack Bates for his many years of service as a Lion.

Do you remember when you were inducted into Lions? As a new Lion, you were made aware of Lions International motto, “We Serve” and without question, Lions always do so willingly. As leaders, we must keep in mind that Lions are “volunteers,” giving our time and sometimes even our own money to fulfill that motto. A great leader will keep these sacrifices in mind. Using the simple “tools” of recognition the leader can show their thanks for a job well done. To all of those Lions serving in a leadership role, a heartfelt thank you for what you do. I know that sometimes we overlook the efforts of our members and leaders within our organization.

As we finish out the last four months of the current 2023-2024 year and prepare for 2024-2025, many of our schedules will jump into high gear. There always seems that there is one more task that needs our attention. By the time you receive the March newsletter, I will have completed the LCI District Governor Elect training course in St. Charles, Illinois, attended District 3NW (Oklahoma) convention, and attended the combined Districts 38I and 38L (Nebraska) convention. Then for the rest of March and April ID Hans



has six more conventions and a LCI Board meeting. Regrettably my personal schedule means that I will not have been able to take part in any of the MD-17 District Conventions.

In preparation for my year as District 17-N District Governor, I am still trying to fill multiple cabinet/district chairperson positions. Currently the most critical vacant positions are Zone Chairs: Zone 3 (Caney, Coffeyville, Coffeyville DD, Fredonia, Independence, and Neodesha), Zone 9 (Burlington, Colony, Garnett, Kincaid, and Westphalia), Zone 11 (Emporia, Eureka, Lebo, Madison, Neosho Rapids, and Olpe), Zone 12 (Halstead, Hesston, Hillsboro, Newton, and Walton). There are other chairperson roles that I can hopefully fill very soon. Remember, to serve as a Zone Chair, you must have served as a Club President. Please contact me if you would like to know a little more on possibly filling the role of a Zone Chair. It is a great way to get involved with other Lions Clubs close to your own home club. If you have any questions, contact me and I will try to answer any concerns you may have.



All the Lions of District 17-N can be very proud of the accomplishments made this year. As District Governor (2024-2025), I am looking forward to working with my District Governor Team, Cabinet members,

Chairpersons, and each of the remarkable clubs that make up this outstanding district. Just like the four-legged Lions, it is the “pride working together” that makes them successful. I close with this quote by David Charles Novak (an American businessman, author and philanthropist, “Mary Kay knew that when you put people first and then surround them with processes and disciplines that recognize their efforts, performance will soar.”

Shari Neidhardt

Second Vice District Governor

How do you answer "Why be a Lion"?

As stated at the end of my article last month, what is your answer when asked "WHY BE A LION?" Why would anyone in their right mind, especially if they are young at heart and open-minded, join a bunch of old fuddy-duddies that seem to like long boring meetings, singing out loud, and sometimes wear funny-looking vests cluttered with cute little pins?



Some responses: "To help my community and the world with what I have to offer."-Leslie

"My desire to do all that I can to make our community better by feeding those in need, sup-

porting local and international needs."-Rick

"It gives me a sense of purpose that I had been looking for for quite some time."-Lisa

"Lions filled a void of no visible progress and I stay because I do some good."-Lonnie

If you would still like to share your answers to these questions, please email me at: cfindstrom@yahoo.com.

My "elevator" speech answer is short and simple.

"Members of Lions Club International I know are great people doing great things, changing the world for the betterment of those in need every day, and, for the past 40 years that I've been a member, we generally have a great time doing it. If you become a member, I honestly think you will feel the same."

My approach to asking others to volunteer their time, talent and treasure is a soft sell because if cool clubs are doing cool stuff, cool service projects, and is always there for cool community support, then these cool people will continue to invite more cool people to join and attract more cool people that are like-minded to help out.

Want more reasons to become a Lion? How about the personal feeling of joy of making a positive impact on other peoples' lives? Most Lions I know are always doing good things for others without any expectation of a thank you or recognition because it's the right thing to do and it makes them feel good.

