



# Kansas Lions News

Statewide newsletter for MD 17 Kansas Lions | Fall 2024

## Council Chair Comments

### A new way to communicate

Greetings Kansas Lions! I am so excited to introduce you to our first edition of the Kansas Lions newsletter!



Through this publication we hope to connect all Lions in Kansas, also known as Multi-District 17 (MD17), to each other and

keep you informed.

International Director Hans Neidhardt and District Governors Diana Baumann of District K, Margy Sundstrom of District A and Shari Neidhardt of District N will be sharing news from Lions

International and from our Kansas districts.

A club selected by the DG from each district will be spotlighted for a special service project or outreach they have completed. This offers us opportunities to learn and to share the great things Lions in our state are doing to "Make Their Mark" in their communities.

Our three Kansas Foundations: the Kansas Lions Foundation (KLF), the Kansas Lions Band Foundation (KLBF), and the Kansas Lions Sight Foundation (KLSF), will share news as well as offer you opportunities to join in and be a part of service and programs that are offered.

*Continued on next page*

## Save the Date

**2nd State Council Meeting  
October 19, 2024**

McPherson

See page 16 for details

**Mid-Winter Rally  
January 17-18, 2025**

Junction City

Courtyard by Marriott

**Special Guest**

ID Anthony Paradiso,  
New York

**District N**

**Convention**

**February 28-March 1**

Bel Aire

Gospel Assembly Church

**District A**

**Convention**

**March 7-8**

Topeka

Hilton Garden Inn

**District K**

**Convention**

**April 11-12**

Liberal

**State Convention**

**May 29-31, 2025**

Doubletree by Hilton

Wichita Airport

## We Serve

Dr. Steve Cauble of the Wichita Downtown Lions at the Kansas Lions Sight Foundation booth at the Kansas State Fair.

Lions screened 2,555 adults and children during the 10 days of the fair. With the help of nursing students from four colleges Lions provided vision, glucose and blood pressure screenings.



# Council Chair Comments

*Continued from previous page*

We also have opportunities through Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) to donate and to apply for grants in a multitude of areas to serve communities here in Kansas in many different ways.

Our Global Action Team (GAT) leaders: Global Extension

Team (GET), Global Leadership Team (GLT), Global Membership Team (GMT), and Global Service Team (GST) will offer ideas and information to you as we all work to achieve our District and State goals of welcoming new members to our clubs and chartering new clubs here in Kansas. This will not

only achieve the worldwide MISSION 1.5 Challenge goals, but also help us strengthen our service force so we can do more... for more people...in our communities and in our state.

Thank you to Lion Becky Funke and our Kansas Lions Public Relations team, for bringing this publication together.

*Yours in Lionism,  
Pam Bilyeu,  
Kansas Lions Council Chair*

## Editor's Note

I hope you have found something interesting and inspiring in this inaugural edition of a digital *Kansas Lions News*.

Lions across Kansas have a big impact in their communities, in our state and around the world with support of Lions Club International Foundation and three Kansas

foundations.

With this newsletter we want to provide ideas for new projects, new fundraising ideas and encourage you to engage with statewide initiatives and strengthen our organization to continue our mission — We Serve.

Have something to share with

Lions across the state? Send photos and details to [newsletter17N@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter17N@gmail.com). Include the names of Lions pictured please!

Be sure to include your name and contact information so if we need more details we can follow-up.

For more current information, follow the Kansas Lions and district Facebook pages.

*Lion Becky Funke*

## MD 17 Leaders



**Council Chair**

**Pam Bilyeu**

Lyndon

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[bilyeuskies@hotmail.com](mailto:bilyeuskies@hotmail.com)



**District K**

**Diana Baumann**

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**District A**

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**District N**

**Shari Neidhardt**

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## Kansas Lions State Office

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## Kansas Lions Sight Foundation

# Sort your eyeglasses before donating

Hello Lions of Kansas, I am proud to share with you that I am the new President of the Kansas Lions Sight Foundation as of July 1, 2024. Prior to my new role, PID Gene Vogel, Lawrence Noon Lions Club, was the president for many years.

I have huge shoes to fill and a huge responsibility as I take over the foundation; learning, understanding, and putting many issues into action. I look forward to working with the 18 Directors (six from each District), Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.

We have much work to do as we move forward, starting with our eyeglass collection program. Lion Michael Sundstrom of the Tonganoxie Lions Club is the eyeglass program chairperson. We are beginning work on eyeglass storage, sorting, reading, and deliveries to organizations who can use our



glasses for missions. This is a huge undertaking but together we will work to focus on taking care of all eyeglasses we have on hand.

