DISTRICT DIALOGUE - MID OCTOBER 2026

Northeast Kansas Lions District 17A

Important Dates:

Fall Rally - McPherson
October 23-24, 2026

2nd District Cabinet Meeting -
Tonganoxie Methodist Church
1 pm - 3 pm
November 7, 2026

3rd District Cabinet Meeting - Zoom
10 am - 12:-00 pm
Date: February 13, 2027

4th District Cabinet Meeting -
location /Time to be determined
Date: June 19, 2027

State Convention - Topeka
June 4-5, 2027

District Officers:

Roger Yost
District Governor
620-397-3108

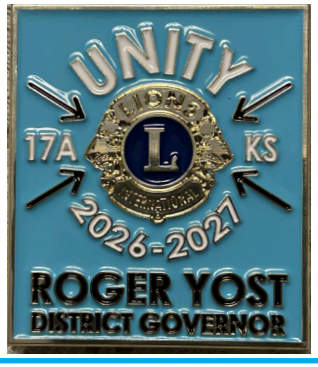
Cheryl Kerns
1st Vice District Governor

Stephanie Heisler
District Secretary
StephanieRHeisler@hotmail.com

Ron Nichols
District Treasurer
coachronnichols@gmail.com

Rick Dodson
District Administrator
dodsonr23@gmail.com

Irene Haws
Immediate Past District Governor
irene@idesignngs.com





Governor's Message

Can you believe it? The first quarter of this Lion year has already gone by. It seems this year has just gotten started. Hong Kong, Memphis and just starting to get into club visits.

All the clubs I have visited are doing what they do best – service!

I encourage all Lions to attend all District Meetings and Multi-District meetings so they may keep abreast of the whole goings on in our wonderful State of Kansas. The State Fair has come and gone. Its always a good time working our vision and diabetes booth. Many people come by every year, some bringing their kids and grand kids for their first eye check. Many with questions about what we are doing or how much does it cost. Answers are made, concerns are addressed, and referrals are recommended.

Locations of eyeglass collection boxes is another topic. If your club has a need for more boxes to get to a new location, or to replace an old box in bad shape, reach out to your District Governor or Zone Chair and we will see to it that the boxes will be supplied. You can request a new box location to Lion Vern Failor so he can keep our records up to date.

"Quality is not an act, it is a habit."
Benjamin Franklin

Roger Yost,
DG 17A, yostfarms@hotmail.com

District 17A Global Action Team

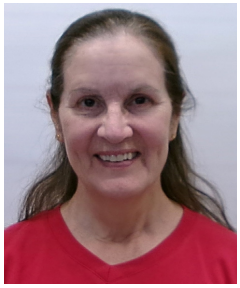
Al Kimmi, GLT
Global Leadership Team Coordinator
aikimmi@rainbowtel.net

Rich Webster, GMT
Global Membership Team Coordinator
spechter16@gmail.com

Camey Thurner, GST
Global Service Team Coordinator
thurnerc@hotmail.com

Irene Haws, GET
Global Extention Team Coordinator
irene@idesignngs.com

----------Rooted in Service----------



First Vice-District Governor
Cheryl Kerns

September: USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum in Memphis, Kansas State Fair, and FIFTEEN club visits. I will spread out my club visit reports over the next couple months in order to properly spotlight each club.

First, the Forum. Great seminars, fun activities, and the opportunity to share a meal with some of our International Family. Topics ranged from fundraising, strategies to engage and retain members, Lions Portal, managing resistance to change, making leadership enjoyable and SO many more.
Have you volunteered at the State Fair recently? It is a lot of fun! We provide vision screenings and the energy is high!

My first club visit in September was to the **Minneapolis Lions Club.** They raise funds through selling food at a car show, the county fair, and they host a pancake breakfast. They also do soup suppers. They participate in Clear the Trail and give out $2500 in student scholarships.

Miltonvale, Longford, and Delphos Lions graciously agreed to meet together as a zone to save me time and mileage...thank you!

Miltonvale hosts a soup supper the 4th Monday in February, collects glasses, and provides scholarships.

Longford sells food and helps with set-up at the rodeo and does a pancake feed the last Saturday in February. They have a great partnership with the American Legion.

Delphos provides a breakfast the first Saturday of every month. They are especially known for providing ramps to those in need.

Wakefield Lions have generous hearts of service! They send kids to band camp, Girl's State, Boy's State, and bought all the track uniforms! ALL seniors get scholarships! Their fundraiser is the town's Birthday Bash where they roast a hog and have a gun raffle. All five of the clubs in this article made donations to KLF and LCIF.