If you want to make new friends, joining a Lions Club is a great way to connect with many different types of people in your community. Serving the community and the world together can help build lifelong and lasting personal relationships. If someone has a

desire to learn more, grow personally, or even share their life-learned abilities they can through volunteer work and community service such as organizing food drives, communicating the risks of diabetes, providing natural disaster relief, starting projects to benefit the environment like stretchable plastic recycling, helping to fight childhood cancer, and always remembering the original purpose—aiding those who are hearing and sight disabled.

Lions are learning and doing new things while helping to develop leadership skills. The clubs I am involved with are engaging youth through Leo Clubs to help young people to develop into future leaders by providing them with volunteer programs and involving them in community service projects which helps young adults begin to learn about the potential impact they can and will have in the world.

Lions Clubs offer opportunities for families to volunteer as well. Spouses, significant others, life partners, children, grandchildren, and siblings can all enjoy quality family time together in service. Making a difference in the world sometimes only takes a small effort like recycling used eyeglasses, teaching children to read, working to provide clean water, planting a tree, and so much more.

It's no secret. We want and need more Lions to further our service work and to continue the wonderful positive impact by Lions Club International. Please make it your personal goal each and every month to ask someone you know or meet to come to a meeting, ask them to join, give them your reason for being a Lion along with an application to fill out, and then gently follow up if they have not taken a leap of faith to become a fellow Lion. Successful salespeople will tell you it will take AT LEAST THREE ASKS.

Final answer to why be a Lion is: "That smile I see on people's faces while serving continues to fire me up to do more." -Anthony

Next month's article will be a slant on the well-known inaugural address by President John F. Kennedy; who spoke of the need for all Americans to be active citizens. "Ask not what your Lions Club can do for you; ask what you can do for your Lions Club." I'm from the District leadership and I'm here to help.

*Always in Lionism,
Lion Clark Lindstrom*

Council Chair Comments

Spring Forward to a strong year end!

Kansas Lions, I write this on a warm evening, so happy to see the trees budding and so many signs of winter bowing out for another year. I know it's not over until it's over, but I will remain an optimist for now! We have had an amazing year so far and while the end may be right around the corner, we cannot let the next few months pass without staying focused on the important work yet to finish. The state is struggling with membership, this is not new news, but it's not too late to turn it around! First and most important, if you have new members, **GET THEM LOGGED INTO LCI**. If you need help with this process, your club secretary, president or administrator can enter that info or please reach out to your Zone Chair for more help. Secondly, each and every member (this does include YOU) should make an effort to ask one friend, family member, co-worker, neighbor etc. about joining. Be prepared, think of answers to the questions they might have, jot down contact info for other club officers if you need to so they feel confident in the standing of your group. Of course, never approach a potential member without the ever-important membership application, you don't want to be caught unprepared if they say YES!



Last, think about upcoming Spring events and if there is a possibility of your club hosting a membership drive at the same time. The minimal cost of a booth at some carnivals, shows or events will certainly be worth it if you have one or two new members as a result. Please don't be afraid to try anything new, most successes come after multiple failures, but if you never try, failure is the only result. We have 205 clubs across the state of Kansas, if 50% of them were able to add one new member this year, it would make a huge dent in the 134-member deficit we are currently facing. That's not a big ask, please take it to heart, that we need you all to make this happen!

Now is the time for officer nominations and elections, look to the new faces and be sure to encourage and recognize those new ideas and viewpoints. Clubs

that thrive and grow are embracing crazy new ideas and having so much fun as a result. I look forward to attending as many more of your fundraisers and events as possible this year and beyond, keep those invites coming! Once those officers are elected, have your club president, secretary or administrator take a look at the club roster and update all those names, phone numbers and email addresses. This is the easiest list for your members to contact each other and for LCI to send you important info.

I will close with a personal note about the many losses that we have all suffered this year already. PCC Jesse Larison was a dear friend and mentor and leaves an amazing legacy behind. Zone Chair Fern Evans is another warm and lovely soul who has left a mark on everyone she knew.

I leave you with this quote from Amy Hoover, "A true friend is never truly gone. Their spirit lives on in the memories of those who loved them."

Respectfully submitted,

Lori L. Horton,

Council Chairperson MD 17 2023-2024

There's still time to order!

