

It's a new year in District K Lions!

We have a new president, Mark S. Lyon and his message is one I think we all can agree on. His focus is that doing service will lead to happier clubs and more membership. We have a strong foundation of service and focusing on keeping projects and modernizing others is a path forward that will lead to more happy lions.

You can read more about it at this link:
<https://tinyurl.com/4s9xxamm>



Get your club in the Newsletter!

Our goal this year is to improve communication between our district and all of the clubs that make this district great. To start, we created a google group that can be transferred over time. This way, you can always send your information to the same spot and it will get in the newsletter from now on. To reach us, simply email the address below.

newsletter17k@googlegroups.com

Send us your stories and events. We will add them to our newsletter and post to both our social media





2026-2027 Calendar of Meetings

1st District K Cabinet Meeting

8/15/2026 - 11:00am to 2:00pm central time
The Breaks, 3203 Vine St, Hays, KS 67601

2nd District K Cabinet Meeting

11/17/2026 - 6:00pm to 7:00pm central time
Will be held digitally via zoom.

3rd District K Cabinet Meeting

1/26/2027 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm central time
Will be held digitally via zoom

District Convention with International Director Debbie Dawson

4/16/2027 to 4/17/2027 (Agenda will be provided ahead of time.)
Hays KS 67601

4th District Cabinet Meeting

6/12/2027 - 11:00am to 3:00pm central time
K18 Cafe, 5495 KS-18, Lucas, KS 67648

Calendar Download



Scan this with your phone or tablet.

It will take you to an .ics file in Google Drive.

Download it and follow the instructions to add all these dates to your preferred calendar automatically.

2026 Lions International Conference

The district governor from all three districts in Kansas made it to Hong Kong this year. It was a great convention with an opportunity to talk to Lions from all over the world. There were over 140 different countries represented at this event. We are holding the Canadian flags because they were generous enough to share their spot with us.

There were also multiple service activities at this conference. I chose to do the Character Cushion project. It was pretty neat since it helped out the environment by recycling old Lions shirts and it was also Humanitarian in that it went to rest homes to bring joy to them.

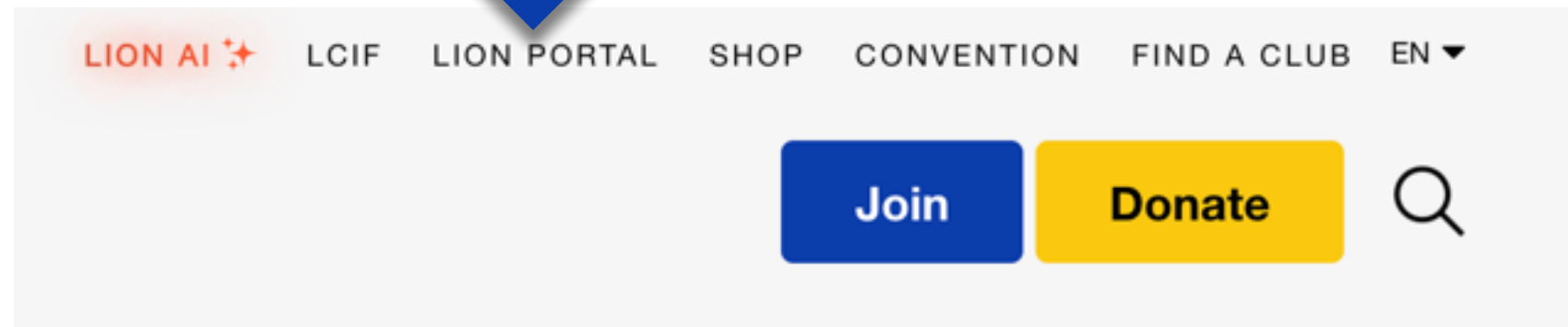
The best part was most definitely the communication with district governors from all over the world. We got to hear of all the wonderful things their clubs are doing and brainstorm ideas on making this organization even better.



Lions Jeremy Skrdlant, Faith McDaniel, Melanie Snyder, Roger & Terri Yost

Every has access to the portal

Go to www.lionsclubs.org
and choose Lion Portal in the
upper right corner.

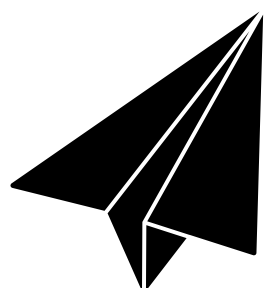


First Time Through, Choose
Don't Have an Account?

