



# District 17N Newsletter

68 Lions clubs serving in southcentral and southeast Kansas | October 2024

Find us on the web at [kslions17n.org](http://kslions17n.org) or on Facebook as KansasLionsDistrict17N

## Governor's Minute

# A busy month with Forum, club visits

Can you believe it, we have already completed the first quarter of the current Lions' year. September was the busiest month so far, but it was also very rewarding.

To start out the month, ID Hans and I were able to attend my fourth



**PDG Steve Langley**



**2nd VDG Melanie Snider**

USA/Canada Forum (September 3-8, in Louisville, Kentucky, with almost 2,000 Lions in attendance). As always, the Forum provides outstanding opportunities to attend educational seminars, hear outstanding main speakers, meet Lions Clubs International Executive Officers, and just connect with a multitude of Lions. Twenty-two Kansas Lions attended the Forum, including 12 from District N (CC Pam and Lion Jerry Bilyeu, Cabinet Secretary-PDG Chris and Lion Carol Bauer, State Secretary-PDG Dan Funke, PCC Lori Horton and PDG Steve Langley, 1VDG Clark Lindstrom, 2VDG Melanie Snider, Cabinet Treasurer-Lion Barb Schattak, ID Hans, and myself. One of the highlights on Saturday was attending the Lions University Graduation, where PDG Steve Langley received both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees and Lion Melanie Snider received her Bachelor's degree.

If you have never attended a Forum, I would highly encourage you to do so. Future Forums

*Continued on next page*

## Coming Up!

### MD 17 Council Meeting

Saturday, October 19  
First United Methodist Church, McPherson

### District Cabinet Meeting

Lyndon High School  
Lunchroom  
Saturday, August 26  
More on page 3

## Save the Date! Mid Winter Rally

January 17-18, 2025  
Junction City  
Courtyard by Marriott

**Special Guest**  
**ID Anthony Paradiso**  
**New York**

## Kansas Lions District 17N Leaders

**District Governor**  
**Shari Neidhardt**

Towanda Lions Club  
316-304-3644  
[19Faith58@gmail.com](mailto:19Faith58@gmail.com)

**1st Vice District Governor**  
**Clark Lindstrom**

Wichita Downtown Lions Club  
316-258-2781  
[cflindstrom@yahoo.com](mailto:cflindstrom@yahoo.com)

**2nd Vice District Governor**  
**Melanie Snider**

Baxter Springs Lions Club  
417-529-2138  
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# Governor's Minute

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include, Atlantic City, NJ (2025), Memphis, TN (2026), and Huntsville, AL (2027).

Returning home from the Forum and since most clubs are now back on regular meeting schedules, I was able to make several club visitations: Canton Lions, Colony Lions, Columbus Lions, Fredonia Lions, Parsons Lions, and the Westphalia Lions. Great Lions, remarkable "service projects", and fun fellowship. These Lions are all Making Their Mark. It was a pleasure to have the opportunity to spend time with them.

When I think about the service they provide to their communities, it is such a shame that so many of our communities have lost their Lions Clubs. With the help of all the District N Lions, maybe we can establish new clubs back into these communities.

If attending the USA/Canada Forum and making Club visitations doesn't keep a District Governor busy, ID Hans and I volunteered to help with the Kansas Lions Sight Foundation screening booth at the State Fair on September 11. The opportunity to assist with the screening process is very rewarding. Hundreds of adults and children are screened every day. If it wasn't for the volunteer student nurses and the Lions each day/all day, the loss of this service project would be a shame. Volunteers are always needed, so think about being a volunteer next year.

The month also brought sadness, as we heard of the

passing of PDG Marvin Funk on September 6. The family held a Celebration of Life in Kinsley on the September 12. Many of us remember PDG Marvin and PCC Elfrieda, when they lived in Hillsboro and were part of the District N family. Our prayers go out to all the family. We will miss this great Lion.

As we start the second quarter of the Lions year, think about the upcoming holidays and the needs of so many individuals, not only within our communities, but around the world. Remember our current LCIF goal is \$30,000 and that your generous donations with help us meet our District goal. At the first cabinet meeting, PDG Chris Bauer made a challenge to our District N Clubs, in that he wanted them to match or exceed the donations made the Humboldt Lions Club of \$10/member to LCIF and \$2/member to all three of our foundations.

For the month of September, the Goddard Lions were the recipient of the \$10 LCIF donation. Congratulations for helping meet the Mission 1.5 challenge by gaining three new members.

Remember that we have a District Cabinet meeting on Oct 26 in Lyndon. Check out the flyer about the meeting. Looking forward to seeing at the Cabinet meeting.

I will close with the following quote by Martin Luther King Jr., "*Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?*"

*Shari Neidhardt  
District Governor, 2024-2025*

## Second Vice District Governor

# Club visits expand your Lions family, share ideas

Club Visits – have you visited a Lions club in a neighboring community lately?



