



District 17N News

68 Lions clubs serving in south central and south east Kansas | March 2025

Find us on the web at kslions17n.org or on Facebook as KansasLionsDistrict17N



Snapshots from the District Convention

The 2025 District Convention was February 28 and March 1, with special guests International Director Steve and Lion LeAnn Middlemiss from New Hampshire (photo at right)



Save the Date!

Kansas Lions State Convention

with PIP Douglas Alexander

May 29-31

DoubleTree at
Wichita Airport

Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute

June 27-29

Baker University
Baldwin City, KS
Info on page

Lions International Convention

July 14-17
Orlando, Florida

lionscon.lionsclubs.org

USA/Canada Forum

September 18-20
Atlantic City, NJ
Info at

<https://lionsforum.org>

Kansas Lions District 17N Leaders

District Governor
Shari Neidhardt

Towanda Lions Club
316-304-3644

19Faith58@gmail.com

1st Vice District Governor
Clark Lindstrom

Wichita Downtown Lions Club
316-258-2781

cflindstrom@yahoo.com

2nd Vice District Governor
Melanie Snider

Baxter Springs Lions Club
417-529-2138

lionmelsnider@gmail.com

An Outstanding District Convention

Thank you District 17N Lions

What an amazing turnout for our convention. Our special weekend guests, International Director Steve and Lion LeeAnn Middlemiss, from Hudson, New Hampshire, commented several times what a great facility and number of Lions that were in attendance.



The seamless execution of all the convention activities were directly related to the outstanding work of our primary convention chair, Lion Jackie O'Neal and the members of the Bel Aire Lions Club.

My goal was to allow those attending the convention to enjoy some fun, fellowship, complete a service project, and allow me to recognize Lions for their service and dedication to Lionism.

Friday night's meet-and-greet social hour was followed by Singo Bingo, using songs from the 1970's. If you completed a "bingo" you were able to choose a gift. Now I may have been given a bad Singo Bingo card, seems that I could never get five in a row, however my grandson Lion Brock did win one of the rounds. A very special thank you goes to PCC Lori for providing us tasty treats.

Saturday morning, prior to the formal "Call to Order," Lions had to opportunity to put together 26 tie blankets that will be donated to the Wichita Children's Home, check out the vendor tables, and start the Silent Auction bidding. The silent auction raised \$700 to be equally divided between our Juvenile Diabetes program and Childhood Cancer.

Prior to lunch, a Remembrance Service was done to recognize the 21 Lions that we have lost during the current Lion's year. Immediately after lunch, the 2025-2026 Peace Poster winners were recognized with certificates and checks. It was then time for ID Middlemiss to provide the keynote address.

The remaining afternoon time was used to complete elections, present recognition awards, and gift exchange. Election results give us the following Lions to provide the leadership and fill director positions next year: District Governor Elect Clark Lindstrom; First

Vice District Governor Elect Melanie Snider; Second



Vice District Governor Elect Babara Schattak; Kansas Lion Foundation Director (2025-2028) PDG Steve Langley; Kansas Lions Sight Foundation Directors (2025-2028) PCC Lori Langley and Lion Dr. Steve Cauble, and Kansas Lions Band Foun-

dation Directors (2025-2027) ID Hans Neidhardt and Lion Barb Schattak.

International President's Certificates of Appreciation were presented to PDG Steve Langley (Zone Chair), Lion Jackie O'Neal (Convention Chair), Lion Gary O'Neal (Zone Chair) and Lion Becky Funke (District/State Newsletters and Marketing).

Lion Barbara Schattak was presented with a Melvin Jones Fellowship.

Congratulations to the elected 2025-2026 leadership team, Foundation Directors, and recognition recipients.

During the month of February, we had a tie for the clubs adding the most members. Congratulations to the Scranton Lions Club and Girard Lions Club. Both clubs added two new members and \$5.00 has been donated to LCIF in your club names.

I will close with the inscription that was printed on the front of the memo book that each attendee received. *"May you be proud of the work you do, the person you are, and the difference you make."* Does that not describe Lions?

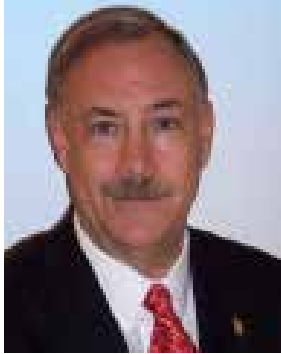
*Lion Shari Neidhardt
District Governor, 2024-2025*

On the cover, clockwise from top right: International Director Steve Middlemiss delivers his keynote address; Lions had several displays/vendors to see; Lion Barb Schattak receives a Melvin Jones Fellowship, and Lions tied 26 fleece blankets for the Wichita Childrens Home as a service project.

First Vice District Governor

Immersing in Lionism at Governor training

Last month, I had the privilege of attending the Future District Governor training in St. Charles, Ill, just outside of Chicago at the Lions International Q Center.



