



District 17N News

68 Lions clubs serving in south central and south east Kansas | April/May 2025

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



Serving Others: We Can, We Shall, We Do

As we enter the final quarter of our current Lion year, there are still so many things we can do. It is not too late to reach out to our communities and gain new members, provide donations to LCIF and our Kansas foundations, and undertake new service projects.



According to the most recent service statistics listed on the Portal, District 17 N clubs have completed 366 activities, serving 65,446 individuals, over 6368 hours. Now these are some remarkable figures that show that our clubs are busy serving their communities. However, these service numbers only reflect 36% of our clubs reporting. This figure compares to the previous fiscal year's 54% of the clubs reporting.

As the DG Team made their club visits, we heard reports of many more service projects being done by our clubs. So somewhere in the communication link, club's service activities are not being reported in the Portal. I urge all club secretaries to review your club's service activities and provide updates to the Portal. Service activities are being accomplished, we just need to complete the final simple step, reporting them on the Portal.

Lions should realize service opportunities sometimes present themselves with little or no notice. Therefore, it benefits ourselves and others to always be prepared to roll up our sleeves and get to work. Last month, while ID Hans and I attended the District 1-F convention in Mundelein, IL and the Lions Clubs International Board meeting in Oak Brook, IL, I had the opportunity to participate in two outstanding service projects.

On March 14 as part of the District 1-F convention, 12 Lions came

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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 8

**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

Governor's Note

Continued from page one

together with several other volunteers as part of Feed My Starving Children program, packaging food boxes that are sent to African countries. During the 1:45 hour session, Lions and other volunteers packed 135 boxes (36 individual packets per box) for a total of 29,160 meals. One 13.4 ounce packet will feed a child for a week, or one and a half boxes would feed the child for a year. This facility runs five sessions per day, six days a week, all accomplished with volunteers and a small staff.

My second service opportunity came on March 18. While the Board members were in committee meet-

ings, the companions were taken to the Greater Chicago Food Depository. A local organization that provides food staples to low-income families within the

Chicago area. Forty-three companions and LCI staff members worked two hours, filling 130 cases (5,200 pounds) of sacked potatoes. I didn't realize how much dust there was



during the packaging process. Guess that is why we were provided with those latest fashions.

Never underestimate what a group of Lions or even a single Lion can do when it comes to working on service projects. If these types of service projects don't tug at your heart, nothing will.

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

I will close with the following quote, *"Somewhere, out there is a unique place for you to help others, a unique life role for you to fill that only you can fill."* – Thomas Kinkadee.

DG Shari Neidhardt



Bringing the good back with our service

Lions are power.

Lions are power, not in the way that power suggests control, but in the way that power speaks to growth and building a better future for our world.



In today's news there is much about the despair of others, which often carries over to the coffee shop talk, the lunch conversations, and embeds hopelessness in our day. We forget the good.

Lions bring the "good" back with our service, our fellowship,

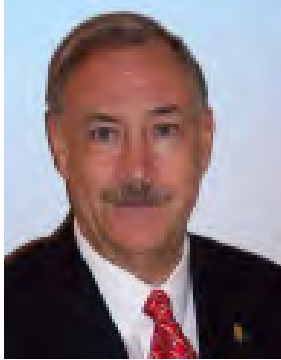
and our willingness to address needs – we exert power. Power to turn just one person's despair into hope, to make someone's day easier, to hear need and respond, to change negative situations into positive ones, to improve our environment or culture – to Make our Mark!

All the skills and knowledge of Lions make our organization's clubs powerful. Let us invite others to share this experience of being powerful – a part of Lions.

1VDGE Melanie Snider

Diabetes awareness: my personal story

All MD 17-N Lions Clubs are being asked to donate \$100 to the ADA Diabetes Camp Discovery Camp Scholarship Program. The world health organization says diabetes is the eighth leading cause of death in the United States. Of those living with diabetes, about 1 in 7 adults, don't know they have it. The risk of developing diabetes increases with age, but there are other factors too; such as ethnic background, that may increase one's risk. Over 1.5 million North Americans are diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes each year. Diabetes can lead to vision loss, cardiovascular disease, kidney disease, stroke, open wounds, amputation of limbs and even gum disease.



