



MISSION 1.5

Accept the mission.

Our drive to reach 1.5 million members worldwide starts with you. #MissionToGrow

Challenge Accepted!

I'm on a #MissionToGrow I just asked!

Join Us

[email address here]

[club url here]

Membership Focus!

Our focus for the remainder of the year is membership. Lions is such an amazing organization that we need to grow it to be able to help our communities, state and world more than ever. Do you have a Membership Drive scheduled? Are you promoting what you do in your community? Now is the time! Let's meet the challenge and **MORE!**

Sign Up Today!

Our District Convention will be in

Great Bend Kansas

On April 17th and 18th

Lots of fun and learning are planned!

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DG Lou
and
Lion
Patty
with
Miss
Kansas

Be sure to sign up your band students!

The state convention is in Hutchinson this year and we are located next to the Cosmosphere! It is an exciting time to get more band members involved than ever. And be sure to attend the State Convention and take part in the band concerts. They are truly worth the drive!

Have you thought of attending Leadership Training? If so, now is the time. Not only is GPLLI available but we are also hosting a Faculty Development Institute. Check out the links on page 14 and ask your DG about scholarship opportunities.

Do you have Lions Portal questions? Facebook questions? Technology questions? Be sure to join 1VDG Jeremy during his session at the District Convention for all the answers!

Lions International is hosting an event for women from all around the world on March 8th. Hear what others are doing and what you can do locally and internationally. It is a wonderful way for us to work together and get great ideas for projects right here in Kansas. Please register with the link below and enjoy your time with fellow Lions soon!



<https://lionsvirtual-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/niwkOFXDTL6HfoHKwAVWeQ#/registration>

February, 2026



District Governor Lou

Fellow Lions of District 17-K,

I want to take a moment to thank each and every one of you for the incredible dedication, service, and Lion spirit you have shown this year. It has truly been a wonderful year for our district, and I am excited for the opportunities ahead. My hope is to meet and visit even more of our clubs in the coming months, because each visit reminds me of the passion, creativity, and heart that make District 17-K such a special family.

As we move through this Lions year, ***I want to extend a warm welcome to those Lions who have stepped up*** to serve as Zone Chairs and Cabinet Members. Your willingness to lead, guide, and support your fellow Lions is what keeps our district strong. Leadership is not just about holding a position—it's about inspiring others and helping our clubs thrive, and I thank you for answering that call.

We all know that a successful district depends on teamwork. Every Lion, every club, and every community project adds to the impact we make together. Let us continue to support one another, join hands, and roll forward with new ideas, fresh energy, and a commitment to growth. Adding new members and strengthening our service is not just a goal—it's the heartbeat of who we are.

I invite all Lions to take part in the many events, projects, and gatherings planned throughout the year. ***These moments are not only about service but also about fellowship, learning, and celebrating the difference we make together.*** And remember—you are never alone. If your club needs help, resources, or encouragement, please reach out to your Zone Chair or any member of the District Cabinet. We are here to serve you, so that you can serve your communities even more effectively.

I also want to welcome you all to the District 17-K Convention in Great Bend on April 17th and 18th. We are going to have a great time Friday night with Sheriff Jeremy on the watch! I wonder how many people he can throw in jail throughout the evening? Saturday will start with our meeting followed by great sessions and finally our banquet and recognition of Lions going above and beyond this year. Please sign up today!

This year, your Governor's Team—**DG Lou Morgan, 1st VDG Jeremy Skrdlant, and 2nd VDG Linda Chessmore**—is committed to working hand in hand with you to keep our clubs vibrant, our service impactful, and our membership growing. Together, we can make this Lions year one of progress, fellowship, and pride.

So let us all get on board, because the ***Lion Train is moving forward!*** With your energy and commitment, there is no limit to what District 17-K can accomplish.

LET THE LION TRAIN ROLL ON!

