



District 17N News

67 Lions clubs serving in south central and south east Kansas | September 2026
Find us on the web at kslions17n.org or on Facebook as KansasLionsDistrict17N



Wichita Northwest Lions in Action: Service That Makes a Difference

Service is not limited to one project, one cause, or one day for the Wichita Northwest Lions Club (WNL). It is commitment to community needs and jumping to act.

Recent Lions service activities demonstrate just how broad that commitment can be. WNL works with several community organizations that assist individuals and families in need such as the Salvation Army, Faith Builders, Helping Hands and the Lord's Diner.



Wichita Northwest Lions Club members Diana Kaufman and Tamra Funk at Simply Hygiene packing hygiene kits for distribution.

Lions helped with food collection, preparation, and distribution, demonstrating that sometimes the most meaningful service is as simple and essential as helping put a meal on someone's table. Feeding people is about more than food; it is also about dignity, compassion, and making sure people know that their community cares.

Wichita Northwest Lions have packed food boxes, dental care kits, assisted with Backpack school supply giveaways and administrative support for volunteer community organizations.

Even the Kansas Lions State Office benefits from Lions service. Volunteers

Continued on page 4

Save the Date!

Fall Rally

Saturday, October 24

McPherson

More info on page 9

2nd District Cabinet Meeting

Saturday, November 7

Emporia

Week of

Service: Vision

October 8-18

For more information:

www.lionsclubs.org/en/member-resource-center/service/global-causes-initiatives/vision



**Order kits by October 1
District deadline is Oct. 31
More info on page 3**



Kansas Lions District 17N Leaders

District Governor

Melanie Snider

Baxter Springs Lions Club

417-529-2138

lionmelsnider@gmail.com

1st Vice District Governor

Barb Schattak

Lyndon Lions Club

785-221-7994

ksyorkies@gmail.com

2nd Vice District Governor

Joyce McDaniel

Valley Center Lions Club

316-259-4122

Lionjoyce.mcdaniel@gmail.com

District Governor Notes

When Comfort Becomes a Cage

Comfort — our environment, our employment, and how we spend our time.

This year, I have been challenged to look at many aspects of my life and ask whether my comfort has become a cage.

For several years, I have found comfort in my employment with two different organizations, yet neither has felt particularly rewarding. My home environment has become filled with clutter from closing family homes and years of deferred care—things I had simply accepted as part of my comfortable place. The way I chose to spend my discretionary time has remained much the same for several years.



I realized that my comfort had become a cage, and I had begun to perceive change as a threat—a risk rather than an opportunity.

This year, I am stepping out of that cage.

I traveled out of the country alone. I have stepped forward to a leadership position within Lions. I have written several grants to support community projects. I have started clearing away clutter that no longer adds value to my life. I have accepted invitations from new groups, expanding my circle of friends and experiences.

None of these changes happened because I suddenly became fearless. They happened because I began asking myself some difficult questions:

Why do I do this?

Is what I have been doing still serving me?

What could I do differently?

What do my family, my friends, and my organizations need from me?

As I ponder these personal questions, I cannot help but wonder:

Have some of our clubs become too comfortable? And if so, is that comfort keeping our clubs strong—or keeping them from growing?

Sometimes stepping outside our comfort zone means trying a new service project. Sometimes it means changing the format of a meeting. Sometimes it means inviting someone new into leadership or listening to a voice we have not heard before. And sometimes it means admitting that a program that once worked well may no longer meet the needs of our community.

Change does not mean abandoning everything that came before us.

I am learning that stepping outside my comfort zone means respecting the past enough to learn from it—and respecting the future enough to prepare for it.

Our clubs have wonderful histories. They have traditions, accomplishments, friendships, and years of service worth celebrating. But our communities are changing, and the needs of the people we serve are changing with them.

Perhaps it is time for each of us to step outside our own comfortable place and ask:

What could we do differently?

Who could we invite to join us?

What new needs could we address?

What are we willing to risk in order to grow?

I invite you to join me in reaching out—learning from our past, valuing what has brought us here, and preparing for the future of service.