My sponsor enjoyed visiting other clubs and invited me to ride along. The visits were fun – expanded my Lions family and connections with Lions who shared a service heart. Making new Lions friends boosted my spirit, ignited and re-energized me.

Your visit can be a fact-finding opportunity. My experience with visiting clubs

included getting new ideas on meeting needs at home, amazement at the uniqueness of each club, the realization "your club, your way" is practical for meeting community and members needs, and new Lions friends. When I was a Zone Chair, a club visit was one of my favorite things.

Our clubs are inspiring. They have ROARing good times!

I encourage you to reach out to a nearby club, as a whole or just a few club members, to visit a meeting or attend one of their sponsored community activities.

*Melanie Snider  
Second Vice District Governor, 2024-2025*

## Cabinet Meeting in Lyndon

**What:** 2nd District Cabinet Meeting  
**When:** 10 am, Saturday, October 26  
**Where:** Lyndon High School  
 421 E. Sixth St., Lyndon, KS

Lunch will be soups, salad, bread, dessert and drinks. The cost will be \$10

**RSVP to Secretary Chris Bauer at  
[lionchris@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lionchris@sbcglobal.net) by October 12**



Judging of the District 17N Peace Poster entries will occur at the October 26 Cabinet meeting.

If you are mailing entries, send to:

Lion Lorraine Stockwell

7205 SW 163rd St

Augusta, KS 67010.

Entries can also be brought to the Cabinet Meeting.

## Welcome to the Pride

*New members in September*



New Member	Sponsor
<b>Burlington</b> Holly Myers	Ronda Gilbert
<b>Goddard</b> Tony Abin Jaden Black Corey Dir	Preston Black Preston Black Preston Black
<b>Halstead</b> Taylor Cotner Tyler Cotner	Kent Haury Kenty Haury
<b>Neodesha</b> Don Adams	Lloyd Baumwart
<b>Newton</b> Wendy Basye Justin Harland	Alex Vermillion Samantha Schaefer
<b>Valley Center</b> Allison Clubb Lawrence Walton	Myrna Hamilton David Welch
<b>Wellington</b> Carrie Strobel-Clouston	Susan Doherty
<b>Wichita Northwest</b> Tamara Funk	Sandra Childs
<b>Winfield</b> Leah Bromlow	Donald Bromlow

## Kansas Lions Health Program Plan a Vision Awareness Month project

October is Vision Awareness Month and as LCI President Fabricio Oliveira says "Make your Mark."

Is your Lions Club making its mark in your community? Here are some ways to help with making your mark:

- Organize a vision screening at a daycare or preschool
- Organize a white cane awareness event
- Purchase eyeglasses for someone
- Collect used eyeglasses.

There is a abundance of material on all of these projects on the LCI Web site or on the internet. Just Google any of them or ask for help from your local Kansas Lions Health Program Team. We are all listed in the Kansas Lions Directory.

*Lion Vern Failor  
 Chair, Lion Health Programs*

## First Vice District Governor

# Forum provides wealth of ideas

It was an eye opening experience to attend my first USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum in Louisville, KY in September. The forum's theme was "Setting the Pace" and boy was the pace fast and furious — just what you'd expect at the city famous for Churchill Downs horse track.



Downs horse track.

This event was a couple thousand enthusiastic, energetic, and sincere fellow Lions who were just as eager to learn and come to know best club practices, explore new ideas, and hear our International Leaders motivate us to grow our membership and

Clubs around the world and in our own communities. This was the primary and constant message given and received for the next three days.

I arrived Wednesday afternoon and the airport was full of fellow Lions from all across the USA, Canada, Europe, Central Asia, Asia, and Australia. My first move was to share a cab with a Lion from Ottawa, Canada and a Lion from central India. The Canadian spoke about her clubs up north and she certainly didn't appreciate the hot muggy weather in KY. The Lion from India was in a silk looking suit and seemed to be comfortable. He spoke about how dry the weather is back home. It was the first Leadership Forum for each of us and none knew what to expect.

The first learning activity was called the speed learning, one of the the most popular sessions at the Forum. Think of it as something like speed dating where you only have a short period of time to exchange ideas. It was a huge room of 12 tables with a Lion leading group discussions about member empowerment, bridging the generation gap, Lions Quest, recognition of members, service project ideas, marketing your club, creative service projects, building and organizing clubs, cyber clubs, and club branches; just to list a few.

My next event was the Strides Walk for Diabetes Awareness event. I got a bright red t-shirt and joined nearly 300 participants for a group photo, before walking the perimeter of the convention center which was about two city blocks square.

