



Kansas Lions News

Statewide newsletter for MD 17 Kansas Lions | Spring 2025



PDG Neal Nichols (fourth from left) holds the Ambassador of Good Will Award presented posthumously to his wife, PCC Beverly Nichols. The recognition was presented during the Mid Winter Rally banquet. Making the presentation were, from left: ID Hans Neidhardt, PID Ed McCormick, PID Bill Phillipi, Nichols, ID Judge Anthony Paradiso and PID Deb Weaverling.

PCC Beverly Nichols remembered with Ambassador of Good Will award

Past Council Chair Beverly Nichols was honored posthumously as an Ambassador of Good Will at the 2025 Mid Winter Rally.



The Ambassador of Good Will award is Lions Club International's highest honor for an individual Lion.

Nichols, who died in August 2024, was a member of the Overland Park Host Lions Club. She served as District Governor in 2012-13 and Council Chair in 2013-14.

Past International Director Deb Weaverling wrote in her nomination,

"Lion Beverly has been the epitome of what Lionism is all about. Her entire Lions career since retiring from being a math teacher has been to help others without wanting anything in return."

Weaverling also wrote: "Lion Beverly, used all of her talents as she progressed into many levels of leadership in our District and Multiple District. She always led by example, expecting that she should do what she asks others to do."

"Lion Beverly was the ultimate Membership Lion in our District. She was always researching and providing information and tools to help Governors to succeed in their membership goals. She always had a positive attitude and always said this is a TEAM effort and no one can do this alone. When she was

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Save the Date

State Convention

May 29-31, 2025

Doubletree by Hilton
Wichita Airport
with guest speaker
PIP Douglas Alexander
More information on
pages 8-10

Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute

June 27-29, 2025

Baker University
Baldwin City, KS
More info on page 3

Lions International Convention

July 14-17

Orlando, FL
Info at lionsclubs.org

USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum

September 18-20

Atlantic City, NJ
Info at lionsforum.org

Fall Rally

October 24-25

J.O. Sundstrom
Conference Center
Lindsborg

Council Chair Comments

Spring into new opportunities to serve

Hello Lions!

March came in gently and then... some hefty breezes showed up a few days later just like a bunch of ROARING LIONS!! Spring offers us new opportunities to serve members in our communities. I am looking forward to welcoming new Lion clubs in District K, A and N and adding many new Lions to our Kansas Lion Pride. Who would YOU like to invite to join your club? There are many people looking for a group to be a part of that share the same desire as we have... To SERVE!

Ask a friend, even if you have asked before, because today may be the day they say YES! That's how Jerry and I became a Lions...we finally said "Yes!"

The joy of having more members, means there are more hands and more ways our communities can be served. New service projects can be

planned, new ideas can be formed and best of all.....new friendships can be found!

Celebrate spring in your communities by welcoming new friends into your clubs.

A BIG THANK YOU to all of you who joined us at Mid-Winter Rally in Junction City in January. We had a GREAT weekend starting with the fun and entertaining Church Ladies singing group on Friday evening, then continuing on through the day Saturday.

Our special guest speaker was ID Judge Anthony Paradiso from Rockville Centre, New York and Lion Maureen Jordan and Robin were such a pleasure to get to know and learn about Lions in their part of the world.

Leos were there from Blue Valley, and Mulvane as well as from the new Lyndon Leo Club. The Leos also participated in the Service proj-

ect of "Packing for Warriors" snack boxes to send to our active military members overseas as well as sorting out socks to give to our Veterans in VA facilities in all three Districts.

Kansas Lions Peace Poster awards were handed out and all three winners and family members attended the Kansas Lions foundation Luncheon. Presentations were very interesting and informative and the Band Auction was awesome.

During the evening banquet Presidential Awards were presented to Lions in all three districts and a very special Ambassador of Goodwill Award, the highest Award in Lions, was presented to PCC Beverly Nichols posthumously to her husband PDG Neal with family members present. What a great way to end the day! We held our third State Council meeting Sunday morning.