Sometimes, the first step toward a stronger future is simply stepping outside the cage of what has always been comfortable.

DG Melanie Snider



Fast Facts:

- It's Due\$ time – LCI statements are available through the portal
- Walk through for service reporting
https://cdn2.webdamdb.com/md_sr4fZakQZQn21MNd.jpg.pdf?v=1
- First Youth Exchange was in 1960 – nine Japanese students came to California while 13 California students traveled to Japan

1st Vice District Governor

Vision Service Week coming in October

It is that time of year where our children go to school and Lions go to schools to do vision screening. This is a service we do to help the children in our state, country and across the world. It is a joy to hear a parent praise Lions for catching an issue with their child's vision early.

International President Mark Lion has declared October 8 through 18, 2026 as Vision Service Week. If you have provided a vision screening, please complete a screening report and forward to one of our District Vision Co-Chairs PCC Pam Bilyeu (bilyeuskies@hotmail.com) or Lion Ginny Caldwell; (ginnycaldwell460@gmail.com). Let's show Lions International how well we serve our communities.



Our district has six spot screeners available for any club's vision screening. To schedule the use of a district screener, your club needs to contact one of the District Vision Co-

2nd Vice District Governor

It's time for Peace Poster contests

The theme for the 2026–2027 Lions International Peace Poster Contest is "Harmony in Humanity."

Students who are eligible to participate must be 11, 12, or 13 years of age as of November 15, 2026 and must be sponsored by a local Lions Club.

The Peace Poster Contest gives young people an opportunity to express their thoughts and creativity while sharing their vision for peace and harmony in our world.

Clubs may purchase a Peace Poster Contest kit for \$11.95, available in either digital or physical form. Kits must be ordered by October 1, 2026. (Postage will be charged for physical kits.) Please read and follow all contest instructions carefully, whether using the digital or physical kit.

Clubs are encouraged to contact schools as soon as possible, as the contest timeline is tight.

October 1, 2026: Deadline to order Peace Poster Contest kits.

November 7, 2026: District MD 17 N judging at the Second Cabinet Meeting in Emporia.

December 1, 2026: District MD 17 N's winning entry must be sent to State Peace Poster Chairperson PDG Richard Caldwell for state judging.



Chairs listed above.

The district does provide warranties for the district screeners. The expiration dates are three warranties due in November, one in 2028, and one in 2029. Currently, the district needs funds to renew the three warranties due in November. We have a Partners in Care program that clubs have been contributing funds for warranty renewals.

As your club supports Vision awareness and youth projects, we are asking clubs to consider making a contribution to the warranty fund ensuring that district screeners operations may continue at a well-maintained level. Contributions of any amount are greatly appreciated.

Many District 17N Lions have will be assisting at the state fair health booth where blood pressure check, blood sugar check, and vision screening are available for young and old alike. A big shout out and thank you to the volunteers from 17N!

Let's help our communities have a brighter future.

*In Lionism,
1VDG Barb Schattak*

January 23, 2027: The formal announcement of the top three state winners will be made at the Third State Council Zoom Meeting.

The top three district winners will receive monetary prizes, which will be awarded at the District 17-N Convention, April 9–10, 2027, in Parsons.

State winners will also be recognized at the Kansas Lions State Convention, June 4–5, 2027, in Topeka.

Questions or for additional information, please contact:

Leah Bromlow
District Peace Poster Chair
1319 E 10th
Winfield, KS 67156
leahbromlows@outlook.com
620-221-9066

PDG Richard Caldwell
State Peace Poster Chair
4609 E Falcon Ct
Wichita KS 67220
teacher.caldwell@gmail.com
316-461-8738

Please encourage your local schools to participate and begin the process early. With the deadlines approaching quickly, early planning and communication will help ensure that students have the opportunity to participate in this meaningful Lions Club project.