\$1/pr benefits Kansas Lions Sight Foundation

APRIL 8TH 2024
total eclipse

KANSAS LIONS SIGHT FOUNDATION
is inviting you to participate in our
SOLAR ECLIPSE GLASSES
program

THEY SERVE THE WORLD

This KL-SF Solar Eclipse Glasses Program will provide an opportunity for you to purchase Solar Eclipse Glasses **CERTIFIED** to meet the ISO 12312-2 International Standard and are 100% safe for direct viewing of the sun.

ISO CERTIFIED

FOR DETAILS, CONTACT GENE VOGEL
PIDGENE@AOL.COM



We Serve

Around the District

Submit your club activities to newsletter17n@cox.net

Deadline is always the 20th of the month



Vice District Governor Shari Neidhardt presents Lion Brian Boatright a 20-year Membership Chevron at a recent Viola Lions Club meeting.



Valley Center Lions presented Melvin Jones Fellowships to Lions Jim Gregory and Myrna Hamilton in recognition of their years of service to the club and community.



Bel Aire Lions provided eclipse glasses to three elementary school in the area including Resurrection, Isley Elementary, and Sunrise Christian Academy. Club members are pictured with Kelly Bright, principal at Resurrection Catholic School.



Zone Chair PDG Willie Tolle presented Membership Chevrons to Marquette Lions Dana Olson and Kerry Lindh for 40 years of service each and Art Mayfield for 20 years of service. That's 100 years of service to their community.

Oxford Lions receiving Membership Chevrons at a recent meeting were Craig Knudsen, 10 years; Bob Hendricks, 25 years; Paul Nash, 35 years, and Chuck Buss, 40 years – for a total of 110 years combined service.



Lyndon Lions gave each third grade student at Lyndon Grade School a student dictionary. The dictionaries were provided through "The Dictionary Project" a nationwide program that promotes literacy through students discovery of language for knowledge, fun and creativity.



The 2022-2023 District Excellence Award was presented to Immediate Past District Governor Lori Horton (second from left) by International Director Marie Cunningham (third from left) for leading District 17-N through an exemplary year. She received the DG ribbon and presented ribbons to her Executive Cabinet members, from left: 1st VDG Pam Bilyeu; PDG/IPDG Richard Caldwell; Cabinet Treasurer Barb Schattak, and Cabinet Secretary Lion Melanie Snider.



March of the Green raised \$113 for LCIF.



Four Environmental Service Projects were displayed for convention attendees to select a People's Choice award, claimed by Wichita Downtown Lions for their eyeglass case recycled to personal care kits.

Clubs recognized with Club Excellence awards

The 2022-2023 Club Excellence Award were presented during the District Convention.

The award recognizes Clubs and their Club President's for having exemplary club service that included service hours reported, new Environmental Projects, attendance at District Meetings and adding new Club Members.

Recipients of the award (club and president) were:



- Baxter Springs – Debbie Hopkins
- Girard – Daniel Duling
- Goddard – David Hundley
- Humboldt – PDG Christopher Bauer
- Lyndon – Ferne Evans
- Parsons – PDG Don Cunningham
- Pittsburg – Derek Coates
- Reading – Eugene Jackson
- Towanda – Nikolas Herrmann.

CONGRATULATIONS CLUBS!! This award is available to all clubs who meet the criteria for the 2023-2024 lion year as well. See the form on page



Balloons with big smiles greeted attendees at the 17N District Convention



PDG Gene Allen of the McCune Lions Club received his 45-year Membership Chevron from ID Marie Cunning at the District Convention.

In Memoriam

The Memorial Service during the District Convention was led by Council Chair/Immediate Past District Governor Lori Horton with the assistance of 1VDGE Clark Lindstrom.