In Service and Friendship,
DG Lou Morgan

A yellow poster with the text "CALL A FRIEND!" in large blue letters at the top. Below it, in smaller black text, is "Join us in making a difference!" with a small red heart icon. In the center is the Lions Club logo, a blue circle with a white "L" and the words "LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL" around it. To the right of the logo is the text "LIONS MISSION 1.5" in bold blue letters. Below that, in smaller black text, is "we're inviting EACH LION TO BRING 1 FRIEND to discover the joy of serving our community together". At the bottom, in bold blue letters, is "Club Monthly Meeting" and below that, in smaller black text, is "BRING A FRIEND. SHARE THE MISSION. CHANGE MORE LIVES." At the very bottom of the poster is an illustration of a woman in a yellow shirt and a man in a blue shirt high-fiving each other.

DG Lou's Visits



Top Left to Right: Elkhart Lions Club, Satanta Lions Club, Ulysses Lions Club
Second Row Left to Right: Hugoton Lions Club, Cunningham Lions Club
Bottom Left to Right: Plains Lions Club, Pratt Lions Club



February, 2026

Lions in Action: ALERT Trailers Deployed After Kansas Tornadoes

On the evening of May 18, 2025, Kansas was battered by a brutal tornado outbreak. According to reports from the Weather Service's Topeka office, at least 21 tornadoes touched down across western and central Kansas that night, striking communities from Grinnell along I-70 to Plevna in the south-central region.

Grinnell: An EF3 tornado with estimated winds of up to **140 mph** carved a destructive path approximately **13 miles long**, leveling homes, utility infrastructure, and closing I-70.

Plevna: Hit just before midnight, this tornado was also **rated EF3**, reaching devastating wind speeds near **155 mph**. **Measuring up to 2 miles in width**, it destroyed multiple homes, debarked trees, and scoured the ground—hallmarks of extreme tornado intensity.

In the true spirit of "We Serve," Lions immediately responded to the call for help. Our State Lions ALERT Trailers were quickly mobilized and sent to two locations in both cities to provide much-needed support.

These ALERT Trailers are more than just vehicles—they are mobile resource centers stocked with supplies that **bring hope and relief in times of crisis**. From basic necessities to tools that aid in cleanup and recovery, they allow Lions to be on the ground and serving within hours of a disaster.

The deployment of the trailers on May 18 was a powerful reminder of why preparedness matters and how Lions make a difference in times of need. ***Our fellow Kansans were not left alone in their time of loss—Lions stood beside them, lending helping hands, offering comfort, and showing the strength of community.***

We extend our thanks to the Lions who helped prepare, transport, and staff the ALERT Trailers during this emergency. Your service is a shining example of the Lions' commitment to humanitarian aid. Together, we are making sure that when disaster strikes, Districts K, A, and N are ready to respond with compassion, courage, and action.





District Governor Lou Morgan Represents Lions on Statewide Media

Following the devastating tornado outbreak on May 18, 2025, our own District Governor, Lion Lou Morgan, stepped up not only in service but also as a strong public voice for Lions. DG Lou was interviewed by multiple television stations in Kansas, sharing how Lions Clubs immediately responded by deploying ALERT Trailers and volunteers to the hardest-hit communities.

DG Lou did a tremendous job representing what Lions are all about—service, compassion, and readiness to help in times of need. His clear message to the public showed that Lions are not only a local presence but also an organized and dependable partner in disaster

telling our story in the media, he reminded Kansans that Lions are here when it matters most.

This kind of public visibility is incredibly important for Lions in Kansas. When our communities see Lions in action, it:

Builds trust in our ability to serve.

Inspires new members to join our mission.

Encourages partnerships with other organizations.

Shows that Lions are relevant and reliable in times of crisis.

Thanks to DG Lou's leadership and communication, thousands of Kansans who may never have heard about ALERT Trailers—or even about Lions Clubs—now know that when disaster strikes, Lions are among the first to roll in and serve.

