



# District 17N News

68 Lions clubs serving in southcentral and southeast Kansas | January 2024  
Find us on the web at [kslions17n.org](https://kslions17n.org) or on Facebook as KansasLionsDistrict17N



## District 17-N recharged and ready

Welcome to 2025 and the second half of our current Lions year. I hope that you enjoyed the holidays and had a joyous New Year. However, it is now time to return to serving our communities and worldwide. My newsletter article will cover two key topics; recap of our year to date and our upcoming district convention.



The current critical area for our district is membership. Recapping the first six months of data posted on the Lions Portal, clubs did an outstanding job serving your communities and making donations to LCIF, and for that I say a big thank you. I am confident that your level of service and donations will continue for the remaining six months. Where the district really needs help is maintaining and building our membership. After recording months of positive membership growth, we are starting out January with a loss of clubs and members. The good news is that there is time to turn the member-

ship numbers around, but it will take a "District 17-N Team" effort if we are to be successful. Every Lion is a recruiter and can play a crucial role in adding to our membership total. A special congratulations goes out to the Moundridge Lions Club and the Wellington Lions Club, both clubs brought in two new members in December.

During my official visitation to the Scranton Lions Club, PDG Bernard Lee reminded me that loss of clubs and membership is not a new issue. PDG Bernard did some research and provided some remarkable historical data. Kansas has 23 counties (21.9%) that have no active Lions Clubs. District 17-N accounts for six of those counties. The data also reflects the loss of 300 Kansas clubs. Communities within our district with the largest number of lost clubs include Wichita (10) and Galena, Iola, McPherson, Mound City (3) each.

*Continued on next page*

## Coming Up!

### Mid-Winter Rally

**January 17-18**

Courtyard by Marriott  
Junction City

with special guest

ID Anthony Paradiso

Details on pages 12-13

### Third District Cabinet Meeting

**January 25**

Zoom

Info, link on page 6

### District 17N Convention

**February 28-March 1**

Bel Aire

Details on pages 5-9

## Save the Date!

### Kansas Lions State Convention

**May 29-31**

DoubleTree @  
Wichita Airport

## 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

[lionmelsnider@gmail.com](mailto:lionmelsnider@gmail.com)

## Governor's comment

*Continued from page one*

Information about our district convention (February 28 – March 1) was provided in the December newsletter. Please keep in mind the following deadlines. Block room reservations at the Aloft Wichita Hotel, 3642 North Oliver Street, Wichita, must be completed by February 1. When calling (316) 744-1100, mention District 17-N Lions for the convention rate. Convention Book advertising deadline is also February 1. Payment for the ads should be sent to District Treasurer Barb and the artwork, text, and reservation form needs to be sent to me. Meal reservations and payment needs to be sent to District Treasurer Barb, with a deadline of February 14.

We are hoping that many of our clubs will donate a gift basket for the silent auction. Proceeds from the silent auction will be divided equally between Juvenile Diabetes Awareness and Childhood Cancer. Our hope is to be able to send a local child or children to diabetes camp. The funds raised for childhood cancer will be presented to the family of Maddie Kaufman of Moundridge. The following is Maddie's story:



The journey began when eight-year-old Maddie's parents (Jayson and Andrea) along with many others, noticed that Maddie was a lot more tired than usual. After a few weeks of this, other symptoms began to appear. They took Maddie to a doctor's appointment where they suggested a CT scan. Out of precaution, they visited the ER for a CT scan that night. A mass was found on Maddie's brain. Maddie and Andrea took a helicopter to Kansas City while Jayson drove to meet them. At the hospital in Kansas City, they performed an MRI and confirmed that Maddie has a DIPG (Diffuse Midline Glioma) tumor. This type of brain tumor is not operable and there is no cure. No child should have to face such a challenge. The Moundridge community and the Moundridge Lions have raised funds to help this young family and the financial medical expenses they will encounter. We have the opportunity to "Make Your Mark," as the funds raised during the silent auction will help children within our district.