*Respectfully submitted
2nd VDG Joyce McDaniel*

Order Peace Poster kits by October 1 at

lionsclubs.org/peaceposter

Wichita Northwest

Continued from page 1

recently spent time raking leaves and trimming trees, proving that service can be found in both large community projects and the everyday tasks that keep our shared spaces welcoming and cared for.

These projects may look different from one another, but they all have something in common: Lions see a need and respond. They give their time, talents, energy, and compassion to make life better for others.

That is the power of Lions service. It is not defined by the size of the project, but by the difference it makes.

Right: Lion Diana Kaufman and Leon Steven at the Kansas Food Bank warehouse.



Special class for Lions' cars at Valley Center Show

Valley Center Lions Club is inviting Lions from across the state with show cars — rods, custom, cars and trucks—to bring them to the 20th Annual Valley Center Lions Car Show on Friday, September 11.

There will be special class just for Lions Club members. We have a special location that will showcase

member's cars, says Jana Burks, Valley Center Lions Club. "It will be participant judging ONLY and there will have be a special award."

Registration is from 3 to 6:30 pm. The show runs from 4 to 9 pm on Main Street in Valley Center.

20th Annual Valley Center Lions Car Show
Celebrating Americas' 250th Year 2026!
...with In Show Remembrance of 9/11

Friday, September 11, 2026
(Rain Date Sunday, September 13- 2pm-5pm)

Presented By
EDEN'S AUTO SALES
(316) 755-4200
EDENSAUTO.COM

Main Street, Valley Center
1/2 Mi. N. of 77th Street on Meridian

4:00 - 9:00 pm
Registration : 3pm - 6:30pm
Judged Awards - Door Prizes - Food

KIDZ FUN ZONE

Rods - Customs - Cars - Trucks
All entries include a Pinnacle Lions All Beef Frank Meal!

BEL AIRE LIONS CLUB
FALL FESTIVAL CAR SHOW
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2026
10:00 AM

\$10 PER CAR, TRUCK AND MOTORCYCLE

BEL AIRE RECREATION CENTER
5251 E. 48TH ST. N
BEL AIRE, KS 67220

ALL ENTRIES RECEIVE A DASH PLAQUE!

PRIZE DRAWINGS THROUGHOUT THE EVENT!

VOTING ENDS AT 12:30 PM

★ AWARDS PRESENTED AT 1:30 PM ★

PEOPLE'S CHOICE BEST DISPLAY LIONS CLUB CHOICE MAYOR'S CHOICE POLICE DEPARTMENT CHOICE PARTICIPANTS' CHOICE

GREAT CARS. GREAT PEOPLE. STRONGER COMMUNITY.
TOGETHER, WE SERVE!

Get on the Membership Bandwagon!

In Lions District 17N, Membership does matter. Now is the time for every Lions Club, their members, and every club officer in District 17N to get on the membership bandwagon. Together, every Lion can make District 17N stronger by inviting one new Lion.

Membership growth is everyone's responsibility. Strong clubs don't just happen—they happen because Lions are willing to invite others to join us in serving our communities.

Club officers can lead the way by making membership a priority at every meeting. Members can help by simply asking a friend, neighbor, coworker, family member, or community leader.

Imagine what would happen if every Lion in District 17N brought just one new person to a meeting or service project. That one Lion who does so may be the reason a prospective member may experience the joy of service.

Let's build stronger clubs, develop new leaders, and increase the impact of Lions throughout District 17N.

*PDG Richard Caldwell
District 17 N Membership Team*



McCune Lions Club

*80 Years
07/09/1946*

Winfield Lions Club

*105 Years
07/14/1921*

Osage City Lions Club

*86 Years
08/15/1939*

Chanute Lions Club

*80 Years
08/19/1946*

Reading Lions Club

*70 Years
09/11/1956*

Olpe Lions Club

*72 Years
09/30/1954*

Welcome to the Pride New members in July & August

New Member

Sponsor

Arkansas City Early Birds

Rachel Ghram Canyon Ginger

Baxter Springs

Autumn Nelson Melanie Snider

Emporia

Wendy Weiss Gary Post

Garnett

Delton Hodgson W H Craig
Blake Stanwood Skip Landis

Goddard

Stephanie Dir Corey Dir
Luis Velazquez Corey Dir

Hesston

Charles Buller Craig Gingerich
Darlene Buller Craig Gingerich
Tammi Krehbiel Dale Koehn
Todd Krehbiel Dale Koehn
Michael Lamb Dale Koehn
Andrew Sharp Dale Koehn
Kevin Wilder Craig Gingerich

