# **District 17N News**

67 Lions clubs serving in south central and south east Kansas | July 2025 Find us on the web at kslions17n.org or on Facebook as KansasLionsDistrict17N

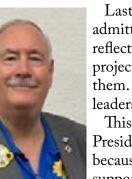


Clark's Comments

# Leadership and service keys to success this year

You can't get very far until you start doing something for somebody else.

-Lions Club Founder Melvin Jones



Last month, I began the new Lions year with my admittedly lengthy newsletter article which reflected upon the 2025-26 District 17N goals and projects while elaborating on how we could achieve them. The key to this coming year's success will be leadership and the desire to serve.

This year's tagline message from International President A.P. Singh is *Lead to Serve*, *Serve to Lead* because serving and leading are inseparable. They support each other.

"Lead to serve, serve to lead is a leadership philosophy emphasizing that true leadership stems from a desire to serve others and that serving others effectively is a key component of successful leadership," said Lions International President A.P. Singh.

Last month I had the privilege to attend my first Lions International Convention in Orlando, FL. It was exciting to spend six days with my growing International Lions family. There were many opportunities to meet and mingle with fellow Lions from nearly 200 countries.

Sunday was spent completing District Governor training. The same group of Lions who I trained with in Chicago in February met for the last time to explore, engage and reflect upon our training followed by a certificate of completion presentation and exchange of lapel pins. There was a huge party in the evening with all the other DG training groups from around the globe. There was a band playing, a buffet of international foods and good vibes everywhere.

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# Save the Date!

# **First District Cabinet Meeting**

Saturday, August 9 Valley Center **Community Center** 316 E. Clay Details on page 4

## **USA/Canada Forum**

September 18-20 Atlantic City, NJ Info at https://lionsforum.org

## Kansas Fall Rally

October 24-25 Lindsborg, KS

## 17N District Convention

February 27-28 Goddard

# **Kansas Lions District 17N Leaders**

**District Governor** Clark Lindstrom

Wichita Downtown Lions Club 316-258-2781

cflindstrom@yahoo.com

1st Vice District Governor 2nd Vice District Governor Melanie Snider

Baxter Springs Lions Club 417-529-2138

lionmelsnider@gmail.com

**Barb Schattak** 

Lyndon Lions Club 785-221-7994

ksyorkies@gmail.com

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# Clark's Comments

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The second day started early with lining up to participate in the International Parade of Nations with my fellow convention attendees from the Kansas MD 17. Organized by PCC Lori Langley it included customized mouse ears and a yellow brick road t-shirt.

It was astounding to see how elaborate some countries/districts got with their costumes. Luckily, there was cloud cover to keep the heat factor low. The rest of the day was down to business. The trade show floor opened and it was extremely crowded. There were several stages for training and information purposes, a special Olympics event, a drop-in service project assembling hygiene kits for Orlando's homeless, and a business session for delegates to vote on amendments to the International Constitution/By-Laws and hear from candidates for International Director. That evening, there was an International Show that celebrated the music and dance of Latin cultures.

The convention kickoff session included entertainment and the international flag ceremony where every nation represented had their flag flown on stage. There was a presidential keynote speech and the winners of the Peace Poster and Peace Essay Contests were introduced.

I attended the Melvin Jones Fellowship Luncheon where MJFs were recognized and it was surprising how many Lions and Clubs just pulled out checks made out to LCIF in the six figures. The afternoon was spent attending leadership training programs about LCIF, club storytelling in the media, and the New Voices for Women and Young Adults. That evening my wife Cher and I joined others from Kansas for a seafood dinner.

Wednesday started early again with a session featuring 1 egendary Olympian and mental health advocate Michael Phelps. He was quite open about his personal mental health struggles and promoting personal mental health practices.

During the convention I attended training sessions on successful zone chairs, Leo service, bringing in the next generation of Lions, achieving club excellence, and growing to serve.

dinner with past international presidents, past/present international directors, and past/present district governors. Some were recognized for their service to the Association this past year. I met the most fascinating Lion who was a professional sea diver and did he ever have some hair raising stories to tell.

