



Kansas Lions respond to March wildfires

March wildfires devastated Kansas communities, including the small town of Englewood in Clark County (see some of the damage at right). Kansas Lions responded to lend aid. Read the story and see more photos on pages 2 and 3.

Photo by Becky Funke



International Director
Lewis Quinn

2017 State Convention June 2-3 in Wichita

The 2017 Kansas Lions State Convention will be a celebration of the Lions Clubs International Centennial and of the service of the members of 243 Lions clubs in Kansas.

Come to the Doubletree at Wichita Airport Friday and Saturday, June 2-3 for two full days of fellowship, learning and fun. To celebrate Lions Clubs International's Centennial, register for the convention (\$10 per person) and the Saturday night banquet is free. The convention registration form is on page 8.

As we celebrate the Centennial year of Lions Clubs International, our guest is International Director Lewis Quinn

and his wife, Lion Gayle, of Anchorage, Alaska. Director Quinn will be with us through the convention.

As we mark 100 years of service, the convention committee has planned a salute to the service of Kansas Lions. With memorabilia from the state office collection and pictures and memorabilia provided by clubs from around the state in a special display area, we invite you to celebrate service.

The convention starts Friday morning with the customary slate of committee and foundation meetings. Registration opens at 8 a.m., with the hospitality room and displays and vendors open-

See **CONVENTION** on page 6

News Flash

**Kansas Lions will send a band to the LCI Centennial Convention in Chicago!
Read more in this issue on page 10**

Spring wildfires

‘It looked like we were on another planet – total desolation’

Intense and unprecedented wildfires gripped portions of south central and southwest Kansas in early March, and Kansas Lions stepped in to help the victims.

Two Kansas Lions Foundation ALERT trailers were dispatched to three communities impacted: Hutchinson, Ashland and Englewood. These trailers carry cleaning and basic recovery supplies. One was purchased with help from an LCIF grant. The other smaller trailer was donated to the Kansas Lions Foundation several years ago by a Kansas Lions club.

Initial supplies for the trailers were donated by businesses and Lions clubs throughout Kansas. This allows the ALERT

trailers to immediately respond in a crisis rather than waiting for an LCIF grant.

More than 300 individuals and seven fire rescue units were assisted by the trailers. Multiple trips were made to District K because of the widespread area affected by the fires.

The southwest Kansas towns of Englewood and Ashland in Clark County were evacuated. Numerous rural homes near Ashland were destroyed or damaged. In Englewood, several homes were lost or damaged by fire. The town of Englewood lost its water source when the pump house burned, leaving the 100 residents without water.

Lion Becky and PDG Dan Funke drove one of the ALERT trailers to western Kansas. Nothing prepared them for the devastation they saw.

“As a reporter I’ve been to house fires – they are nothing like this,” Becky said. “It was bare soil and yucca plants. It looked like we were on another planet – total desolation, black and grey for as far as the eye could see.”

Continued on next page



ABOVE LEFT: Fire left a charred landscape in Englewood, Kan; RIGHT: Lion volunteers unload supplies for distribution to those affected by the March wildfires. Photos by Becky Funke



LEFT: Fire touched almost everything in Englewood, Kan.

BELOW: The aftermath of the March wildfires left an unworldly landscape that was reminiscent of something out of a science fiction movie.

Photos by Becky Funke



Continued from previous page

Lions distributed many shovels, rakes and buckets in these communities. Clark County was the hardest hit, with more than 400,000 acres destroyed, including crops, pasture, fencing and livestock.

Kansas Lions also distributed diapers, water, eyewash, safety glasses, personal care items, masks, gloves, hammers, nails, staples, blankets, food and other consumable goods that had been donated to stock the ALERT trailers. The tools, gloves and masks were especially appreciated as residents worked in smoke and ash across landscape no longer recognizable.

District K Governor Kerry Hookstra applied for a \$10,000 LCIF grant, which was used to help provide supplies to restock the trailers so they are ready for the next disaster.

The Hutchinson area fire was smaller but no less devastating, also resulting in evacuations and the loss of homes

and property. Seven homes were destroyed in Reno County, where an estimated 6,000 acres burned as firefighters successfully kept the fire from ravaging the city of Hutchinson.

“The area wildfires were an eye opener,” said District K Vice District Governor Randy St. Aubyn of Hutchinson. “The first night they called a voluntary evacuation for the area where we live. We decided to wait it out. We could see

the flames a little over a mile from us and headed our way. Suddenly the wind shifted and the flames started moving east of us.”

He said the next morning, he went to the emergency operations center and was amazed how organized it was.

“I told them about our ALERT trailer,” he recalled. “They got back in contact with me later after the fire was finally extinguished and asked us to be involved in an event they were having at the (state) fairgrounds that next Sunday.”

St. Aubyn, as a Lion on the frontlines after a disaster, saw the toll of this tragedy but he also saw intense gratitude.

“I was overwhelmed by how appreciative the victims were,” he said. “We talked

to a couple that had lost their home and had no insurance. With the assistance of PDGs Dan Funke and Craig Donecker, we were able to get them a check for \$500. She was brought to tears when Lion Mel Barnett and I presented her with the check.

“It definitely makes a person proud to be a Lion when you see the good we do in our communities.”

“It definitely makes a person proud to be a Lion when you see the good we do in our communities.”

***–District K VDG Randy St. Aubyn,
Hutchinson***

Eyeglasses/hearing aid/cell phone collection updates

We had very good club participation at Mid-Winter Rally collecting used glasses, cell phones, pop tops and hearing aids. When the sorting and packing was completed Feb. 4, we had received 26 banana boxes of useable glasses (370 pair per box average, for a total of 9,620 pairs of glasses).

We had 12 boxes of colored glasses (200 pair per box average, 2,400 pairs). We also sorted out five barrels of junk (packing materials, empty glasses cases, etc.). Do NOT send empty eyeglass cases.

Also in early February, we journeyed to the Hutchinson Correctional Facility to deliver a trailer load of supplies. We reloaded with finished glasses in the large shipper boxes (each of the new larger shipper boxes contains 500 pairs).

We drove on to Wichita and cleaned up all of the used glasses that were in the storage room at the State Office. We got enough used glasses to fill the van. We also went to the District A convention that day. **Overland Park Host Lions** had their usual good amount of glasses, delivered by PDG Neal & PCC Beverly Nichols.

We finished sorting this latest collection in early March. We got 2,900 pairs (seven banana boxes) and 400 pairs of colored (dark) glasses (two banana boxes). These will be shipped to countries near the equator.

Recently, I received a small box of used glasses via UPS delivery from the **Cunningham Lions Club**. I sent them a nice thank you note, as the freight was \$19.80 on the box that contained 46 pairs of glasses.

On March 10, we drove to the State Office storage facil-

ity to pick up a trailer load of used glasses; 90 percent of the load came from the Winfield Correctional Facility, delivered to Wichita by PDG Tim Hays. These are ALL PROCESSED and ready for an overseas mission trip. We had 10 large shipper boxes that contain 400 pairs each.

We also received a banana box full of glasses that contained some gold filled frames. These gold filled frames will be marketed to help pay the expenses of the KLSF eyeglass collection program. The market is too low to sell right now,

so we are holding these until the market rebounds somewhat.

On March 31, I delivered a trailer load of sorted eyeglasses to the Hutchinson prison on the way to the District N Convention. The inmates have been working

through the supply of glasses that PDG Mark Doyen had delivered to them several years ago. Now that supply has been completed. This delivery had 48 banana boxes of sorted glasses.

