



District 17N News

67 Lions clubs serving in south central and south east Kansas | October 2026
Find us on the web at kslions17n.org or on Facebook as KansasLionsDistrict17N



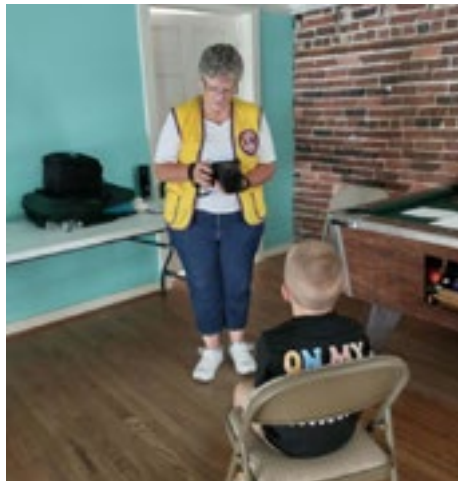
A Clear Vision for Service Global Week of Service – October 8–18

For more than a century, **vision has been one of the most recognized areas of Lions service.** In Kansas, that commitment continues—not through just one project, but through many acts of service.

Kansas Lions collect, sort and prepare used eyeglasses; conduct vision screenings for children and adults; assist individuals with obtaining eye exams and eyeglasses; support appropriate eyeglass reuse programs; provide information about the connection between diabetes and vision impairment; and help individuals overcome transportation barriers to receiving eye care.

One of our most visible examples of Lions service takes place each year at the **Kansas State Fair**. Kansas Lions volunteer to serve thousands of fairgoers by providing vision screenings, blood pressure checks and blood sugar checks. It is a great example of Lions taking service directly to the community—meeting people where they are and providing services that can encourage them to take the next

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Baxter Springs Lion Connie Way does a vision screening at a Back to School Fair.



State Fair service: From left, Goddard Lions Tony Abin, Gordon Grimm and Corey Dir

Save the Date!

**Week of
Service: Vision
October 8-18**

For more information:

**Fall Rally
Saturday, October 24
McPherson
Register today
See page 9
2nd District Cabinet
Meeting
Saturday, November 7
Emporia**



More info on page 6



Kansas Lions District 17N Leaders

District Governor

Melanie Snider

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1st Vice District Governor

Barb Schattak

Lyndon Lions Club
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ksyorkies@gmail.com

2nd Vice District Governor

Joyce McDaniel

Valley Center Lions Club
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District Governor Notes

What Are We Not Seeing?

As Lions, we spend a lot of time talking about service. We talk about the projects we do and what our communities need.

But every once in a while, I think we need to stop talking and just **look—really look.**

We drive the same streets, attend the same community events, work with the same organizations, and often conduct the same service projects year after year. There is nothing wrong with that. Many of those projects continue because they are needed and because they work.

But familiarity can also cause us to stop noticing things.

What if we looked at our community as though we were seeing it for the first time?

Take a different route through town. Spend some time at the library. Visit the food pantry when people are using it. Go to a school event. Sit in a local shop or restaurant and watch what is happening around you.

Who do you see? **Who don't you see?**

What are people struggling to do? What seems



harder than it should be? What has changed that our Lions club hasn't noticed yet?

We may see that a food pantry needs food. But if we pay closer attention, is transportation the problem for some people? Are more volunteers needed? Do older adults have difficulty getting their groceries home?

Maybe we need to look through someone else's eyes—to **change our lens.**

What does a young parent see? What does a teenager see? What does an older person who no longer drives or has mobility concerns see? What does someone who just moved to our community see?

And while we're doing that, maybe we should look at our own Lions club the same way.

Do people know about us? Do they know their Lions club is there to help? Do they know they could join us in serving?

Are we serving the needs our community has today, or are we serving the needs we have become comfortable serving?

Sometimes we just need to look at our community from a different view and ask:

What opportunity to serve is right in front of us?

Melanie Snider

District Governor 17N

2nd Vice District Governor

New friendships, ideas at the Forum

Hello Fellow Lions,

September was a busy month! I attended the USA/Canada Forum in Memphis, Tennessee. We had three full days of seminars, with more than 60 topics to choose from.

It was a great opportunity to learn, share ideas, and connect with Lions from all over the world, including a few from New York, Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, India, to name a few places.