We could use your help with sorting your glasses prior to giving them to our foundation or at least making sure we don't get broken glasses or pieces of glasses that we are not able to use.

If you have good lenses please don't throw them away. The Lawrence Lions Club refurbishes lenses and makes magnets, keychains and more. We will take the good lenses; please pack these in a bag or an appropriate box so we can deliver to Lion Beth McKenzie.

We currently have a storage unit in Topeka and a storage area at the Kansas Lions State Office in Wichita. We recently gave PDG Randy St. Aubyn boxes of sorted glasses to take to a prison for reading. Once the glasses are read by prisoners, they are boxed and then given to organizations for use.

My goal is not to hoard the many boxes of glasses but to get rid of them as we get them. This will help to alleviate the costs associat-

ed with a storage unit and eliminate the storage space being used at the state office.

Another unknown fact is the **Claude M. Devorss Fellowship**. The Kansas Lions Sight Foundation is responsible for promoting this fellowship and insuring all of our Lions in our state know what the Claude DeVorss Fellowship is about.

Below is information for you to share with your clubs. A donation of \$1,000 to the Kansas Lions Sight Foundation provides a Claude DeVorss Fellowship to a Lion or your club. Lions can donate increments of \$100 towards a Claude DeVorss Fellowship and once the necessary amount is reached the foundation will make sure you/your club receives this very prestigious recognition.

Please contact me if you/your club is interested in recognizing a Lion in your club. A plaque with all names of past recipients hangs in the Claude DeVorss Room at the State Office.

*PID Deb Weaverling*



## Claude M. DeVorss Fellowship

*Who was Claude M. DeVorss:*

September 3, 1914 to January 13, 2009

Born in Jamesport, MO

Member of the Wichita Downtown Lions Club

58th Mayor of Wichita from 1954-1955

Lions Clubs International President 1964-65

Claude and Bernice traveled to 98 countries when he was International President.

Interesting Factoid: PIP Devorss hand wrote note cards to all Lions/individuals he met on his journey as a Lion.

A donation of \$1,000 to the Kansas Lions Sight Foundation provides a plaque, pin, and a brass nameplate to go on the Claude M. Devorss plaque that hangs in the Claude M. Devorss Room at the State Office.

## Global Extension Team

# New clubs grow service

It takes all Lions to help with our Lions growth in membership and new clubs.

We have not chartered a new club since 2017, not including branch clubs. It is not hard to get new members as most of us think otherwise. All it takes is to ask.

We now can have two new clubs per district that we can waive the charter fees. I know that we all

have good intentions to volunteer but the problem is those that commit don't follow through to help.

Our GET team needs your assistance to achieve our membership goals. So volunteer to help. One person can't do it themselves. After all, we are more effective as a team than one. Remember "We Serve"

*PCC Harry Stockwell*

*MD 17 GET Chair*

*h.l.stockwell49@gmail.com*

*316-644-7622*



## We Serve

## Global Service Team

# Challenge: add new projects this year

**We Serve.** It's the Lions International Motto and it says it all. We exist to serve others in need.



Most Lions Clubs do a great job of serving the community. Projects like eyeglass collection, vision screening,

delivering meals on wheels, providing food and toys at Christmas are popular. Local clubs also participate in district and state level projects like sponsoring students to band camp, providing disaster relief, and many vision initiatives.

Lions International has designated eight global causes. These are Childhood Cancer, Diabetes, Disaster Relief, Environment, Humanitarian, Hunger, Vision and Youth. Most of the community service projects done by Lions further one or more of the global causes.

We are about three months into the current Lions year so if you haven't already planned service proj-

ects for your club and district, now is a good time to do so. In addition to continuing the service projects that your club is known for, I would like to challenge every Lions club to sponsor one or two new projects in the coming year. Here are a few ideas for you:

November is Diabetes Awareness month - possible projects include sponsoring youth to diabetes camp and/or hosting a diabetes education and screening event

November is also a great time to serve veterans. Transporting veterans to medical appointments, making quilts, and special meals on Veteran's Day are a few of the projects that can be done.

February 15 is International Childhood Cancer Day - You could make care packages for children receiving cancer treatment, provide funds for families to travel to treatment, etc.

April 22 is Earth Day - You could plant trees, clean up a park, or pick up trash along a highway.

I hope your club will take advantage of some of these opportunities

to expand your service. Doing more service raises your club's profile in the community and helps to recruit members. We need members to do more service, and more service encourages members to join us.

Please make sure that your secretary is reporting all service projects to Lions International. Reported service helps attract grants and donations to allow us to more and larger service projects.

