District 17N News

68 Lions clubs serving in southcentral and southeast Kansas | February 2025 Find us on the web at kslions17n.org or on Facebook as KansasLionsDistrict17N



Call to Convention

Come for fellowship, fun and service

All roads lead to Bel Aire for the 2025 District 17 N Convention on Friday, February 28 and Saturday, March 1.

Convention activities will be at Gospel Assembly Church, 4230 N. Oliver. A block of rooms for convention attendees is available at the nearby Aloft hotel, 3642 N. Oliver.

Convention fun begins Friday evening with Singo Bingo—test your knowledge of popular and classic rock/country/pop music! Social hour begins at 7 pm, with bingo from 8 to 9 pm. Come for snacks, fun and fellowship!

Saturday activities include a service project to tie fleece blankets for Wichita Children's Home, elections, and more.

International Director Steven and Lion LeeAnn Middlemiss

from New Hampshire will be our guest for the weekend. ID Middlemass will deliver the keynote



address during the Saturday luncheon.

Elections will be held during the business meeting on Saturday.

Voting delegates will elect leaders for the 2025-2026 Lions year, including District Governor, First Vice District Governor and Second Vice District Governor. Clark Lindstrom of Wichita Downtown Lions Club is the candidate for District Governor. Melanie Snider of the Baxter Springs Lions Club is the candidate for First Vice District Governor.

District representatives to the three Kansas foundations—the Kansas Lions Foundation (1 position, 3-year term), the Kansas Lions Band Foundation (2 positions; 2-year term) and the Kansas Lions Sight Foundation (2 positions; 3-year term)—will also be elected.

Announced candidates for the foundation positions are: PDG Richard Caldwell for the KLF; PDG Stuart Tolle for the KLBF, and PCC Lori Langley and Dr. Steve Cauble for the KLSF.

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Coming Up! **District 17N Convention**

February 28-March 1 Bel Aire Register Today! See pages 10-13

Save the Date! **Kansas Lions** State Convention May 29-31

DoubleTree @ Wichita Airport

Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute June 27-29

Baker University Baldwin City, KS Info at kansaslions.org

USA/Canada Forum

September 18-20 Atlantic City, NJ Info at

https://lionsforum.org

Kansas Lions District 17N Leaders

District Governor Shari Neidhardt

Towanda Lions Club 316-304-3644

19Faith58@gmail.com

Clark Lindstrom

Wichita Downtown Lions Club 316-258-2781

cflindstrom@yahoo.com

1st Vice District Governor 2nd Vice District Governor Melanie Snider

Baxter Springs Lions Club 417-529-2138

lionmelsnider@gmail.com

A key to successful leadership: recognition of individuals

Every leader that is truly successful does not do so by what they personally accomplished, but rather by the efforts of those that they lead. The success enjoyed by our district is directly related to the individual efforts of each of our members. Having the privilege to serve as your District Governor has shown me the importance of team effort.

Believe it or not, every Lion within the district plays an important role, from the newest member to the Lion that has been serving the longest. Your contributions as a Lion from the club level, district level, and the multiple district level reflects the Lions motto, "We Serve." For what each of our members do, I say Thank You. Those two simple words are the easiest form of recognition that one can give to another, but are sometimes forgotten to do so. At the recent Mid-Winter Rally, I had the opportunity to recognize three individuals.

During this annual event, the District Peace Poster winners are recognized at the Saturday luncheon. Our District winner, Ivan Esparza sponsored by the Bel Aire Lions Club, was awarded First Place for the Multiple District. His poster has been forwarded on to Lions International to compete at the international level. What a privilege to personally congratulate this young man and thank his parents for supporting him.



District and Multiple District Peace Poster Winner – Ivan Esparza Sponsored by Bel Aire Lions Club

I also had the honor, with the assistance of International Director Anthony Paradiso, to present International President's Certificates of Appreciation to two outstanding Lions. Second VDG Melanie Snider and Cabinet Secretary PDG Chris Bauer have "Made

Their Mark" by serving in key cabinet positions. Their individual efforts have assisted me in so many ways.



International President's Certificates of Appreciation presented to Second VDG Melanie Snider & Cabinet Secretary PDG Chris Bauer.

Over the last three years, so many Lions have helped me, making it almost impossible to narrow down the list to just two. During our upcoming convention, we will have the opportunity to recognize additional Lions. The limited number of certificates that Lions International allows to be presented has to be one of the toughest tasks a District Governor faces.