Neosho Rapids

Jon Heckathorn Stephen Zumbrunn

Osage City

Rainer Arnett Kevin Stromgren
Duane Colwell Richard Burkdoll
Keaton Curley Clayton Holmberg

Towanda

Emma Bolz Faith McDaniel
Paige Gebhardt Faith McDaniel
Trinda Humphrey Kari Farmer
Eva Ives Faith McDaniel
Iralynn Kimberlin Faith McDaniel
Hunter Zanatta Faith McDaniel

Valley Center

Kristi Arends Duretta Wretberg
Ruth Ann Arends Duretta Wretberg
Marilyn Blevins Kristi Arends

Westphalia

Clark Dennison Olivia Lehman



Around the District

Submit your club activities to newsletter17n@cox.net

Deadline is always the 25th of the month



At left: Colony Lions grilled hot dogs for the Crest School Community Open House.

Above: IPDG Clark Lindstrom, left, presented Fredonia Lions Joseph Bambick and Bob Timmons chevrons for 45 years of service in the Fredonia Lions Club.

Below: Valley Center Lions assisted with the Convoy of Hope Back-to-School event in Valley Center, providing vision screening and handing out food bags.



Humboldt Lions had a beautiful sunny Saturday in May for the club's 24th Annual Fishing Derby for Kids. The 30 youth participating caught 87 fish in the Humboldt Golf Course pond. Pictured are the seven Humboldt Lions who worked the event with the prize winners.



Independence Lions recently donated to support Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program at the Independence Library. Pictured, from left, Charlotte Cafilisch, Independence Lions Club's Youth Committee Chairman; Kelli Puderbaugh and Joslyn Kusiak, representing the Independence Imagination Library; and Warren Tharp, Independence Lions Club president.



PID Anne Smarsh, far left, inducts members of the 17N cabinet during the first district meeting in Wellington. From left, Warren Tharp, PDG Chris Bauer, PDG Don Cunningham, Gary Schattak, Jerry Smith, Charlotte Cafilisch, Peggy Dilsaver-Custer, Gary O'Neal, PDG Gene Allen, Don Bromlow, Don Sefers, Lynda Falley; in back, PDG Willie Tolle, PDG Stephen Langley and Jon Freund.

Capture seasons change for photo contest

As summer heads into fall, nature changes all around us. Flowers go dormant, animals prepare for winter. Birds start migrating south, and trees start changing colors.

As Lions we care about our environment and the beauty it brings to our communities. What a great time of year to capture photographs for the District 17N photo contest!

Trees are a great way to add beauty, shade, and make our communities healthier. Trees clean our air, cool our cities, provide shelter and food for animals, and help reverse the effects of climate change. Planting trees can be a rewarding and fun service project for Lions Clubs.

Did you know that the Arbor Day Foundation will give away trees for a donation of any size? Getting involved is easy! Visit <https://www.arborday.org/membership>, input your zip code, choose your dona-

tion amount, and choose a tree species. Plan a planting service day with your local park, nature center, or neighborhoods. Don't forget to submit your service to Lions portal.

Katie Southworth
District Environmental Chair



MD-17N KANSAS
LION or LEO
2026-2027
ENVIRONMENTAL
PHOTO CONTEST

Start preparing YOUR ENTRIES NOW!

CATEGORIES

- ANIMAL LIFE**
- PLANT LIFE**
- WEATHER PHENOMENON**
- URBAN OR NATURAL LANDSCAPE**
(No people can be shown in pictures)
- ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE PROJECT**
(People/Lions/Leos can be in photos)

No digitally edited, or filter enhanced photos. Normal cropping, color correction, etc are acceptable.

