



We Serve

Save the Dates:

Cabinet Meetings (Hybrid)

Aug 9 – Lake Shawnee
Shelterhouse #2, Topeka

Nov 1 – Liquid Art Winery
Manhattan

Feb 7 – Zoom only

Jun 13 – Salvation Army
Worship Center, Olathe

Multiple District Events

Oct 25 – Fall Rally
Lindsborg, KS

May 30- 31, 2026
State Convention
Hutchinson, KS

Zone Meetings:

Scheduled by the Zone Chairs
for the clubs in each zone
attended by club presi-
dents, club secretaries. Club
vice-presidents are welcome.

District Officers:

Irene Haws
District Governor

Roger Yost
1st Vice District Governor

Cheryl Kerns
2nd Vice District Governor

Stephanie Heisler
District Secretary

Ron Nichols
District Treasurer

Global Action Team

See page 2

DISTRICT DIALOG - July 2025

News from Northeast Kansas Lions District 17A

Fellow Lions,

I am writing this on the night before I fly out to Orlando Florida to attend the International Convention! How exciting.

It has been an amazing journey to the office of District Governor. And I am happy to have a great Team around me as we start our new year.

Our District has amazing dedicated and hard working Lions. It takes a team to have positive movement towards growing our membership and starting new clubs.

At the Mission 1.5 Summit they challenged our District Governor Global Action Team members to **start one new club in the first 100 days of this Lion Year**. We have a couple of strong possibilities. The Jackson County Lions are a branch of the Sabetha Club. When they reach 20 members then they can apply to be a Club. The other strong possibility is the Lions Pride and Purpose Cyber Club. At the district level we are working to support all these efforts.



My theme this year as your District Governor is "Chart Your Course". I enjoy sailing so this makes it personal for me. The words "Chart Your Course" is a reminder that we should have a good plan and know what we want to achieve then. Take Action. Working our plan, we can meet our goals this year.

Enjoy what you do and invite others to join!

Irene Haws

Special Initiatives

As we embark on a new year of service, we are excited to introduce our 2025-2026 Service Focus Weeks, designed to amplify Lions International's global impact by uniting efforts around specific causes.

International First Vice President A P Singh encourages districts to engage with these causes year-round, with a special emphasis on creating a unified, global impact during these designated weeks.

SERVICE FOCUS WEEKS

- MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING: October 4-12, 2025
Aligns with World Mental Health Day on October 10
- HUNGER: January 3-11, 2026
- ENVIRONMENT: April 18-26, 2026
Aligns with Earth Day on April 22





Roger Yost 1st Vice-District Governor

Welcome to a new Lions' Year!

New leadership with new ideas. New Lions filling positions all working together. Accepting new ideas outside our BOX isn't easy, but we need to give them

a chance. We have all had ideas and suggestions that didn't work. Why? Was it because we forgot to listen before making judgements? All Lions need encouragement to express their ideas and feelings.

We have seen new members come into several of our clubs. Let's welcome them by getting them involved, show them what we do – We Serve. Get them on a committee, let them express their thoughts and the project will not fail.

Remember, your international, state, multi-district and district officers are here to help. Utilize them. Your club is your club. Let's make this an outstanding year. Let's do what we do! SERVE!

He who knows all the answers has not been asked all the questions.
~Confucius

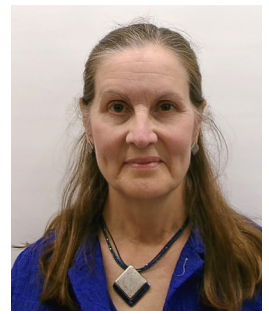
Roger Yost

Yostfarms@hotmail.com

620-397-3108 (leave msg I will return the call)

Cheryl Kerns

2nd Vice-District Governor



Ralph Waldo Emerson once said "It's not the destination, it's the journey." Although he was not a Lion (he died 36 years before Lions began), I think this is an accurate statement. I am starting a new journey. I have been a Lion for 28 years and I'm very excited about my new role in Lionism.

I have the honor of visiting 29 clubs this coming Lions' year. Eight of my clubs I had the pleasure of working with as Zone 3 chair. I'm looking forward to meeting with you again and I'm also excited about meeting with 21 new ones!