The following Lions are the ones who were remembered:

David Baxter and *PDG Tim Hayes*, Ark City
Early Birds

PCC Jess Larison, Baxter Springs

Charlene Riley, Chanute

Eugene Anderson, Colony

Max Cain and *Kenneth Streets*, Fredonia

John Updegraff, Independence

Steve Showalter, Inman

Rudolph Rottler, Lyndon

Sharon Jackson, Neodesha

Duane Jacob and *Mary Lou Pearson*, Neosho
Rapids

Jenifer McDonald and *William Wilson Jr*, Pittsburg

PDG Clinton Varwter, Scranton

Evan Johnson and *Kenneth Rogers*, Walton

Gail Ratliff, Westphalia

Kenneth Holmes, Wichita Downtown

Willie Tuttle, Winfield.

Our hearts go out to the family and friends of these Lion family members.

For our Kansas Lions State Convention, IPIP Deb Weaverling is putting together a Photo Memorial of all of the Lions in Kansas who have passed this Lion year. Please send an email with a photo of the Lion and club information by March 31 so they can be included. Place "Memorial Tribute" in subject line and email to:

bilyeuskies@hotmail.com.



Hosting an exchange student is 'best days of your lives'

Four weeks of the best days of your lives! Our youth exchange program is for culture and making memories for a lifetime.

Kansas hosts students from Japan, Finland, and Spain, aged 15 to 21. They are here four weeks during their school vacations.

Hosting requirements are simple: a loving family (doesn't have to be a Lions member) to provide sleep-

ing and meals accommodation. The students have their own spending money for gifts and souvenirs. They also have their own health insurance.

If you are interested in hosting contact PCC Harry Stockwell; Youth Exchange chair MD17 at 316-644-7622 or h.l.stockwell49@gmail.com.



Lion Bill Baum, left and PCC Harry Stockwell, right, with exchange students from Spain.

Lions Health Program News

Find Diabetes Alert Day projects on LCI website

Diabetes Alert Day is always in March each year and this year that is March 27. We challenge your club to have a diabetes program as near as possible to this day.

Look on the LCI website and find ways to promote Diabetes Alert Day. There is a whole page of projects your Lions Club could do to help with this project.



The America Diabetes Association operates one camp in Kansas Camp Discovery near Augusta and Camp Planet D near Lawson Mo.

For information on how your club can send youth to one of these camps please contact Lion

Vern Failor at 785-272-6102 or ulfailor@gmail.com.

April is Environmental Awareness Month as proclaimed by LCI.

Approximately 1.6 billion people globally rely on forests to make a living.

Forests are home to 80% of all species of land animals.

Plastics pollution kills an estimated 100,000 marine mammals every year

Plastics amounts to 85% of all marine litter

(statistics from the LCI website)

What is your Lions club doing to decrease these alarming statistics?

Lion Vern Failor

Welcome to the Pride New members in January & February



Arkansas City Early Birds

LaDonna Grantham
Sponsor: Sue Lancaster
Paul Grantham
Sponsor: Sue Lancaster
Darren Green
Sponsor: Sue Lancaster

Hesston

Craig Gingerich
Sponsor: Kendall Schwanke
Lori Gingerich
Sponsor: Kendal Schwanke

Newton

Jason Palmer
Sponsor: Daniels Heinze Jr

Pittsburg

Elwin H Davis
Sponsor: Jon Burchfield
Karen Davis
Sponsor: Jon Burchfield

Towanda

Galen Whisman
Sponsor: Hans Neidhardt
Trent Zimmerman
Sponsor: Hans Neidhardt

Valley Center

Liliana Garcia
Sponsor: Sarah Warren
Jogene Mathews
Sponsor: Mark Burks

Wichita Northwest

Marcia Koster-Carter
Sponsor: Sanda Childs

Winfield

Courtney Cowel
Sponsor: Ralph Royston
David Falletti
Sponsor: William Muret

LCIF is ready to help with disaster strikes

This month, I'll highlight Disaster Grants. There are four types of disaster grants: Disaster Preparedness, Emergency, Community Recovery, and Major Catastrophe.

When natural disasters strike, Lions are among the first to offer help. With a disaster grant, they can do even more for communities devastated by hurricanes, floods, fires and other major events. LCIF is proud to offer a variety of grant options to support various stages of disaster relief operations.

Disaster Preparedness Grants support districts interested in partnering with local authorities and other community organizations to plan and prepare for future relief efforts. Lions' District Governors may submit proposals for grants up to US\$10,000. The most recent Preparedness Grants in Kansas were provided to Districts A (\$10,000) & N (\$10,000) to purchase our new Alert truck and trailer.