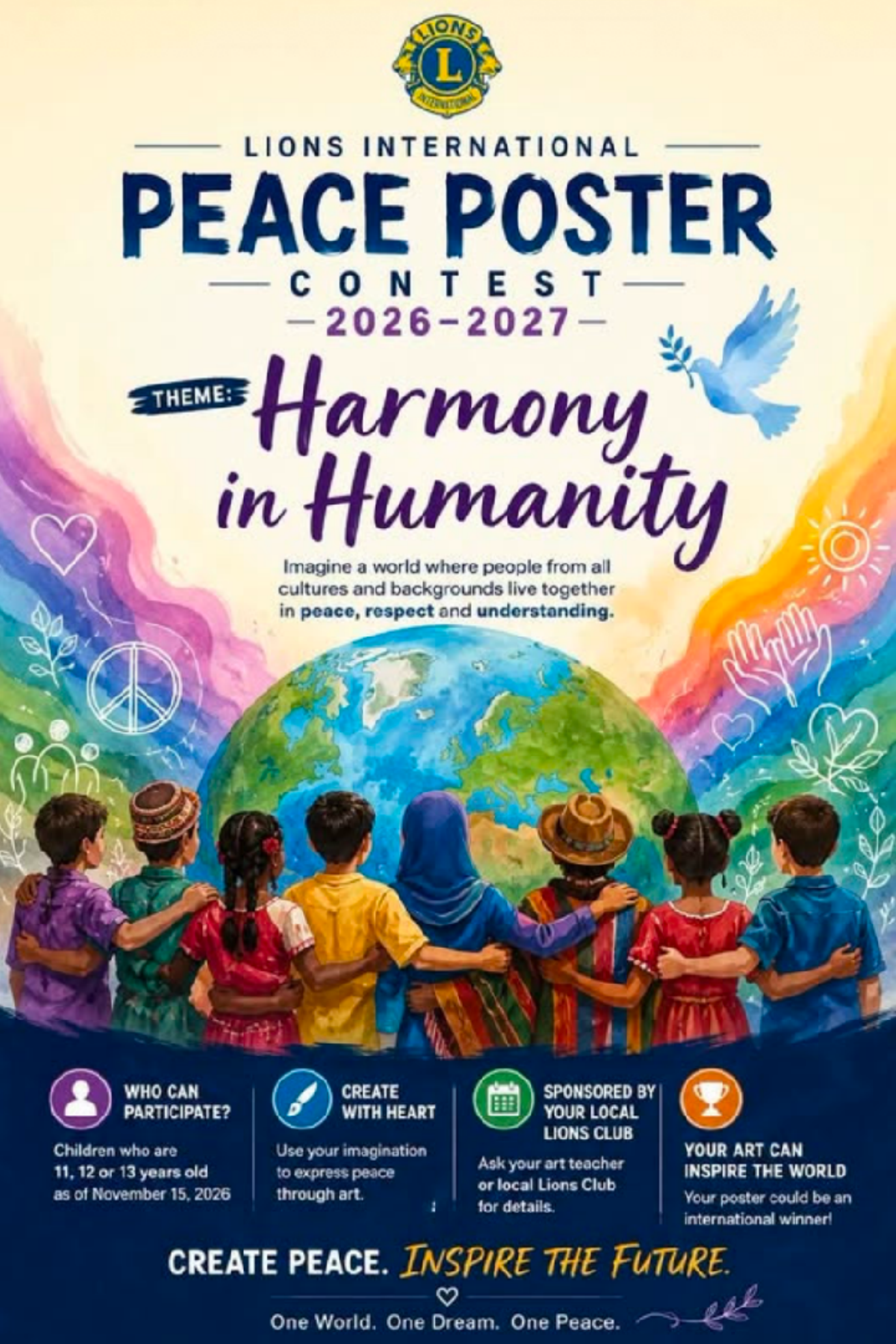
Fill out 3 simple things,
check your email and
you are in!!

2 Challenges

**Find your Lion ID number
Find the date you joined Lions**



Contact
support17K@googlegroups.com
If you have any issues



Hello, my fellow awesome Lions Club members

It is time for the Lions Club Peace Poster Contest. My name is Karen Knauer and I am the Peace Poster chairperson for the 17K district. This will be my second year overseeing this program. I am hoping to make this as easy and transparent for all the clubs that I oversee.

This year I am excited to announce, that I will be accepting **two** winners from each club. If your club decides to send in only one entry that is perfectly fine. Be sure that any entries sent to be judged at the district level, has the fully filled out, information sticker in the appropriate location, on the back of each poster. Without this official sticker, the poster will be disqualified.