Continued on next page

MD 17 Leaders



Council Chair

Pam Bilyeu

Lyndon

785-817-3833

bilyeuskies@hotmail.com



District K

Diana Baumann

Hays

785-202-1882

liondianab@yahoo.com



District A

Margy Sundstrom

Tonganoxie

940-390-7430

margaret1226@gmail.com



District N

Shari Neidhardt

Towanda

316-304-3644

19faith58@gmail.com

Kansas Lions State Office

231 S Tyler Rd | Wichita, KS 67209 | 316-773-2100

email: kansaslionsoffice@gmail.com | website: kansaslions.org

Hone your leadership skills at GPLLI

Looking for an opportunity to expand your leadership skills? Well, look no further, the Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute (GPLLI) will help you do just that.

And you don't have to travel far—the 2025 session is June 27-29, at Baker University in Baldwin City, KS.

The GPLLI course provides key training sessions that help prepare Lions for future leadership positions within your club, district, multiple district and beyond. Training modules include Lions fundamentals; Mission 1.5; mission statement; motivation; public speaking; time management; and



working in teams.

The course fee is \$240. Registration covers lodging

(Friday and Saturday nights), seven meals and all course materials.

Scholarships are available to attendees from the Multiple District PDG Club or the individual districts. Upon course completion, graduates can request reimbursement for the registration fee.

You may be asking yourself if attending GPLLI is beneficial to Lions? Here are some comments from three Lions that attended the 2024 training.

2VDG Jeremy Skrdlant said, "I thought it was an excellent experience. I got to expand my network of Lions that I know and improved many of my leadership skills. I am a much better speaker and a little more organized thanks to the courses. My favorite ones were the personal mission statement and the skit activity. I use the activities in my classes to help my students be better leaders as well. A terrific opportunity, I would recommend it to anyone."

2VDG Roger Yost commented, "Would it be worth my while attending? Let me answer this way. Classes are refreshing, relaxed, and fun. Even if you are a seasoned Lion or brand new with little experience, you will learn and work together. The teaching staff will show you how to use your experience and knowledge to better yourself and others."

Lion John West stated, "Attending the Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute was an extraordinary experience! It was the perfect opportunity to refresh leadership skills that might have gathered some dust. The environment was brimming with positivity and support, making every moment enjoyable and uplifting. One of the highlights was meeting Lions from different states and sharing our unique experiences. The sense of camaraderie and mutual growth was truly inspiring."

You can find more information and the application form by logging on to <https://kansaslions.org/gplli>. Deadline for applications and payment is May 31, 2025.

ID Hans Neidhardt

*Registrar/Curriculum Coordinator
7400 NW Ayr Road*

Council Chair comments

Continued from previous page

Have you invited your local high school band students to the Kansas Lions Band Camp yet? The applications are online this year and students are already signing up. The camp will be held at Friends University in Wichita. The State Convention is also in Wichita with Past International President Douglas X. Alexander as our special guest this year. I hope you all join us May 30-31 in Wichita!. More information will be coming soon!

The District Conventions have all come and gone with each district offering different and special ways to honor Lions for outstanding service and remembering those no longer with us. As well as hosting a service project for children.

District 17N was first with DG Shari Neidhardt in Bel Aire. The special service project was making fleece tie blankets. These blankets were donated to the Wichita Chil-

dren's Home and the Silent Auction funds going to Juvenile Diabetes Camp fund.

District A's convention was next with DG Margy Sundstrom in Topeka. There special project was donating bedding and raising funds through the silent auction for "Sleep in Heavenly Peace" an organization that is working to ensure every child has a bed to sleep in plus the bedding to go with it. District K with DG/PCC Diana Baumann wrapped up the district conventions in Liberal. Donations and funds from the Silent Auction went to support children with cancer and their families with "Survival Bags of Love" filled with items for children and their family. THANK YOU GOVERNORS, for your AMAZING conventions, OUTREACH for children and SERVICE to your districts!

*Yours in Lionism,
CC Pam Bilyeu*

LCIF challenge for individual pledges

As Multiple District 17 LCIF Coordinator, I'm issuing a challenge to Kansas Lions. One of the State LCIF goals this year is to increase the number of individual Lions making personal recurring LCIF donations.

Hopefully, my challenge will help us meet this goal. The challenge is for first

time recurring donors, not current recurring donors. I made a similar challenge at the Mid-Winter Rally, and we've already presented a Melvin Jones Fellowship to the winner.