**We're planning some service projects at the upcoming State Council Meetings.** For the October 19 meeting we would like to do a childhood cancer project to provide Halloween cards and treats to children.

At Mid-Winter Rally we would like to collect Socks and Sweats for Vets and take them to the VA centers for distribution. Additional details for both projects will be forthcoming.

*Yours in service,*

*PDG Tom Baumann*

*lion.tom.bauman@gmail.com*

*785-871-1971*

## Global Membership Team

# MD 17 Lions Clubs K-A-N grow with Mission 1.5

The Lions of MD 17 are roaring into action with [Mission 1.5](#), a bold and exciting initiative aimed at



growing our membership and rejuvenating our clubs! This Association wide push is set to run through June 2027, giving

us plenty of time to strengthen our pride and make an even bigger impact on our communities.

Our District Global Membership Teams (GMTs) in Districts K, A, and N are geared up and ready to help every club along the way. Whether you're looking to bring

new members into the fold or revitalize the energy of current members, our GMTs are here to provide support and resources for any membership growth need. With their guidance, you can expect to see your club thriving!

The heart of Mission 1.5 is about more than just numbers – it's about building stronger, more dynamic clubs. By adding new members, we can bring fresh ideas and energy, while also re-energizing our current Lions to continue their incredible service. And let's face it, there's no better way to make a difference than by working with

passionate people who care about their community!

So, Lions, are you ready to grow your pride? Reach out to your District GMT and let's make Mission 1.5 a roaring success! Together, we'll ensure that MD 17 Lions Clubs are bigger, stronger, and more vibrant than ever before!

17-K: PCC Randy St. Aubyn, [rsaudyn@gmail.com](mailto:rsaudyn@gmail.com)

17-A: Eric Strimple, [estrimple81@msn.com](mailto:estrimple81@msn.com).

17-N: Jerry Bilyeu, [bilyeuskie3@gmail.com](mailto:bilyeuskie3@gmail.com)

*Eric Strimple,  
MD 17 GMT*



## MISSION 1.5

## New year, new goal for LCIF support

Hello fellow Kansas Lions,

Another year to do great things for the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF). This is the charitable arm of our Association which provides amazing service in our communities and all over the world.

It's the face of Lions International to millions of people reaching out with grants for community service and disasters.

Kansas Lions showed their generosity last year raising more than \$117,000 for LCIF.

Your LCIF Coordinator Team recently attended an LCIF Strategy Session in San Antonio and set our goals for this year. We are expecting another successful year working with you exceed our donation from last year.

Here are our Multiple District



### Lions Clubs International FOUNDATION

(MD) goals for 2024-2025:

1. MD Club Participation goal of 75%.
2. MD Individual Participation of 4%.
3. Focus on clubs that do not historically give.
4. Focus on MJF/PMJF in clubs to influence other members to donate.
5. Encourage donation recognition with LCIF Presidential Supporters: \$50 (Bronze), \$100

(Silver), and \$200 (Gold).

Our Coordinator Team can update you on their respective district action plans.

Please contact us if you would like an LCIF information program for your club.

**MD 17 LCIF Coordinator Team:**

**MD:** PDG Rick Dodson, [dodson23@gmail.com](mailto:dodson23@gmail.com)

**17-K:** PCC Randy St. Auburn, [rsaudyn@gmail.com](mailto:rsaudyn@gmail.com) and PDG Kathie Bell, [owetalee@hotmail.com](mailto:owetalee@hotmail.com)

**17-A:** PID Deb Weaverling, [dweaverling@gmail.com](mailto:dweaverling@gmail.com) and PCC Bobby Duvall, [terrybobd@aol.com](mailto:terrybobd@aol.com).

**17-N:** PDG Richard Caldwell, [teacher.caldwell@gmail.com](mailto:teacher.caldwell@gmail.com) and CC Pam Bilyeu, [bilyeuskie@hotmail.com](mailto:bilyeuskie@hotmail.com)

*PDG Rick Dodson  
MD 17 LCIF Coordinator*

## District K

### From the Governor

Welcome to Fall and the return of the Lions in District K to regular meetings and helping their communities wherever needed. I love this time of year with all the Lions activities and the opportunity to spend a little time with each club during our annual visit.

**DATE CHANGE:** District K's convention has been moved to April 11 and 12 in Liberal. We are excited to move the convention south and hope you all will join us for all the fun and learning opportunities. ID Guy Hollander from Kentucky is trying to make the weekend work into his schedule as well. He will be a great addition to our convention along with Miss Kansas who will be attending also!