October:
3 – Manhattan Sunflower and Manhattan pancake feed
3 – 125th Anniversary for the Parker Carousel, Abilene (10am – 4pm)
10 – Schnitzel Dinner, Navarre Community Center (5pm – 7 pm)
17 – Woodbine Fall Festival (9am – 2pm)
24 – Fall Rally, McPherson
25 – Tombstone Talks, Chapman (1pm – 3pm)

November:
7 – Second Cabinet Meeting, Tonganoxie

Cheryl Kerns
First Vice-District Governor

Kansas Lions Directory is online

The Kansas Lions Directory is online - visit KansasLions.org. This is password protected. Your President/Secretary & Zone Chair have the password (listed in the hardcopy directory). Any changes to club meeting dates/times/locations can be updated on the digital version of the Directory when emailed to **kansaslionsoffice@gmail.com**

Be sure to update club details in the *Edit Club Details* section on the Lions Portal too! Thank you for keeping your club details current.

District Dialogue Publication Details: *Email news articles and upcoming events to* 17Anews@gmail.com
Deadline is the last day of the month for publication the following months at mid-month.
Visit and Join the District 17A Facebook Group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/kansaslionsdistrict17a Share your club's posts to this group too! District Website: https://kslionsdistrict17a.org (past issues of the District Dialogue are saved here).

Global Leadership Team Coordinator, Al Kimmi

ZONE CHAIRS, CLUB OFFICERS AND OTHERS

You are the leaders who will lead our clubs to accomplish this year's club, district and international goals. We need your leadership to make it happen.

Leadership is about influence. You influence your club members, the officers, the committee chairs, friends and anybody in the room.

"The question isn't whether you are a leader; the question is what kind of influence you are having?
Are members better because they spent time with you?
Do members feel encouraged after talking to you?
Do you bring energy into a room or take it out?
Do you make members feel important?
Do you listen? Do you make members laugh?
Do you make members believe they can do more than they thought possible?
Do you leave members better than you found them?"
(Adopted from Steve Gilliland Newsletter September 29, 2026)

Let me influence you to get in the Lion's Portal, go to the "Learn" tab and take the course for your office and any of the other courses listed.

Be the best Lion you can be!

Treasurers don't forget to file your 990 Form with the IRS by November 15. Please don't wait till the last minute.

Questions or assistance can be directed to
PDG Al Kimmi, GLT Coordinator,
785-548-5744 or
Email: aikimmi@rainbowtel.net





The Navarre Lions Club hosted a joint meeting Sept 24 of the Chapman, Woodbine, Navarre and Hope Lions Clubs where the 1st Vice District Governor Cheryl Kerns addressed the group about what is happening on the state and international level of Lions Club. Then each group shared their individual projects and how they serve their communities.

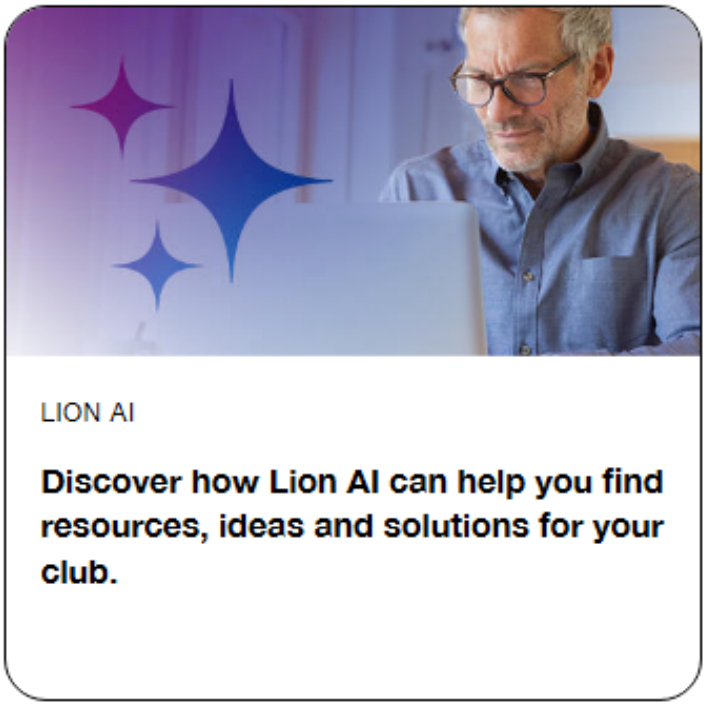
Austin Cole was welcomed as the newest member of the Navarre Lions Club.