Hearing aids

We received six large boxes of used hearing aids from **District K**. Lion Delores Bodine, District K Eyeglass Chair from Hays, delivered these to me. The Indiana Lions will deliver these to the Indiana Lions Speech & Hearing Project Loaner Hearing Aid Bank in Indianapolis, Ind. Our regular driver who comes to Scranton to pick up our used eyeglass shipments to MD 25 handled the actual delivery.

Respectfully In Lionism

Viola & Bernard Lee, Co-Chairs

MD 17 Used Eyeglass Collection

Calling all Kansas Lions:
Please bring or send used eyeglasses,
cell phones and hearing aids
to State Convention in Wichita!

Council Chair

Fran Smith (Denny)
1001 Baughman Drive
Ulysses 67880
H 620.356.5879
C 620.353.4135
fsmith@pld.com

District Governors

17-K

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903 Delay Street
Downs 67437
H 785.454.3438
C 785.346.4836
pibelbc@gmail.com
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17-A

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H 785.667.3415
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marge@zakoura-vaughan.net
kansaslions17n.com

2016-17 Calendar

June 1-3, 2017

State Convention & Fourth State
Council Meeting, Wichita

June 30-July 4, 2017

100th Anniversary LCI Convention,
Chicago

Follow MD 17 ...

• on the Internet:
www.kansaslions.org

• on social media:
Like "Kansas Lions" on Facebook

facebook

Please try home telephones first if you need to call Council members.



Thank You!

Listed here are the clubs and individuals who have donated to the Kansas Lions ALERT 2017 Wildfire Response. More clubs will be added as money is received. The fundraising goal is \$25,000. To date, \$21,589 has been collected.

ALERT response funds may be used to:

- Assist fire departments with equipment needs;
- Purchase barbed wire and other fencing materials;
- Replace trees in community areas;
- Provide financial donations to families that had no insurance.

The Kansas Lions Foundation wishes to thank those clubs that donated to the KLF to restock the trailer and add to our fuel and insurance fund. If you or your club would like to donate to this cause, specify "wildfire disaster relief" on your check and mail it to: Kansas Lions Foundation, John Scovill, PO Box 73, Humboldt KS 66748.

AC Byrd (Leavenworth)
 Arkansas City Early Birds Lions
 Assaria Lions
 Atchison Lions
 Auburn Lions
 Augusta Lions
 Barnard Lions
 Barnes Lions
 Basehor Lions
 Baxter Springs Lions
 Bel Aire Lions
 Benton Lions
 Bucklin Lions
 Bud and Lela Gillespie
 Burlington Lions Club
 Cedar Vale Lions
 Chapman Lions
 Clay Center Lions
 Coffeyville Daylight Defenders
 Coffeyville Noon Lions
 Columbus Lions
 Colwich Lions
 Concordia Lions
 David Schafer (Manhattan Lions)
 David Whitney (Sunflower Lions)
 Delphos Lions
 Ellinwood Lions
 Forrest Holdeman
 Fredonia Lions
 Ft. Larned Lions
 Garden City Noon Lions
 Gem Lions
 Girard Lions
 Glen Elder Lions
 Goddard Lions
 Great Bend Lions
 Hays Comm. Theatre
 Hays Lions
 Highland Lions
 Hill City Lions
 Hillsboro Lions
 Holgate OH Lions
 Hugoton Lions
 Humboldt Lions
 Hutchinson Lions
 Hutchinson Noon Lions

Independence Lions
 Janet Davis
 (Manhattan Sunflower Lions)
 Janette M (Holdeman) Labbee
 KCK Lions
 Kent D Haury
 LaCrosse Lions
 Larned Lions
 Lawrence Lions
 Leavenworth Lions
 Lebo Lions
 Lincoln Lions
 Linwood Lions
 Lucas Lions
 Manhattan Lions
 Manhattan Sunflower Lions
 McPherson Lions
 Medicine Lodge Lions
 Mike Petitjean
 Minneapolis Noon Lions
 Neosho Rapids Lions
 Northwest Lions

Norton Lions
 Olathe Lions
 Paola Lions
 Pittsburg Lions
 Reading Lions
 Reading Lion Billy Paige
 Richard Darge
 Robinson Lions
 Sabetha Lions
 Salina Sunflower Lions
 Santanta Lions
 Scranton Lions
 Tescott Lions
 Troy Lions
 Valley Center Lions
 Virginia and Raymond Jarsulic
 (Miami County Traveling Lions)
 Waterville Lions
 Wichita NW Lions
 Willis Brandyberry (Hill City)
 Woodbine Lions
 Yates Center Lions



Where there's a need, there's a Kansas Lion. These Lions stand ready to help those affected by March wildfires across Kansas. Photo by Becky Funke

Convention

Continued from page 1

-ing at 9 a.m. The Fourth State Council Meeting begins at 10 a.m.

The convention kicks-off with the Friday luncheon, featuring guest speaker Ed O'Malley of the Kansas Leadership Center.

Lions may attend two informational seminars on Friday afternoon, one of which will be presented by ID Quinn. The other will feature Jeff Arnett, representative of Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), who will give an informative presentation on the work of LCIF around the world.

The Friday evening banquet will be a casual affair with a fun Lions Trivia contest following the meal. The convention committee is working on a surprise guest – you will have to attend to find out who it is.

Saturday events begin with the much-anticipated concert performance of the Kansas Lions State Band at Central Community Church. The church is at 6100 West Maple, about one-half mile east of Ridge Road on Maple.

After the band performance, come back to the Doubletree for lunch and hear special guest speaker Sierra Scott.

Saturday afternoon includes the State Convention business session and a service of remembrance led by the Rev. Kerry Hookstra, governor of District K.

The celebration of Kansas Lions wraps up with the 6 p.m. banquet. We will recognize our leaders, including past and present and international directors, the current district governors and the incoming district governors. The Centennial Lions of each district and the Centennial Leo will be announced during the evening program. Our special guest, ID Lewis Quinn, will present his address during the banquet.

The Saturday night banquet is free with a paid registration. Full convention registration, which includes four meals (Friday noon, Friday night, Saturday noon, and Saturday night) is \$62. The reservation deadline is May 25.

Make hotel reservations directly with the Doubletree by Hilton at 316-945-5272. Mention Kansas Lions for the special room rate of \$94 per night. The Lions block will be released May 18.

Special guest presenters in Wichita



Ed O'Malley

Friday lunch speaker

Ed O'Malley, Kansas Leadership Center

The titles “president” and “CEO” may conjure up traditional notions of authoritarian leadership, but Ed O'Malley, who holds those titles at the Kansas Leadership Center, doesn't see them that way. O'Malley spent four years as a state legislator, with a ringside seat for both effective and ineffective displays of civic leadership. To him, leadership is not a title, personality trait or workshop topic. Instead, it's an opportunity that people can grasp and choose to exercise in many different ways and venues.



Jeff Arnett

Friday afternoon seminar – Jeff Arnett, LCIF “LCIF: Serving Local and Global Communities”

Jeff Arnett is the Regional Development Specialist at Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) for the western U.S. and ANZI. He studied art history and English at Vanderbilt University and received a master's degree in arts administration from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Jeff's career has focused on the fundraising profession, having worked in the development departments at the Chicago Zoological Society, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Museum of Contemporary Photography. In his spare time, Jeff volunteers at the Frank Lloyd Wright Trust. In 2016 he received a Melvin Jones Fellowship from LCIF. Jeff is a member of the **Miami County Traveling Lions Club** and serves as the club's LCIF Coordinator.