I walked into a Hays Lions project today and was just taken back at all the people helping make bierocks to sell at Oktoberfest in less that two weeks. The Lions decided to take the baking over this year and are working to make 3,500 bierocks almost double the size of my fist! WOW! All the profit will be placed back into the community to help others.

I know this same thing happens over and over again throughout our district and state as work to help whoever we can.

A big thank you to Becky Funke and others helping with this state newsletter. It is greatly appreciated!

Take care Lions. Enjoy the year ahead.

*DG Diana Baumann  
District 17-K  
785-202-1882  
liondianab@yahoo.com*



**Hays Lions Club members preparing 3,500 bierocks for Oktoberfest**



*District A*

**From the Governor**

I love the concept of bringing back the Kansas Lions State newsletter. It is always interesting hearing what other clubs/districts are doing as fundraisers, service projects, or fun social events.

District 17A is hard at work inducting new members and tirelessly working on two new clubs. Each has already received completed applications. Hopefully by the next state newsletter, I will have more to report.

I wish Lion Becky Funke, the newsletter editor, all the luck, but I know she won't need luck. She is fantastic with the District N newsletter and will bring that talent to the State newsletter.

Let's share our thoughts Kansas Lions!

*DG Margy Sundstrom*  
940-390-7430

*Margaret1226@gmail.com*

**Name the Newsletter**

This inaugural issue of the new digital newsletter borrowed the name from the former printed newspaper.

But a new initiative deserves a new name!

Submit your ideas for what we should call the quarterly newsletter by email to newsletter17n@cox.net by November 1.

The Public Relations and Marketing committee will select a name and design a nameplate.

The winner will receive registration and meals to the 2025 State Convention.

**Miami County Traveling Lions**

**Cancer Care kits a signature project**

*I am very proud of the Miami County Traveling Lions Club. As the name says this is a cyber club and has members in many different locations. One of their service projects is a great testament to what Lions are all about.*

*DG Margy Sundstrom*

In 2020, our club created a project to assemble cancer care kits. We researched "most needed items" for children going through chemotherapy. Our care kits have a dual purpose: provide necessary items for the child during chemo as well as provide some much needed care for the adult caregiver.

For the child, the kit includes necessities such as lip balm, hand

sanitizer, water bottle and queasy pops to help battle nausea. It also includes distractions such as coloring books, crayons, a deck of cards, and other handheld games.

For the adult, we also have a water bottle, Sudoku books, and puzzle books.

We gather the items individually and then gather to assemble the kits in plastic totes with lids. This makes it easier to keep the items portable as the child changes rooms and eventually goes home. Before the lid goes on, we also include a hand-tied fleece blanket to help with the chills during chemo.

*Lion Cheryl Kerns*

*Miami County Traveling Lions Club*



**Miami County Traveling Lions have created "Cancer Care Kits" for children undergoing chemotherapy since 2020.**

## District N

**What a wonderful world of service to others**

On September 28, during my official club visitation to the Columbus Lions Club, I was surprised by what I witnessed. My surprise came two-fold, both from a past action and current club support to their community.

The Lions meet twice a month downtown at Maple Uncommon. Arriving early, we second guessed if in fact we were at the right location. As we entered on the main floor it seemed that we had entered an art gallery, with paintings, sculptures, etc. Looking around, since no one was there, we noticed that the second level contained suites.

After about 15 minutes of really wondering if this was the real meeting location, we were met by an amazing and friendly lady by the name of Laura. She confirmed that this was the meeting location for the Lions, which should arrive shortly. Laura started telling us about the art and artists. Seems it was her dream to establish a location where local artists could display their art. She stated that the building had originally been a J C Penney's store, when she and

her husband purchased it years ago. During the remodel, they wanted an apartment for them with a few other apartments that they could provide to others.

As the discussion continued, she told us that her late husband's final request was that the Columbus Lions could meet there for free as long as there was a Lions Club. It was then, she mentioned that her husband had been a Past District Governor and to our astonishment, it was PDG Mel Greene (District 17 S, 2011-2012). We just stood there for a minute in shock, for we remembered PDG Mel very well.



What an amazing tribute to a great Lion. We continued to speak about PDG Mel and the what the old J C Penney's building has become; service to others and a forever home to the Columbus Lions Club.

The Lions started arriving and the club meeting began with a second surprise, three of this year's Kansas Lions Band students were also guests, relaying their experience of attending the camp for their first time. The club actually sponsored four students, but the fourth had other commitments.

The Columbus Lions Club not only sponsors band student annually, but is also involved in multiple community events and fundraising efforts.