I will close with a quote by Howard Thurman, American theologian, *"Don't ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive, and go do that, because what the world needs is people who have come alive."*

*Lion Shari Neidhardt  
District Governor 17N*

## Second Vice District Governor

## Traditions: honor the past, look to the future

Traditions – what a wonderful thing, honoring legacy and long-standing practices are my comfort zone. However, during this holiday season I have been wondering if traditions have been impeding progress. My family dynamic has changed over the last three years and our time-honored way of doing things have been challenged by those changes. We are clinging to tradition and adjusting what that looks like today and for our future gatherings.



Just like our clubs have long standing traditions that we want to continue in spirit, we must embrace adjustments to continue to grow our clubs; to continue to

meet the needs of our members and communities; and to increase our numbers.

My family is adjusting to new family members and the loss of others. This means, for us, incorporating ways of gathering and celebrating that are new to our nuclear group and opening our minds to what our future will be. What an opportunity, or at least, I think it can be!

District 17N has spent the first half of our Lions year embracing the opportunities and exploring different (sometimes new) ways to serve and grow. You are commended for that journey. I look forward to watching you continue that travel in 2025! Wishing you the best new year ever.

*Lion Melanie Snider  
Second Vice District Governor, 17N*

## First Vice District Governor

# Ten resolutions for your club in the new year

I'm so excited to see what next year brings for us in our respective Lions Clubs, our District 17 N, our MD 17, and Internationally where we are Making our



Mark. When I have visited area Clubs these past six months, you Lions always inspire me. I know each and every one of you reading this will continue being amazing at all the fantastic community service projects, events, and programs you are probably already planning to do. No matter what's ahead, I believe we

can handle it. We're going to make this year amazing together.

Here are a few Lion related New Year's resolutions to consider. First, Have Fun! Include your family in all Club activities possible.

Second, Grow your club's membership by making sure each member always has a membership application readily available accompanied by a specific list of club service projects, and every member knows the process to join along with how much it costs to join (remember to always have these materials available at every service project to hand out).

Third, Support LCIF, Lions Club International Foundation, by giving what you can when you can while making sure your respective club does the same at least annually.

Fourth, Introduce a friend, relative, co-worker, neighbor, or even people you meet on the street to Lions and be prepared with a two or three line practiced "elevator speech" about what we do, how we do it, when we do it, and why you belong.

Fifth, In 2025, promote Lions more and this can be easily done by the relatively new promotion of "Wear it Wednesday" in which Lions around the world are encouraged to wear their Lion apparel to publicly display we are Lions.

Sixth, Engage with Lions International's "New Voices" promotion and open your eyes and heart to become more inclusive in your thinking and Club's approach to seeking members who may not look like, think like, or have the same beliefs like you or the majority of

the Club; so we all benefit from the successes gleaned from different approaches and ideas to solve future challenges.

Seventh, Promote peace, kindness, and understanding through supporting and engaging in the Lions International Peace Poster and Essay Contest where middle school kids are encouraged to create art or prose which are then judged on the Club, District, Multi District, and then International level (the kits with instructions and rules for this program are available the middle of January, 2025).

Eight, Connect with your respective communities to determine details about possible Club projects/fund-raisers that are not only meaningful to members, but impact the community positively by serving people in need.

Nine, Inspire others through your Lionism where actions speak louder than words.

Tenth, and lastly, Tell people about the good work Lions do via social media, print, and in person at every opportunity; especially if your Club has a website, social media, and the printed documents mentioned in #1 above to communicate the meaningful service projects we all do along with how FUN it is to be a Lion.

"The grind may not be exciting at times, but there is power in the details." Tim Tebow. The things Lions do each day and month add up. They definitely matter. They also contribute to the bigger picture.

As we head into the new year, embrace the grind and know that there is power and success in the details to fulfilling any or all of the Lion New Year's resolutions suggested above. Keep being as awesome as you are. As always, your support is always appreciated.