This year Kansas had 21 Lions in attendance. One of my highlights was meeting International President Mark Lyon. He is very down-to-earth and took the



time to visit with Lions and share his enthusiasm for serving others.

We also had a free night to go explore Memphis, enjoy some great food and experience a little of what the city has to offer.

After returning home from the Forum, I headed to the Kansas State Fair to help with the Lions booth. It was another great opportunity to serve, meet people and promote what Lions do in our communities.

Consider joining us next September at the USA/Canada Forum in Huntsville, Alabama. I hope to see many of you there!

Together We Serve!

Joyce McDaniel

2nd Vice District Governor 17N

1st Vice District Governor

Support vision screening for an easy service

Need an Idea for Vision Week?

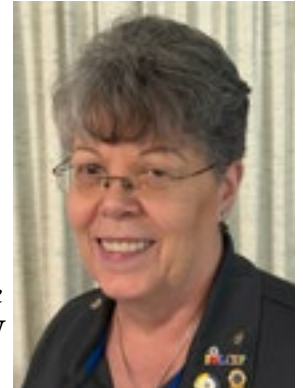
From October 8 through October 18 this year is Global Vision Week. Have you thought of what your club will do for your service? How about donating funds to the Partner in Care program to assist in the cost of the warranties for the vision screeners in our district.

When you donate funds towards the Partner in Care program you can put it towards your service during Vision Week. Make checks payable to Kansas Lions District 17N and send to district treasurer Kathleen Burden, 4297 E

Hwy 268, Vassar, 66453. Be sure to note in the memo line that it's for vision screener maintenance.

Each club has access to the screeners to use for service, all you need to do is to contact either PCC Pam Bilyeu or Lion Ginny Caldwell.

Barb Schattak
1st Vice District Governor 17N



Vision service

Continued from page 1

step in protecting their health and vision.

This year, 58 Lions from 17N stepped up and provided approximately 258 hours of service!

Remember to report on your club's service through the Lions Portal. Reporting documents on the impact Lions are making in our communities and helping clubs document progress toward the Club Excellence Award.

Thank you, 17N—you shine!

As we recognize the **Global Week of Service, October 8–18**, consider how your club can continue our commitment to vision. Collect eyeglasses. Conduct a screening. Partner with a school, senior center or healthcare provider. Share information about protecting sight. Help someone access the care they need.

Protecting sight is part of our heritage, but it is also part of our future. **Changing a life can begin by helping someone see—or helping someone protect the vision they have.**

Every pair of glasses collected, every screening conducted, every partnership created and every person connected with vision care represents something much larger.

It represents a Kansas Lion seeing a need—and choosing to serve.

Bel Aire Lions at the Kansas State Fair



Independence Lions sort glasses.





Presenting the \$44,000 check to the Community Access Center were PDG Clark Lindstrom (left) and DG Melanie Snider (right). Accepting the check were Chris Mitchell (second from left), CAC director; and Louis Ysusi, (second from right), CAC board of directors chairman.

LCIF grant assists southeast Kansas food pantry

Lions Club members across southern Kansas are celebrating the receipt of a major grant that will be used to address food scarcity in southeast Kansas.

Lions Clubs at the local, district and international levels gathered at the Community Access Center (CAC) in Independence to announce the receipt of a \$44,000 grant through the Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF) to go toward the purchase a new walk-in freezer unit for the center, which is located in Independence.

The new walk-in freezer, which will measure 30' x 12' x 8', will replace a nearly 35-year-old unit that is no longer serviceable, and requires continual monitoring to make sure its critical components do not become inoperable.

Located at 807 W. Pecan in Independence, the Community Access Center is a regional hub for the distribution of food to pantries across Montgomery County and the surrounding area. Tens of thousands of pounds of fresh food flow through the Community Access Center each week, often requiring a large-volume freezer unit for cold storage.

Without that freezer unit, a sizable portion of food that is geared for residents in southeast Kansas would not be available.

Therefore, it was imperative for Lions Clubs across Montgomery and Wilson counties to unite behind a fund drive for the purchase of a new freezer unit.

More than one year ago, the Independence Lions Club instigated the effort to address the Community Access Center's freezer. The Independence club reached out to chapters in Coffeyville, Caney, Fredonia

and Neodesha for a fund drive effort to replace that walk-in freezer unit.