My goal is to meet with all of you before Christmas...I will be reaching out to schedule my visits starting in July. I'm looking forward to meeting with each club, meeting new Lions, learning how you like to serve your communities, listening to your ideas and/or concerns, and sharing in a common purpose.

Cheryl Kerns



District 17A Global Action Team

Vania Castro
Global Leadership Team Coordinator

Rick Dodson
Global Service Team Coordinator

Eric Strimple
Global Membership Team Coordinator

Eric Tweedy
Global Extension Team Coordinator

The GAT is a vast network of dedicated Lions — at all levels — who are focused on helping districts achieve their **MISSION 1.5** targets.

This important team is positioned to help foster club membership growth, build strong, innovative leaders and increase Lions' visibility in the community through impactful service.

GAT leaders play a larger part in ensuring districts are held accountable in reaching **MISSION 1.5** targets. By leading by example and providing the guidance necessary to navigate challenges and celebrate success, only then can Lions be successful.

Source: <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/resources-for-members/resource-center/global-action-team>

Lions Health Programs

As your Club starts it's new Lions year think about the International Lions Global Causes and pick one each month to focus on, find a program, organize a service project, provide assistance to some community program related to that cause. Some of the Global causes are Environment, Vision, Diabetes, Hunger, Humanitarian needs, Disaster etc. All of these are in your community and all of these need your help.

You can promote all of these causes by coming to the Kansas State Fair and helping the Kansas Lions Sight Foundation KLSF operate it's Health Screening booth. To volunteer just contact Lion Jackie O'Neal at glammother@yahoo.com or call her at 316 734 2176

There is still a need for 18 to 20 volunteers to make the booth run efficiently. Remember you will get a Gate Pass to the Fair and only need to work one shift the rest of the day you can visit the Fair as a KLSF guest.

For additional Fair information contact:
Lion Vern Failor at vfailor@gmail.com or call 785 231 3960



Jackson County Lions have been busy

We have delivered the TREX Bench that was made from the recycled plastic that we kept from going into the Jackson County Landfill. We have recycled over 1,000 pounds.

Pictured below in lower left
Karen and Gary Steinlage, Winners of the bench and Lion President Terry Weldin of the Jackson County Lions Branch of the Sebetha Lions Club.

Jackson County Lions have been providing FREE Vision Screening for the Holton Ball Association's TBall League. All 8 of the Teams had the opportunity to have their vision screened along with all of the members of their family. During the screening on referral was made for a person to get a professional eye examination.



Shown here is Lion Rhett Murphy providing a vision screening. We can provide a FREE Vision Screening in any location where proper lighting is found. Jackson County Lions plan to offer this same screening opportunity next year for the Holton Ball Association.

To find out more about Jackson County Lions or to arrange for a FREE Vision Screening at your 4H Club meeting or other youth organization please contact Lion Terry Weldin 620 490 1461.



Growing Our Pride: A Roaring Start to the 2025–2026 Lion Year in District 17A

As we begin the 2025–2026 Lion year, District 17A is setting its sights high with an exciting and meaningful goal: welcome 145 new Lions and finish the year with a net membership growth of +1. Together, we can strengthen our pride and make an even greater impact in our communities.

Why Membership Growth Matters

Each new Lion brings fresh ideas, energy, and a heart for service. More members mean more hands to help, more voices to lead, and more opportunities to serve those in need. Growth ensures our clubs stay strong and vibrant for generations to come.

Let's Get Creative

We challenge every club to think outside the box this year! Here are a few ways to spark membership growth:

- Host a “Bring a Friend” service event
- Share your club’s impact on social media
- Partner with local businesses for joint projects
- Make meetings fun and family-friendly

Whether it’s one new member or ten, every addition brings us closer to our district-wide goal.

Answer the Call

This is your challenge: grow your club by sharing the pride of being a Lion. Invite someone new. Share your passion. Show your community how Lions serve.

Together, let’s make 2025–2026 a year of growth, energy, and roaring success.

District 17A—let’s grow, let’s serve, and let’s roar!