ID Lewis Quinn

Friday afternoon seminar – ID Lewis Quinn

ID Quinn was elected to serve a two-year term as a director of Lions Clubs International at the association's 98th International Convention held in Honolulu, Hawaii, June 26-30, 2015. Director Quinn is a business owner in sales and marketing.

A member of the Anchorage Captain Cook Lions Club since 1987, he has held many offices within the association, including club president, district governor and zone chairperson.

In recognition of his service to the association, he has received numerous awards, including the Membership Key Award, GMT Leader Recognition and the First Vice District Governor Excellence Award. He is also a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow.

In addition to his Lions activities, Director Quinn is active in numerous professional and community organizations, including the Salvation Army, the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, United Way, the American Society of Interior Designers and Junior Achievement of Alaska.

He and Gayle, who also is a Lion and a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, have two sons.

See **PRESENTERS** on next page

Presenters *continued from previous page*



Sierra Scott

Saturday lunch speaker

Sierra Scott, broadcast journalist

Sierra Scott is a veteran television news anchor with more than 30 years of broadcast experience. She currently hosts a weekly show on

KPTS Channel 8 called “Positively Kansas!” and is the former co-host of “The Brett and Sierra Show” and a weekly magazine show called “It’s ALL Good with Sierra Scott.” During her career, she was a news anchor in five cities, including Tampa, Fla. and Waco, Texas.

Scott is an award-winning journalist whose work has premiered at the Film Festival in Toronto as well as at the United Nations. She was Miss Missouri in 1989 and is currently the reigning Ms. Kansas United States. She was also first runner up in the national Miss American Woman Pageant.

She is an alumna of Leadership Kansas and serves on the boards of eight charity organizations, including The Wichita Grand Opera and Wichita Symphony. Sierra loves to travel and in the past eight years she’s been in 48 states and 27 countries, including Cuba, Sudan, China, Dubai and the Philippines.

Scott has also appeared in several movies and on national talk shows, including Ellen DeGeneres’ talk show “Ellen,” and was featured on the cover of an international magazine called “Shoeholics” that focuses on her favorite addiction.

State Convention agenda

Thursday, June 1

- 1 p.m. District Governors Elect/Spouses Review Meeting, Consulate 1
- 3-6 p.m. Registration, Lobby Area (Dinner on own)
- 3 p.m. DGs, DGEs, Second VDGs Review, Consulate 1
- 8-10 p.m. Hospitality Room, Consulate 3

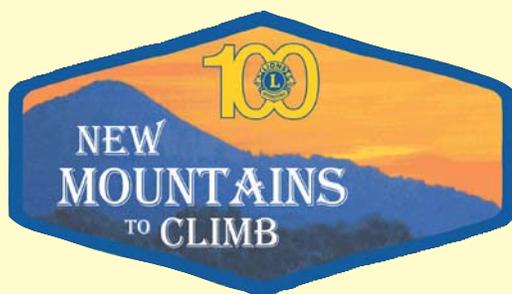
Friday, June 2

- 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Registration (closed during luncheon)
- 8 a.m. Kansas Lions Foundation, Consulate 2; Kansas Lions Sight Foundation, Consulate 1
- 9 a.m. Budget & Finance, Board Room
- 9 a.m. – 10 p.m. Hospitality Room (closed during luncheon); Displays/vendors
- 10-11:30 a.m. Fourth State Council Meeting, Salons 3 & 4
- 11:45 a.m. Luncheon – Hosted by PDG Club, Salons 1 & 2
- 2-4 p.m. Special Seminars, Multi Media Theater
- 4 p.m. K-1, Consulate 1
- 4-5 p.m. Kansas Lions Band Foundation, Consulate 2; 2017-18 First VDGs & Second VDGs/spouses, Board Room
- 6:30 p.m. Dinner, Salons 1, 2 & 3

Saturday, June 3

- 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Displays/exhibits; registration, hospitality room (closed for band concert & luncheon)
- 10 a.m. Concert by Kansas Lions State Band at Central Community Church (directions in convention book)
- Noon Luncheon, Salons 2 & 3
- 2 p.m. State Convention Business Session, Salon 4; Annual meeting of foundations
Immediately following adjournment:
Service of Remembrance
After Service of Remembrance:
KLBF Board of Directors, election of 2017-18 officers (*Current DGs, DGEs, current KLBF directors, incoming foundation directors*)
- 6:30 p.m. State Convention Banquet, Ballroom/Salons 1, 2, 3 & 4

Special Speaker:
International Director Lewis Quinn



International Director Quinn will install new Lions at the State Convention banquet!

Please invite new, not-yet-installed Lions to join you in Wichita for this special opportunity! Send new member’s name, club name & sponsor’s name by May 20 to kansaslions@aol.com.

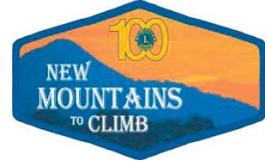
Room reservation deadline: May 18; Meal reservation deadline: May 25

**Convention forms: Registration – page 8;
Service Projects – page 9; Vendor – page 11**





Kansas Lions State Convention



June 2 – 3, 2017 - Wichita, Kansas
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel at the Wichita Airport

Registration and Reservation Form

	Number	Amount
Registration (fee applies to all attendees except Leos)	_____ @\$10.00	\$ _____
Friday Lunch	_____ @\$17.00	\$ _____
Friday Dinner	_____ @\$18.00	\$ _____
Saturday Lunch	_____ @\$17.00	\$ _____
Saturday Banquet	_____	Free with paid registration fee

Celebrating 100 years of Lions with this free banquet

Gratuity included in all meal prices.

Total \$ _____

Breakfast available each morning at Legends in the hotel at your expense.

*Please make your check(s) payable to "Kansas Lions."

Lions(s) Leo(s) guest _____

Address _____ e-mail: _____

Phone _____ Lions or/Leo Club _____

District: **K A N** (please circle one)

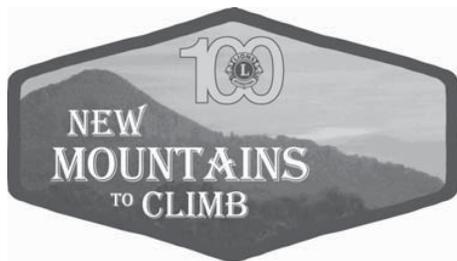
Please list any special dietary needs: _____

**In celebration of 100 years of Lionism, the Saturday banquet
is free to Kansas Lions club members with a paid registration**

Mail Reservations to: Kansas Lions State Office
 231 South Tyler
 Wichita, Kansas 67209
 Email: kansaslions@aol.com
 Phone: 316-773-2100

Final date for meal reservations is **May 25, 2017**. Room reservations must be made by **May 18, 2017**.
 DoubleTree by Hilton phone number is **1-316-945-5272**.





CELEBRATING KANSAS LIONS SERVICE PROJECTS

The 2017 State Convention will highlight the service of Kansas Lions throughout the history of Lions in Kansas. We invite your club to be part of the celebration by submitting information and photos of your service projects to the state convention committee for inclusion in a slide show presentation. Or we invite your club to create your own display of pictures and/or memorabilia to illustrate your club's history. We will provide you a skirted table on which to put your display.