Submitted photos are understood to be property of Kansas Lions MD17.

Submission of people in photos infer photo release permission was obtained.

Congratulations,

WESTPHALIA LIONS CLUB!

Your dedication to your community has made a lasting impact. Because of YOU, the Westphalia Community Park is getting the upgrade it deserves!

You did it!
\$60,000 LCIF Matching Grant SECURED!

Over \$76,000 raised by your amazing community

PROJECT APPROVED with LCIF

LOOKING AHEAD
Installation and dedication Spring 2027!

You're building more than a playground—
YOU'RE BUILDING COMMUNITY.

KANSAS LIONS FOUNDATION FOCUS

August 2026

DID YOU KNOW?

The Kansas Lions Foundation can help your club raise more money!

This year, the Kansas Lions Foundation (KLF) will periodically share information through our District and State newsletters about what KLF does and how it can help Lions throughout our great state. Let's start with something that could be especially helpful to your club!

Helping Clubs Without a 501(c)(3)

Every Lion in Kansas MD17 is a member of the Kansas Lions Foundation. That gives your club access to a valuable resource when you are looking for donations to support your local Lions projects. Many businesses and individuals would love to support a Lions project, but they may require the organization receiving their donation to be a 501(c)(3) charitable organization so they can receive a tax deduction.

The Kansas Lions Foundation can help! KLF is a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation and can establish a Club Project Account for your Lions Club. For a one-time \$5 service fee, your club can use this account to receive donations for a designated project.

So, How Does It Work?

- **Set up your Club Project Account.** Do this with KLF before accepting any donations.
- **Tell KLF about your project.** Explain the project and how you would like the funds handled.
- **Ask local businesses and individuals to help.** Invite them to support your project.
- **Have checks made payable to KLF.** All checks must be made payable to the Kansas Lions Foundation.
- **Put the funds to work.** KLF receives the donations and credits them to your club's designated project account.

ONE IMPORTANT REMINDER: The Club Project Account must be established before a donation is accepted, and all checks must be made payable to the Kansas Lions Foundation.

Don't Give Up on That Potential Donation!

So, the next time a local business tells you, "We'd love to help, but we can only donate to a 501(c)(3)," don't give up! The Kansas Lions Foundation may be able to help you turn that "maybe" into a donation.

More donations can mean more service—and more lives impacted by Lions!

Want to Learn More?

We encourage your club to take advantage of this valuable resource. Visit the Kansas Lions Foundation website for more information and the Club Project Account application:

www.kansaslionsfoundation.org/support

**Yours in Service,
PDG Steve Langley
President, Kansas Lions Foundation**



**DISTRICT
MD 17**

Fall Rally
**RED,
WHITE,
& ROAR**

Save the Date!

 **OCTOBER
23RD & 24TH,
2026**

 **McPHERSON,
KS**

 **UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
1200 E. Kansas Avenue**

**UNITING IN
SERVICE,
BUILDING A
STRONGER
TOMORROW.**



HONORING OUR PAST. SERVING TODAY. BUILDING TOMORROW.



LEARN
Gain Knowledge



INSPIRE
Spark Ideas



GROW
Develop Leaders



SERVE
Make an Impact



KLBF *
BAND AUCTION**

Help support local music
and our community!



**BRING
BASKET
AUCTION ITEMS**

Your donations help
make our auctions
a *BIG* success!

\$25

**FOR REGISTRATION
AND LUNCH!**

*Lunch Provided on
Saturday!*

HOTEL INFORMATION

 **Best
Western.**

610 N. Main St.
McPherson, KS
(620) 241-2424

 **CANDLEWOOD
SUITES**

1408 N. Main St.
McPherson, KS
(620) 242-9292

 **Hampton
Inn**

2000 E. First St.
McPherson, KS
(620) 241-1200

**Fairfield
BY MARRIOTT**

2101 E. First St.
McPherson, KS
(620) 241-1900

LEARN * INSPIRE * GROW * SERVE





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