Lion Vern Failor vision screening at Jackson Heights Elem. School using the New SPOT sScreener purchased using an LCIF grant.

From the lionsclubs.org website
Member Resource Center



Lion AI provides quick, personalized assistance and streamlined access to what you need, and it all starts with Ellie, your AI assistant for all things Lions International.

Whether you have a question about a program, need to find a specific resource or just want a recommendation, your AI assistant is here to help. Please keep in mind that Ellie is still learning, and we'll continue working to make our AI even better over time so we can create an even better experience for you.

Want to learn more?
Head to the About Lion AI webpage for tips, tools and even some sample prompts.

https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/about-lion-ai







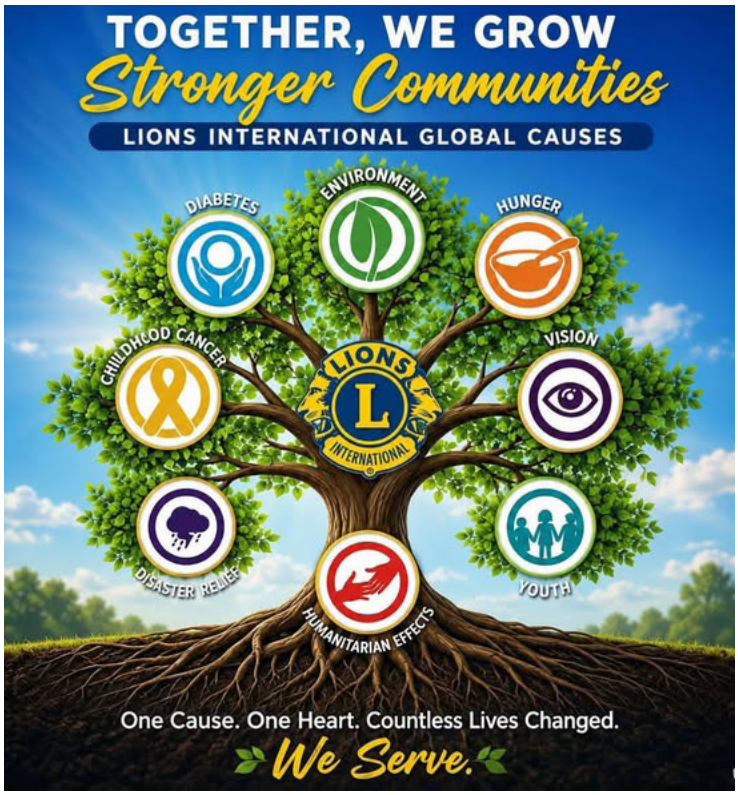
Have a Safe and Happy Halloween

Global Membership Team Coordinator, Richard Webster

The District has a total of 7 new members in September. Congratulations to these new members! Welcome to the Pride!

Thanks to these clubs who are increasing our numbers and growing the Lions Family!





District 17A
A BIG HELLO TO OUR
NEW MEMBERS!

Belleville Lions Club
Total New Members 3

GABRIELLA COX
Sponsor: FRED ARNOLD

TAYLOR J LIVINGSTON
Sponsor: CHRIS ZACH

SARAH COX
Sponsor: FRED ARNOLD

Concordia Lions Club
Total New Members 1

SIERRA GROPP
Sponsor: DON HUTCHINSON

Gardner Lions Club
Total New Members 2

LEVI B SHORT
Sponsor: MARGARET DROVETTA

SHANNON R. SHORT
Sponsor: MARGARET DROVETTA

Hiawatha Lions Club
Total New Members 1

DAVID VILLANUEVA
Sponsor: RICHARD FALLER

PDG RICH WEBSTER, CGL (Certified Guiding Lion)
District 17A Global Membership Team Coordinator

• • • SEPTEMBER 2026 • • •

Global Extention Team Coordinator Irene Haws

New club growth is the job of the Global Extention Team.

The district is ready to help local clubs sponsor a new Lions Club of 20 members.

Do you have a neighboring community that doesn't have a Lions Club that maybe used to? Is there a need for a Lions Club now?

A club can sponsor a new lions club and together with the Guiding Lions appointed by the Governor that new club will have district support for the first two years by Ceritified Guiding Lions to help them get a good start as a new club.

Does your community have a specialty service that only a small group of people have the skills or the desire to be a branch of your club?