There are at least 245,000 diabetics in Kansas. I am one of them. I owe my life to my fellow Lions because of what we do for diabetes awareness. Here is my story.

I've been a Lion for over 40 years with the Wichita Downtown Club. After retiring, I became the President of the club and decided that I needed to start attending District 17 N and MD Kansas meetings. The first Multi-District Lions meeting I attended was in Hays and my wife accompanied me. I got to meet, for the first time, Lion Vern Failor, the Kansas Lions State Council Health Program Team Chair. He was at a vendor table with printed diabetes awareness and prevention related materials.

He asked me to watch over the table while he took a break. My wife came up to me and we began reading a brochure titled symptoms. It listed several diabetes symptoms of frequent urination, being thirsty and dry mouth, blurry vision, tired feeling. I had been experiencing these and more for many months and we agreed to call to set an appointment with my doctor when we returned home.

I did so because the symptoms got much worse almost immediately. The medical staff ran several tests and didn't know what I had. As a final measure, the nurse did a finger prick for blood sugar level. The blood sugar level was over 300 when it should be 100. They sent me to the lab in the office to be sure this wasn't just a mistake test and sent me home. About 9 p.m., the physician's assistant called me and said the

lab test indicated the blood sugar level was higher than 400 and she urged me to go to the closest hospital.

My wife took me to St Teresa's in northwest Wichita. I remember there was a full moon and the emergency room was over crowded with people needing medical attention. When we told the admissions staff why we were there, I was immediately admitted and put in the only bed they had left; in the cardiac arrest room.

Ketoacidosis had begun in my body. This is a metabolic state caused by uncontrolled body use of fat instead of glucose for fuel. This produces ketone bodies which cause extremely high blood sugar levels that can lead to severe pH changes in the body impacting vital body functions, such as in the heart, leading to stroke. I had constant intensive care throughout the night because the nurses and doctors feared I would stroke out at any moment. I spent the next six days getting my blood sugar level below 200 and learning how to control my insulin levels with medications and insulin injections. I've had to watch my carb and sugar intake and increase my activity. I have to do this every day. If I hadn't stopped to talk to Lion Vern that day, if my wife and I had not actually read the materials Lions always display at the District and Cabinet meetings, I might not be here today.

Lion PDG Don Cunningham (cunning98@yahoo.com, 620.238.3616) does a great job of helping all of us stay aware of diabetes in District 17-N as the Diabetes Awareness Chair. His team and I are asking every club in the District to please look at your financials in the next couple of months and consider promptly donating \$100 towards the \$5,000 District goal to send kids 7-15 to the American Diabetes Association's Camp Discovery this summer. It's located here in Kansas. Send your \$100 check to our District 17-N Treasurer, Lion Barb Schattak, 330 Washington, Lyndon, KS 66451 and write "camp scholarship" on the memo section. If you know of kids who might be interested in attending Camp Discovery, please contact Lion Don per the contact information provided just above for the details about this wonderful week long camp for kids in June.

Thank you Kansas Lions for allowing me the chance to continue to SERVE.

DGE Clark Lindstrom

Plant a row to share your garden bounty

Dear Lions and Leos-

Spring has sprung! Many have planted gardens in anticipation of summer and fall harvest. While yearning for the taste of fresh, juicy tomatoes, tender asparagus, and luscious melons, please remember your hungry neighbors.

Kansans face significant food insecurity (meaning the lack of consistent access to enough food to live a healthy and active life): one in eight Kansans struggle to afford enough food which includes one in five Kansas children.

Food insecurity in Kansas had decreased steadily



from 2008-2019. Then in 2019, the pandemic! So, Kansans, including children, have experienced rising hunger numbers since 2021. Many families are facing food insecurity for the first time as the cost of food and other essentials escalate. (Feeding America, 2015).