A role model for other clubs, they have achieved diversity by adding younger members (to include a Leo-Lion) and supporting their growing Leo Club. A very busy and "healthy" Lions Club, it was such an honor to be their guests and be surprised about learning and seeing the dedication to the memory of a great PDG and the community service they do each day.

*DG ShariNeidhardt*

*316-304-3644*

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



**The Maple Uncommon in downtown Columbus is a gallery for local artists and home of the Columbus Lions Club.**



**DG Shari and ID Hans Neidhardt with Laura Greene in the Maple Uncommon**



# To be District Governor – 25 Years: then and now

District Governor Shari had a club visitation scheduled for the Parsons Lions Club on September 17 at noon. On the drive to Parsons, she asked about when I was District Governor.

The first thing that popped into my mind was that it was 25 years ago (1999-2000) and now she is serving as the District Governor (2024-2025).

The discussion then turned to what were the similarities and differences comparing our years of serving as District Governor. One interesting tidbit: Using the MD directory, there are only seven couples that have served as District Governors.

Originally it seems that both of us were a little hesitant at becoming District Governors. I received a call from PIP Dr. Wunder in late April 1999 and he told me that I needed to be the next K1 DG. Immediately I replied that I could not become the DG, given that no one ran for the position during the District Convention. He countered with, “Don’t worry about that, we will make it happen.”

At the end of May, Shari and I met my fellow Governors and their spouses for the very first time: K2 Bob & Rochelle Stith, K3 Ed Ummel, K4 Milton & Betty Lampe, K5 Dennis & Jean Cooley, K6 Louis & Evelyn Johnson, and K7 Verle & Sylvia Bostick.

During DG training prior to the 1999 State Convention, we were placed into the competent hands of Council Chair Elfrieda Funk and State Secretary Linda McCormick.

To be honest, our group needed the extra overwatch.

DG Shari was encouraged many times to run for District Governor.

But not until the 2022 District Convention, when she was nominated by State Secretary Linda, did Shari finally reply, “OK.”

Now Shari serves with CC Pam Bilyeu, DG Diana Bauman (K), and DG Margy Sundstrom (A).

Both of us agree that being a DG is one of the most rewarding actions we have undertaken. One of President Fabricio’s global priorities is “Take the Next Step,” by embracing our leadership potential. Sometimes getting out of your comfort zone is a little scary, but remember you are not alone, because Lions are family and families support each other.

Now that you have insight to

how we entered the role of District Governor, let’s look closer at some of the similarities and differences.

If there is one primary lesson to take away from this article, “Lions need leaders.” Never underestimate your potential for taking on a leadership role. There is a leader in each of us, we have to just let them out.

Final thought: “Coming out of your comfort zone is tough in the beginning, chaotic in the middle and awesome in the end, because in the end, it shows you a whole new world!” — *Manoj Arora (Self-help and personal finance author).*

*ID Hans Neidhardt*

## 1999 Statistics

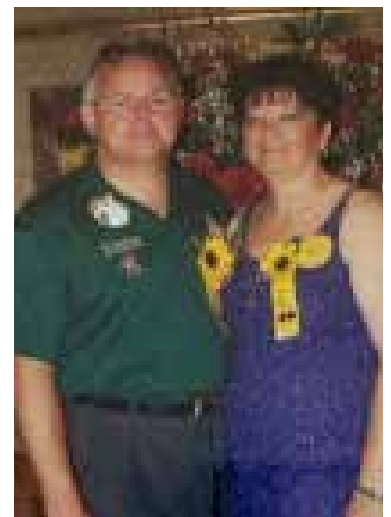
Seven Districts  
(K1, K2, K3, K4, K5, K6, K7)  
MD 17 Membership – 9400  
MD 17 Clubs – 333  
Dist. K-1 Clubs – 60+  
Leadership: DG and VDG  
Training: Prior to State/  
International Convention  
District Area: SE corner  
State Convention: Great Bend  
International: San Diego, CA  
President: Jim Erwin

## 2024 Statistics

Three Districts  
(K, A, N)  
MD 17 Membership – 4000  
MD 17 Clubs – 202  
Dist. 17 N – 68  
Leadership: DG, 1VDG, 2VDG  
Training: “Q” Center &  
International Convention  
District Area: SE quarter of State  
State Convention: Lawrence  
International: Melbourne, AU  
President: Fabricio Oliveira



**Above: ID Hans and DG Shari with PIP Patti Hill and Lion Greg Holmes  
Right: DG Hans and Lion Shari in 1999**





**Glen Elder Lion Jim Slate led the 17th Annual Tractor Cruise on August 31. The cruise, which had 29 tractors and drivers participating, cruised the back roads of Mitchell County, starting at Hopewell Church, around Waconda Lake and ended up at the Fort Hays Tech Campus in Beloit. The tractors paused for a "beauty shot" in front of an 1870's stone barn.**