The challenge is for Lions to pledge a recurring donation to LCIF for a minimum of two years. Preferably, these will be monthly or quarterly donations. For those that make the pledge before or during the State Convention in May, I will put your names in a drawing.

There will be two winners drawn at the convention. I will match the winners' total first year donations and will send them to LCIF in your name. For example, if you pledge \$5/month for two years, your total 2-year donation will be \$120 and your first year's total will be \$60. I will match your total of \$60 for the first year with a lump sum \$60 donation. If you pledge \$100/month, your 2-year total would be \$2,400 and your first year total would be \$1,200.

In the latter case, that would qualify you immediately for a Melvin Jones Fellow/Progressive MJF. Based on your desires, I will submit you immediately for a MJF/PMJF and put the balance of \$200 into your credit balance. Your donations

in the second year will qualify you for a PMJF. I hope all of you who pledge will let your recurring donations continue past the second year, but that is your choice. I will help you complete and submit the recurring donation pledge.

Please call me or email if you have questions. Again, you can start your recurring donations immedi-

ately, but winners for my lump sum donations will not be determined until the State Convention.

Thank you for support for our great Foundation.

PDG Rick Dodson

MDC, MD 17

(913) 240-5302

dodsonr23@gmail.com



**Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION**

Youth Exchange hosts needed

Expand your horizons by hosting an exchange student this summer. PCC Harry Stockwell is looking for hosts for students from Finland, France, Spain, and Japan.

Students are here four weeks with students from European counties here from the end of June to the end of July. Students from Japan come in August.

Contact PCC Harry Stockwell Youth Exchange chair for MD 17 at 316-644-7622 or h.l.stockwell49@gmail.com for more information.

It's an experience of a lifetime

for both the host families and students," Stockwell said.



Council Chair Pam Bilyeu and Japanese Youth Exchange guest

Vote in environmental photo contest & share your club's Environmental projects

Voting is open for the annual Environmental Photo Contest.

Using the link below, vote once for a photo in each category. Click the circle next to the photo's name to indicate your vote.

Winners will be announced at the Convention in Wichita.

To vote, copy and paste this address i

Google Forms ballot: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1EtuY6vo3LMMyrr0NNw6XKZaGKv-I/form?edit_requested=true

Voting closes May 15.



Environmental Club Project

Submit Club Environmental Project Photos for the Kansas Lions State Convention. Please include your Club Name and District, the Environmental Project name, and the names of those pictured in the photo. This is not a contest, just a sharing of the Environmental Projects Lions have done and a spotlight on your club around our state.

Sight Foundation Update

Donations support vision-related projects

Your Kansas Lions Sight Foundation is busy at work. Our eyeglass program continues to be strong in collecting eyeglasses and sunglasses from our communities. Don't forget to bring any of your eyeglasses to your Zone Meetings, Cabinet Meetings, and District Conventions/State Convention. Your KLSF Lions are happy to collect the eyeglasses from you.

If you know of an organization that needs eyeglasses to take on mission trips, let us know. We are happy to make the connection and schedule either a delivery or pick up of the eyeglasses. In the near future, KLSF will have a eyeglass sorting event, more information will be provided to your District Governor and their team.

Ron and I recently traveled to Wichita to volunteer at an event held by KanLovKids. This event; Celebrate Access: Braille and Beyond was time spent with visually impaired individuals assisting with music, create a cookie, Braille This, My Eyes, Relax/Recreate, and O&M Exploration.

Our group was assigned to "My Eyes" where we supported students through two stations assisting with project assembly and group interactions. We explored and described parts of the eye using household materials to create a "giant eye". We then determined what part of their individual eye is affected by their visual impairment (very interesting). The groups of students who came through our station were very aware of what type of visual impairments they had. Many thanks to Anna Cyr (Hutchinson), Amber (Concordia) and Sabrina (Hays) of Kansas School for the Blind

We provided boxes of eyeglasses to the Kansas City World Outreach Lions Club for their mission trips to the Philippines and provided several boxes of sunglasses to the Red Bridge Lions Club in Missouri. Lion Kevin from Indiana picks up boxes of glasses from our storage unit in Topeka and delivers the boxes back to Indiana where they are then distributed to areas of need.