That campaign has been bolstered with a \$44,000 grant from Lions Club International Foundation. District and international officials saw that area clubs were not only uniting behind a common cause but also addressing one of the key pillars of Lions worldwide: addressing food scarcity and hunger.

The Lions Clubs' efforts and the LCIF grant will go exclusively toward the purchase of the walk-in freezer unit. Officials are now hopeful for a secondary grant that, if awarded, would go toward the shipping/freight of the unit, as well as the installation of the unit. The installation will be handled by Independence Heating and Air, an Independence-based contractor.

The Lions Clubs that led the local initiative include the Caney Lions Club, Coffeyville Daylight Defenders Lions Club, Coffeyville Noon Lions Club, Fredonia Lions Club, Independence Lions Club and Neodesha Lions Club.

Other major contributors include the Kansas Food Bank, the Southeast Kansas Area Agency on Aging, Independence Masonic Lodge, Independence Heating and Air, and the third grade class from St. Andrew Catholic School in Independence.

In all, more than \$75,000 has been raised for this project. It is anticipated that the remaining \$27,650 will be raised this fall.

Once fundraising is completed in the coming weeks, the project will move to the actual acquisition and installation of the new walk-in freezer, which will likely be completed by January 2027.

LCI Vision Service Week



October 8-18, 2026

Seven simple, visible, and impactful service projects ideas. The possibilities are endless!

1. Vision Screening Day

Partner with a local school, library, community center, or youth organization (Boys/Girl Scouts, Boys and Girls Club, Family Y) to provide free vision screenings and referrals.

2. "See to Succeed" School Supply Drive

Collect school supplies along with child-friendly sunglasses, provide eye safety information, and vision resource flyers.

3. Lions Eye Health Awareness Booth

Set up an information table at a community event, farmers market, or school athletic event – include:

- Signs of vision problems in children
- Importance of comprehensive eye exams
- Eye safety tips for sports and recreation
- Local vision resources
- White cane Day information

4. Sports Eye Safety Campaign

Partner with youth sports leagues to distribute protective eyewear information and eye safety reminders.

5. Story Time & Vision Awareness

Host a children's reading event at a library or school – include:

- Reading by Lions volunteers
- Eye health activity sheets
- Vision awareness handouts for parents

6. Connect with Local Optometrists

Provide contact information for financial assistance for children needing comprehensive eye exams and glasses.

7. Quick Club Challenge – choose a goal number for your club challenge – such as:

- Screen 20 children
- Distribute 20 eye health packets
- Sponsor 2 eye exams or referrals
- Share 25 vision awareness social media posts

Fast Facts:

- Got a service or fundraising event coming up? Get your insurance certificate from LCI. <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/resources-for-members/resource-center/insurance>
- LCIF – Lions Club International Foundation – the 501(c)(3) charitable organization – grants available for projects in the service



areas of Vision, Diabetes, Disaster Relief, Lions Quest, District & Club Community Impact Grant, Hunger, Childhood Cancer & Humanitarian – some are matching and some are 100% grants.

LIONS PEACE POSTER CONTEST

REMINDER – “Harmony in Humanity”

We are excited to see the inspiring artwork created by the young artists sponsored by **District 17N Lions Clubs!**

IMPORTANT DEADLINE — NOVEMBER 7

DISTRICT JUDGING - Cabinet Meeting — Emporia

Each club must make sure its **Peace Poster submission reaches Peace Poster Chair Leah Bromlow prior to November 7.**

TWO WAYS TO SUBMIT

1. **Deliver Your Poster Ahead of Time – Prior to November 7**

Submit your club's Peace Poster to: **Leah Bromlow, 1319 E 10th, Winfield, KS 67156. Questions? leahbromlows@outlook.com or 620-221-9066.**

2. **Bring It to the Cabinet Meeting**

Bring your club's winning poster with you to the **November 7 Cabinet Meeting in Emporia** for District judging.

DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE!

This is a wonderful opportunity for our young artists to have their **creativity, imagination, and message of peace** recognized at the District level.

 **Please make sure your club's winning poster meets the required rules and is submitted on time so it can be included in District judging!**



Lions

+



+ Young Artists

+



Peace

=



= Brighter Future!



Around the District

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



WE SERVE— Clockwise from upper left: Wichita Northwest Lions spent a sunny Sunday at the Sedgwick County Zoo for the Wichita Children's Home Kidzscope Adventure Day.