*Eric Strimple,
Global Membership Team Coordinator*

How-To Guide to Sorting Eyeglasses

- Remove all glasses from cases. (if they are metal take the glasses out and include them with the glasses. We can recycle the metal cases.)
- Separate clear glasses from colored lenses (sunglasses)
- Throw away any cleaning clothes
- Discard or recycle the rest of the glass’s cases.
- Discard or recycle any loose lenses. We no longer have a place to use them.
- Send in broken frames or earpieces. We can use the screws and possibly frames to fix other glasses. Please put them in a plastic sack or different box.



DISTRICT 17A

A BIG HELLO TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Sebastin Karchefski, Lansing
Sponsor: Rick Dodson

Fred Willer, Topeka
Sponsor: Spencer Smith

David Casper, Benington
Sponsor: Timothy Hart

Sue Ann Lednicky,
Leavenworth
Sponsor: Margaret Howards

Linda Migliazzo, Leawood
Sponsor: Chris Wright

Michelle Trill
Sponsor: Gilbert Trill



Karen Beem, Navarre
Sponsor: Donna Ascher

Annie Curtiss, Oskaloosa
Sponsor: Tara Newman

Debra Brown, Sabetha
Sponsor: Bill Brown

Tiffanyann Smith, Sabetha
Sponsor: Louise Wall

Janet Trainor, Sabetha
Sponsor: Terry Weldin

Danette Reichart, Tonganoxie
Sponsor: Teresa Reichart-
Vernon



May 2025



New Lion Year, New Roar on Facebook!

Lions of District 17A — it's time to get LOUD on social media! As we launch into this exciting new Lion year, let's make sure our service roars far and wide by using Facebook to show the world the amazing work our clubs are doing.

Here are a few fun and easy ways to make your club shine online:

1. Behind-the-Scenes Stories – Snap a quick pic or video of your team in action! Whether it's packing meals, planning a fundraiser, or just having a laugh at a meeting, people LOVE seeing the heart behind the service.

2. Lion Spotlights – Feature a member each month! Post a photo and a few fun facts about why they serve and what they love about being a Lion. (Bonus: Great way to attract new members!)

3. Facebook Challenges – Try a #ServiceSaturday or #ThrowbackThursday with past projects. Get your club to comment on, tag friends, and keep the conversation rolling!

Most importantly: Don't forget to FOLLOW and SHARE your posts to the Kansas Lions [17A Facebook](#) page so we can amplify your impact across the district (and beyond)! When you post — we ALL grow.

Let's make this year unforgettable. Show your pride, spread the word, and let's ROAR together!

Images from Kansas Lions 17A Facebook page. . .

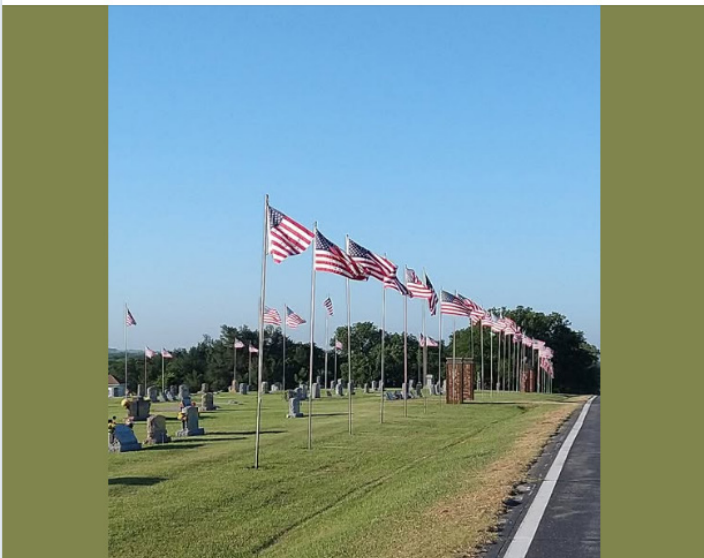
Kansas Lions 17A

Public group · 114 members



Bart Hettenbach
July 4 at 8:21AM · 🌐

Woodbine Lions were out early to start the day putting up flags at the woodbine cemetery. Then starting at pm will be food and games at the school park before a sure to be awesome fire works show.