An afternoon session was about the Lion Portal

and exploring new digital tools. There was an overview on using the portal and the take away was to have each and every Lion get registered with LI by emailing or calling for help.

Friday started early with the Midwest breakfast hosted by MD 13. The program included plans for the rest of the Forum and IP Fabricio Olivera shared his vision of service. He encouraged every Lion to "make their mark" in the coming year by increasing membership and clubs to serve over one billion people.

I attended a seminar on humanitarian service where several Lions covered the critical needs all around the world and projects empowered by LCIF to change the world, followed by a session on how KY Lions use a LCIF Diabetes Grant to provide free A1c screening with new testing technology that only takes a pin prick and ten minutes.

Luncheon speaker Randy Pierce, a mountain climber and competitive runner who happens to be blind, shared a message about using adversity as a positive catalyst for growth and opportunity.

The afternoon seminar was with 1stVP AP Singh along with other 1VDGs. He shared goals, plans, and actions for the 2025 International Convention in Mexico City next July. He said every Lion's first duty is to grow the association so we can serve more people throughout the world. More members, more service; it's that simple.

Another session was Constitution and Bylaws, an interactive session where Lion John Youney asked questions and he expected you to know the correct answer. If you were wrong, it was a dollar that went to LCIF. If you were right, you got a lapel pin. Let's just say I did both and I learned a lot as well.

Saturday started with a seminar on managing a District. The other morning seminar was a real race to the finish with PIP Brian Sheehan who used his energetic style presenting information that was designed to spark creativity and help participants through the process of starting new clubs or rebuilding the one we have.

The luncheon speaker was IP Fabricio Olivera who was quite forceful about his expectations to achieve 1.5 Lion members worldwide so we can better meet the growing needs of our communities and serve more people than ever before. After lunch, I attended the

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## Valley Center Lions goes to the dogs

Valley Center Lions Club often welcomes visitors to our meetings. But the last meeting was the first that a pack of dogs came to see us. But these dogs are really special animals. That is thanks to the Great Plains Search K9's, Incorporated, who are a nationally certified group of Trainers and Handlers located in Wichita.

GPSK9's human volunteers brought four of their canine partners to tell the story of their ability to serve our community, as well as the whole six state area in the central United States.

The GPSK9's are an organization who raise, train, feed & house their dogs and practice with them every day in differing weather, terrain and both urban and rural areas so that they are ready to travel when called upon by police officers and search & rescue organizations. They are a 100% volunteer, nonprofit group funded by out-of-their-own pocket, and donations from individuals and organizations.

GPSK9 trainers and handlers Nadine Conner, Kari Karlskint and K.D. Keim, along with helper Sheryl Karlskint (formerly an employee of the Valley Center Chamber) visited the meeting with four of their search & rescue dogs. We got to meet two of the Belgian Malinois, ("Gizzy" and "Groot"), a Bloodhound ("Slim") and a little firecracker of a Working (short-haired) Cocker Spaniel named "Pidgeon."

All have had extensive training and experience in finding lost humans with their incredibly sensitive and trained natural senses. They can find the active lost, stationary, possibly injured or deceased folks. Trainer



Nadine Conner demonstrated the ability of "Gizzy" to find a particular target among several similar identical targets placed around the meeting room.

Some breeds are trained for ground tracking, and some can locate scents in the air. Some dogs can even track across either still or running water, and can many times find a deceased person under water.

It was an unique, enjoyable and enlightening program for the Lions in attendance, thanks to the Great Plains Search K9's.

For anyone who would like to learn more or assist Great Plains Search K9's, Incorporated, you can call Kari Karlskint at (316)259-9530 or Sheryl at (316)734-0679

*-Ron Black*

## Forum experience

*Continued from previous page*

seminar about LCIF Impact with PIP Dr Patti Hill. She provided a lot of information and video about what LCIF has done, is doing, and expects to do.

My brain was fried, but we still had the evening banquet. The motivational speaker was Trish Wilson. Her motto is "You have one more day, to do one more thing, to change one more life, so don't miss the opportunity." She is a full time minister who works with severely disabled kids at a huge camp in Texas. She emphasized being the "ZING" in "amazing" if you start looking at every day as different, special, impactful, adventurous,

challenging, and life changing. WOW!

The moral of this story is whenever you are afforded the chance to attend an Lions International Convention or Forum, do it; even if there is monetary cost, because you will receive so much more benefit personally and spiritually spending time with like minded Lions who really care and want to see us all succeed together.

If you would like to hear more about the Forum and the seminars, please email me at [cflindstrom@yahoo.com](mailto:cflindstrom@yahoo.com) (yes, the address is wrong in the new blue state directory) or call 316.258.2781. Roar more in 2024 Lions!