Please fill out the following information and submit it with electronic or printed photos or links to Facebook posts or other social media. You must fill out the form below with your entry. Clubs that demonstrate active service in their communities will be recognized at the state convention.

Entries are due by May 25, 2017

Name of Club _____ District _____

Contact Person _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Describe the Service Project(s) _____

Lions Service Hours _____ Community Service Hours _____

Project Cost _____ Community Organizations that Partnered with your Project _____

How did club raise the monies for project? _____

Did you receive outside funding sources? Please list organization and amount. _____

Our club is doing its own display and requests _____ 8' tables.

We ask that all table displays be set up between 9 and 11 am Friday, June 2, 2017, and not be taken down until 4 pm Saturday, June 3, 2017. All items must be removed by 5 pm on Saturday, June 3, 2017. Convention Hosts will be positioned at the display room at all times the room is open, and the area will be locked up when convention representatives are not present. Please check in at the registration table when you want to set up. The convention committee, hotel management and representatives of MD17 cannot be held responsible for lost, damaged or stolen items. Email all entries to: Lion Dan Funke at djfunke@cox.net or mail to Lion Dan Funke, 9 Argon Dr., Goddard, KS 67052. **Deadline is May 25, 2017.**

BE PART OF THE FUN AND EXCITEMENT OF THE 2017 STATE CONVENTION



March on:

Kansas Lions International Band heading to Chicago

We are just a few weeks away from the Kansas Lions State Convention and the Kansas Lions Band camp. Coordination continues with Dr. John Taylor, Friends University, and Central Community Church in preparation for the Friday night and Saturday morning performances.

The big news: We WILL take an International Band to the Centennial Convention in Chicago!

As of April 20, we have 43 students for the International Band. As we have stated before, this year's International Convention is very important. The cost per student was set at \$1,250, which covers both State and International Band fees.

Kansas Lions State Band, with your support, continues to flourish. Looking at the numbers from 2010 to 2016, we averaged 216 students, representing 110 schools. On average, 203 Lions clubs sponsored 94.2 percent of the students attending State Band. During the last three years, we have seen an increase in the number of students sending applications to us, looking for sponsors. Thanks to the extra efforts of Lion Shari contacting Kansas Lions and your willingness to cover the costs, we have never had to turn away any student who wanted to participate.

Because of your generosity and willingness to support the Kansas Lions Band program, we have had just more than



3,000 students attend the camp since 2003. This is an outstanding testimony to the Lions of Kansas.

As always, I leave you with a quote, "Rhythm and harmony find their way into the inward places of the soul."
– Plato

Respectfully in Lions Service,
PCC Hans & Lion Shari Neidhardt, Co-Chairs
Kansas Lions Band Committee

Hoxie Hotrodders to host car show, drag racing June 17

The **Hoxie Hotrodders Lions Club** invites one and all to the Hoxie Rod Run on Saturday, June 17 in downtown Hoxie.

Registration opens at 8 a.m. at Bowen Scout House on Sheridan Avenue and closes at noon. The fee is \$20 per vehicle. Awards will be presented at 4 p.m.

Trophies will be awarded for top Ford, Chevy and Mopar, as well as Best Engine, Top Ten and more!

Don't miss games and entertainment during the day, including free swimming at the Hoxie pool; a corn tank for

ages 6 and younger; dunk tank; fun walk, and frozen T-shirt contest. There also will be a pedal power tractor pull and a poker run.

Drag racing will begin at 6 p.m. at the Hoxie Airport. Racing rules include required entry in the "Show 'n Shine." All drivers must be 18 and older and have a valid driver's license. Only one passenger per vehicle and all occupants must sign a waiver.

There will be no stationary burnouts, no studded tires, no motorcycles and no alcohol allowed on the drag strip or in the vehicles.

Those age 12 and younger get free admission to the drag races with the gift of a non-perishable food item.

For racing information, call Troy at 785-675-9160. To pre-register a vehicle for the show, send the entry fee, your name/address/phone and car make/model/year to Hoxie Rod Run Committee, PO Box 363, Hoxie KS 67740. Make checks payable to Hoxie Hotrodders Lions Club.

The club will not be held responsible for any damages or accidents of any kind. More information available at hoxierodrun.com.



Kansas Lions State Convention



June 2 – 3, 2017 - Wichita, Kansas
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel at the Wichita Airport

Exhibitors / Vendors Table Request Form

Name of Exhibitor / Vendor _____

Contact Person _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contact Phone: _____ E-Mail _____

_____ Electricity Requested (Please check if needed)

_____ Non-profit or Lions programs / foundations and Pin Collectors (Please indicate if more than one table is needed)

_____ For profit companies

Special Requests: _____

Exhibitor's Hours: Suggested Hours: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Friday and 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Saturday.

(Most Lions will be off site at the Band Concert, from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM Saturday)

Vendors can set-up after 3:00 p.m. Thursday, June 1, 2017. Please check in at registration table.....

Area Description: One 8' by 30" table w/skirt and cover and two chairs. Electricity is limited. First-come, first-served.

Mail to: PCC Tom McClernon, 12210 Ridgepoint, Wichita, 67235

Email to: tmccclernon@aol.com

Deadline: May 19, 2017



Sen. Moran: Lions came first, then politics

By Nancy D. Borst
KLN Editor

Senator Jerry Moran of Kansas operates in politics on a daily basis but he told Kansas Lions at this year's Mid-Winter Rally, "I was a Lion before I was a politician."

His pride at being a Lion has always been visible in Moran, a Plainville native. He was first introduced to Lionism in the fourth grade when he was invited to a dinner for all the community's fourth graders, hosted by the Lions club (an activity the club still does).

"This had an effect on a fourth grader," he recalled. So much so that when he became of age, he joined Lions "because I knew about them."

After graduating from college, he took a job at a bank in Hill City in 1976 and was immediately invited to become a Lion. That experience helped him appreciate the value of a civic club to a community.

"It became my entrée into a town

where I knew no one," he said, noting that through Lions, he got to know his new community and gained a sense of belonging.

"Together we try to make a difference in our community, our state, our nation and the world," he said.

Moran said when he first became a Lion, he was the youngest member of his club. Today, Moran lives in Manhattan but his Lions membership remains with the **Hays Lions Club**. Sadly, he said he noticed at a recent club meeting that he

still is one of the younger members.

"We've got our work cut for us," he told Kansas Lions. "We've got to make Lions club relevant for another generation."

As Lions celebrate their centennial, they must tell the world this is not a one shot deal – Lions needs to make a difference for another 100 years, he said.

"Sometimes people believe the solu-

tion to every problem is in Washington, D.C.," he noted. "I believe we change one soul at a time. The reality is that leadership is in our hometowns."

He said he helped charter a club in Washington for people who work on Capitol Hill, and noted wryly, "We don't have a political divide (in the club)."

"One of my challenges is not to lose touch with everyday life and values," he said. "I will return to Washington tomorrow and will have you in mind. I know thousands of Kansans are working to make a difference."

Moran is one of the co-sponsors of the Lions Commemorative Coin legislation (*see related articles on this page and next page*). He said he will introduce legislation in June to recognize the LCI Centennial "so the whole country knows what a difference Lions make."

LCI President Bob Corlew gave Moran one of the newly-minted Lions coins and thanked him "on behalf of 1.4 million Lions in 200 countries" for his role in making the coin a reality.