Building Stronger Clubs: Certified Guiding Lions

One of the keys to a healthy district is strong leadership at every level. This spring, District 17-K invested in the future of our clubs by training 9 Lions to become Certified Guiding Lions. We are proud to share that all nine successfully passed their certification exam and are now ready to serve as Guiding Lions in our district!

That means we now have a total of 11 Certified Guiding Lions standing ready to support our clubs. Their role is vital—Guiding Lions mentor club officers, provide tools and resources, and help struggling clubs regain strength and confidence. They are also essential in forming new clubs, ensuring that each new group of Lions has the guidance and encouragement they need to grow and succeed.

This is a tremendous step forward for District 17-K. With more Guiding Lions available, we can:

Provide stronger support for our existing clubs.

Ensure new clubs get off to a healthy and successful start.

Share knowledge and leadership skills throughout the district.

Build confidence in club officers as they take on their roles.

Congratulations to our newly certified Guiding Lions: **DG Lou Morgan, ZC Patty Morgan, 1VDG Jeremy Skrdlant, 2VDG Linda Chessmore, Lion Steve Chessmore, PCC Randy St. Aubyn, PDG Tom Baumann, ZC Vic Martin and Lion Jim Huenergarde** along with current Guiding Lions **PCC Diana Baumann and PDG Don Keihl**. Thank you for your commitment to serving not only your own clubs but also the entire district. ***You are helping keep the Lion Train rolling forward with strength and vision!***





Lions District K17-K Newsletter

February, 2026

State Convention
May 29th & 30th
Hutchinson

1VDG Jeremy Skrdlant

I heard a story that resonated with me recently at a District K meeting in Hays, KS. A fellow Lion was talking about orientation and how he started out not knowing anything about the organization of Lions Clubs outside of their own local club. I, myself had a very similar story and I would not have known about our multiple districts if I hadn't been asked to help with IT by Lion Don Keihl. After that I got the opportunity to take part in Leadership Training, Zone Meetings, and District and State meetings.

First off I would like to state that the most important part of Lions Club are all the individuals that help their communities. Without the dedicated Lions, there wouldn't be a local club and without the clubs there wouldn't be a district and without the districts there wouldn't be an international organization. Each level has things that they are really good at. The local club level is quite obvious with all the great service projects you do like eye screening, pancake feeds, bingo, hog roasts, park cleanups, and so much more. Speaking of hog roasts, the Gem Lions Club had one on August 20th from 5:00 to 8:00pm. It's always a great time!

For the district level I am going to use the Lions Band Foundation as an example. This is where the clubs can contribute to something larger. Many clubs from all over our state sponsor a student to go to Lions Band. This would be a somewhat small event if it was put on by one individual club. Since it is a state thing, it is a ***huge event with well over 200 students working together learning how to play as one big group.*** How often do students from the western side of Kansas get to play with a group that large? The sound was amazing and the students this year were even offered a \$23,000 scholarship for each year if they attended Friends University. The students love the experience, and they get to meet new friends along the way.

The State Convention this year will be in Hutchinson Kansas on May 29th and 30th. I highly recommend

going to the convention to see all the hard work these students put in to create these awesome performances.

The International Lions level works on really big projects where a lot of money is involved. One example of that is when the Tornado hit Greensburg Kansas. Through LCIF grants, a lot of money was used in the community to help rebuild after that disaster. LCIF also helped when there was flooding earlier on the east coast of the United States and they are currently helping out with the flooding that took place in Texas this year.

My goal in the next few newsletters is to expand on a committee or a project that we do at the District level to give a little more understanding to all there is to offer in the Kansas Lions. I myself am still learning about all the great things that our State Lions has to offer and we definitely want to make sure we are communicating that with all of our clubs.

Where there is a need there is a Lion and the world is a better place because of that.

Yours in Lionism,

1VDG Jeremy



1VDG Jeremy taking a short break from work at the Grinnell tornado site with Justin Burrus, Colby and PDG Tom Baumann, photographer.