**Baxter Springs Leo Club members helped the Baxter Springs Animal Control and Shelter with an Adopt-A-Pet event at a local coffee shop. Before the event, Leos visited the shelter and gave the pups a bath.**



**Concordia Lions — and a host of community volunteers — have served up Cloud County Community Supper on the first and second Wednesday of the month for more than 20 years.**



## Plan now for an Earth Day environmental project

Mark your calendars for April 22 of next year! That's *Earth Day 2025*, and our Council Chair's goal is to have as many our Kansas Lions Clubs as possible to do some type of environmental or conservation project in your communities.

Then use your imagination to get it publicized in your area through local newspapers, TV, Facebook or F/book live, or any other social media platform.

The environment is one of Lions International's Global Causes: let's show our fellow Kansans the power of Lions when we act in unison!

Continuing in that vein, we are encouraging Lions clubs across our state to participate in their respective District's **Environmental Project Contest**. Clubs are encouraged to submit a brief, consolidated report of their annual

environmental efforts. Some districts are awarding monetary prizes to the winners. District winners will then compete at the state level. Ask your DG teams, Zone Chairs, or Environment Chair for information and deadlines for the contest.

The LCI website contains lists of creative [environmental projects](#) clubs can consider.

We are continuing the **Environmental Photo Contest** again this year, albeit with some significant changes. Only digital photos may be submitted to your district Environment Chair.

Again, ask your DG teams, Zone Chairs, or Environment Chair for information and deadlines for the contest in your district. The photo categories remain the same and each district will deter-

mine their winners.

At the State Convention in Wichita, the winners for the Multiple District 17 will be recognized. These changes are all intended to increase participation in this entertaining contest.

Lastly, we are encouraging all zone chairs and DG Teams to capture/record all of the environmental efforts done by their clubs. It is our hope that we can consolidate these efforts at the Multiple District 17 level and provide it to the state of Kansas as a testament to our Lions impact.

In ending, my personal thanks to all of you for being Lions and all that you do for your communities. Keep up the great work!

*Ron Weaverling*  
*MD17 Environmental Chair*

### Kansas Lions Foundation

## Disaster relief, youth are focus of your foundation

The mission of KLF is funding educational, charitable and humanitarian efforts that benefit local community and youth programs.

A major focus is the Alert Program. The goal of this program is to be a conduit to provide needed services to those in a natural disaster. There are currently two Alert Trailers in the state, stocked with needed supplies and tools to respond to areas affected. LCIF grants help fund this program as well as donations of goods and dollars from the Lions of Kansas.

There is also the Kansas Lions Alert Team (KLAT) emergency grant. The grant can be given at the time of a man made or natural disaster that does not meet the criteria of LCIF. This grant is \$250.00

with a club match.

Currently there are four youth programs under the umbrella of KLF: Leos, Lions Quest, Peace Poster and Youth Exchange. There are eight Leo Clubs in the state, two in 17A and six in 17N.

Lions Quest is a comprehensive and universal, evidence based social and emotional learning program. This program introduces participants to the knowledge, attitude, and skills necessary manage emotions, set goals, show empathy, form positive relationships and ultimately make responsible decisions.

Peace Poster Contest is offered to school and youth organizations. Children are challenged to describe "peace" through their art. The theme changes each year. Partici-

pants must be 11-13 by November 15 to participate.

Youth Exchange Program is designed for young people 15-22 years of age. The goal is to foster a spirit of understanding among peoples of the world. The Youth Exchange needs host families in order to thrive.

KLF has the Bill and Dorothy Wunder Pin and the Pink Lion pin. Clubs can honor members for their commitment and service with these pins and at the same time support the programs of KLF.

For more information about KLF and the various programs please feel free to contact KLF President Diane Hentges at [dkhentges0503@gmail.com](mailto:dkhentges0503@gmail.com) or at 913-708-5323.

# Environmental photo contest returns with digital format

The Lions year 2024-2025 Environmental Photo Contest is open to all Kansas Lions and Leos. Only digital photos will be accepted in this year and all future contests.

This year's contest will feature the five categories as follows:

- **Animal life**
- **Plant life**
- **Urban or Natural Landscape**
- **Weather Phenomenon**

No people are to be pictured in the four photo categories above.

- **Environmental Service**

### Projects

This category can include persons/Lions in the photo. It may

be a project in progress or a newly completed one.

All submissions must be taken in Kansas and must be your original work, i.e. taken by you. Do not submit previous entries. Submissions become the property of MD17.