Topeka Lions
June 30 at 10:05 PM · 🌐

Topeka Lions Club officer installation newly installed officers do the Lions roar

Topeka Lions
Reels · Jun 30 · 🌐







FIVE BENEFITS OF BEING A LION

- 1 **We have fun**
Service is meaningful—and it's fun.
- 2 **We're part of something big – yet unique**
- 3 **We have opportunities for personal growth**
- 4 **We're backed by a global association and foundation**
- 5 **Doing good feels good**

Share your social posts with Kansas Lions 17A this way we learn what other Lions Clubs in our district are doing.

What your club is doing.



Jackie Taylor O'Neal

June 26 at 4:53 AM · 🌐



Fellow Lions, only 17 more dates and times to fill to have enough help to make this a successful State Fair please consider signing up for one or more of the dates listed below. This is a wonderful opportunity to show everyone what Lions do. Contact Jackie O'Neal glammother@yahoo.com or 316-734-2176

Friday Sept. 5th

9:30 a.m. 3 volunteers needed

1:30 p.m. 2 volunteers needed

Sun. Sept. 7th

9:30 a.m. 1 volunteer needed

Thur. Sept 11th

9:30 a.m. 4 volunteers needed

1:30 p.m. 6 volunteers needed

Fri. Sept 12th

1:30 p.m. 1 volunteer needed



 Eudora Lions Club
July 8 at 1:50 PM · 🌐

Feeding Eudora was a blast today. It's always fun seeing community members and getting a chance to visit for a little!



Lions Clubs International · 🌐

July 9 at 2:24 AM · 🌐

In 1925, Helen Keller ignited a fire in Lions that burns brighter than ever today. At the ninth annual Lions International Convention, Keller delivered a moving speech, prompting Lions to serve the world with the same passion and boldness.

Retired Parks and Rec director seeks to brighten others' lives

by SARA MALONE June 30, 2025 - Eudora Times (Shared on the Kansas Lions Facebook Page)



This story is part of a series highlighting seniors doing exceptional volunteer work in the community. The stories were part of a special print edition distributed throughout businesses in town.

Gary Scott retired from a long career serving as director of Parks and Rec to continue to serve the community in a different capacity – with lots of volunteering.

Two days a week, Scott drives Senior Wheels from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. He drives to everything – doctors' appointments, physical therapy, grocery store, Walmart, hair appointments and massages – throughout Douglas County

Getting transportation to the public in Eudora was something Scott worked on with the Douglas County Senior Resource Center. When Eudora got its own van from the center, he knew he had to jump on the opportunity to drive after he'd advocated for the program. He started driving four days a week, but has since received help from other residents with the other days.

On Wednesdays, he spends the first half of the day at the Eudora Food Pantry. He helps organize food for pick-ups.

If he's not there, he's helping organize food for Harvesters distribution at the Methodist church on the third Wednesday of the month. That location serves 400-500 people who come from over a dozen zip codes a month.

**"I have a little prayer that says,
'Dear God, help each of us to
brighten the lives of others,'"**

He also mows around 8 acres at the church grounds once a week with a couple of other church members. He also helps various others mow their lawns around town.

On Sunday, he picks up food from a local grocer to take to the food pantry that would otherwise go to waste.

He also helps with Lions Club's civic projects and Parks and Rec Foundation special projects.

"I think it's because most people when they volunteer they get a lot back in return," he said.

Giving back to his community has always been important to him. When he worked with the Special Olympics, he saw the number of volunteers who made the event possible. Even though it was a paid job for him, it opened his eyes to how rewarding volunteer work was for everyone else.

"I have a little prayer that says, 'Dear God, help each of us to brighten the lives of others,'" he said.

Scott was in the parks and rec industry for 40 years. He grew up in Eudora before going to Baker University and then came back to town after seeing a parks job listing.

That leaves Thursdays and Saturdays for Scott to spend some time on himself – so it's been a lesson in how to say no. It is his responsibility to avoid burnout.

"Thank goodness I have a calendar on my phone," he said. "The community was good to me, so what can I do to help others?"

Lions - Let your light shine - Spot light what your club does and share it with the community. When people see us working to Serve Others we attract other service-minded individuals. Show your pride. Share your stories about your club and what your members are doing to serve.