Sen. Jerry Moran

• Mid-Winter Rally • Mid-Winter Rally • Mid-Winter Rally •

Centennial coin has Kansas connection

The Lions Centennial Commemorative Coin now is available for purchase. The coin will help Lions mark 100 years of humanitarian service while also providing funds to continue that service into the next 100 years.

The coin features founder Melvin Jones and the Lions logo on one side, and a family of Lions in front of a globe on the reverse side. Each coin is packaged in its own case and is accompanied by a certificate of authenticity. The coin is \$1 legal tender. Each coin is 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper.

Lions can order the coin for a limited time. Uncirculated coins sell for \$51.95 and proof coins are \$52.95 each. Shipping and taxes are extra. Coins can be

Continued on next page



Kansas Sen. Jerry Moran (seated, center) marvels at the newly-minted Lions commemorative coin after speaking at Mid-Winter Rally. Moran helped the coin become reality by being the lead sponsor of the requisite legislation in Congress. Photo by Becky Funke

• Mid-Winter Rally • Mid-Winter Rally • Mid-Winter Rally •

Continued from previous page

purchased from LCI Club Supplies or the U.S. Mint. If ordering directly from the Mint, there is a limit of 100 coins bought per credit card transaction.

Once sold out, no additional coins

will be minted. The U.S. Mint will produce only up to 400,000 coins. For each coin sold, \$10 will be paid to the Lions Clubs International Foundation. This will represent a potential \$4 million infusion to improve the lives of

people in need everywhere.

The Lions Clubs International Century of Service Commemorative Coin Act was signed into law by former President Barack Obama on Oct. 5, 2012.

Commemorative LCI coin a reality thanks to Kansas Lion

Editor's note: This article first appeared in The Kansas Lions News in 2011.

Lions Clubs International has long been known for its generous philanthropy. As LCI looks toward celebrating its 100th birthday in 2017, the organization is embarking on a special way to celebrate and raise money, all at the same time.

An effort is under way to get Congress to pass a commemorative coin bill that LCI says could raise as much as \$8 million for the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF). The idea for a special silver dollar coin came from the Sandy Springs Lions Club in Maryland but a Kansas Lion is shepherding it through the U.S. Senate.

Sen. Jerry Moran is the lead sponsor of the Lions Club Commemorative Coin legislation in that chamber. And as a Lion from Hays, he happily embraces the task.

“The approaching Lions Club centennial gives us an opportunity to celebrate a century of public service, and I have introduced a bill in Congress to instruct the U.S. Treasury to mint one dollar silver coins to commemorate this milestone,” said Moran recently. “Minting a commemorative coin would highlight a century of charitable service to others and recognize the legacy of the 1.5 million Lions around the world who have served their communities.

“Additionally, it would raise critical resources for ongoing Lions’ programs to serve others. I am proud to be a Lion, and it is my hope that our communities will be well served

by the Lions Club for generations to come.”

Moran and Congressman Peter Roskam are sponsoring the Lions Club Century of Service Commemorative Coin Act, S. 1299/H.R. 2139. The commemorative coin bill would authorize the minting of 400,000 \$1 coins to celebrate years of empowering volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding through Lions clubs. LCIF would use generated funds to further its programs for the visually impaired, disabled, youth and those affected by major disaster.

Moran and his staff helped install a Lions Club photo exhibit in the Senate Russell Rotunda the week of Nov. 14 to raise awareness of who Lions are and what Lions do. The photos showcased the work of Lions worldwide.

Getting the legislation passed is not a given because Congress passes only two commemorative coin bills each year. The current effort includes Lions’ past international presidents, past international directors and every day Lions who have made the effort to contact their representatives about the legislation.

There are more than 140 co-sponsors of the bill in the U.S. House of Representatives and at least 27 co-sponsors in the Senate. Lions are encouraged to contact members of Congress and urge them to support the effort. In addition to Moran, Sen. Pat Roberts and Rep. Lynn Jenkins have pledged their support as co-sponsors.



IP: Enjoy this centennial year

By Nancy D. Borst
KLN Editor

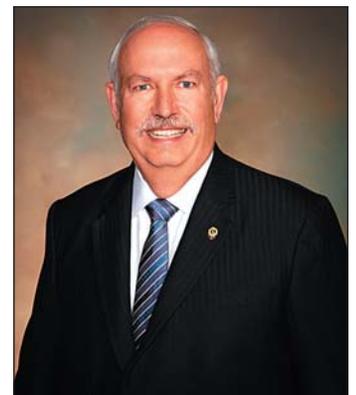
LCI President Bob Corlew had an important message for Kansas Lions at Mid-Winter Rally: make the most of this centennial year.

With more than 47,000 clubs, all Lions must commit this year to serving more people in more ways, training the strongest possible leaders and growing membership to its highest level ever.

He doesn't blink with these lofty goals, but rather puts them out with a conviction that inspired a packed banquet room. After all, Lions do tend to be over achievers.

Corlew noted that originally, the centennial goal was to serve 100 million people around the world by June 2018, when the centennial celebration is officially concluded. What organizers didn't realize was that Lions would rise up and blow that deadline

See **PRESIDENT** on page 14



LCI President Bob Corlew

President *Continued from page 13*

out of the water – reaching the 100 million service mark in August 2016, nearly two years ahead of schedule.

Membership is critical and it's not just about numbers, he said. Clubs need members committed to serving others.

"We want people who really want to give back," he said. "There are still communities with needs but no club – we're working to identify those gaps to establish new clubs."

Existing clubs must grow stronger. Otherwise, they simply won't be able to meet their communities' needs.

"We pride ourselves for being on the cutting edge of service," he said. "That's why we exist. Each of us put on a pin and made a pledge to serve."

He recalled a club in Europe in which each member wear the Lions pin every day. Each starts out with the pin upside down and cannot make it right until an act of service is done.

"We are reminded that this is a new day, with an obligation to do something for someone else," he said. "Then and only then, after they helped someone else, (could they turn the pin). They had to earn the right to call themselves Lions."

The past year has been one of the strongest in worldwide membership, surpassing 1.4 million in October 2016 and adding 800,000 new Lions in January alone.

Why does membership grow? "The reason is because around the world, there are Lions like you determined to make the world better."

Local club members are the heart and soul of LCI. This centennial year will take time to honor some of them, including Kansas' own PIP Claude DeVorss and PIP Bill Wunder.

"We will also honor Lions we don't know, club members, not District Governors or international officers," Corlew said. "They've been there day in and day out, making their clubs stronger and their communities better."