Kansas Lions reserve the right to disqualify entries that do not meet the contest criteria or that may be considered inappropriate.

Any Kansas Lion or Leo is welcome to participate in any or all contest categories. All photographers accept responsibility for the cost of taking or processing all submissions.

Pictures must each be submitted with the entry form on this page, specifying the category in which their photo is to be entered.

Submit/email the digital photos to your District Environmental Chair by January 1, 2025.

In an effort to increase participation, a Lion may only win in one category. Some districts have district level awards, some do not.

Each District will select their contest winners in each category prior to the 2025 Mid-Winter Rally and submit them to the MD17 Environmental Chair at the Mid Winter Rally. Online voting will begin at MWR and conclude on or about May 1, 2025; details to follow. A Lion may only win in one category. Winners will be recognized and awarded at the MD17 State Convention in Wichita.

**District K: Louise Greenberg, gberg@ruraltel.net**

**District A: Joe Porter, porterc058@gmail.com**

**District N: Kathy Pratt, kpratt558@gmail.com**

**MD17 Environmental Chair: Ron Weaverling, rweaverling@gmail.com**

**ENTRY FORM LIONS YEAR 2024-25**  
**MD-17 ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTO CONTEST**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CLUB: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE SPECIFY PHOTO CATEGORY:**

\_\_\_\_ **ANIMAL LIFE**                      \_\_\_\_ **PLANT LIFE**  
\_\_\_\_ **WEATHER PHENOMENON**    \_\_\_\_ **URBAN OR NATURAL LANDSCAPE**  
\_\_\_\_ **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE PROJECT** (CAN INCLUDE LIONS IN THE PHOTO)

**ALL PHOTOS MUST BE TAKEN IN KANSAS**  
**PLEASE SUBMIT THIS FORM WITH EACH ENTRY**

**ALL CONTEST PHOTOS BECOME THE PROPERTY OF KANSAS LIONS**

## 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



# Kansans at USA/Canada Forum



Kansas Lions received degrees from Lions University at the recent USA/Canada Forum in Louisville, KY. From left, Melanie Snider-Bachelor's; PDG Steve Langley, Bachelor's and Masters; First Vice District Governor Irene Haws, Master's and Lion Donna Doel, Bachelor's. Learn more about Lions University at [lionsuniversity.org](http://lionsuniversity.org)

Right: The Kansas delegation at USA/Canada Forum in Louisville. (Missing PID Anne Smarsh and PDG Tom Smarsh.



Below left: Standing our in their bright gold vests, Linda Mathews, Irene Haws and Donna Doel participated in the Strides Walk at the Forum.



All dressed up in "Derby finery" for the kick-off dinner of the Forum. From left, Melanie Snider, Pam Bilyeu, Lori Horton, Shari Neidhardt and Clark Lindstrom.

# Make plans now for 2025 Mid Winter Rally

The 2025 Mid Winter Rally is to be held in Junction City on January 17-18, 2025. The guest speaker will be ID Anthony Paradiso, from New York. Director Paradiso was elected to serve a two-year term as an ID of Lions Clubs at the International convention in Boston in July of 2023.

The MWR committee is working hard to make this meeting both informative and exciting, and at the same time trying to hold costs to a minimum. We are currently trying to plan the meal menu and get the best “bang for our buck.”

Several clubs and individuals are working to secure items for the hospitality room, however food items are always welcome.

Friday night activities are intended to be fun for all of us. Saturday we'll have programs with new ideas to take back to your club and community, recognize youth projects at the luncheon and enjoy dinner and an inspirational message from our International guest.

We know that many of our Foundations and district groups

might need a table space for informational handouts, so please let me know what you will need so we can make sure space and tables are available.

Of course, no MWR would be complete without the BAND AUCTION. The band committee would appreciate donations of new or like new items that can be auctioned to raise funds for the Lions

State Band this year. Of course, prepare to bid often and support the band.

Looking forward to seeing a wonderful group of Lions at this year's MWR in Junction City.

*PID Bill Phillippi*  
MWR Chairman 2025  
*lionbillphillipi@aol.com*  
785-562-8463



**Coaxing a bid at the Band Auction in 2017. Bring your donations — and your checkbook — to the 2025 auction at Mid Winter Rally.**

## It's tax return time for Lions Clubs

The Legal Division at Lions International recently sent an email reminder that it's tax time.

All Lions clubs, districts and multiple districts with annual gross receipts less than US\$50,000 that are not required to file Forms 990 or 990-EZ must file the e-Postcard (also known as the 990-N). This filing relates specifically to the 501(c)(4).