More than half of Kansas students and their families rely upon free and reduced lunches during the school year. These reduced meals are a lifeline, ensuring that Kansas children don't go hungry, as well as helping ease the financial burden of their families. However, many children don't receive free or reduced cost meals due to barriers like cost and limited eligibility for meal assistance programs. (Kansas Appleseed, 2025 policy priorities)

Kansas Food Bank, Harvesters, and the Second Harvest contributed and/or distributed greater than 46 million pounds of food in Kansas in 2024. Kansas already has the tenth highest cost-per-SNAP (food stamps) application in the nation because of the amount of red tape in the program. Children are in 41.4% of households receiving SNAP benefits. (Feeding America 2025).

So, when gardening—save some produce to donate to your local food bank and neighbors in need. If you haven't planted your garden yet, include an row to donate to the food bank.

Encourage your clubs to donate canned goods, hygiene products, and other staples to your local food bank.

Remember, America is the land of plenty! However, many of our Kansas neighbors aren't as fortunate to experience our land of plenty. (Kansas Food Bank Statistics, website, 2025)

*Peggy Dilsaver-Custer
17N Hunger Chair*

Volunteers needed for KLSF State Fair screening booth

Lions you are needed visit the Kansas Lions Sight Foundation table at the Lions State Convention in late May and volunteer for the Health Screenings Booth at the Kansas State Fair.

Please bring your donations of money or gloves with you. Read on for the details.

To minimize cost KLSF is asking for donations of vinyl gloves in S, M, L, XL, (**No one-size-fits-all will work**) and **money**. To make a donation contact Lion Vern Failor to see what is needed at 785-231-3960 or email ulfailor@gmail.com.

The fair dates are **September 5 - 14, 2025**. We will be offering two shifts per-day, 9:30 am to 2 pm and 1:30 pm to 6 pm. **Lion Jackie O Neal** from the Bel Aire Lions Club maintains the Lions volunteer list. Several Lions have already signed up for their favorite spot so contact Jackie and get your spot. She can be contacted at 316-734-2176 or email at glammother@yahoo.com.

To get the Lions and nurses to volunteer, we will be providing a **Gate Pass** for each day they volunteer. If your Lions Club group comes in one vehicle, KLSF will provide a **parking pass**.

Lion Vern is compiling is list of places where local clubs have eyeglass collection boxes. Send your club's information to him by the Lions State Convention so he can get them in a standard form to be used as handouts at the State Fair.

*Lion Vern Failor
Director District 17-A, Kansas Lions Sight Foundation*

Still time to recruit band students!

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>

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



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.

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.

lionsbandks kansaslions.org/kansas-lions-band 2100 W Univ Ave, Wichita, KS 67213

Welcome to the Pride

New members in March



New Member

Bel Aire

Rebecca Armstrong

Coffeyville

Jason Owens

Derby

Kelly Beckunitch

Stacy Trapp

Andrea Walters

Inman

Scott Friesen

Dave Moore

Royce Regehr

Moundridge

Dustin Presley

Neodesha

Rickey Larkey

Fritz Menning

Michael Pond

Wellington

James Yates

Sponsor

Gary O'Neal

Darrel Harbaugh

Kiel Mangus

Danae Hobbs

Danae Hobbs

Bruce Thiessen

Tim Nichols

Tim Nichols

Katey Bailey

James Jackson

James Jackson

Lloyd Baumwart

Susan Doherty



Around the District

Submit your club activities to newsletter17n@cox.net

Deadline is always the 25th of the month



Valley Center Lions hosted a Free Book Carnival and helped run games for the annual Spring Family Party at the Valley Center Public Library.



Marquette Lions picked up trash in ditches along the road leading into their community.

Wichita Northwest Lions spent an afternoon cleaning up a small park in Wichita. Pictured are Peggy Dilsaver-Custer, Tom Stewart and Dale Rein.