As a reminder for the upcoming convention February 28 to March 1, please remember to make your meal reservations by February 14 to District Treasurer Lion Barb Schattak. I hope that you will join us at the Gospel Assembly Church, 4230 North Oliver Road, Bel Aire, for some fun, fellowship, and service. Our convention guests will be International Director Steve and Lions LeeAnn Middlemiss, from Hudson, New Hampshire.

A big shout out and congratulations to the Westphalia Lions Club for sponsoring the most new members in January; they brought in three new members.

I will close with a quote by President John F. Kennedy, "We must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives."

Thank you for making such a positive difference in my life.

Lion Shari Neidhardt District Governor, 2024-2025

First Vice District Governor

A timely 'Thank You' goes a long way

Two of the most powerful words we can speak are "Thank you." I believe these two words are understood universally if said sincerely and simply. They are transformative to improve relationships,



lift spirits, and recognize any act of kindness or caring. We should offer up a "thank you" in so many ways and as often as we can.

Send a handwritten note, express a gesture that is thoughtful, a small gift, or offer a handshake, pat on the shoulder, or a hug if it is comfortable for all involved (always ask first).

As I look through all the Lions related paperwork on my desk, I honestly feel gratitude for the Lions who have and are providing their

valued time, talent, and treasure to keep the extraordinary legacy of Melvin Jones, our association founder, ongoing. There would be no global LION family without countless Lions serving their communities, spreading hope, and leading clubs and projects everyday.

So here goes: (Lions All) Thank you IP Fabricio Oliveira for your International leadership, traveling the globe promoting Lionism, and for the Certificate of Appreciation I recently received. Thank you Multiple District 17 Leaders from State Council Chair Pam, DG Shari, DG Diana, and DG Margy for all the work and effort put into making the recent Mid Winter Rally in Junction City a success for attendees. Thank you ID Hans for your continued strong leadership and personal counsel to me whenever I need it while keeping us solvent as the State Treasurer. A big thank you to the five past IDs who continue to guide and direct the Districts, support the many viable committees, and clubs with your energy and enthusiasm.

Many thanks go to State Secretary Dan whom I have personally seen work tirelessly to keep Lions informed, engaged, trained,

and enjoying being a member of the world's largest service association. I especially want to shout out my thank you to his wife Becky, who produces this district newsletter, but also does the same on the state level all the while helping Lion Dan in practically everything he does.

Second VDG Melanie is a shining leader in our District that I want to thank for all the experience, advice, and good common sense that I value so much. Thank you also has to go out to District Secretary Chris for not only his meeting minutes and IT abilities whenever needed, but also his knowledge of the constitution, bylaws, and keeping track of the club histories, banners, and vest pins. Thank you District Treasurer Barb for the tracking and reporting of the business side of our Lionistic efforts.

Thank you goes out to the ten District Zone Chairs who are paramount in communicating Club, District, and International information while keeping a pulse on club activities, projects and programs. Big thanks to the chairs of the 25 committees or foundations, doing more than the fair share of work to keep Kansas Lionism efforts strong and active.

I want to thank each and every club officer and club member for everything they do individually and collectively to keep Kansas Lions Clubs thriving in 2025.

Lastly, a tremendous thank you to the staff at Lions International Headquarters who support everything Lions do to make it a better world according to Melvin Jones's dream.

Every day, let's remember the impact that a "thank you" can have on each other and offer them up freely and often. Doing so sincerely and in a timely fashion definitely helps to remind us all of the shared personal commitments to service we have made. A simple "thank you" binds us to the power of feeling good about what we do while changing lives for others in need within our communities, state, and the world.

Clark Lindstrom, 1st VDG, 2024-2025

Second Vice District Governor

Making a choice for leadership, service

Make your Mark – it is a choice!

I was thinking about all the choices we make in your lives. Do you choose to make your mark by serving others through volunteering? Do you choose to make



your mark by selling pancake feed tickets, raffle tickets or supporting other fundraising efforts?

Do you choose to make your mark by attending club meetings and providing input on strategic planning, future projects, and club growth? Do you choose to make your mark by serving the Lions organization as a chairperson, officer (district or club), or committee member? Do you choose to make your mark by sharing the Lions experience with others and inviting them to join?

I can tell you that my choice to serve our great Lions organization at the club and district level has been a rewarding choice.

Leaders are needed for the year 2025-2026. Reach out to DG Shari, First VDG Clark or myself with any questions you may have. Choose to Make your Mark by becoming a Lions leader serving Lions as well as your community.

Lion Melanie Snider 2nd VDG, 2024-2025

District Convention

Continued from page 1

Anyone interested in these positions should contact Lion Doug Gatewood, nominations chair, at doug.gatew@gmail.com or 620-762-0076. Nominations from the floor will be accepted.