It was exciting to attend four full days of training with over 700 other FDGs from over 90 countries. As the other two FDGs from Kansas would agree, we ate more food from India than we've ever experienced; presumably because the 1st Vice President

AP Singh from Kolkata, India, presided over the event and will be the International President in 2025-26.

The takeaway from this training and the primary point I want to convey in this article is: The #1 service project we have as Lions today and in the future is to spread the word of Lionism to friends, co-workers, fellow church members, family, as well as anyone and everyone you meet. Our first duty as a Lion is always to grow the association.

The Mission 1.5 members by 2027 isn't about the number, it's about the need to have enough members through recruitment and retention to achieve the equally important goal of serving more than 1 billion people in need by that same year.

The other two Kansas First District Governors and I flew into Chicago and arrived at the Q Welcome

Center late on a Monday afternoon. The Q Center is a campus with dorms, cafeteria, meeting rooms and auditoriums. After dinner together, we met with the 29 members of Group #22 who were from the United States as well as Australia, the Philippines and Malaysia. The evening session was an opportunity to get to know each other and go over the coming days events.

The second day started with a bus trip to Lions Club International headquarters. It was interesting to see the various international departments and meet many of the LI staff. Check my Facebook posts for photos. Returning to the Q center, each Lion got a personal photo opportunity with 1st VP Singh. After lunch, there was an opening ceremony with international leaders and a guest speaker who helped us focus on the tasks ahead.

Wednesday was a "get down to business" day with a general session on global priorities, followed by a panel discussion about areas of service and club formation and growth using the head, heart, and gut theories.

The group sessions began with reviewing a workbook that attendees were to have completed prior to training. The topics were becoming a whole leader and managing your team. Our group also engaged in an energizer exercise to pay attention to instructions, followed by training on membership growth strategies. Our group was visited by 1st VP AP Singh for a Q&A session. We finished the afternoon with a discussion

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Second Vice District Governor

Just One! Growing membership made easy!

Just One!

At the 17N convention last weekend in Bel Aire, I heard a lot of conversations about clubs wanting to



add to their membership. Comments about why clubs struggled to recruit new members; what challenges clubs are facing and members' frustrations with how to grow their clubs.

One Lion shared the idea that the numbers game, which is BIG, may be beating us up and sapping

our energy. So, let's change the focus for each club in 17N. Let's grow our clubs by one new member by June 30.

Sharing Lionism is a wonderful opportunity to make a new friend, expand service, and have an impact on your community. Just One!

Personal note: The service that 17N provides to its communities overwhelms me and renews my faith in humanity. I am humbled by your confidence in me to continue the Lions journey as your 1VDG for the upcoming year and I thank you for the opportunity.

1st VDGE Melanie Snider

Fulfill a need and 'Make Your Mark'

Has your Lions Club "Made it's Mark" this year? Look in your community and find a project or program that needs some boosting. Then start working on aiding that program by asking what the program might need.

There are many programs in all of our communities that need just a boost. One I am thinking of is the local Ronald McDonald House (RMDH). Here in Topeka's house the playground perimeter has rotted away. My Lions Club has purchased playground edging made from ground up tires. These will last forever. We will be installing these when the weather clears up.

The RMDH did not know how they were going to make their playground safe for their clients children to play safely. My club has came to their rescue. A simple project but one that is meaningful to the Ronald McDonald House and community.

So you never know when there is a need that just goes under the radar. Remember "if there is a need there is a Lions Club" that can fill that need.

Good luck in your search.

Lion Vern Failor

Lions Health Programs Chair

Officer Elections

Club elections need to be completed by May 1 and reported to Lions International via the Lions Portal.

Need help with reporting? Contact PDG Chris Bauer at lionchris@sbcglobal.net or call 620-473-2406



Lindstrom

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on action planning ideas, which were exchanged with the French Group meeting next door.

The weather added an interesting element to the day's activities—it snowed all day and there were many FDGs who had never experienced cold weather or the snow, so many made it a point to go outside for selfies in the snow.

The final day was crammed full preparation for the District 2025-26 goals, projects, strategic plans and establishing a team. A session on Lions Club International's Foundation garnered pledges to achieve cumulative donations exceeding \$200,000.

The general session was a drum circle event with all participants in the ballroom joining together with percussion instruments lead by a keynote speaker/conductor that was quite a different experience (search for videos on YouTube). The closing session with 1st VP Singh once again challenging us all for change in the future, membership growth and service to be taken to new heights. The 2025-26 motto will be "Lead to Serve - Serve to Lead."

I enjoyed meeting all the FDG Lions, Lion leadership and Lions International staff. It really was a "strangers are only friends you haven't met yet" experience. I'm pleased and grateful for the opportunity to attend this vital training to prepare me to lead the District into the next Lions year. At the very end of



Kansas' First Vice District Governors attended at Lions International training in Chicago in February. From left, Louis Morgan from District K, Irene Haws from District A and Clark Lindstrom from District N.

the group session, we all sat in a circle to share our thoughts about the 2025 FVDG/DGE Seminar. I shared that I wished every Lion in the Association could have the opportunity to attend this training and experience the true spirit of Lionism with Lions from around the world. I hope you too will someday take that big step up and begin your exciting journey of District leadership to have the opportunity and privilege to serve.