The convention wrapped up with a session to announce the election results and welcome the new international leadership team. The infamous ribbon pulling ceremony officially made me a District Governor. Afterwards, there was a meet and greet reception with the International Officers consisting of donuts and ice cream.

Summarizing, it was a unique and thrilling experience that I wish every Lion could have for themselves. Now, the attendees are back home and it's time to get back to serving. That's why we are Lions. It's time to expand our service. The world needs what Lions do. This means expanding the capacity of Lions Clubs to serve by inviting and inducting more members to every club. Mission 1.5 is about making every club more vibrant and diverse.

Let's inspire positive change in our communities. The future of Lions starts now. Change doesn't come from waiting. It comes from showing up with ideas, with courage, and with the willingness to do things differently. Let's get going to grow our Association. Lead to Serve, Serve to Lead.

There can be no greater gift than that of giving one's time and energy to help others without expecting anything in return.

-Nelson Mandela Lion Clark Lindstrom DG District 17N 2025-2026

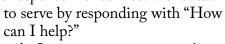


That evening was a black-tie 
The Kansas delegation in the International Parade

August 2025 **District 17N Newsletter** 

# Lions answer when called to serve

I need help! When this is heard by a Lion, there is a flurry of action and response - of service. Lions lead



As Lions, we are servants who listen, empower and support others—we put the needs of others

Leading to serve challenges me to listen to Lion members and community members; to support my fellow Lions in their growth;

and to lead with empathy, humility and purpose. This is a humongous challenge. Whether I am filling the

position of club member, club president, club treasurer, district committee member, zone chair or governor, my service is defined by how well I serve others.

I am not gonna lie. Sometimes I help others and sometimes I fail to act when someone is in need. When I fail to be a servant, I pause, take a deep breath, remind myself that I want to serve. I make a promise—a commitment—to myself that when the next opportunity to help comes my way, I will serve.

I am asking you to join me in re-committing to service as we begin this new year of Lionism—to lead to serve.

> Melanie Snider 1st VDG, District 17N 2024-2025

# A great start for the new Lions year

Here we are a month into our new year of Lionism! I attended the Lions International Convention in Orlando last month with fellow Lions from Kansas. Our Kansas delegation was small but mighty and we enjoyed our time together. Each day was a learning experience for all of us. It was an honor to watch International President receive the gavel from PIP Fabrício Oliveira.

Our new cause for Lions this year is mental health Michael Phelps came as a speaker at the convention



and discussed his journey with mental health and how he is addressing it each day. It was very eye-opening to me and how each of us deals with mental health each day and in our own way.

On Wednesday evening some of our Kansas delegates attended the "Rock and Roar" at the Howl in the Moon. Germany Lions

organized this fun event. We enjoyed music and singing during the evening and had appetizers to munch on. All funds raised were for SightFirst in Florida and raised \$7,100. What a great night we all had.

ID A.P. Singh's saying is "Lead to Serve, Serve to Lead." He believes service and leadership go hand in hand and both are vital to who we are as Lions and what we do. He believes in Mission 1.5 and states we should focus on more members and more clubs.

DG Clark challenges each club to get at least one new member a month. With each new member we help our area grow so we can serve others better. DG Clark will donate to LCIF \$10/new member (up to

\$100) recognizing the club with the most new members reported at the end of each month. When there is a tie between clubs the amount won will divided to recognize each club with the most new members of the month. Another challenge is to bring in a new club to our district this year and to help those clubs struggling to survive.

As the past district treasurer, one of my passions is the vision screener warranties. Our district currently has five vision screeners and a five-year warranty for one vision screener is over \$1,700 dollars. In November of 2026, the warranties for three of the screeners come due, this is an expense for which we do not have adequate funds. We have in the past had our Silent Auction funds assigned to the screener fund, but this is not feasible. A District Governor can decide to have the Silent Auction funds assigned to another area of need such as Juvenile Diabetes Camp Fund, Childhood Cancer, or any other designation they choose.