*Clark Lindstrom*





## Around the District

Submit your club activities to [newsletter17n@cox.net](mailto:newsletter17n@cox.net)

Deadline is always the 20th of the month



Wellington Lions installed a flagstone path in Veteran's Park.

It's spooky season for the Neosho Rapids Lions Club, shown here with an entry in the Hartford Fall Festival parade promoting their Haunted House. The 32nd annual Haunted House will be October 19, 25 and 26, starting with a hayrack ride at Neosho Rapids Community Center. (see page )







Emporia Lions took part in a community clean-up day.



Augusta Lions were just one of the clubs from 17N who volunteered at the Kansas Lions Sight Foundation Booth at the Kansas State Fair. More than 2,500 people were screened for vision, blood glucose and blood pressure during the 10 day fair.



Good work and fun conversations (as usual) at a recent Sand Creek cleanup by members of the Newton Lions Club.



# Diabetes Awareness Month: Let's fight diabetes

November is "Diabetes Awareness Month." November 14 is Worldwide Diabetes Awareness Day. I would like to encourage each club to have a club project or a club program related to diabetes awareness. Over 245,000 Kansans are diabetic. Many more are walking around undiagnosed.

Diabetes can lead to vision loss, cardiovascular disease, kidney disease, stroke, open wounds, amputation of limbs and even gum disease.

Some of the symptoms are constantly being thirsty, fatigue, dizziness, constant urination and blurred vision. Everyone should have thorough lab workup annually, more often if your doctor requests. Information is available for American Diabetes Association at [diabetes.org](https://diabetes.org) or LCI. You can order a STRIDES Kit from Stores at LCI with all the information on developing your own STRIDES Event for your community.

Some program suggestions are your local diabetes educator, a pharmacist to talk about the updates and different medications and how they work, your eye doctor to talk about related diseases. Also a good program is Area Agency on Aging. They have Medicare support people trained on all the big changes this next

year. I have a contact name for anyone in southeast Kansas area.

**Diabetes Camp Discovery:** We have established a line item in the District N budget for camp scholarships. The cost of a camper to attend Camp Discovery for one week is \$1600. ADA will help by giving \$800 per scholarship applicant. We will donate \$650 each. The family pays \$150. Camp applications are available in February. Dates for camp for 2025 are not available yet but usually the second week of June. This will be the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the camp. There are supposed to be special festivities before camp.

My goal is to raise \$5,000 this year. I challenge each club to donate \$100. You can send your check to District N treasurer Lion Barb Schattak on the memo line write "camp scholarship."

Diabetes is one of the main initiatives of Lions International and our District Governor has made it one of her goals this year to help build awareness. I'm asking each club to make it yours.

*PDG Don Cunningham  
Diabetes Awareness Chair, District 17N*



**Parsons Lions hosted a Strides Family Fitness Day with a pickleball clinic, kid's yoga led by Lion Brienne Cunningham, inflatables, train rides and more. Community Health offered free flu shots and Labette Health Rector Diabetes Center provided information on diabetes and the director spoke about the disease. Elaine Hudson, dietician and board member for Camp Discovery was on hand to offer information about the camp and provided healthy snacks.**







Members of Wichita Downtown Lions in the KAKE studio to receive a Wins for Kansas Grant for their project to recycle eyeglasses cases into personal hygiene kits. The kits are distributed by Simply Hygiene, a Wichita-based non-profit that provides hygiene basics to those in need in the Wichita community

## 105th Anniversary Celebration Wichita Downtown Lions Club

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Rolling Hills Country Club | 223 S. Westlink, Wichita  
6 pm cash bar reception | 6:30 pm Italian buffet dinner

**Keynote Speaker**

**Hans J. Neidhardt, International Director**

\$34/person | RSVP by November 25

Call 316-644-7346 or email loleta1@aol.com



**32nd Annual  
Neosho Rapids  
Haunted House**

The SPOOKTACTULAR fundraising event begins at the Neosho Rapids Community Building with a hay rack ride

Tickets \$10  
\$1.00 Off each ticket with canned food donation

Come Get Spooked on October 19th, 25th, and 26th  
CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE  
Ticket Sales from 6:30PM-10:00PM

NEW TO THE BOOOO  
is a kids trailer tailored just for fun for the little ones!  
Too spooky? Too scary? Feeling a little wary?  
Come relax and enjoy some treats with no tricks and color some pics!

SPONSORED BY  
Neosho Rapids Lions Club  
Fire District #5  
Neosho Rapids Parks Committee  
Neosho Rapids Projects Committee

Same great Lions.  
Same great pancakes.  
ALL NEW LOCATION!

 A photo showing several men in blue Newton Lions Club t-shirts working behind a long counter, cooking pancakes on a large griddle.
 

**NEWTON LIONS  
PANCAKE FEED**

Tuesday, Nov. 5 | Our Lady of Guadalupe