I want to welcome back Lion Scott Helmke who took a leave of absence but is back with the passion to serve. Thank you to Lions Gene Allen, Scott Helmke, Steve Fisher, Bobby Duvall, Randy St. Aubyn, and Eyeglass Chair Michael Sundstrom for all your work in handling and managing the eyeglasses received for sorting, reading, and cleaning and then boxed up for distribution.

The storage unit located in Topeka has eyeglass collection boxes to place in your community. Contact Lion Michael Sundstrom if you need any supplies to further our Mission for Vision.

Don't forget, we, Lions were challenged in 1925 by Helen Keller to be her Knights of the Blind in the Crusade of Darkness. This was and continues to be our #1

focus, collecting eyeglasses and supplying eyeglasses to those who need them. Lion Michael's email: kb5ukt@gmail.com.

At our foundation meeting on January 18 in Junction City (Mid-Winter Rally), representatives from Audio Reader Network, Feloniz Lavato-Winston, Martha Kehr, and Meredith Johanning, gave a report and updates of their program. As you can imagine, their program has expanded as they learned of greater need and recommendations of how to better serve their listeners. KLSF presented a check for \$20,000 to Feloniz, Director of Audio Reader Network

The foundation also provided \$20,000 to KanLovKids, this amount is \$10,000 more than last year. The foundation also recently awarded the KU Eye Center \$15,600 for cataract surgeries.

We also recognized Dr. William Witt (Manhattan) and Dr. Kendall

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Dr William Witt of Manhattan was recognized for his contribution of solar eclipse glasses in 2024.

Sight Foundation screening returning to state fair

The 2025 Kansas State Fair is September 5 to September 16 in Hutchinson. Kansas Lions Sight Foundation has provided vision screenings for many years at the State Fair.

Lion Vern Failor and his committee are working on details for this year's fair.

Please help by donating latex gloves, sizes S/M/L/XL and sterile cotton balls.

Volunteers staff the booth for two shifts per day with six to seven

Lions needed to fill each shift.

Lion Jackie O'Neal of the Bel



Aire Lions Club is the scheduler for all the volunteers. WE NEED YOU!

Please contact Lion Jackie and schedule a day to volunteer, you will have a great experience.

Everyone volunteering will receive a free gate pass to the fair and in a group of THREE or more in one vehicle will get one parking pass. Lion Jackie's email/cell phone: glammother@yahoo.com or (316) 734-2176

KSLF update

Continued from previous page
Krug (Hays) for their contribution of Solar Eclipse glasses which resulted in \$40,000 raised during the project. PID Gene Vogel recommended these funds be set aside for two scholarships per year in the amount of \$2,000 during the KLSF meeting in June 2024. The foundation approved and the Witt/Krug Scholarship Program began this Lions year, 2024-25.

KLSF Director Dr. Steve Cauble has volunteered to manage the program working with the Kansas Optometric Association. Thank you Lion Steve.

PID Gene Vogel was also recognized for the many years of service as President of the KLSF. He received a beautiful wooden box with the Lions International Logo, his name, and the years he served as President. All three received a

Presidential Certificate and President Fabricio Oliveira's pin.

We are still in the discussion mode of purchasing the RV700 RetinaVue Camera for adult vision screening. This discussion has been put on

hold until more information can be provided to our foundation as there were many questions. We are currently awaiting a response from the Oklahoma Lions who are currently using the screener, to date no response has been received. This is the total cost of purchasing the screener (1):

Screener: \$11,325

1-year SmartCare Warranty: \$1,275

Pedestal Base/Stand: \$1,200

RetinaVue Network Software Plan: \$188 per month (if we have an eye care specialist, this amount \$2,256 per year is not needed)

Reading by the Eye Care Specialist: \$15 per patient (not needed if we have an eye care specialist)

Thank you to the Osage City Lions Club for your recent contribution of \$1,000 to KLSF honoring one of your members with a Claude DeVorss Fellow. We very much appreciate your donation.

If you have questions regarding Kansas Lions Sight Foundation, please contact me. President Deb Weaverling: dweaverling@gmail.com or (913) 683-3846.

*PID Deb Weaverling
KLSF President*



PID Gene Vogel was recognized for his service as president of the Kansas Lions Sight Foundation.