A Club Branch can be a specialty branch of your club and the members of the branch are in your club, as branch members. It only takes five new Lions Members to be a branch of your club. It can be in your same community or in a community that doesn't have a Lions Club.

I am happy to brainstorm with your club's membership chair on how we can grown Lions in your community.

Yours in Service,
Irene Haws, (Certified Guiding Lion)
785-249-1913 irene@idesignGS.com



Lions Heath Program
Lion Vern Failor

The International President Mark Lyons slogan "Rooted in Service" says it is time to start working on Diabetes Awareness for November.

What is your club planning to do for a program on Diabetes in this month? Think about where you can find a program about Diabetes Camp and where you can get someone to talk about these camps. Lion Vern Failor your LHP chair can help you with this just contact him. "Rooted in Service" reminds me of sending youth to a Diabetes Camp.

There are 2 in Kansas, Camp Planet D and Camp Discovery. They are very costly for a family to send their child to one of these camps. In 2026 it cost each family over $700 to send their child to one of these camps. In 2026 Dist. A sent 7 youth to one of these camps and spent $4,100.00 to do this.

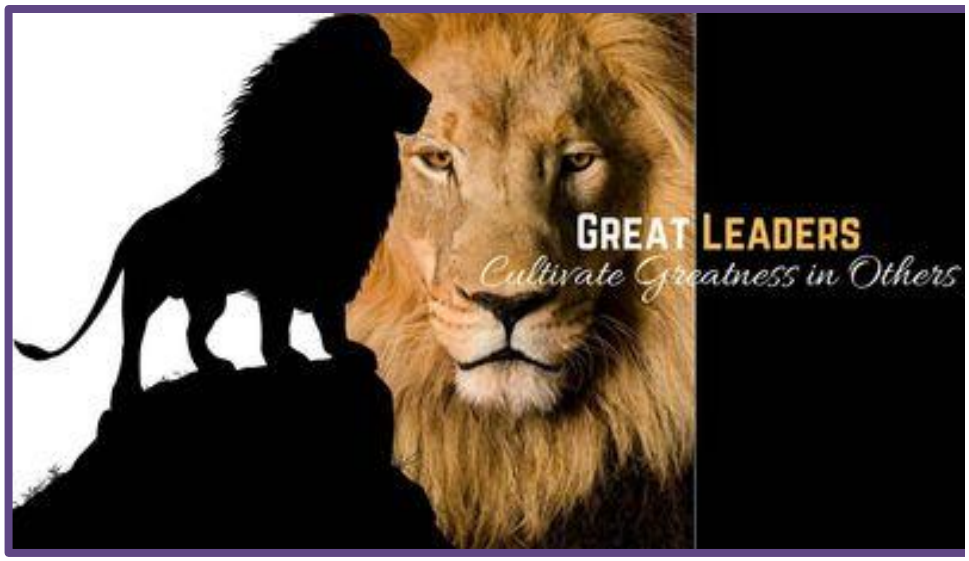
Dist. A needs your help in funding these Scholarships in 2027. Consider a donation to the Diabetes Fund in the Dist. A Treasurery. The Dist. will not be able to provide these scholarships without your help. To donate write a check to Dist. A, on the memo line write "Diabetes Camp" and send it to Lion Vern Failor, he keeps track of this and sends the check to the Treasurer.

We always need to find youth to send to camp each year. To do this contact Lion Vern as he has a poster to hand to a School Nurse to post that explains how to get a Diabetes Camp Scholarship. Remember "Rooted in Service" as you look for a program on Diabetes projects0 in November.

Lion Vern Failor
Co-Chair, Lions Vision/Diabetes
District 17A
785-231-3960
email: vfailor@gmail.com

Donations:
Payable for District 17A

Mail to:
Lion Vern Failor
5201 SW 27th Street
Topeka KS 66614



KS MULTIPLE DISTRICT 17

Inspired by International President Mark Lyon's theme **"Rooted in Service",** MD17 will celebrate "Club Superstars." The initiative is designed to recognize a club member or community partner who impacts the Kansas community during 2026-2027 Lions year. Community service, consistent participation, support of club activities, leadership, membership development, initiative, fundraising efforts, community/club/member impact and Lions Spirit are contributions to be considered when identifying a "**SUPERSTAR**."

Key Details & Program Guidelines

- **Selectin:** Each club selects their ultimate "Superstar"
- **Submission Deadline**: March 15th – Information to be included: Superstar's name, associated club, and a narrative outlining the reason(s) the Superstar was selected.
- **District Recognition**: Superstars will receive a special embroidered patch and be recognized at their respective District Convention in April.