1st VDG Jeremy's Visits



St. Francis Lions Club



Lucas Lions Club



Kirwin Lions Club

Top Left: Thank you 1VDG Jeremy for your advertising of the Goodland Lions Pancake Feed!

Right: Lion Jeremy has been promoted from the Tinman at last year's convention to Sheriff this year in Great Bend!



Your Team



District Governor:

Lou Morgan, Stafford Lions Club
404 N. Mincer Ave Stafford, KS. 67578
620-352-0569
louismorgan39@yahoo.com



1st Vice-District Governor:

Jeremy Skrdlant
7415 Road 14
Goodland, KS. 67735
785-871-1971
jeremy.skrdlant@fhnw.edu



District Secretary:
Donna St. Aubyn
212 E. 37th
Hutchinson, KS. 67502
620-200-4897
rsaubyn@yahoo.com



2nd VD Governor

Linda Chessmore
701 Sherman St.
Atwood, KS. 67730
620-245-4884
skipworthl@yahoo.com



District Treasurer:

Diana Baumann
2005 Northglen Ln
Hays, KS. 67502
785-202-1882
liondianab@yahoo.com

Zone Chairpersons:

Linda Cheesemore, Atwood; Jeremy Skrdlant, Goodland; Allen DeBey, Downs; Elwyn Maneth, Great Bend Evening; Vic Martin, St. John; Randy St. Aubyn, Hutchinson, Patty Morgan, Stafford; Todd Hewitt, Hugoton.



Lions District K17-K Newsletter

February, 2026

State Convention
May 29th & 30th
Hutchinson

DISTRICT 17-K CONVENTION REGISTRATION April 17 & 18

**Barton County Community College
245 NE 30 Rd | Great Bend**

You must be registered to attend any meals and/or functions.

I am/(we are) member(s) of the _____ Lions Club

Name(s): _____

Cell Phone #: _____ email: _____

Friday Evening Meal at Barton County Community College

Chicken and Noodles

IF PAID BY 4/3/26 \$15.00 x _____ = \$ _____

IF PAID AFTER 4/3/26 \$17.00 x _____ = \$ _____

(# attending) (Total)

Governor's Banquet Saturday at Barton County Community College

Chicken Fried Steak and Potatoes

IF PAID BY 4/3/26 \$19.00 X _____ = \$ _____

IF PAID AFTER 4/3/26 \$21.00 X _____ = \$ _____

(# attending) (Total)

******* Deadline for meal reservations is April 10 *******

If you are a vendor, please contact the District Governor for space:

District Governor Lou Morgan: 244biglou@gmail.com

Thank you for attending the District Convention!

Please send this registration form and payment to:

District Treasurer Diana Baumann

2005 Northglen Lane

Hays, KS 67601

Make checks out to Lions District 17-K

Or register and pay online at:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/district-17k-2026-convention>

Zeffy will add a credit card fee. Be certain to change the amount to reflect what you feel they deserve for helping us with registration.



Agenda and Meals Menu

Friday Night

4:00 — 5:00 pm

5:30 — 6:30

6:30 — 8:00

Registration

Meal

Chicken and Noodles, Mashed Potatoes, Carrots, Salad, Roll and Cheesecake

Jail and Social

\$5 to get of jail. All proceeds go to restock our hygiene products in the Alert Trailer.

Saturday

8:00—9:30 am

9:30—10:30 am

10:30—2:00 pm

10:45—11:30 am

11:30—12:00 pm

12:00— 1:30 pm

1:45—2:15 pm

2:30—4:00 pm

2:30—4:00 pm

4:00 pm

Registration

District Elections

Silent Action (2VDG Linda Chessmore, Chair)

Marketing Your Club Seminar (DG Irene Haws)

Necrology (PCC Randy St. Aubyn)

Noon Meal and Guest Speaker (ID David Wineman)

Chicken Fried Steak, Baked Potato, Corn, Roll, and Cobbler

Technology Can Be Your Friend Seminar (1VDG Jeremy Skrdlant)

Announcement of Silent Auction Winners

Awards

Adjournment

Staying in Great Bend for the Convention?