Delegates will also vote on an addition to the By-Laws to add a Leo/Leo-Lion Liaison position to the District Cabinet. This amendment would bring our district by-laws into alignment with Lions International.

The addition is as follows:

Article II, Section 11: Leo/ Leo-Lion Cabinet Liaison (Optional position)

- (k) Support the district Leo chairperson in organizing Leo clubs and members in areas with no Leo Districts.
- (1) Encourage the formation of a Leo district in areas with the necessary number of clubs and members.

Voting delegates should provide a completed delegate form (see below) to vote in the election and for the amendment.

The silent auction is always a highlight of the convention. Clubs are encouraged to provide a gift basket or item for the auction. Proceeds from this year's auction will be split between the district's Diabetes Camp fund and the family of Maddie Kaufman of Moundridge, who has a brain tumor. Bidding opens at 9:30 am and closes at 12:45 pm.

Convention agenda and registration forms are on pages 8 through 11.

Around the District

District 17N is about halfway to the goal of \$5,000 for diabetes camp scholarships, according the report at the recent district cabinet meeting.

The application for a Diabetes Camp scholarship is on the following page. The Diabetes Committee has challenged each club to donate \$100 to provide scholarships for the camps run by the American Diabetes Association. Camp registration opens February 12 on the ADA website. Send donations to District Treasurer Barb Schattak, 330 Washington, Lyndon, 66451.

McCune Lions will be serving up pancakes from 7 am to noon on Saturday, February 8 at the McCune Town and County Center, 410 5th St. The menu includes pancakes and sausage, eggs and bacon, milk and OJ.

Join **Wichita Northwest Lions** for their Chili Feed, 11 am to 3 pm on Saturday, February 8 at Ability Point, 2919 W. Second St.

Pancakes or biscuits and gravy and delicious Stroots sausage is on the menu for **Goddard Lions** Pancake Day, 7 am to 1 pm on Saturday, February 22 at the Goddard Community Center, 122 N Main Street.

Derby Lions recently donated funds for a new kitchen range at a Wichita Ronald McDonald House.

Wichita Downtown Lions recently donated two TREX benches to YMCA Camp Hyde. Lions collected and recycled 2,000 pounds of stretchable plastic through the TREX

	DELEGATE FORM
Club Name	Lion
This certifie	s that the above named person is a duly elected
	Delegate
To the District 17-N L	Lions District Convention in Bel Aire, KS on March 1, 2025
	aid Lion is in good standing with their club.
	esident or Secretary attests to this appointment.
President or Secretary Signature	Delegate/Alternate Signature

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District 17-N Lions Health Program Diabetes Camp Scholarship Application

Date of this Application	n		
Youth Name	First Last	Age	
Address	First Last		
	ADA camp before? Ye	State es No How	Postal Code many times?
Parents Name	First Last		
E mail address	First Last		
		See the information	
Why do you need assis	tance?		
1. To see if there Lions Dist. N	application and submit it to	iilable contact Lion Ver Lion Vern.	rn. After his approval, complete the
	to the ADA website	-	
-	the camps below and click	_	
=	near Augusta, Kansas June 8 13, 2025	Camp Planet D Date	
	8 17	Age	7 17
Registration begins Fe		Registration begins	
Cost \$1600 - 50%		Cost \$1400 - 50%	
Family Register	\$150	Family Register	•
Dist. 17-N Lions Scho		Dist. 17-N Lions Sch	
The family needs to e	mail a copy of the ADA I	nvoice to the Lion listo	ed below. Then the Lions Health nily to pay the rest of their camp fee.
Lions Contact informa E mail: cunning98@y	ahoo.com District 17N Lions l	Health Program	Phone: 620-238-3616
	315 S. 32 nd St Parso	ons, KS 67357	
Amount of scholarship	Date approved	I	nitial of LHP Chair

Welcome to the Pride

New members in January



New Member Girard

James Shetlar

Wilda Pentola

Sponsor

Osage City C. J. A. Adkins

Parsons Elaine Hudson William Kerns

Don Cunningham

Westphalia Thomas Young Larry Dieker Darren Elliss David Brown



David Brown

Band Camp coming to Wichita

Rose Elliss

Registration moves online —watch for details

As Lawrence Welk might say, "and a one, and a two." As always, the Kansas Lions State Band will provide great entertainment during the State Convention in Wichita.

This year the camp will be May 27 through 31 on the Friends University campus, under the direction of Dr. Shawn Knopp, Assistant Professor Music Education & Band Director. Performances on Friday night and Saturday morning will take place on the Friends University campus.

The band committee and members of the Kansas Lions Band Branch Club are working to provide links so that students will be able to register on-line (camp application and medical form). For the current year, costs per student will remain at \$250.