Hesston Lions had help from the Hesston College Women's Flag Football team for a recent highway clean-up, collecting 26 bags of trash along the interstate.

Valley Center Lions participated in the Valley Center Fall Festival Parade.



Maize Lions presented a donation to Wichita Children's Home with proceeds from concession stand sales at community concerts this summer.

Your Trick or Treat candy has an environmental impact

Trick or Treat! As we enter the Halloween season many of our clubs become involved in Trunk or Treats and other Halloween festivities. When trying to decide what candy is best to hand out we all have our favorites. Did you know that many candies are made with an ingredient called Palm Oil.

Palm Oil is derived from the fruit of the oil palm tree species that originated from Africa. Now over 85% of the industry is produced in Malaysia and Indonesia. Palm oil is used in many products but there is one major issue. Deforestation. To produce palm oil forests are being destroyed at an alarming rate, which is leading to the endangerment of orangutans, pygmy elephants and the Sumatran Rhino. Deforestation is also leading to an increase of greenhouse gases which contributes to climate change.

Now there are companies that are moving to sustainable palm oil production to help protect the environment. Palm oil will never go away and for many Southeast Asian countries it is a main economic source of industry.

So how can we help? There are many candy brands that already use sustainable palm oil. By purchasing our candy from these brands and companies we can help keep the palm oil industry alive but also take a stand against those companies that have not switched to sustainable palm oil production.

The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums made an app Palmoil Scan which can make it easy to scan a products barcode or search for that product and discover if it was sustainably produced.



Altamont

80 years
10/07/1946

Caney

82 years
10/02/1944

Carbondale

63 years
10/18/1983

Eureka

105 years
10/03/1921

Maize

24 years
10/31/2002

Wichita Northwest

24 years
10/16/2002

Welcome to the Pride New members in September



New Member

Sponsor

Augusta

Laura Deckert

E Buggeln

Colwich

Joanna Kraus

Stephen West

Fredonia

Adam Thompson

Bob Timmons

Girard

Casey Brown

Dan Duling

Goddard

Christopher Babcock

Christian Boyd

Dan Funke

Naomi Leonard

Maize

Jacob Culy

Patrick Stivers

Neodesha

Julie Larkey

Rickey Larkey

Neosho Rapids

Michael Payton

Amanda Meek

Wichita Downtown

Jaryth Barten

Paul Pittman



Register now for Fall Rally

October 23-24

**McPherson United
Methodist Church
1200 E. Kansas Ave**

Register now for Fall Rally October 23-24 in McPherson

Name _____

Club _____ District _____

Address _____

City and Zip _____

E-mail _____ Phone Number _____

Name(s) of any additional Lions or guests in your party _____

Noon Saturday meal \$25.00 _____

Number of Meals _____ x \$25 Total _____

Send to Kansas Lions Office, 231 South Tyler, Wichita KS 67209

Use the QR code or link below to register online

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/annual-gala-7672>



Staying in McPherson overnight? Here are some options*:

Best Western Plus • 200 N Champlin Street • (620) 480-2667

Fairfield Inn and Suites • 2270 E. Kansas • (620) 504-5353

Hampton Inn • 200 N. Centennial • (620) 480-2990

Holiday Inn Express • 2302 E. Kansas • (620) 241-5566

**Other lodging options available—these offer free breakfast according to [Visit McPherson](#)*





LIONS IRS FILING REMINDER

FOR LIONS CLUBS, DISTRICTS
AND MULTIPLE DISTRICTS

WHICH FORM DO YOU FILE?

Based on your annual gross receipts and total assets

\$50,000 or less ↓ 990-N (e-Postcard)	Greater than \$50,000 but less than \$200,000 and total assets less than \$500,000 ↓ 990-EZ or 990	\$200,000 or greater or total assets \$500,000 or greater ↓ 990
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Clubs operate on a fiscal year
July 1 – June 30, and the e-Postcard
(990-N) is due by **November 15**
each year.



Register at
[IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) before
filing (one time).



Foundations are
separate legal
entities and may
have their own filing
requirements.



Failure to file for
three consecutive
years can result
in loss of your
tax-exempt status.

Stay Compliant SO WE CAN KEEP SERVING
OUR COMMUNITIES!