Group Rates are \$125

Hotel Reservations are due no later than March 27th at this rate



Register for the convention and pay online by scanning this QR code.

Holiday Inn Express and Suites

3821 10th Street

Great Bend, KS.

Call 620-603-6565 and ask for Extension 3

Ask for the Lions Club Group Rate



Please Welcome



17-K Convention Guest Speaker International Director David Wineman

David Wineman from Sebewaing, Michigan, United States was elected to serve a two-year term as an international director of Lions International at the association's 106th International Convention in Melbourne, Australia, June 21 through June 25, 2024.

Director Wineman is the CEO of both Abadata Computer Corporation and Abadata Connect, Inc. with more than 45 years of experience in information technology. Among his many notable

projects are the sponsoring of numerous school clubs and Boy Scouts of America troops, expansion of tourism and business through a partnership between the Sebewaing Chamber of Commerce and local village government, as well as Michigan state highway expansion.

Director Wineman joined the Sebewaing Lions Club, now known as the USA Lions Club, in 1994 and is still an active member.

He has held a number of offices within the association, including district governor, Guiding Lion, youth chairperson, region chairperson, vice council chairperson, area leader, zone chairperson and Lions of Michigan Foundation trustee, among many others.

In recognition of his service to the association, Director Wineman has received numerous awards including multiple International President's Certificates and International President's Medals as well as a Club Youth Chairperson Certificate of Appreciation. He has received many awards from the Lions of Michigan Foundation, including the Hellen Keller Fellowship, Outstanding Service Award and Ken Lautzenheiser Fellowship. Director Wineman is also a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow.

In addition to his Lion activities, Director Wineman has served as a board member for the Lions of Michigan foundation, as well as the president and board member of Lions Bear Lake Camp. Additionally, he has served as mayor and trustee of Sebewaing, Michigan, and is a member of the Association of Computing Machinery, BICSI and CompTIA.

Director Wineman and his wife Lindy, who is also a Lion as well as a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, have five children and 12 grandchildren.

February, 2026



2VDG Linda Chessmore

So many things...So many possibilities!

If you don't know who I am, then it's probably good to say I am behind on club visits! ***I'm your 2nd VDG from Northwest Kansas (Atwood) and there are so many possibilities in our lions' clubs that my mind has officially gone on overload!*** Also, you might have some club members that we need to celebrate with Chevron's for years of service in your club.

I've visited a few clubs and called **BINGO in St. Francis!** By the way, that club is growing and wanting to do more and grow with members!

Okay clubs, let's focus on service activities and I cannot stress this enough, **if it isn't REPORTED, then IT DIDN'T Happen!** You're wondering why we need to report service activities it is because, we can measure community impact, secure and justify Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) funding, and track progress toward global humanitarian goals.

Now on to membership, have you asked your friend, co-worker or even someone you don't know to come to a meeting or a service activity? Why not? Is it all the excuses they give you, keep trying and don't take no for an answer! We want to grow our clubs by 1 person, and we can all definitely make that happen!

Have you been to a District Convention or even State Convention? Why not? Cost? Too far? Do you want to learn more, socialize and actually find out what we do at these conventions? Did you hear that we have some great baskets at our Silent Auction? There might even be a man cave basket or maybe your club has a great idea for a basket, which by the way - let me know if you are bringing one to District K Convention April 17th & 18th, so I can plan accordingly. Then come, meet and greet and have some fun! Yes, I said fun, where you can learn how to help your club grow in all the global causes, make friends to connect with, and go back to your club with new ideas! I've heard through the

Grapevine that you need to come to State Convention and see the **2nd VDG table** that will have lots of ideas and more!

Have you supported your band students, diabetes camp kids? Did you know your club can support them and then have them come back and talk at your club about their experience at these camps, yes, lots of possibilities, so many to choose from. Yes, I know all clubs can't support all the causes, then pick what best fits your club, but beware that things might CHANGE in the future!