Emergency Grants provide up to US\$10,000 for districts impacted by a natural disaster. Lions District Governors may apply for Emergency Grants to help meet immediate needs such as food, water, clothing, and medical supplies. LCIF awards nearly US\$2



Lions Clubs International FOUNDATION

million in emergency grant funding each year. Some of the most recent Emergency Grants in Kansas were for District 17-K in 2017 for wildfire relief (\$10,000) and 2020 for COVID 19 relief (\$10,000), District 17-A in 2019 for tornado relief (\$10,000), and District 17-N in 2022 for tornado relief (\$10,000).

Community Recovery Grants aid districts interested in supporting short-term cleanup and repair efforts in situations where other organizations have already addressed immediate needs. Lions District Governors may submit proposals for Community Recovery Grants up to US\$20,000. There are no records of Kansas receiving this type of grant.

Major Catastrophe Grants are awarded for long-term reconstruction projects due to disasters that occur on a much larger scale. Major

Catastrophe Grants are awarded at the discretion of the International President and the LCIF Chairperson and cannot be applied for by a district. These grants provide significant funds for catastrophes with major international impact, such as the recent earthquakes in Mexico, the 2016 earthquake in Italy, and Hurricane Harvey (USA). There are no records of Kansas receiving this type of grant.

For additional information on the grants, contact me, District 17-K Co-Coordinator PDG Kathie Bell or PCC Randy St. Aubyn, District 17-A Coordinator Lion Caroline Arter or PID Deb Weaverling, or District 17-N Coordinator PDG Richard Caldwell.

*PDG Rick Dodson
MD-17 Coordinator*

Other grant types:

- Childhood Cancer Pilot Grants
- Sight First Grants
- Lions Quest Grants
- Hunger Pilot Grants
- Matching Grants
- Diabetes Grants
- Leo Service Grants
- District & Club Community Impact Grants

District LCIF donations at 38% of goal

According to insights from My Lion as of February 2 the Lions Club International Foundation donations from District 17N totaled \$15,297 with \$8,016. individual donations and \$7,281.96 other donations.

The goal set for total donation for the 2023-2022 Lions year is

\$40,000. At this time the District has met 38% of the goal.

What this means is we need \$24,702 to meet the goal of \$40,000.

History of it shows we are only about \$6,000 from meeting what was made last Lions year at \$21,000. The third quarter of this

Lions year was very slow in activity. The "ber" months has paid its toll on donations and even membership.

We, as a District and individuals can begin continually looking at ways to donate. I realize most clubs will donate at the end of the

Continued on next page

A quick club survey to inspire conversation

Some thoughts from your current Global Membership Team: Good day, fellow Lion clubbers. I trust you all are having fun “fighting the good fight” out there, dedicated to building and improving your clubs.

I invite each club to hand out copies of this quick “survey” at a meeting, to let all your members have a chance to checkmark everything that may apply to your club. Do any of these points and questions emerge that inspire conversation?

I know that these fundamental thoughts are all integral to a smoothly-running club, of course. I can say that we, with our “district level view,” are intensely proud of you all! How can we help?

*Lion Jerry Bilyeu
District 17N Global
Membership Team*



Who Are We?

- We are the _____ Lions Club, now past our _____ anniversary.
- We are experienced, talented, and stable.
- We are dedicated.
- We have deep understanding of Lions Club functioning.
- We have a pretty good core membership base.
- We have a well-established funding program that keeps us financially stable.
- We have support and appreciation from our town.
- We have good relationships with other civic organizations in town.
- We have a love for our club.
- We love what the Lions stand for.

What do we need?

- Do we need more members?
- Do we need our membership base to be more committed? Involved? Present?
- Do we need to encourage new members into leadership roles?
- Do we need to improve new-member orientation?
- Do we need to improve all-member orientation?
- Do we need more outreach to local organizations?
- Do we need more money?
- Do we need more local business owners in our club?
- Do we need more youth involvement?
- Do we need more projects?
- Do we need more help on our projects?
- Do we need a different meeting place?