**LIONS WILL THRIVE IN 2025!**

*Clark Lindstrom*

*First Vice District Governor 17N*



Designed by [FreePik](#)



# Join the January Cabinet meeting



Designed by [FreePik](#)

You don't have to leave the comfort of home for the Third District 17N Cabinet Meeting on Saturday, January 25. The virtual meeting will be held via Zoom, beginning at 9 am. District Governor Shari promises a brief meeting.

Join the meeting with the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89962526562?pwd=S1OuYk-kQpdnSB52JmNjNaGZujzI71O.1>

Meeting ID: 899 6252 6562

Passcode: 494659

## News from the Kansas Lions Health Program

### Lions fight against hunger is January focus

January is Hunger Awareness month on the LCI Calendar. Did you know that there are an estimated 2 billion people in the world that do not have regular access to nutritious and sufficient food.

Some of these people could be in your community. What is your Lions Club doing to help with this food shortage? You could "Make your Mark" in your community by supplying food to your local food bank.

A Lions Club that I know supplies food to several Blessing Boxes each week and its members bring food

to each meeting to help service these boxes.

Look up Hunger on the LCI website and learn more about the food shortage in the world. They say that 30% of the food is lost or wasted globally. Look in your community and find a way to help with hunger.

If you need more information please contact me for help.

*Lion Vern Failor  
Lions Health Program*



# ID Middlemass to speak at District Convention

Steven Middlemiss from Hudson, New Hampshire was elected to serve a two-year term as an international director of Lions Clubs International at the association's 105th international convention in Boston, Massachusetts, in July 2023.

Director Middlemiss has more than 30 years of experience in land development. He is a commercial and industrial property owner and manager, and co-owner of a land development company.

Inspired by seeing his father-in-law serve throughout their community, Director Middlemiss joined the Hudson Lions Club in 1990, with his father-in-law as his sponsor.

Since then, he has held a number of offices within the association including multiple district council chairperson and past president of the Lions Sight

& Hearing Foundation of New Hampshire.

In recognition of his service to the association, he has received numerous awards including an International President's Leadership Medal as well as the International President's Presidential Medal.

He has been recognized as a progressive Granite State Fellow, which is a recognition from the Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation of New Hampshire. He is also a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow.

In addition to his Lion activities, Director Middlemiss is active in numerous professional and community organizations. He has served on the Hudson Budget Committee and has been a trustee for the George H. and Ella M. Rodgers Memorial Library.

Director Middlemiss and his wife,

LeeAnn, also a Lion and a Granite State Fellow and Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, have three children who are also Lions, and three grandchildren.



**Wichita Northwest Lions Club**

**ANNUAL Chili FEED**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2025**

11 AM - 3 PM  
ABILITY POINT / 2919 W. 2ND

Ticket price includes:  
All you can eat chili,  
condiments, coffee, tea,  
or 1 soft drink.

Desserts and additional  
soft drinks are extra.

10 years and older:  
**\$10.00**

Children 6-10:  
**\$ 5.00**

All You Can Eat

PROCEEDS BENEFIT  
VARIOUS COMMUNITY  
SERVICE PROJECTS  
AND ORGANIZATIONS.

## Welcome to the Pride

New members in November & December



New Member	Sponsor
<b>Arkansas City</b>	
David Gregg	Lucas Schmidt
<b>Fredonia</b>	
Jess Reed	Deb Meyers
<b>Moundridge</b>	
Claire Emery	Samuel Naumann
Kaley McKee	Katey Bailey
<b>Newton</b>	
Jessica Laney	Salvador Lujano
Lori Stoeffler	Kammeron Firkins
<b>Wellington</b>	
Brandon Miller	Michelle Wellington
Jill Miller	Susan Doherty
<b>Wichita Northwest</b>	
Blake Hubert	Tom Stewart
<b>Winfield</b>	
Steve Robinson	Lori Robinson

**DISTRICT 17-N CONVENTION – “MAKE YOUR MARK”**

February 28 – March 1, 2025

Gospel Assembly Church, 4230 N. Oliver Rd.