We encourage clubs to reach out to their local schools and help spread the word about this wonderful opportunity. Clubs that do not have a local student wanting to attend can still provide scholarships for other students, there is always a student needing financial support.

Specific performance times and locations will be provided in future newsletters. Kansas Lions have always been outstanding supporters of the students and for that, the Band Committee is truly thankful.

> Lion Galen Whisman **Band Committee Chair**



2024 Kansas Lions Band at Baker University, Baldwin City, KS.



Around the District

Submit your club activities to newsletter17n@cox.net Deadline is always the 25th of the month



Six-plus decades
of service—
Second Vice District
Governor Melanie Snider
presents Lion Jim Sobba
of the Garnett Club a
Chevron for 65 years of
service at a recent
meeting.





Derby Noon Lions Club members were recognized with Membership Chevrons for their years of service. From left Sue Epperson, 15 years; Charlie Cadwell, 35 years, and Stephanie Johnson, 15 years with 1st VDG Clark Lindstrom.



Wichita Northwest Lions stirred up pots of chicken and noodles for families at the Ronald McDonald House.

At left, Lions Sandra Childs and Peggy Dilsaver-Carter at the kitchen range.

Below: Lions Sandra Childs, Patsy Faber, Tammy, Funk and Peggy Dilsaver-Carter looking over the meals ready for the families. Not pictured is Lion Georgina Morris.





PDG Andy Horner receives his 40-year membership Chevron from Bel Aire President Gary O'Neal.



Valley Center Lions Linda McCormick (35 years), Myrna Hamilton (10 years) and Mike Hamilton (10 years) received membership Chevrons at a recent meeting.



Girard Lion Bill Gifford, pictured with his wife Judy, received a Melvin Jones Fellowship at a recent meeting. Gifford joined the Girard Lions Club in 1962, as Scoutmaster of the local Boy Scout troop.

Photo courtesy of Aaron Pyle / The Morning Sun

Global MembershipTeam

Are you selling your Lions' enthusiasm?

Warm greetings and happy growling, fellow Lions. I pass on this month an excellent mini-dissertation I ran across from our extraordinary Lion PDG Jerry Loney in that vibrant Sunflower Lions Club in Topeka.

As a lifetime veteran sales professional, I take my hat off to him for nailing down what our attitudes must be in order to "Win Friends and Influence People" (Thank you, Dale Carnegie!) into our clubs.

Without further ado here, I introduce this sage advice with every good salesman's mantra: "Unseen and Untold Is Unsold."

Here's Jerry!

Are Lions Salespeople?

Are Lions salespeople?! Every single Lion member knows the answer to this question. We Lions are always selling something: ties, coloring books, nuts, pancake feed tickets, raffle tickets, silent auction items, and etc. But what I'm actually talking about is different. Read on.

Every single human being in the world is a salesperson. We all have something to sell: Teachers, ministers, parents, artists, entrepreneurs, doctors, lawyers, bakers, clowns, postal workers, whoever we are,



wherever we are, and whatever we do, we all sell. Yes, we all have something to sell, whether it is an idea, a

product, or a service.

This is our common thread. The differences boil down to two things:

- 1). Some of us deny being salespeople (more introverted?).
- 2). Some of us are better at it than others (more extroverted?).

It's now time for us to recognize that everyone has to sell something to someone, and the more proficient we are at it, the more successful we become in managing our lives and in helping to enrich the lives of others.

Please remember this: We are all salespeople, every single one of us here on this planet. Understand that logic.

Was Einstein a salesman? Yes, of course he was. His ideas didn't die with him. He thankfully sold them to the world! And he changed it forever.

Was Martin Luther King a salesman? Most definitely, you bet he was. He was a wonderful salesman!

Have you ever seen him speak to the masses?!

The same resounding "Yes!" goes for Gandhi, Thatcher, Churchill, FDR, JFK and Picasso, and so many, many others that we all can think of.

Selling is the noblest of professions. It is the delivery of ideas. It is a wonderful position to be in. So, please remember to use the world's best loved 'radio station' when you do your selling. And that is: WIIFM. What is it? It's an acronym for "What's In It For Me?"

Lions, like selling anything or any service, people need to know what's in it for them. So tell them! In other words, don't try selling Lionism to prospective members. Talk to them about it; give them your stories about why you are a Lion, and what it has done for you. Sell them Lionism; sell them yourself and why you are in the Lions organization.

That's your selling power and their buying power!! If you are 'enthusiastic/ about the Lions organization and can sell them that 'enthusiasm' then the battle is already won! Bada Bing! Bada Boom!