PDG Jerry Loney honored with national award

PDG Jerry Loney was recognized as the Western Region Hero of the Year award after he helped save a man's life at the National Association of Letter Carriers meeting in Washington, D.C. in March.

Loney was recognized for his actions in March of 2024 to save the life of a young man on his postal route.

From Topeka's KSNT 27 News:

Gerald "Jerry" Loney was returning to his vehicle while delivering mail on his route when a man covered in blood approached him asking for help.

Loney immediately started caring for the man. A 911 operator talked Loney through applying a tourniquet to the man's wrists.

"She said 'Do you have any clean rags, anything to stop the bleeding? Is the bleeding spurting?' I said, 'Yes, it's starting to slow down.' She said, 'You need to stop the bleeding.'", Loney told 27 News. "He had a plaid red shirt like the one I'm wearing, and I said, 'Get that off, I need it more than you do for



PDG Jerry Loney was in Washington, D.C. on March 20 to receive a Hero of the Year Award from the National Association of Letter Carriers.

you.' And I took the sleeve as tight as I could and I wrapped it around his wrist."

"Loney kept talking to and praying over the man until police, para-

medics, and firefighters arrived," the NALC wrote. "The police officer who took a statement from Loney later told him they were grateful for his actions, noting that most people would have just driven by."

The NALC said Loney suffers from PTSD due to a past personal incident. He pushed through his own personal trauma to help save the man's life.

Each year a panel of judges review stories of heroism that were published in The Postal Record to determine the winners. The NALC said mail carriers are often the first people to respond and lend a helping hand.

"We are immensely proud of what the heroes being recognized did," NALC President Brian L. Renfroe said. "They represent our country's best in public service. They truly are our heroes."



Kansas Lions Band Foundation

Lion Quilt Raffle

Quilt Size: 78" by 98"

Note: The photo displays the actual quilt top, it does not show the additional brown and green border.

Raffle tickets can be purchased from DG Shari and/or Kansas Lions Band Foundation Executive Officers/Directors.

Raffle Tickets: \$10.00/each or 3/\$25

Drawing for the quilt will take place during the August Council Meeting. Proceeds will be used to support the Kansas Lions State/International Band programs.

Thank you for your support.

Nichols recognized

Continued from page 1

District Governor, Beverly exceeded her own Membership goal at the end of the year. That was no surprise.

"She provided support and she received support from the leaders of the clubs she was responsible for during her Governor year. She would always update Lions on where they were at and how much more was needed to be successful. Her leader's success became her success!

"Lion Beverly was a great Leader for our District and Mul-

tiple District when she was State Council Chair. She never wavered from how she led, mentored, and supported Lions. She was the consummate Lion who gives and provides when asked, always with a kind heart and smile. A friendship was made for life with many Lions in Kansas because of how Lion Beverly was to others.

"Here's just some of what Lion Beverly accomplished: MERL, she was a huge part of each part of this initiative. She wrote grants to help support the efforts of clubs. An example is the grant she wrote to LCIF to receive 12 Spot vision screeners. She was instrumental in Campaign Sight First I and II,

giving to a cause she believes is necessary to support.

Lion Beverly and Lion Neal co-chaired the 2013 USA Canada Forum that was held in Overland Park Kansas on the local level. This was the first USA Canada Forum that Ron and I attended—it was outstanding.

Lion Beverly was GMT—her passion to grow membership was instrumental in the increase of membership.

Lion Beverly along with Neal have supported fundraisers, community projects, service to others like Ronald McDonald House recipients and so much more. She was an amazing Lion

Thank you from the Nichols family

Those of you who watch television, especially sports programming, no doubt have seen the Nationwide Insurance ads featuring Peyton Manning—the ones where he says, "I am so much more than just Quarterback Peyton Manning."

Likewise, Past Council Chair Dr. Beverly Nichols was so much more than just an attractive, talented woman.

She was a devoted wife for almost 69 years; a loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

She was a high school mathematics teacher who cared deeply about each of her students. She was also a teacher of teachers. When coaching them, she often told them that if they set high standards, their students would rise to the challenges.

In her terms as District Governor and as Council Chair, she set lofty goals and expectations for us Lions.