To purchase your kit(s) please go to:

<https://lionsclubsinternational.myshopify.com/collections/peace-poster>

There is an option to purchase either a digital or physical kit. Each kit cost \$11.95 each (plus shipping for the physical kit)

The due date to have all entries in my possession, is **November 15th**. District Governor Jeremy Skrdlant has agreed to accept peace posters and will get them to me as well. If you are mailing your clubs entries, please let me know.

If you are unfamiliar with the peace poster contest or have any questions, feel free to email, call, or text me. If your club is not interested in participating in the Peace Poster contest, please let me know, and I will remove your club from my list. If you do not have your Peace Poster Kit yet, please let me know so I can guide your club to getting one or two.

This year's theme is **"Harmony in Humanity"**

Key Rules:

~Ages: 11,12, or 13 years old on November 15th, 2026. Eligible birth dates are November 16th, 2013 through November 15th, 2015.

~No use of lettering or numbering in any language is allowed on the front of the poster.

~If mailing, roll the poster and use a mailing tube. Do not fold the poster.

Please review all the rules in your information brochure within your kit.

~ This contest is open to any youth group. Including but not limited to Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Schools, etc.

Helpful Hints of what our judges look for while judging.

~**Poor Posters:** Lack of Color, pastels typically do not win.

~**Best Posters:** Theme brought forward if possible; Multiple methods of color have helped some posters win: coloring, watercolors, glitter paint, or markers; Something to catch the attention of the theme and judges. Upon request, I can send a copy of the St. Francis Club's parent information letter. You are more than welcome to edit and use it for your club. I am looking forward to assisting you with your Peace Posters. Thank you.

Club Anniversaries

1/1/2026 to 7/1/2027



105 Years

Kingman
Liberal

1921

95 Years

Plains
Plainville
Wakeeney

1931 / 1932

La Crosse
Macksville
Medicine Lodge

100 Years

75 Years

Atwood
Hill City
Hugoton

1946 / 1947

Brewster
Holyrood
Smith Center

80 Years

Larned
Lucas
Otis

1951 / 1952

Rexford
St. Francis
Ulysses

Club Anniversaries

1/1/2026 to 7/1/2027



70 Years

Cunningham

1956

50 Years

Colby High Plains

1976

40 Years

Tipton

1987

Logan

55 Years

Cimarron

45 Years

1971

1982

Fellow Lions,

As I begin my journey from Second Vice District Governor to First Vice District Governor, I want to thank each of you for your dedication, service, and commitment to our Lions family. It is an honor to serve alongside so many passionate individuals who truly live our motto, "We Serve."

As we look toward the 2026-2027 Lions year, I would love to hear your thoughts and ideas for the future of our district. Our district grows stronger when every Lion has a voice and an opportunity to contribute. Lions International encourages district leaders to focus on service growth, membership development, leadership opportunities, and strengthening clubs for future success.

What Would You Like to See at a District Convention?

District conventions should be informative, engaging, and fun.

I would love your feedback on:

- 📌 Educational workshops
- 📌 Service project showcases
- 📌 Fundraising idea exchanges
- 📌 Membership growth discussions
- 📌 More opportunities for fellowship and networking

These are simply conversation starters, and I welcome your ideas and suggestions.

Let's Work Together

One of my goals is to be available and accessible to every club in our district. Whether you need:

- Service project ideas
- Fundraising suggestions
- Membership growth strategies
- Club leadership resources
- Help planning an event

Please do not hesitate to reach out. I am happy to help in any way I can. Feel free to call, text, or email me anytime. Together, we can continue building stronger clubs, stronger communities, and a stronger district.

Thank you for all you do to serve others. I look forward to working with each of you during the coming Lions year.

Yours in Service,
Lion Linda Chessmore
First Vice District Governor

Five Things I'd Like Us to Consider Improving

1. Increasing communication between clubs throughout the district.
2. Sharing successful service projects and fundraising ideas.
3. Encouraging new member involvement and leadership development.
4. Growing membership while retaining current Lions.
5. Making district events more interactive and engaging for all ages.



One more thing from your District Governor

We had a great District K convention in Great Bend Kansas this spring. I am going to talk about the convention side of Lions and about the presentation I gave at the District K convention. A lot of work goes into each of these conventions. A huge thank you goes out to every Lion that helped put this convention on. These conventions give every Lion in the district the opportunity to talk to Lions that are International Directors or even Lions International Presidents. This year we had International Director David Wineman from Michigan. He gave a great speech during lunch, and you can really tell that he is passionate and knowledgeable about Lions. He was also very easy to talk to. He could be seen throughout the convention talking to fellow Lions. We are all here to serve and make the world and our communities a better place.