Shout out to Karen Knauer from St. Francis Lions Club for stepping up and wanting to do more in her community and taking an initiative to be the spokesperson for Peace Poster contest for our district!

On the next episode, we will talk about CHANGE in our clubs. ***Changing is for the better and if you want your club to grow and make your community better, then we need to talk and come up with a plan.***

Until next time District K, let's grow in membership, report those Service Activities, and have any questions, feel free to reach out to me via text, email or even a phone call (please let me know who you are and I will call you back as soon as I can).

2VDG Linda Chessmore



2VDG
calling
Bingo at
St. Francis

KANSAS LIONS FOUNDATION

The Kansas Lions Foundation (KLF) was founded in 1999, to increase the level of community service and support through education, humanitarian, and charitable projects. Programs include the ALERT (disaster response) program, Lions Quest, Long Term Summer Camp Scholarships, Peace Poster contest, and Youth Exchange as well as supporting our Kansas LEOs.

The [Kansas Lions Alert Team \(KLAT\) Emergency Grant Criteria and Application](#) helps to provide immediate emergency relief to the victims of a residence displacement. KLAT emergency funds are available for relief aid in the wake of any natural or man-made disaster that is not within the confines of a LCIF Emergency Grant.

Throughout this newsletter you can see what we do for **those who need immediate help**. *Recently we have teamed with local clubs to donate to six different families who had lost their homes to fire.* The process is completed quickly to give families funds for food, clothing and shelter.

We would like to do more for these families. **As you look for places to donate, please remember KLF.** The devastation is heartbreaking and we are there to help so any amount would be welcomed. Please send donations to PDG Tom Baumann, 2005 Northglen Lane, Hays, KS. 67601. **Thank you for your kindness and support.**



WaKeeney Lions Club!!!!

You are up to **52** members. **WOW! GREAT JOB LIONS!**

In July of 2022 you were at **29** members but look at you now!

Norton Lions are our largest club at 55. Watch out Norton – here they come!

Just Ask! It can be done!



Lions District K17-K Newsletter

February, 2026

State Convention
May 29th & 30th
Hutchinson



DATES TO REMEMBER

STATE CONVENTION 2026

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Memphis, Tennessee | September 3-5, 2026 |
| Huntsville, Alabama | September 16-18, 2027 |
| Grand Rapids, Michigan | September 2028 |

May 29 – 30, 2026..... 4th Council Meeting and State Convention at Hutchinson Community College
Special Guest – PIP Frank and Rita Moore

UPCOMING LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

2026 Hong Kong – Jul 3-7

2027 Washington DC – July 2-6

2028 Singapore - June 23-27

2029 Minneapolis, MN - June 29- July 3

2030 San Antonio TX – June 28- July 2

2031 – Helsinki Finland – July 4-8

Sign up Band Students NOW!

Go to (Can only register online this year):
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe5ef1FLxiqBpjtM3c7vyok4w99HkFgDxVUd8RXmESWYlhz0Q/viewform>

IMPORTANT DISTRICT 17-K DATES

| | Date(s) | Location |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Pre District Convention | April 17, 2026 | Great Bend |
| District Convention | April 18, 2026 | Barton County Comm. College |
| State Convention | May 29-30, 2026 | Hutchinson |
| 4th Cabinet Meeting | June 13, 2026 | Hays |

GREAT TRAININGS!! SIGN UP TODAY!

GPLLI and FDI Training. Go to: <https://kansaslions.org/gplli-and-fdi> to register and learn more.

Scholarships are available! Ask your DG for Details

DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

| | |
|---|------------|
| 17K April 17–18 | Great Bend |
| ID David Wineman, Sebewaing, MI | |
| 17A April 3-4 | Manhattan |
| ID Robert “Ski” Marcinkowski, Fairbanks, AK | |
| 17N Feb. 28 –March 1 | Goddard |
| ID Bart Nelson, New York Mills, MN | |