Therefore, I challenge each club to put in their budget to pay a minimum of \$25 to the District each year for the "Partners in Care" fund to help raise funds for the screener warranties. If all sixty-seven clubs spent at least \$25 dollars, we could raise \$1675 towards the warranties each year. These screeners are available for all clubs to use. If you would like to be able to use one of the screeners, contact one of our two Vision Screening Chairs, which are IPCC Pam Bilyeu 785-817-3833 and PCC Helen LeBlanc 316-644-0168 to schedule it. Let us lead to serve and serve to lead.

> Barb Schattak 2nd VDG District 17N, 2025-2026

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# Peace Poster deadlines coming up

B LIONS INTERNATIONAL

**POSTER** 

Deadlines for the 2025-2026 Peace Poster contest are just around the corner.

This year's Peace Poster kits are available both digitally—save the shipping costs—or a traditional physical kit. Order on the Lions International website at: lionsclubs.org/peaceposter. Cost is \$11.95 for the kit

(plus shipping for physical kit) and the kits are available until October 1.

The theme for the international contest is "Together As One."

From Lions International, "When we come together,

we can do amazing things. This year, we're inviting students around the world to envision what can happen when a diverse group of people unites around a common cause or goal. Imagine a world where we all come together as one!"

Students ages 11, 12 or 13 as of November 15 are eligible to participate in the International Peace Poster Contest.

The deadline for entries in the District 17N Contest is November 7. Clubs can mail posters to District Peace Poster Chair Lion Lorraine Stockwell, 7205 SW 163<sup>rd</sup> St, Augusta, KS 67010 or bring them to the District Cabinet meeting on November 8 at the Girard Public Library. Judging will take place at the Cabinet meeting.

"Each participating club needs to allow enough time to pick up entries, do local club judging and have the parent sign their portion of the entry and either mail it to me or bring it to the Cabinet meeting," said Stockwell.

The winning poster at the District level is forwarded to the state competition. The young artists with the top three posters selected at the District level will be invited to the District Convention in February where their artwork will be displayed.

For more information about the district-level Peace Poster contest, contact Lion Lorraine Stockwell at 316-644-7502 or by email at lorie1999\_1999@yahoo.com

#### "Get Tropical" at 17N District Cabinet Meeting All District 17N Lions are invited to "Get Tropical" at the first District Cabinet meeting of the 2025-2026 Lions Year Saturday, August 9, 2025 Valley Center Community Center in Lions Park, 316 E. Clay, Valley Center, KS, Cottonwood Meeting Room Come dressed in your best tropical shirt or attire (no shorts please) 9 am Doors open for a Light pastry breakfast 9:15 am Registration 9:45 am Call to order 11:45 am Lunch Lunch will be served at 11:45 am with a menu of fried chicken, mashed potatoes with either brown or white gravy, green beans, baked beans, roll/butter and dessert with water, coffee, or tea provided. Cost is \$12 per person, payable at the door. So enough food can be ordered RSVP for the meeting and meal by August 6th to Lion Kathleen Burden, District 17N Treasurer at kathleenburden@hotmail.com or 913-486-7422. 12:30 District Cabinet Meeting Starts (we expect to be done by 2 p.m. or sooner) 17 N Districtwide Community Service Project: Please bring personal hygiene products to be donated to Simply Hygiene. Attendees are asked to bring personal hygiene products to be donated to Simply Hygiene as a community service project. Simply Hygiene currently distributes to more than 210 schools and 96 organizations in the greater Wichita area, providing more than 92,000 people access to hygiene essentials each month. "We have distributed millions of products so far into our community and are excited to keep growing. .Access to hygiene products can bring respect, equity, and overall well-being to our communities. Now, more than ever, we are committed to our mission of empowering people with essential hygiene products that promote health and hope." Products requested by Simply Hygiene are: Bar soap, Body wash, Conditioner Deodorant, Diapers (sizes 3,4,5) Feminine products, laundry detergent Lotion, Shampoo Toilet Paper, Toothbrushes & Toothpaste. Make a cash donation to Simply Hygiene with this Venmo Link: https://www.venmo.com/u/simplyhyg In addition, attendees can bring any used eyeglasses to be taken to the State Office in Wichita. Club leaders should also pick up new member packets for 2025-26. Bring some cash, we'll hold a 50/50 raffle to raise money for the youth diabetes camp scholarships for 2026 and a "Fun" draiser for LCIF. Entry forms will be available for the 2025-26 District 17 N Environmental Challenge. Clubs with new, never done before environmental projects, can enter to win a donated art-quality, desktop sized lion statue And all Clubs will receive recognition at the District Convention in February, 2026.