Another part of the convention is to vote on future leaders of the district. Each club gets delegates that allow them to vote. They can also vote on any proposed changes to the district. Each club is a part of this district, and we are here to help your club succeed and value your input. Another opportunity is to recognize individuals from the community and within Lions. One example is the Peace Poster contest winners. We get to see their work and congratulate them as a group.

Our district also benefits from auction items at these events. Our Kansas Lions Foundation was able to raise money through a silent auction at this convention. There was also a jail. I was the sheriff and apparently I was crooked because I would throw people in jail for donations and let them out for donations as well.

The last thing I am going to talk about is the leadership sessions where you can learn more about topics related to Lions or being a leader. My session this year was on “Technology can be your friend”. This is a misleading title though since I think technology is a tool and not your friend. Your friend are your fellow Lions, family, and friends you hang out with. I didn’t think you would call a hammer your friend but the poll during my presentation did not go the way I thought. I think the Lions might have been messing with me. Anyway, the topic of my presentation was more about why we have that phrase in the first place. I think it is because we are reluctant to change. Technology is a change and we often get in a habit where we want things to stay the same instead of using a newer technology.

So as a group we planned out and started building a web app with Claude.ai to help with our upcoming conventions. I polled the audience and put their responses in a prompt and had Claude start generating a markdown file of directions for it to follow. Here were some of the top requests.

- Agenda
- Locations
- Speakers and their background
- Be able to share contact information easily with each other
- Registration and reminder that you did register
- Auction Bidding from the phone
- Shared photo feature where you can upload photos from the event so that the Marketing team can use them on social media.
- Voting items and delegates



While the AI was doing its thing, I was able to go on talking about change. The first thing I noted was that AI is changing our classrooms. We are trying new techniques to use AI as a beneficial tool but sometimes that backfires. As an instructor, I was having the students use AI to get summaries of books that I recommended. We would then have discussions over the main talking points of the books. I thought this was a super useful thing since we could cover way more than just 1 or 2 books a semester. We must ask, why wouldn't this work? Well, I showed an example of a summary of the first chapter of the Wizard of Oz and asked the crowd what we miss by doing this? Here are some of their responses that are spot on.

- The details of the actions
- A personal voice
- The details and emotions of the characters
- Our ability to discern, comprehend and utilize new information

Imagine when you are reading a book, the imagery that your imagination is building in your mind. When you get just the cliff notes, you miss out on that skill. Imagine trying to work on a project and not being able to envision the steps to make it successful in your mind. The average person abandons an article within 60 seconds. So, if you have made it this far, you are doing great! Another fact is that getting a cliff note version of things unfortunately gives the person a sense of learning the material when they didn't learn it. Learning takes time and you will not remember things a week later that were easy to get.

This doesn't mean that AI is inherently bad though. It means I was using it wrong. I have found that reading a chapter and then asking AI to quiz me on the chapter so that I can reflect on it works great. You could just reflect yourself but there is something about getting another chapter done in your chat that changes the habit of how you read in a good way.

At this point we checked the status of the App. We had a good first phase where an admin can log in and create the event and anyone can see the upcoming event on the home page without logging in. We started phase two and continued with our session.

The next topic was a discussion around the following prompt. "How would you change if you had a classroom where students turned in written papers but now the bulk of them are turning in papers written by AI?" We had a great discussion on this, but the consensus was on using oral reports which works but it doesn't scale well. I mentioned going to a SXSW conference where I saw a panel speaking. This could

easily be replicated in the classroom, and the instructor could grade on the students' knowledge of the subject in that panel. This allows us to communicate more in the classroom which makes it a more human experience and a less factory like experience.

At this time our time was up so we checked one last time on our app we were building with Claude Code. We were now able to login as an admin, create a conference, and add agenda items and sessions to it. In a half hour, our group was able to go through a lecture on change and build a web app with 25 files and 1,368 lines of code. We have a pretty good minimum viable product (MVP). With a little work, I hope to have this app available for our state to use.

My final thought is that change is difficult. This is not just technology but also how we run our clubs and how we live day to day. Is that fear of change holding us back or is it keeping us safe? When we are adapting new technologies, are they making us stronger or are they falsely making us think that we are doing great?

Our Next Cabinet Meeting is August 15th at The Breaks in Hays KS. Starts @ 11:00 am Central Time