Jerry Bilyeu, District 17N Global Membership

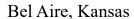
Team



DISTRICT 17-N CONVENTION – "MAKE YOUR MARK"

February 28 – March 1, 2025

Gospel Assembly Church, 4230 N. Oliver Rd.





Come meet International Director Steve & Lion LeeAnn Middlemiss

FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIAL (February 28th)

7:00 – 8:00 PM Social Hour

8:00 – 9:00 PM Singo Bingo

CONVENTION DAY (March 1st)

8:00 AM Vendor and Convention Setup

9:00 AM Registration & Delegation Certification

9:30 AM Silent Auction Opens

10:00 AM Convention Formal Opening

10:15 AM Service Project

11:00 AM Elections

11:30 AM Remembrance Service

12:00 PM Lunch – Heart of Country Catering

1:00 PM Key Note Speaker – ID Steve Middlemiss

1:30 PM Q&A with ID Steve Middlemiss

2:00 PM District Awards, Recognition, and Gifts

2:45 PM Closing Comments

3:00 PM Convention Closing – Safe Journey Home

**ZOOM Link to be provided.

Silent Auction

Please bring gift baskets and other items for the Silent Auction.
Proceeds from the auction will be split between District 17N Diabetes Awareness Program and LCIF Childhood Cancer.

Silent Auction opens at 9:30 am and bidding ends at 12:45 pm

Service Project

Our Service Project for the convention will be making fleece tie blankets. The blankets will be donated to the Wichita Children's Home, 7271 East 37th St North, Wichita, Kansas 67226.

The Wichita Children's Home is a non-profit organization that offers the only emergency, temporary, and residential care for children.



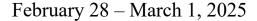
^{*}Snacks*Fun*Fellowship*

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DISTRICT 17 N CONVENTION

Meal Registration and Hotel Information







Convention Location

Gospel Assembly Church

4230 North Oliver Road, Bel Aire, Kansas 67220

	MEAL RESERVATION	
Convention Registration	@ \$5.00/Person	
Friday Night Social	No Charge	
•	\$18.00/Per Person oes, Vegetables, Salad, Bread, Variety of Desserts.	Tea, Water, Coffee.
Total Due: (make checks pay Meal Reservations due by Feb	,	
Name(s)	Club	
Address		
	Phone	
	istrict Treasurer Lion Barb Shattak, 330 Wash mail.com and pay at the door. Registration dea	
(Convention Hotel Information	
Aloft Wighita 2	2612 North Oliver St. Wighita Kangag	67220

Aloft Wichita, 3642 North Oliver St, Wichita, Kansas 67220

(316) 744-1100

Convention King Room Rate \$119.00 + Taxes

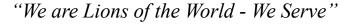
Convention Double Room Rate \$129.00 + Taxes

Make room reservations by February 1 – Block: **District 17-N Lions**



DISTRICT 17 N CONVENTION – EXHIBITOR FORM

February 28 – March 1, 2025





JOIN US AND BE PART OF OUR CONVENTION

Come meet International Director Steve & Lion LeeAnn Middlemiss

FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIAL (February 28th)

GOSPEL ASSEMBLY CHURCH

4230 North Oliver Road, Bel Aire, Kansas 67220

Social Hour 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Singo Bingo 8:00 – 9:00PM

*Snacks*Fun*Fellowship*

CONVENTION DAY (March 1st)

GOSPEL ASSEMBLY CHURCH

4230 North Oliver Road, Bel Aire, Kansas 67220

(SET UP BEGINS AT 8:00 AM)

Convention 9:00 AM- 3:00 PM

Name:	Phone:
Lions Program/Organization	<u>:</u>
Email:	
Any Special Needs:	
Email completed form to Lic	on Jackie O'Neal, Convention Co-Chair
glammother@yahoo.com	





DISTRICT 17-N CONVENTION BOOK ADVERTISING FORM



"We are Lions of the World - We Serve"

The 2025 District 17-N Convention Book will be printed as a 8 ½" x 5 ½ format booklet and included in each of the convention packets.

Send payment to District 17-N Treasurer Barb Schattak 330 Washington St, Lyndon, Kansas 6645`

Send "Ready to Print" artwork (jpg format), your text, and advertisement reservation form to

District Governor Shari Neidhardt

19faith58@gmail.com

Club/Business Name:	
Point of Contact:	
Address:	
Email:	Phone:
Ad Size: 1/3 Page Ad - \$25.00	
2/3 Page Ad - \$40.00	MD17-N
Full Page Ad - \$50.00	LIONS ROCK
Note: Deadline for advertising is Feb	engev 14 2025