Many of you will remember her leadership as she guided us through redistricting from five to three. We didn't always attain the levels she

set, but we went farther than if she hadn't encouraged us to reach higher.

She earned numerous awards from Lions Clubs International—multiple Certificates of Appreciation, at least two Leadership Medals, at least two Presidential Medals, and now this—Lionism's highest award, the Ambassador of Good Will.

Beverly was a strong Christian. She had a deep faith in her God and in her church. She regularly read from her Bible. In fact, if you visit our home today, you will see her Bible lying on our coffee table, open to the spot where she was reading on that fateful Saturday afternoon when she laid it down and asked me to take her to the emergency room. She never returned.

In a way, it is fitting that the last passage she read was the Book of Lamentations in the Old Testament.

But we are not here tonight to lament. Rather, we celebrate a life well lived, a life poured out in one of the noblest of earthly causes—

that of service to others.

On behalf of my entire family—those who are here with me and those who could not be, and on behalf of my Club and the members who are here with me tonight, I humbly accept this honor in Beverly's name. We will treasure it forever.

Thank you PID Bill Phillipi and PID Deb Weaverling for recommending that Beverly be named an Ambassador of Good Will and working to get the nomination approved. And a thank-you goes also to Past International President Patti Hill for approving it. Dr. Hill and I became personal friends several years ago when we worked together on the 2013 USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum in Overland Park. Coming from a friend makes this honor even more meaningful.

And thanks to all of you here tonight for the love and compassion you have extended to me and my family during these past difficult months. Only those who have walked this path can know how much your support means.

PDG Neal Nichols

Lions Band Camp applications are online this year

As you may have noticed, this year the band camp application process is totally online.

With the new Kansas Lions Band Branch Club Lions taking over the annual camp, it was their decision to try and make the process something that students are more accustomed to.

The cost remains \$250 per student. Checks need to be made out to Kansas Lions Band and payment sent to ID Hans Neidhardt, 7400 NW Ayr Road, Potwin, KS 67123.

Access the band web page at <https://kansaslions.org/kansas-lions-band> or go directly to the application link via <https://forms.gle/QUyZc3Ted2hdygjL7>



KANSAS LIONS BAND CAMP

MAY 27 - 31, 2025



CAMP HIGHLIGHTS



REHEARSE WITH THE BEST

Dr. Shawn Knopp and his staff are excited to share their passion for music with you!



CREATE LIFE-LONG FRIENDSHIPS

Meet new friends and strengthen connections with students from across the state!



SECTIONAL AND JAZZ PERFORMANCES

Perform with like instruments or audition to participate in the jazz ensemble!



THE FULL CONCERT EXPERIENCE

Students will perform in the largest summer concert ensemble in the state!

THANKS TO
OUR HOSTS



SCAN THE QR CODE TO APPLY!

WHY PARTICIPATE

Experience band in an exciting camp atmosphere! Learn from professional educators in a fun, supportive environment that fosters inclusion, excellence, and community through music.

lionsbandsk



kansaslions.org/kansas-lions-band



2100 W Univ Ave, Wichita, KS 67213

Going to Orlando? Join the Kansas group!

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION is quickly approaching and as Convention Chair, I am working on our delegation to march in the amazing Parade of Nations!

To march in this competitive event, we need to decide on what the group will be wearing and have a consistent look. (Outfit TBA soon).

I have ordered the required Mouse Ears and am working on a banner, so I need to know who is going. PLEASE email me ASAP and let me know if you are planning to attend and what your general travel plans are.

I would love to plan a short-day excursion for the whole group, but I would need to know when everyone is arriving and what their plans are for the trip.

The parade is on MONDAY, JULY 14 from 9am-1pm. It will most likely be quite hot and if this will impact your health, just let me know that you aren't up to that part.

However, if you would still like to join the group for an adventure or at least a meal all together, send that travel plan to me.

It's going to be another

great convention, we have three fantastic incoming District Governors that will proudly be officially inducted so let's go support Lou Morgan, Irene Haws and Clark Lindstrom and have some FUN in Orlando, Florida!!

Email me at CELEBRATIONSBYLORI@GMAIL.COM Please include your arrival date, departure date and whether you plan to rent a car.