Members of the Bel Aire Lions Club donated a Trex bench to Northeast Magnet High School for the Griffin Gardens project



Vice District Governor Melanie Snider presented Service Chevrons to Pittsburg Lions Mona Brumbaugh for 10 years, Jon Burchfield for 30 years and PDG Steve Langley for 15 years.



Cedar Vale Lions Oscar Mattocks was recognized for 10 years of service and Lion Allen Zadorozny was recognized for 25 years of Lionism.



Neodesha Lions Dennis Depew and Rod Mackey received Service Chevrons at a recent meeting.



Chevrons were presented to long-serving Lions Dr. Steve Cauble and Ron Badger at a recent meeting of the Wichita Downtown Lions Club.

Register now for 2025 GPLLI in Baldwin City

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.

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

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."

The course fee is \$220 per attendee if payment is received by April 30, 2025, increasing to \$240 beginning May 1, 2025. 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. For scholarship information contact PCC Helen LeBlanc, PDG Club treasurer at hleblanc1953@gmail.com or 316-644-0168.

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

Potwin, Kansas 67123

(316) 435-2800

hnwizardofz@gmail.com



SAVE THE DATE!!

LYNDON ANNUAL "GET REV'D UP" ALL MOTOR SHOW

JUNE 21, 2025 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM RAIN or SHINE

SPONSORED BY THE:

Lyndon Lions Club and American Legion Post #125

Registration at the City Park from – 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM

Awards Presented at 2:00 PM



LYNDON CITY PARK, HIGHWAY 75, LYNDON, KS

LIVE DJ! FAMILY FUN..... FOR EVERYONE!!

TOP 15 AWARDS AND 16 SPECIALTY AWARDS!

BREAKFAST, LUNCH... & MORE AVAILABLE AT THE SHOW!

\$20.00 FOR EACH VEHICLE (Registration form on reverse side)
DASH PLAQUES FOR ALL ENTRIES!!

Registration Forms available online at: <https://e-clubhouse.org/sites/lyndonks>

SUBMIT REGISTRATIONS by JUNE 18, 2025, TO:

Lion Barb Schattak, 330 Washington St, Lyndon KS 66451

785-221-7994 or ksyorkies@gmail.com

Make checks payable to Lyndon Lions Club in memo place: Lyndon Car Show

For more info contact: Commander/Lion Danny Roush: 785-640-6511 or razrhawk@hotmail.com

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST BE REGISTERED FOR THIS FUNDRAISING EVENT
THANK YOU!

In case of inclement weather, the day of this event, please call Danny or Barb to confirm it is happening.



PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

2ND ANNUAL
(FOREST PARK TENNIS COURTS)
Parsons, Kansas

Saturday, May 24

At Katy Days



\$20 donation per player

Proceeds go towards Diabetes Camp Scholarships

Cash Prizes for Winning Team of Each Division

HOSTED BY ALTAMONT & PARSONS LIONS CLUBS

MEN'S DOUBLES CHECK IN 8:00AM - START AT 8:30AM

MIXED DOUBLES CHECK IN 12:30PM-START AT 1:00PM

WOMENS CHECK IN 3:30PM - START AT 4:00PM

To Register:

Contact Brad Smith, Tournament Director

620-717-1561 or bpsmith3030@gmail.com

OR

parsonsrec.recdesk.com

OR REGISTER WHEN YOU ARRIVE TO CHECK IN



Make Your Mark!



Join us for the 103rd
Kansas Lions State
Convention at the
Doubletree by Hilton
in Wichita Kansas

May 30 and 31, 2025

Everywhere we serve, every time we give, we bring kindness and compassion, change and hope. And we make our mark on the lives we touch, the communities we serve and the world we share.

Our Global Causes allow us to serve so many!



Fun

Entertaining

Enjoyable

Learning

Convention Hotel Information

Double-Tree by Hilton, 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

FOOD REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 15

Email Food Reservations to kansaslionsoffice@gmail.com or call 316-773-2100 or for online registrations go to <https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/2025-kansas-lions-state-convention>