Clark Lindstrom,

17N District Governor Elect

Where does your club collect eyeglasses?

One of the most visible Lions projects is collecting used eyeglasses. But it may be a well-kept secret where to drop off those glasses.

Please send the name and address of any locations that your club has collection boxes to Lion Vern Failor at vlfailor@gmail.com.

Lion Vern plans to compile a comprehensive list so that when an inquiry comes in -- to Lion Vern, the state office or your district governor--there's a readily available answer of where to turn in unused eyeglasses.

The list will be also be available to the volunteers working at the Kansas State Fair, who are frequently asked where people can donated unused glasses.



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 three (3) for \$25.00

Drawing for the quilt will take place during the 2026 Mid-Winter Rally. Proceeds will be used to support the Kansas Lions State/International Band programs.

Thank you for your support.



MISSION 1.5

Welcome to the Pride

New members in February



New Member	Sponsor
Girard	
Judith Gifford	William Gifford
Kay Mein	Wilda Pentola
Osage City	
Bradley Hayes	Garry Griffith
Scranton	
Jacob Machnov	Paul Schmidt
Sara Machnov	Paul Schmidt
Wellington	
Lindsey Daugherty	Betty Zeka

The 4th Annual LARRY LEE MEMORIAL CAR SHOW

GODDARD, KANSAS



Saturday, April 5, 2025

11 AM - 4 PM

RAIN DATE: SUNDAY, APRIL 6

Main Street | Downtown Goddard



MARCH 22, 2025 8-11 AM

Location: Bethel Church

2046 Military Ave, Baxter Springs, KS 66713

Biscuit & Gravy FUNDRAISER

**MONEY RAISED WILL HELP SEND
LOCAL STUDENTS TO BAND CAMP**

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**

**FRIENDS
UNIVERSITY**



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.

New online application for Lions Band Camp

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, Kansas 67123.

You can access the band webpage by going to <https://kansaslions.org/kansas-lions-band> or go directly to the

application link via <https://forms.gle/QUyZc3Ted2hdygjL7>



Lyndon Leos chartered

The Lyndon Leo club held it's Charter Night on February 10 with International Director Hans Neidhardt as keynote speaker. District Governor Shari Neidhardt inducted the charter members.

The Leos jumped into service, helping the Lyndon Lions Club with a Chili/Chicken and Noodle Feed on the day after the club's Charter Night.





Around the District

Submit your club activities to newsletter17n@cox.net

Deadline is always the 25th of the month



Baxter Springs Lions Club collected food and paper supplies for the local food pantry



Lyndon Lions recognized Lyndon High School Band Director Michael Kaufman, center, for his support of Kansas Lions Band in his 37 years as band director. Lion Jerry Bilyeu, CC Pam Bilyeu, Lion Mary Heskett, Lion Barb Schattak, Lion Kathleen Burden, Lion Gary Schattak and Lion Bill McDonald.



Augusta Lions Lorraine Stockwell, left, and Sandi Lewis Williamson, right, received 30-year membership chevrons from PCC Harry Stockwell.

Food and fundraising

Feeding the community is one of the most frequent club fundraisers. Clockwise from below, Viola Lions serve over 1,000 people at their annual sausage supper; Wichita Northwest Lions serve up chili; Goddard Lions flip pancakes, and Wellington Lions serve up fried tacos.



Valley Center Lions recently recognized Laurel Anderson and Jerry Pollack with Melvin Jones Fellowships.

District Convention Recognitions



Club Excellence Award — Goddard Lions Club President Gordon Grimm, second from left, receives the Club Excellence Award for 2023-2024 from ID Steve Middlemiss, left, and DG Shari Neidhardt and CC Pam Bilyeu. Bel Aire Lions also received a Club Excellence Award.



Colwich Lions Club received a Mission 1.5 Award for membership growth. President Stephanie Guy and Lion Julie McLain accepted the award. Bel Aire Lions Club also received a Mission 1.5 award.



Presidential Certificates of Appreciation, the third highest recognition for individual Lions, were presented to, clockwise from top, PDG Steve Langley, Lion Gary O'Neal, Lion Jackie O'Neal and Lion Becky Funke.

Peace Poster Winners



Ivan Esparza of Wichita was the First Place winner at both the District and State Peace Poster contests. Ivan's entry was sponsored by the Bel Aire Lions Club. His entry has been submitted to the Lions International Peace Poster Contest.



Kimberlyn Foster of Humboldt was the Third Place winner in the District N Peace Poster contest. Kimberlyn's entry was sponsored by the Humboldt Lions Club.



The top three posters in the 17N Peace Poster Contest were on display at the District Convention. From left: Third place by Kimberlyn Foster, sponsored by the Humboldt Lions Club; Second place by Every Mallory, sponsored by Augusta Lions Club and First Place by Ivan Esparza, sponsored by Bel Aire Lions Club.