If your Lions club, district or

multiple district has a foundation, which is a separate legal entity, the appropriate form will need to be filed as well.

The e-Postcard is due by the 15th day of the fifth month after the close of your tax year. Lion clubs operate on a fiscal year, July 1-June 30, and the e-Postcard is due by November 15 each year.

Please note that an organization cannot request an extension for filing the Form 990-N.

If you do not file, you risk losing

your tax-exempt status. Any Lions club that fails to meet its annual reporting requirement for three consecutive years will automatically lose its tax exempt status. A club may apply for reinstatement of its tax exemption even if it originally fell under a group exemption.

Please note that Lions Clubs International is not authorized to provide guidance regarding your filing. For specific questions, please contact a local tax professional or the IRS.



Lions and nursing students staffed the Kansas Lions Sight Foundation booth at the Kansas State Fair, providing vision, blood pressure and blood glucose screenings for 2,555 people during the 10-day event.

## 2,555 screened at state fair

The Kansas Lions Sight Foundation (KLSF) wishes to say **THANK YOU** to all of the nursing students and their instructors from Cloud County Community College, Kansas Wesleyan, Hutchinson Community College McPherson Campus, and Bethel College. There were 130 of you, again **THANK YOU**.

There were 120 Lions from Lions Clubs all over Kansas and

at least two non-Lions that volunteered.

All of these volunteers saw 2,555 different individuals in the 10 day run of the Fair. **THANK YOU** Lions

We found a 7 month old baby with astigmatism, a 7 year old child with several eye problems, several other children with eye problems, several individuals with high and low blood sugar and some did not

understand the need for help. We saw several individuals with high blood pressure. We encouraged all of these to see a doctor as soon as possible. All in all the KLSF and all of the volunteers provided many individuals with information that will improve their lives forever. **THANK YOU**

*Lion Vern Failor  
KLSF Director/Coordinator  
Kansas State Fair Project*

## Second State Council Meeting Info

If you're coming to the State Council meeting in McPherson, here's some helpful information.

All meetings will be held at the First United Methodist Church, at 1200 E. Kansas Avenue.

Park and enter the church

from the west side of the building, off the Kansas Ave. and Maxwell. There's a traffic light at that intersection.

The main door from the parking lot will be open from 8 am to 9 am. If you arrive after 9 am, please enter through the kitchen — look for a

signs to direct you.

Meetings will be held in two classrooms and the Mess Hall. We'll have signs outside the rooms with the meeting schedule.

Handicap accessible bathrooms are in the hallway across from the classrooms.

# 2nd State Council Registration Form

All meetings held at the First United Methodist Church  
1200 E Kansas Ave, McPherson, KS  
**October 19, 2024 – 8:30 am to 3:15 pm**

Lion(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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

City, State and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_ Club: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes – I plan on lunch at the Second State Council Meeting  
Menu is roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, salad,  
roll and dessert, water, coffee and tea.

**Number of Lions for lunch** \_\_\_\_\_ **X \$20.00**      **Total Cost** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I have enclosed a check for the above amount.

**Mail to: Lions State Office | 231 S. Tyler Road | Wichita, KS 67209**

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pay at the event with either check or credit card.

## ALL FOOD RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY OCTOBER 12, 2024

Notice – If you make reservations and do not attend you are still responsible for payment.  
If you are staying in McPherson Friday or Saturday night you must make reservations soon.  
Rooms are in short supply. Meetings start at 8:30 am on Saturday.

## KANSAS LIONS STATE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

\*\*For Lions who hold multiple committee positions, we have done our best to allow you to attend at least a portion of the meetings of committees you sit on.

COMMITTEE	TIME	ROOM
AUDIT	8:30-9:15 am	Mess Hall
CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS	8:30-9:15 am	B
K-I	8:30-9:15 am	C
KANSAS LIONS BAND FOUNDATION	9:15-10:15 am	Mess Hall
LCIF	9:15-10:00 am	B
PUBLIC RELATIONS	9:15-10:00 am	C
KANSAS LIONS SIGHT FOUNDATION	10:30-11:25 am	Mess Hall
LONG RANGE PLANNING	10:00-10:45 am	B
INFORMATION AND TECH	10:00-10:45 am	C
HISTORICAL	10:45-11:30 am	B
ENVIRONMENT	10:45-11:30 am	C
LUNCH	11:30-12:30 am	Mess Hall
GLOBAL ACTION TEAM	12:45-1:45 am	Mess Hall
USA/CANADA	1:45-2:15 am	Mess Hall
*STATE COUNCIL MEETING	2:15-3:15 am	Mess Hall