Bel Aire, Kansas

***“Each Day Brings New Opportunities For Service”******Come meet International Director Steve & Lion LeeAnn Middlemiss*****FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIAL (February 28<sup>th</sup>)**

7:00 – 8:00 PM Social Hour

8:00 – 9:00 PM Singo Bingo

**\*Snacks\*Fun\*Fellowship\*****CONVENTION DAY (March 1<sup>st</sup>)**

8:00 AM Vendor and Convention Setup

9:00 AM Registration &amp; Delegation Certification

9:30 AM Silent Auction Opens

10:00 AM Convention Formal Opening

10:15 AM Service Project

11:00 AM Elections

11:30 AM Remembrance Service

12:00 PM Lunch – Heart of Country Catering

1:00 PM Key Note Speaker – ID Steve Middlemiss

1:30 PM Q&amp;A with ID Steve Middlemiss

2:00 PM District Awards, Recognition, and Gifts

2:45 PM Closing Comments

3:00 PM Convention Closing – Safe Journey Home

**\*\*ZOOM Link to be provided.****Silent Auction**

Please bring gift baskets and other items for the “Silent Auction”. Proceeds from the auction will be split between District 17-N Diabetes Awareness Program and LCIF Childhood Cancer.

Silent Auction opens at 10:15 AM and bidding ends at 12:45 PM.

**Service Project**

Our Service Project for the convention will be making fleece tie blankets. The blankets will be donated to the Wichita Children’s Home, 7271 East 37<sup>th</sup> St North, Wichita, Kansas 67226.

The Wichita Children’s Home is a non-profit organization that offers the only emergency, temporary, and residential care for children.







## DISTRICT 17 N CONVENTION

### Meal Registration and Hotel Information



February 28 – March 1, 2025

“We are Lions of the World – Serving the World”

### Convention Location

Gospel Assembly Church

4230 North Oliver Road, Bel Aire, Kansas 67220

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### MEAL RESERVATION

Convention Registration \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5.00/Person \_\_\_\_\_

Friday Night Social \_\_\_\_\_ No Charge

Saturday Luncheon \_\_\_\_\_ \$18.00/Per Person \_\_\_\_\_

**Meal:** Roast Beef/Pork Loin, Potatoes, Vegetables, Salad, Bread, Variety of Desserts. Tea, Water, Coffee.

**Total Due: (make checks payable to Lions Dist 17-N)** \_\_\_\_\_

Meal Reservations due by February 14<sup>th</sup> - No Exceptions

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Send registration/payment to Dist Treasurer Lion Barb Schattak, 330 Washington, Lyndon, KS 66451

### Convention Hotel Information

Aloft Wichita, 3642 North Oliver St, Wichita, Kansas 67220

(316) 744-1100

Convention King Room Rate \$119.00 + Taxes

Convention Double Room Rate \$129.00 + Taxes

Make room reservations by February 1 – Block: **District 17-N Lions**

**DISTRICT 17 N CONVENTION – EXHIBITOR FORM**

February 28 – March 1, 2025

*“We are Lions of the World - We Serve”***JOIN US AND BE PART OF OUR CONVENTION**

Come meet International Director Steve &amp; Lion LeeAnn Middlemiss

**FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIAL (February 28<sup>th</sup>)****GOSPEL ASSEMBLY CHURCH**

4230 North Oliver Road, Bel Aire, Kansas 67220

Social Hour 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Singo Bingo 8:00 – 9:00PM

*\*Snacks\*Fun\*Fellowship\****CONVENTION DAY (March 1<sup>st</sup>)****GOSPEL ASSEMBLY CHURCH**

4230 North Oliver Road, Bel Aire, Kansas 67220

(SET UP BEGINS AT 8:00 AM)

Convention 9:00 AM- 3:00 PM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Lions Program/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Any Special Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Email completed form to Lion Jackie O’Neal, Convention Co-Chair

[glammother@yahoo.com](mailto:glammother@yahoo.com)





## DISTRICT 17-N CONVENTION BOOK ADVERTISING FORM

*“We are Lions of the World - We Serve”*



The 2025 District 17-N Convention Book will be printed as a  
8 ½” x 5 ½ format booklet and included in each of the convention packets.