# New requirements for Club Excellence awards

Lions International has announced new criteria for Club Excellence Awards for 2025-2026.

The Club Excellence Award acknowledges the dedication and legacy of service within individual clubs.

#### Membership

Induct a minimum of two or 20% new members, whichever is greater (not including transfer, reinstated or charter members). Eligibility is determined based on the club's membership count on June 30 of the previous Lion year.

Or sponsor a new Lions club.

#### Service

Report a minimum of four service activities to Lions International. Three of these activities must show

Lions Health Program News

# Support Global Causes in your own community

Lions International usually has a different Global Cause each month and in past years, we have used this space to emphasize one each month through the year.

Lets do something different this year. You as a Lions Club pick from the list of Global Causes that LCI has and find a program on that cause for the month. The Global Causes that I know about are Childhood Cancer, Diabetes, Vision, Disaster Relief, Environment, Hunger, Humanitarian and Youth.

Pick one of the causes, type it into the LCI website search and find service ideas or find a program in your local community. Every community has all of these causes and most communities need your Lions club to support them.

It is time to start looking for youth to go to a diabetes camp next summer. Talk to your school nurses and see if they have youth in their schools that would like to go to a camp. There are two camps close or in Kansas and Lions has scholarship funds to help these youth. Camp registrations open in February and with limited spaces, fill up quickly. Lion Vern has material that will help you find these youth.

Ask your club to make a donation to the your District Diabetes Fund by sending a check made to your district, write Diabetes Fund on the memo and send it to your District Health Program Chairman or send it to your District Treasurer.

For help with this please contact Lion Vern at vfailor@gmail.com.

Lion Vern Failor

participation in each of the three International Weeks of Service.

#### Leadership

Report newly elected club officers in Lion Portal by May 15 of the current Lion year.

A minimum of 10% of the club's members complete any three courses in the Lions Learning Center.

The club president for the current Lion year must not have served more than two consecutive terms.

A minimum of two or more club officers (president, vice president, secretary or treasurer. Of which, one must be the club president) complete Club Officer Training (online with the Lions Learning Center or in-person as reported by a GLT coordinator in Learn) between July 1 – December 31 of the current Lion year.

#### **Donations**

Contributed to LCIF a minimum of the club's membership total on June 30 of the previous Lion year, multiplied by US\$20.

Beginning this Lions year (2025-2026), clubs will not apply for the recognition; it will be tracked by Lions International.

Application deadline for the 2024-2025 Club Excellence Award is August 31. Download the application from LCI at lionsclubs.org/clubexcellenceaward.

## Welcome to the Pride

New members as of July 29



# New Member Augusta Servant

Kenneth Brinkman Blake Upton

## Fredonia

Shallon Decker Peggy Ogle

## Halstead

Corrie Edwards Myrla Haury

## Independence

Mallory Bird Katie Southworth

# **Moundridge**Eli Corino

Corino Aaron Baily

## Neodesha

Dale Bunn Chris Bauman

## Valley Center

Kevin Haskin Anne Carter-Hainlen

**Sponsor** 

## Winfield

Jessica Carson Don Sefers

# **Around the District**

Submit your club activities to newsletter17n@cox.net

Deadline is always the 25th of the month



August 2025



Wellington Lions participated in the Wheat Festival in early July, carrying a giant flag to lead the parade and serving up watermelon during Picnic in the Park. The club also handed out bottled water during the festival.







PDG Dan Funke received a Master Key, recognizing the recruitment of 50 Lions. Goddard Lions Secretary Nancy Borst presented the medal during the club's July officer installation dinner meeting.



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August 2025