- **State Convention:** Three Superstars from each Kansas sub-district will be drawn for a special recognition by 2nd Vice President Tony Benhow at the State Convention Friday, June 4th in Topeka KS

Each Club selects their ultimate "Superstar"

Each Club Superstar will be recognized at District Convention

Three Superstars from each District will be recognized at State Convention Friday Night

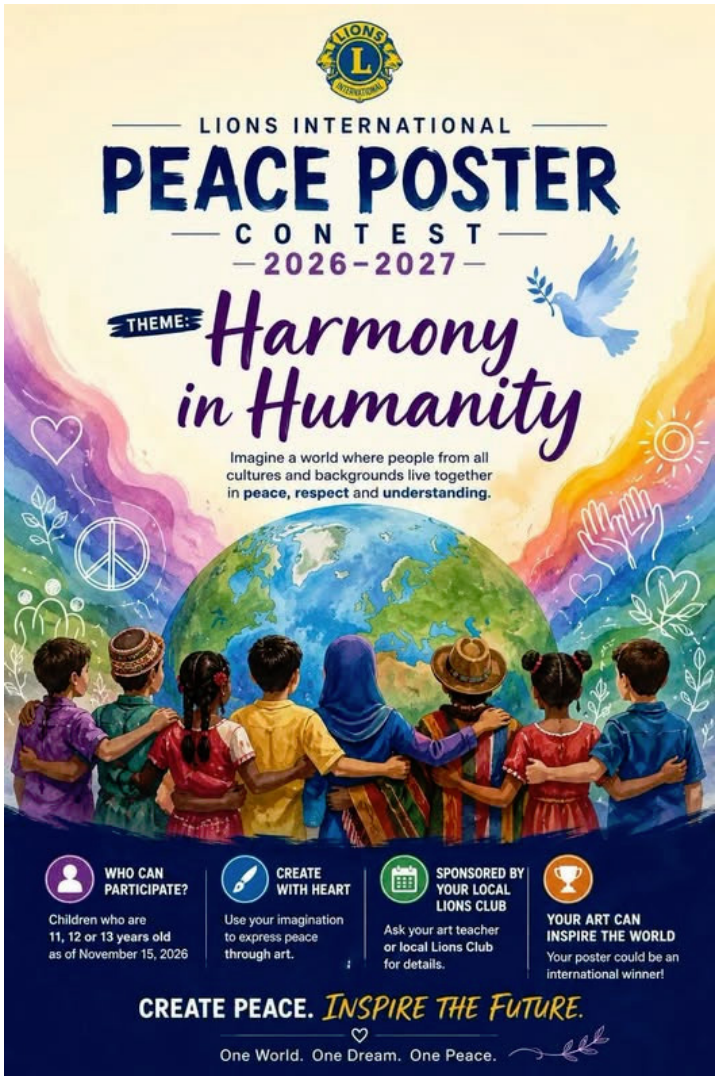
Submission Deadline March 15. 2027

CLUB SUPERSTAR

C/O Peggy Jacobson
6521 W. 78th Ter, Overland Park, KS 66204
Cell 913-548-8402
or email to:

Pegjacob70@gmail.com

Due: March 15, 2026



PEACE POSTER
Important deadlines

If you're planning to sponsor a contest, keep the following dates top of mind so you don't miss any submission deadlines.

Clubs:

November 15: Postmark deadline for a club to send one winning poster (per contest sponsored) to the district governor.

District:

December 1: Postmark deadline for a district governor to send one winning district poster to multiple district council chairperson.

February 1: Club presidents of "international winners" will be notified on or before this date.

Priscilla McCabe,
District Peace Poster Chair
email: prissyruth@yahoo.com

District 17A Marketing Chair, Linda Sloan



Come to McPherson for this year's Fall Rally. Informational programs, a special presentation on the McPherson College Auto Restoration program, and the annual Kansas Lions Band Foundation Auction. I
t's a don't-miss event for all Kansas Lions!

Register today:
https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/annual-gala-7672

Staying in McPherson overnight?
Here are some options*:

Best Western Plus • 200 N Champlin Street (620) 480-2667
Fairfield Inn and Suites • 2270 E. Kansas (620) 504-5353
Hampton Inn • 200 N. Centennial (620) 480-2990
Holiday Inn Express • 2302 E. Kansas (620) 241-5566

*These offer free breakfast, according to Visit McPherson

FALLY RALLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS SUNDAY OCTOBER 18TH!