Send payment to District 17-N Treasurer Barb Schattak  
330 Washington St, Lyndon, Kansas 6645`

Send “Ready to Print” artwork (jpg format), your text, and advertisement  
reservation form to

District Governor Shari Neidhardt

[19faith58@gmail.com](mailto:19faith58@gmail.com)

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**Reserve your advertising space today!**

**Club/Business Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Point of Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ad Size:** \_\_\_\_\_ 1/3 Page Ad - \$25.00

\_\_\_\_\_ 2/3 Page Ad - \$40.00

\_\_\_\_\_ Full Page Ad - \$50.00



MD17-N

LIONS ROCK



**Note:** Deadline for advertising is February 1, 2025



## Around the District

Submit your club activities to [newsletter17n@cox.net](mailto:newsletter17n@cox.net)  
Deadline is always the 25th of the month



**Wellington Lions Club provided Christmas gifts for 270 children in 102 families in the annual Operation Holiday. Toys collected**

**Neosho Rapids Lions sponsored a Holiday Decorating Contest in their community, recognizing one family for their collection of blow molds decorating their yard and**







**Lyndon Lions served a holiday brunch for seniors in their community.**



**Bel Aire Lions provided holiday treats for teachers and staff at Isely Elementary School.**

**Westphalia Lions spread holiday cheer in their community with fruit baskets for seniors and shut-ins (photo at right) and candy for the students at Westphalia Grade School (photo below).**





# MID-WINTER RALLY AGENDA

**January 17-19 | Sonesta Essential in Junction City**

*Make plans today to "rally" for the next half of this Lions year!*

*Registration on next page*

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2025

4-6 pm	1st and 2nd Vice District Governors Training .....	PRAIRIE ROOM
3-6 pm	Attendees Motel Check-in, Exhibitors & Vendors Set up .....	Convention Hall
6:30-8:30 pm	Dinner & Entertainment .....	COTTONWOOD A/B
8:45 pm	GAT TEAM Meeting – Governors, 1st and 2nd Vice Governors, ALL GAT Team Members, STATE and DISTRICT .....	COTTONWOOD C

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2025

6:30-9 am	Breakfast for those staying at the SONESTA .....	MOTEL LOBBY
7:30 am	Kansas Lions Band Foundation .....	COTTONWOOD C
8am-4 pm	Booths and displays .....	HALLWAY in front of COTTONWOOD A/D
8:30 am	Kansas Lions Foundation .....	COTTONWOOD C
8:30 am	Constitution & By-Laws .....	PRAIRIE ROOM
9 am	Leos .....	COTTONWOOD F
9:30 am	Budget & Finance .....	COTTONWOOD B
9:30 am	Kansas Lions Sight Foundation .....	COTTONWOOD D/E
9:30 am	K-I Committee .....	PRAIRIE ROOM
10 am	Seminars .....	COTTONWOOD C

- Social Media for Social Good: Presented by Eric Tweedy

- Club Marketing – Increase Your Club's Visibility In Your Community: Presented by 1st VDG Irene Haws

**SERVICE PROJECT** - Bring socks for veterans and packaged snacks to assemble boxes to send to troops serving overseas. Lions will make up boxes using donated food items.

12 pm	LUNCHEON Hosted by Kansas Lions Foundation .....	COTTONWOOD A/B
	Recognizing Leos and Kansas State Peace Poster Winners	

1:45-4 pm	Lions Tech Support .....	In the hall or registration area
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- Help with Facebook and other social media platforms

- Lions on the LCI Portal – Why it is Important to me as a Lion.