LCIF goal

Continued from previous page

Lions year, pushing toward this goal. Meanwhile, donations can be made through pledge forms, easy on-line donations, or mailing in donations. The three officers of the district have solicited donations in their club visits.

I have continued researching those clubs that are close to recognizing individuals with a Melvin Jones Fellowship. Either these clubs have the amount in their LCIF unnamed account or close

by adding donations to reach that recognition.

Remember that Lions Club International Foundation expands the mission of service through emergency grants and other grants that can further expand service of the clubs.

These grants from LCIF considers any mission of a Club or District to further their service in the areas of Vision, Youth, Disaster Relief, Humanitarian Efforts, Diabetes Awareness, Childhood Cancer, Hunger Relief, and Proj-

ects for the Environment.

Again, this applies not only internationally but locally: District or Multiple.

The Kansas Lions Foundation can work hand-in-hand with a local club, providing an account where clubs can solicit larger donations from businesses or corporations for an in-kind, tax deductible type of project or to solicit matching funds for an LCIF grant.

*PDG Richard Caldwell
District 17N LCIF Coordinator*



Lions International

2023-2024

CLUB EXCELLENCE AWARD APPLICATION

Date: _____

Club Name: _____ Club Number: _____ District: _____

2023-2024 Club President's Name: _____

Member Number: _____ Email Address: _____

1. MEMBERSHIP

Achieved a net growth of one or more members **or** Chartered new Lions club or Club Branch

Name of Lions Club or Branch: _____

2. SERVICE

Contributed to LCIF an amount equal to or greater than the club's membership total multiplied by US\$5.

Year-end membership count _____ x US\$5= _____

Started a new service project. *Consider one of our Global Causes!*

List Three service activities your club participated in that were reported to LCI:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

3. LEADERSHIP & ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Club is in Good Standing; Not in Status Quo or Financial Suspension. District dues paid and no unpaid balance with LC greater than US\$50 outstanding 90 days or more.

Reported Club Officers to LCI

Key Officers participate in club officer training

4. MARKETING

The club has publicized its service activities through local media or social media

Learn more about [promoting your club and activities](#) , and learn about the Marketing Award



DISTRICT 17-N SPRING ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE #2



- ❖ COMPLETE A NEW ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB PROJECT AND SUBMIT TO DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL CHAIR LION KATHY PRATT BY MAY 24, 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 GATHERING IN NEWTON KS ON JUNE 29, 2024
- ❖ EACH LION’S CLUB PROJECT ENTERED WILL BE DISPLAYED AT THE STATE CONVENTION AND DISTRICT GATHERING. AT THE DISTRICT GATHERING LIONS WILL VOTE FOR THEIR FAVORITE! THE CLUB RECEIVING THE MOST VOTES WILL RECEIVE “DISTRICT 17-N ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE #2 PEOPLE’S CHOICE AWARD!”



#CHANGING THE WORLD



Lion Club: _____ City: _____

Environmental Project Description: _____

Submitted By: _____ Contact # _____

Submit To: DISTRICT 17-N ENVIRONMENTAL CHAIR, LION KATHY PRATT

PO BOX 130, TOWANDA, KS 67123 Email: kpratt558@gmail.com



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!!



MISSION 1.5

**KANSAS LIONS
STATE CONVENTION**

MAY 31 - JUNE 2

**DOUBLETREE BY HILTON
LAWRENCE, KANSAS**

\$139/INCLUDES BREAKFAST




SERVICE PROJECT

Filling 2,000 bags of soup.



KANSAS LIONS BAND

Friday picnic. Saturday concert.



BAKER WETLANDS

Sunday tour.



GUEST SPEAKERS

Roger L. Boyd, PhD Professor Emeritus of Biology Baker University

Wisconsin Council Chair BJ Blahnik - Leader Dog

Lion Bryanna Darley (Miss Topeka) - Human Trafficking

Lion Eric Tweedy - Fentanyl Crisis: A Call to Action

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

PATTI HILL



FUN!



SERVICE!



CASUAL!



No seminars!

No committee meetings!

Changing the World



We Serve