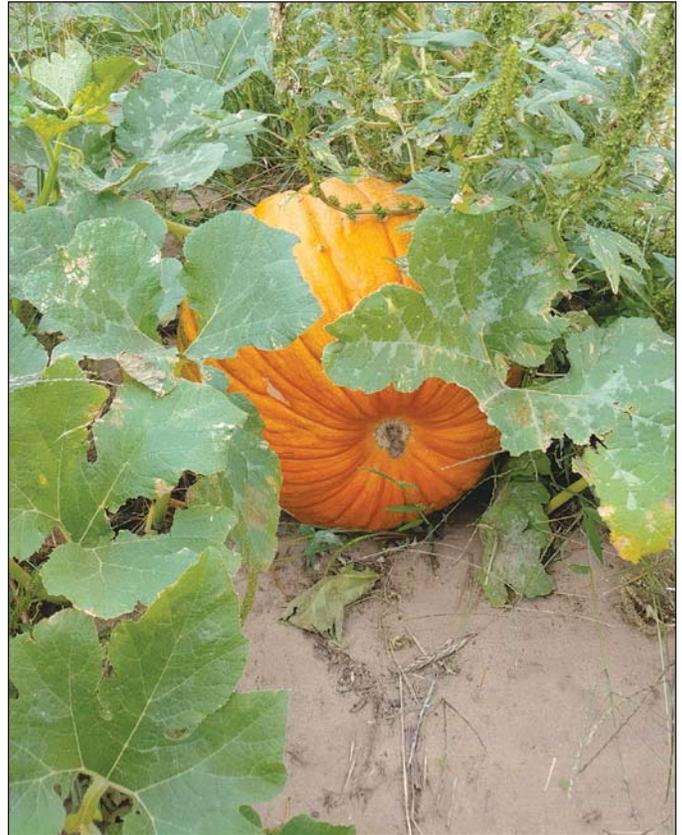
In this centennial year, Lion will work to increase alliances with governments around the world. That will be accomplished in large part by the LCI Centennial Convention in Chicago. Corlew said it promises to be one of the largest conventions ever held on the North American continent. Nearly 150 countries are expected in the parade. Special guests will include the Beach Boys, the rock group Chicago, former vice president Al Gore and entertainer Patti LaBelle.

Corlew said a 25 x 45 foot banner was created and cut into 48 pieces. Each international board member carries a piece wherever he or she goes and collects signatures of Lions. The banner will be reassembled and flown during the convention in Chicago.

"You will be represented there," he noted.

His hope is that 100 years from now, what Lions accomplish in this centennial year will be enduring.

"In 2117, Lions will look back to today. Our hope is they will look back on us and be able to say the Lions of 2017 really shaped our future," he said. "They were the giants on whose shoulders we stand today."



This is the winning entry in the Environmental Photo Contest. It was taken by Judy Hayes of Ellinwood. Contributed photo

Pumpkin photo takes top prize

Judy Hayes of the Ellinwood Lions Club/District K is the winner of the MD 17 Environmental Photo Contest. Lions chose the winner via voting at Mid-Winter Rally.

Second place went to Steve Billington, Galena Rt. 66 Lions/District N. Third place went to Morris Greenwood, Milford Lions/District A.

All were first place winners in their respective districts. Hayes' photo will be sent to Lions International to be entered in the Environmental Photo Contest. The LCI winner will be chosen by voting at the International Convention in Chicago.

Marla Larison

MD-17 Environmental Chair

The 2017 Mid-Winter Rally was a rousing success, drawing a crowd of nearly 300 to the Saturday banquet to hear IP Bob Corlew, witness induction of new members, celebrate Leos and recognize new Melvin Jones Fellows.

State Convention promises to be another signature event – be sure to register today and plan to join fellow Lions in Wichita in June.

Youth honored at MWR through Peace Posters, Leos

Kansas Lions celebrated youth during Mid-Winter Rally by honoring MD 17 winning peace posters and honoring a Leo Club of Excellence.

Peace Posters

This year's Peace Poster contest theme was "A Celebration of Peace." The contest spawned three brightly colored MD 17-level finalists.

First place and \$150 went to Nicole Tran, 12, a seventh grader sponsored by **Wichita East/Southeast Lions Club** (District N). "Good wishes alone will not ensure peace," she wrote about her entry, quoting Alfred Nobel. Her poster competed at the LCI level.

Second place and \$125 went to Payton Hake, 13, an eighth grader sponsored by the **Downs Lions Club** (District A). "When I celebrate there is always music and the dove represents peace, along with flowers. Peace is a very vibrant tone so I used bright colors," she wrote of her entry.

Third place and \$100 went to Brooklyn Cole, 13, an eighth grader sponsored by the **Louisburg Lions Club** (District K). "It's definitely something worth celebrating. I've tried to show that in my picture with balloons and color," she wrote of her entry.

Leo Club Excellence Award

The **Blue Valley West Leo Club** is once again a Leo Club Excellence Award winner, the 14th time the club has been so honored. Several club members at the banquet were personally congratulated by IP Bob Corlew.

All Lions districts may endorse one Leo club to receive this prestigious award. Fewer than one-half of 1 percent of Leo clubs earn this honor, which is based on service, fundraising and leadership. The award was for the 2015-16 year, during which the Leo club held more than 40 projects and raised more than \$4,300 for the American Cancer Society.

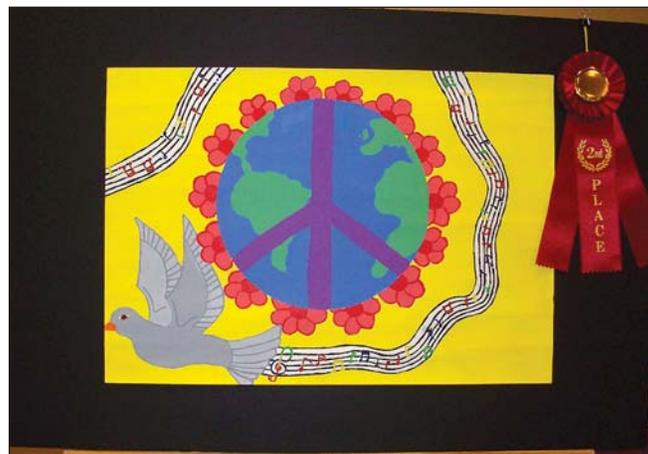
For this honor, the Blue Valley Leo Club receives a banner patch and a chevron in Leo colors.



A Celebration of Peace

First place Peace Poster winner Nicole Tran quoted Alfred Nobel, "Good wishes alone will not ensure peace." She is sponsored by **Wichita East/Southeast Lions**.

Payton Hake says of her second place poster, "When I celebrate there is always music and the dove represents peace, along with flowers. Peace is a very vibrant tone so I used bright colors." She is sponsored by the **Downs Lions Club**.



Brooklyn Cole wrote of peace, "It's definitely something worth celebrating. I've tried to show that in my picture with balloons and color." She is sponsored by the **Louisburg Lions Club**.

Photos by Nancy D. Borst

Valuable training events help shape new leaders

2017 GPLLI in Missouri

This summer's Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute will be July 21-23 at Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Mo.

The cost to attend is \$200 after May 2 (\$175 if paid by May 1). The cost includes a double occupancy room, seven meals and all course materials. A limited number of single rooms are available for an additional \$40 fee.

Among presenters will be Lion Becky Funke of Goddard and PCC Hans Neidhardt of Potwin.

This training is valuable to emerging Lion leaders, said District K First VDG Randy St. Aubyn of Hutchinson, who participated in 2016.

"I would highly recommend the GPLLI to anyone that has never attended," he said. "I believe everyone can benefit from it both in their Lions' leadership and in civilian life. A couple of areas that come to mind right away are the training on dealing with conflict and dealing with change."

To register for GPLLI, contact Registrar PID Gary Fry at fyrgj35@msn.com or call him at 515-967-4645. Read more online at www.gplli.com.

PDGs offer scholarship support for Forum, GPLLI

Two great training opportunities are on the horizon – one close to home and one at a more distant location. One of the goals of the MD 17 Past District Governors' Club is to make it easier for Kansas Lions to attend one of the events. To that end the PDG club is offering six \$200 scholarships, two per district, which can be used to attend either leadership training workshop.

The Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute is close to home (see details at left). The Institute is open to any individual who has not yet served as a district governor. Previous attendees are not eligible without specific approval.

The USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum is Sept. 21-23 at Portland, Ore. Detailed information can be found on the Forum website at <http://lionsforum.org>. The registration fee is \$285 through July 10 and \$320 after that date. Hotel expenses as well as transportation to Portland add to the total cost of this outstanding leadership training event.

The MD 17 PDG scholarships are

available to first time attendees only. Any Lion wishing to receive this assistance must make a request in writing to PCC Beverly Nichols before the event. Scholarships will be awarded on a first come/first served basis. Any Lion receiving assistance needs to register and pay for the event, then submit proof of attendance to Lion Beverly upon conclusion of the training event. A reimbursement check will be generated at that time (late July/early August for GPLLI, late September/early October for the Forum).

Questions? Don't hesitate to contact Lion Beverly at taximath@aol.com or at 913-642-7520. Remember that requests for scholarship support must be made in writing before the event. That written request can be sent by e-mail or to Beverly Nichols at 6116 W. 85th Terrace, Overland Park, KS 66207. Lions should also check with the PDG clubs in their respective districts to see what help might be available from those clubs.

GPLLI website: www.gplli.com

USA/Canada Forum website: <http://lionsforum.org>

2 Kansas Lions graduate from Emerging Lions Leadership Institute

As Lions approach our centennial and look forward to our next 100 years, effective, capable Lions leadership is more critical than ever. Lions leaders appreciate the time, effort and energy an effective leader must dedicate to enhancing his or her knowledge and leadership skills.

A successful 2016-17 Emerging Lions Leadership Institute was completed in Chicago Jan. 21-23, 2017. Graduates from Kansas were Bob Pearson, Clyde Lions Club, and Tina Forbes Seeley, Leawood Lions. Both are from District A.

Emerging Lions Leadership Institutes focus on building the skills of Lions members for leadership opportunities at the club level, including the position of club president.

Candidates must be Lions in good standing who have successfully served on a club committee and who have not yet attained the level of club president. Current charter club presidents are also eligible for this institute. Candidates must be willing to commit to all days of the institute.

Lions who meet the qualifications may apply to the Emerging Lions Leadership Institute. Applications will be available four months prior to the event. If you are interested in applying, please download the application from the LCI website or obtain a copy of the application from your Global Leadership Team District Coordinator. Because of the high number of applications received by the association, acceptance into the institute is not guaranteed.

Lions Clubs International will provide meals and lodging according to the dates and schedule of the institute. Please note that a non-refundable participation fee of **\$125** will be required to offset a portion of these costs for all institutes. This fee will be due no less than six weeks prior to the institute start date. **Please do not send funds until you receive a letter of acceptance to the institute.** Participants are also responsible to pay for their own transportation and related travel expenses to and from the institute site.

Come celebrate a century of service in Chicago

Come celebrate 100 years of Lionism at the LCI Convention June 30-July 4 in Chicago. The Kansas Lions Delegation will be at the Hyatt Regency downtown.

State Secretary Linda McCormick has entered Kansas in the parade on Saturday, July 1. Kansas Lions will be dressed as Wizard of Oz Characters and “Flying Monkey Leos.”

We will be led by the Kansas Lions International Band, and our own International Director, Bill Phillipi and his wife, Vickie. Kansas Lions will be wearing the Kansas Lion purple Lion shirt, khaki pants and tennis shoes. If you need a purple Lion shirt, contact IPCC Bev Greenwood. They are \$30; 2X and 3X are \$35. The shirts will be

available at State Convention June 1-3 in Wichita. Also, don’t forget to get your umbrella from Lion Linda McCormick; these also will be available at the State Convention. See you there.



Have you made your travel plans? Amtrak will be a fun way to go. You can call Amtrak-24 hours at 1-800-872-7245. About 30 Lions will be traveling on Amtrak. Additionally, plans have been made for a tour of LCI headquarters before the convention at 10 a.m. on Friday, June 30. Be at McCormick Center 15 minutes prior. To date, 15 are scheduled to participate. The cost is \$35. If interested, contact Bev Greenwood, bgreenwood@igroup.kscoxmail.com.

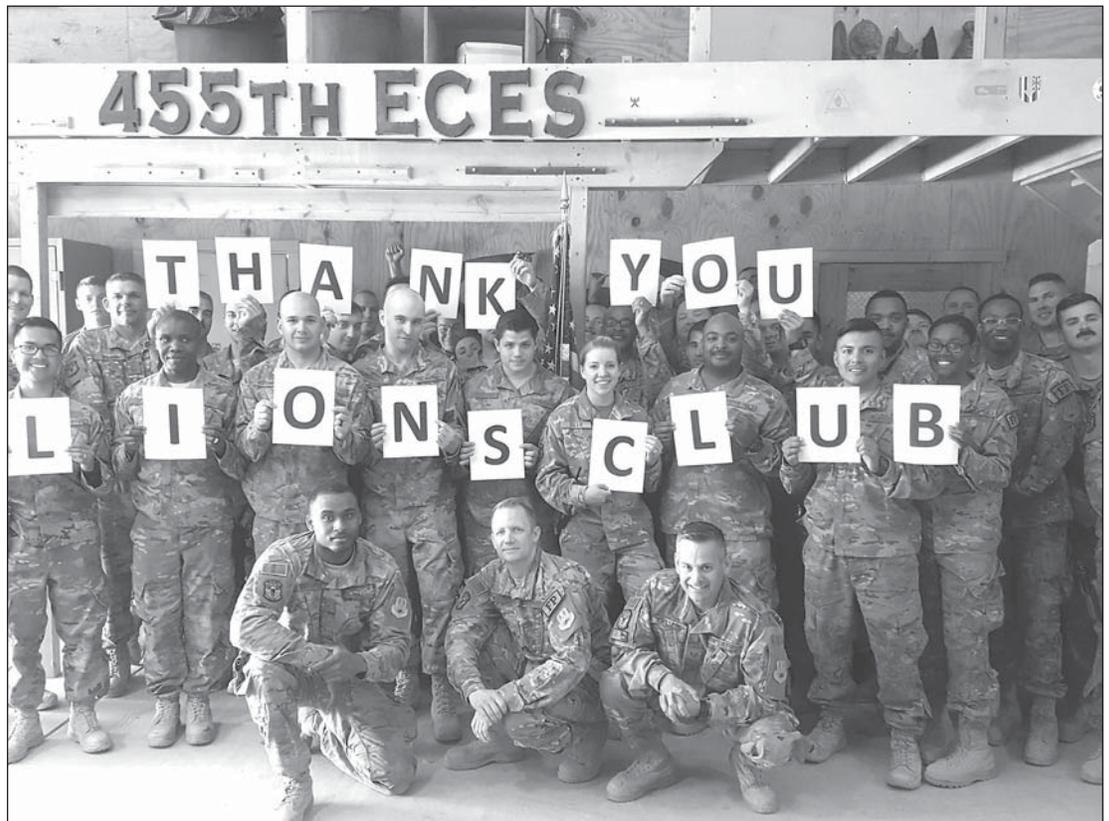
Simple gesture meaningful to those serving U.S. far from home

Sending “Shoeboxes for Soldiers” to deployed service men and women is an annual project of the **Overland Park Host Lions Club**.