*Thank you all,
Lori Langley,
International Convention
Chair 2025*

103rd State Convention coming to Wichita

The state convention committee is welcoming Lions from across the state to Wichita for the 103rd Kansas Lions State Convention on **May 30 and 31**.

The convention returns to the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel at Wichita Dwight D. Eisenhower Airport.

Convention highlights include a keynote address by Past International President Douglas Alexander and the Kansas Lions Band Concert on Saturday morning at nearby Friends University.

An agenda and registration forms are on following pages. New this year, the registration fee is waived for first-time attendees. If this is your first state convention, please check that line on your registration form (and save some \$\$).

Our Lions International Guest is Past International President Douglas X. Alexander from New York. PIP Alexander will be the keynote speaker at the Saturday night banquet. He will also have a Q&A during the convention business meeting on Friday afternoon.

Douglas X. Alexander, from Brooklyn, New York, was elected to serve as international president of Lions Clubs International at the association's 103rd International Convention in June 2021. He served as Chairperson for Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) from June 29, 2022 through July 11, 2023.

Past International President Alexander is a retired vice president for J.P. Morgan Chase Bank.

A member of the Brooklyn Bedford Stuyvesant Lions Club since 1984, he has held many offices within the association, including club and district level offices and as a DGE group leader. He also

served as a Lions Eye Bank transporter, a member of the District and Multiple District PDG Association, a trustee of the New York State and Bermuda Lions Foundation, and was appointed as the Lions representative



to UNICEF-New York. He has served on the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum Planning and Host Committees and has been a presenter at USA/Canada Forums.

In recognition of his service to the association, he has received numerous awards including the club Lion of the Year, Club President's Award, the Robert J. Uplinger Service Award, several District Governor Appreciation Awards, and the Multiple District Membership Growth Award.

He is the recipient of numerous International President's Certificates of Appreciation, multiple International President's Awards and the Ambassador of Good Will Award, the highest honor the association bestows upon its members. He is a Dr. Franklin G. Mason Fellow, a W. P. Woods Fellow and a progressive Melvin Jones Fellow.

In addition to his Lions activities, Past International President Alexander is active in numerous professional and community organizations. He has served as chairperson of the advisory board for the New York Urban League and as a board member of the St. Francis DeSales School for the Deaf. He is also a recipient of the Congressional Record Award.

Friday's luncheon speaker is Julie Dombo, a Wichita woman with a inspirational story of overcoming adversity.

A retired educator, Dombo was critically injured in a shooting during a business robbery in 2015. Her injuries left her a quad amputee, losing all four limbs and two-thirds of her right lung.



Two years later, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. Today she shares a message of optimism, perseverance, and faith.

During Saturday's lunch, our guest speaker is Miss Kansas USA 2025 Asia Cymone Smith, a journalist, advocate, and mentor dedicated to inspiring others. Asia is an award-winning sports anchor and reporter at KSN-TV, the NBC affiliate in Wichita. She has covered all things Kansas sports, from youth to the professional ranks, including three Kansas City Chiefs' Super Bowl runs.

The annual convention offers many other great opportunities—don't miss participating in two group service projects, bid on great baskets in the PDG Club Silent Auction with proceeds to fund scholarships to Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute—all in two days of fun and fellowship.

Register online with the link or use the mail in form, both on page 12.



103rd Kansas Lions State Convention Agenda

May 30 and 31, 2025



DoubleTree by Hilton at Wichita Airport

Friday, May 30

8:00 am to 5:00 pm Registration Open Foyer
 8:00 am to 9:30 pm Hospitality Room Control Tower - 5th Floor
 Closed during meals. Use the elevators left of Registration Table

8:00 am Kansas Lions Sight Foundation Consulate 1, 2, 3
 9:00 am Kansas Lions Foundation Multimedia Theater
 10:00 am Kansas Lions Band Foundation Consulate 1, 2, 3
 11:00 am State Council Meeting Multimedia Theater
 Noon Lunch Salon 2
Speaker - Julie Dombo

2:00 pm Cub and Leo Seminar #2 Multimedia Theater
 3:00 pm State Convention Business Meeting Multimedia Theater
 Foundation Reports
 Remarks by Douglas Alexander

5:30 pm Dinner at the DoubleTree Salon 2
 7:30 pm Jazz Band Concert Friends University, 2100 University St.