Support on how to get on the portal and use the features the portal provides.

1:45 pm	Session: WHAT'S GAT? – .....	COTTONWOOD C
	IPCC Lori Horton Langley, Constitutional Area 1-G GAT Team Leader	

2:30 pm	Session: The POWER of A-I .....	COTTONWOOD C
	How it can help your communication within your club and community	

3:30 pm	Kansas Lions Band Foundation Auction .....	COTTONWOOD D/E
5:45 pm	DG's, Council Chair, & International Family assemble .....	PRAIRIE ROOM

6:00 pm	Banquet Room Open .....	COTTONWOOD A/B
6:15 pm	BANQUET .....	COTTONWOOD A/B

**SPECIAL GUEST ID JUDGE ANTHONY PARADISO**

8:30 pm	Governor and Vice Governor's Review Meeting .....	PRAIRIE ROOM
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## SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2025

6:30-9:00 am	Breakfast for those staying at the SONESTA .....	MOTEL LOBBY
8:00 am	DEVOTIONAL by State PDG Club .....	COTTONWOOD C

\*Meeting of the State PDG Club directly following devotional time

9:00 am	STATE COUNCIL MEETING .....	COTTONWOOD C
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**HOSPITALITY ROOM:** Hosted by DISTRICT A in the SUNFLOWER ROOM

The hospitality room is closed during meals and during Friday night entertainment.

**ENJOY the FUN!**

# REGISTRATION AND MEAL RESERVATION FORM

## 2025 MD-17 MID-WINTER RALLY

### JANUARY 17-19, 2025



Lions Name \_\_\_\_\_ District (Circle) **K A N**

Club \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Names of additional Lions attending \_\_\_\_\_

Registration (Everyone pays except LEOs) \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$12.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Leo Registration \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 0.00 \$ 0.00

Friday Night Dinner \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$23.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Flint Hills Buffet** - – Shredded Chicken and Pork with Mild BBQ Sauce on the side. Potato Salad and Cole Slaw, Ranch Style Beans, Sautéed Green Beans, Dinner Roll, Chef made Banana pudding.

Saturday Luncheon – Leo's pay half. KLF pays rest \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$20.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Little Italy Buffet** – Penne Pasta with Creamy Alfredo or Zesty Marinara, Choice of Grilled Chicken or Beef Meatballs, Chef's Choice Vegetable, Garlic Breadsticks, and Choc. Cake.

Saturday Night Banquet \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Smoked Brisket**, Herb – Sausage Stuffing, Loaded Mashed Potatoes, Green Bean Casserole, Roasted Beet and Orange Salad, Honey Butter Biscuits (Homemade) Cake.

**Total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please note any Special Dietary needs:

### Make Reservations:

Online at: <https://forms.gle/bEZLgjDm1ZR3tGnb9>

**No online payment is available. Pay when you arrive either by cash, check or credit card.**

Mail to: Kansas Lions State Office

231 S. Tyler Rd

Wichita, KS 67209

E-mail: [kansaslionsoffice@gmail.com](mailto:kansaslionsoffice@gmail.com)

PH: 316-773-2100

**Make checks payable to:  
Kansas Lions (All meals must be reserved)**

**Unpaid Reserved Meals  
WILL BE billed to whoever made the reservation.**

**The FINAL DATE for Room  
Reservations is:**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2025**

**Reserve a room by calling:  
785-210-1500**

**Make sure to ask for the:**

**LIONS BLOCK RATE is \$99.00 for  
King and \$109.00 for Double Queen**

**The FINAL DATE for Meal  
Reservations is:**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2025**

**Register either online or send your  
reservation and check to the Kansas  
Lions State Office. If you prefer to pay  
at the event we accept credit cards,  
cash and checks.**