While the title is catchy, the actual container is a flat rate postage box from the United States Postal Service. Included in each box are personal grooming items, snacks, and entertainment items such as puzzle books, magazines, and DVDs. Items are contributed by club members, church groups and students in local schools.

This year, the 10th year of the project, 66 boxes went to men and women in the 455th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, stationed at Bagram Air Force Base in Afghanistan. The squadron provided a group “Thank You” picture.

Lt. Col. Dustin Richards, commander of the group, wrote the following: “It was great to get that last boost of morale from the U.S. and to know there



Members of the 455th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, stationed at Bagram Air Force Base in Afghanistan, thank the **Overland Park Host Lions Club** for gift boxes sent by the club as part of “Shoeboxes for Soldiers.” Contributed photo

are men and women all over that are thinking about us.

“We took the (below) photo so we could all share our thanks. We truly

appreciate the efforts of you and your fellow Lions take to make life a bit better for our service men and women deployed in harm’s way.”

R – O – A – R! Local Lions ‘serve’



Flipping flapjacks for a cause

Members of the **Natoma Lions Club** flipped flapjacks Feb. 25 and raised funds to support a myriad of humanitarian work in their community.

Contributed photos

The above photo captures the joyful service for the **Natoma Lions Club** during their annual Saturday night Pancake Supper Feb. 25 in the Natoma Community Center. As flapjacks were flipped, and served with sausage and eggs, the townfolk came together in support of the club’s fundraising effort for the many projects they provide to the community each year.

The club’s humanitarian work, financed from donations, helps restore sight, provides disaster relief, and supports youth projects. The club also addresses vital needs within the community, including Remember the Elderly, Good Citizen, Kansas Highway Patrol Law Enforcement Cadet Academy, Boys State, academic scholarships for furthering education, and a myriad of other projects.

Laah Tucker
Natoma Lions



Natoma Lions served their community with a smile at their recent Pancake Supper. They are, left to right, Laah Tucker, Cody Dunlap, Mary Murphy, Terry Tucker, Aaron Homburg, David George, Fred Williams, Bob Prockish, Beverly Hachmeister, Ken Hackmeister, Gail Griffin, Pres. Rick Dunlap and Sec. Shawna Dunlap.

Great Bend grabs top trophy – again

The **Great Bend Evening Lions** celebrated winning the Roy Allison Memorial Trophy for the third straight year by having the largest percent of members registered and in attendance at the 17-K Convention Delegate Assembly. Eleven of the club’s 17 members attended – that’s 65 percent participation.

Attendees were Vice District Governor Reland Cole, Stan Jantz, President Elwyn Maneth, Scott Solether, Larry Haltrop, Al Horner, Mike Long, Secretary Don Sweeney, Earl Cregger, and Don & Shelley Gotchall.

Local Lions help teacher save her eyesight

Editor's note: This article and photographs appeared recently in The Cowley Courier Traveler. They are reprinted here with permission from the publisher.

By John Shelman
The Cowley Courier Traveler

Many people take their eyesight for granted, but not Danice Sweet.

In December 2016, Sweet was diagnosed with macular edema, which was caused by diabetic retinopathy, an eye disease resulting from diabetes. The disease causes the blood vessels behind the retina to grow, blurring the vision.

Sweet is a well-known member of the Cowley County community. She has taught art in Arkansas City schools for 28 years. She also is a member of the Christian singing group, Revival, and writes and illustrates books.

Sweet said her doctor tried to treat her eyes with special drops, hoping to avoid surgery. The drops didn't help: Sweet's vision problems continued to worsen. Sweet said she was constantly falling and didn't understand why.

"I ended up with a hemorrhage in my eye," she said.

Sweet said her doctor found serious complications and advised her to see a specialist without delay. She made an appointment with the retinologist at the Great Plains Eye Clinic in Wichita.

Specialists at the clinic determined she would need sur-



Danice Sweet, left, of Arkansas City, helps IXL students Adrian Reyes, center, and Keaghan Rogers with art projects. Sweet's recent eye surgery was made possible with community support, including a donation by the community's three Lions clubs. Photo by John Shelman/Cowley Courier Traveler

gery to save her eyesight.

Sweet said people with macular edema could also lose the ability to see color.

"Everything would become monochromatic, just shades of gray," she said.

Sweet said her first surgery was in December. During a recent follow-up examination, the surgeon discovered a pool of fluid had collected behind the retina and needed to be removed.

"They would have to use a special medicine that was \$2,000 per shot," she said. "Two days after that, they would need to do laser surgery with 57 laser shots to keep the blood vessels from growing."

The surgery was necessary to save her sight, but also very expensive. Sweet's insurance has a \$6,000 deductible and she was unable to cover the cost.

"There was just no way I could afford it on my teacher's salary," she said.

Sweet said a friend from school met with the teachers and suggested starting a GoFundMe website page on her behalf to raise the needed finances.

"At first I only needed \$1,600," she said. "Then, with the shot, I needed another \$2,000."

Sweet said she was amazed at the response and support she received from the community.

Even former students all the way from Florida donated funds, she said.

But she was still more than \$900 short of the



Danice Sweet happily accepts checks from Arkansas City's three Lions Clubs to help pay for eye care. Photo by John Shelman/Cowley Courier Traveler

See **TEACHER** on page 20



Kansas Lions Foundation
 Kansas Lions State Office
 231 S. Tyler Rd.
 Wichita KS. 67209

Non-Profit Standard
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Permit No. 300
 Wichita, KS.
 67276

Teacher *continued from page 19*

necessary amount. That was when the **Ark City Lions Club** found out about her need and decided to help.

Mike Pudden, president of the **Early Bird Club**, said several club members saw Sweet's story in a local paper and decided the club needed to help.

She would lose her sight if she didn't get it fixed, he said.

Ark City has three Lions Clubs — the Early Birds, **Lionesses** and the **Evening Club**. Each club donated \$300.

Sweet said the Lions club had assisted her several years ago when she took a mission trip to the Philippines.

The club provided eyeglasses for her to distribute to those who needed them.

"I never dreamed that three years later I would be the one in need of their

assistance," she said.

Sweet had her second surgery March 8 and will visit her doctor at the clinic in Wichita in early April.

Her doctor said it would take at least a month to determine if the surgery had been successful.

"Things are still a little blurry, but it's getting better every day," she said.

Sweet teaches art to kindergarten through fifth-grade students at Adams Elementary, IXL and Francis Willard schools.

Her singing group, Revival, has been to the Ukraine, Philippines and Canada, has sung at the Walnut Valley Festival 11 times and has recorded 15 CDs.

Sweet has also written and illustrated five books, including three children's books.

"The last one I wrote was about my mother's journey with ALS, (also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease) and how it has affected her life," she said.

Sweet said her vision is continuing to improve and she looks forward to a good report from her doctor next month.

"I am very grateful to the Lions Club(s), and to so many people who have been supportive and made it possible for me to have the surgery," she said. "I'm grateful that I can see, and grateful for every sunset."

**Next Kansas
 Lions News
 deadline:
 June 10, 2017**

**Email news & photos to:
 ndbdesk@cox.net
 or mail to:
 Nancy Borst
 PO Box 127
 Goddard KS 67052**



Leadership Round-Up learning

PID David Stoufer interacts with Lions attending the Kansas Lions Leadership Round-Up March 25 at McPherson. The event was well attended. Photo by Becky Funke