Saturday, May 31

8:00 am to 5 pm Registration Open Foyer
 Closed during Band Concert and Lunch

10:00 am Kansas Lions Band Concert Friends University Gym
 Noon Lunch at the DoubleTree Salon 2 and 3
Speaker - Asia Cymone Smith, Miss Kansas USA and KSN Sports anchor

1:15 pm Celebration of Lions' Life Salon 2 and 3
 2:00 pm Rick Dodson - Speed Learning Consulate 1, 2, 3
 3:30 pm Service Project Consulate 1, 2, 3
 5:30 pm International Family and PIP Alexander Pictures Board Room
 6:00 pm Banquet Salon 2 and 3
Speaker - PIP Douglas Alexander
Adjourn and have a safe trip home

Convention Hotel Information

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel at Wichita Airport

2098 Airport Road, Wichita, KS

Reservations for rooms call 316-945-5272

Convention Room Rate is \$112.00 plus tax. Mention Lions Rate!

All reservations for rooms must be made by May 7, 2025

103rd Kansas Lions State Convention Wichita, KS

May 30 and 31, 2025

*All meetings and meals will be held at:
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel @ Wichita Airport
2098 Airport Rd • Wichita, KS*

Registration (All attendees must pay this fee) _____ @ \$12 \$ _____

_____ **I'm a first-timer! Registration fee waived for first-time attendees**

Friday lunch _____ @ \$20 \$ _____

Friday Dinner _____ @ \$25 \$ _____

Saturday Lunch _____ @ \$20 \$ _____

Saturday Banquet _____ @ \$30 \$ _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

Special Dietary Requests:

Gluten free _____ Vegan/ Vegetarian _____ Other, please note _____

Name (please print) _____ Lion: Y N

Name _____ Lion: Y N

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Club Name _____

Phone Number _____ District _____

Please make checks payable to: Kansas Lions and mail to:

Kansas Lions State Office
231 South Tyler Rd.
Wichita, KS 67209

You can also register online and pay online by going to

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/2025-kansas-lions-state-convention>

Questions: Email Dan at kansaslionsoffice@gmail.com or call 316-773-2100.

FOOD RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 15, 2025

KANSAS STATE LIONS CONVENTION 2025 CONVENTION BOOKLET ADVERTISEMENT

This is your opportunity, as an individual or as a club, to be a part of the Kansas 2025 State Convention. Ad space is currently available for the convention booklet to welcome our special guest Past International President, Douglas X. Alexander. Promote your club, welcome PIP Alexander or advertise upcoming club activities and events!

Special Club Rate for Ads!

¼ page ad \$30	Size 3.5 x 2.25 inches
½ page ad \$50	Size 3.5 x 4.75 inches
Full page ad \$75	Size 3.5 x 10 inches

Ads will be printed in full color; all artwork must be supplied in jpeg or a pdf.

Email ad copy to Lion Becky Funke at rfunk3@cox.com, note "State Convention Ad" in the subject line.

Mail payment to Kansas Lions State Office, 231 South Tyler Rd., Wichita, KS 67209.

Make sure to note "Advertising booklet" on check, make payable to Kansas Lions State Convention.

No ads will be printed without payment in full

Club Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

E-mail address: _____

Size of Ad: _____ ¼ page _____ ½ page _____ full page

Artwork is enclosed _____ I am E-mailing _____

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____

AD DEADLINE IS MAY 12, 2025

KANSAS STATE LIONS CONVENTION 2025 EXHIBITOR/ VENDOR SIGN UP

Name of Exhibitor _____ Contact Person _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contact Phone: _____ E-Mail _____

_____ Electricity Requested (if needed, limited availability)

_____ Not for Profit of Lions Programs / Foundations and Pin Collectors

_____ For Profit Company

Special Requests: _____

Exhibitor hours: Friday 9 am – 5 pm and Saturday 1-4 PM

Area Description: 1 – 6' table and 2 chairs (table covers provided)

Mail Exhibitor/ Vendor sheet to: to Kansas Lions State Office, 231, South Tyler Rd., Wichita, KS 67209
or email to kansaslionsoffice@gmail.com

TABLES MUST BE RESERVED BY MAY 15, 2025