



The Kansas Lions News

Vol. 64 No. 3 • Spring 2019 • Kansas Lions online: www.kansaslions.org

Kansas Lions to throw birthday bash in Lawrence

The Kansas Lions State Convention is May 31-June 1, celebrating 100 years of Kansas Lionism!

The 2019 Kansas Lions State Convention will be a landmark event you don't want to miss. Kansas Lions will mark its 100th birthday with a weekend of great activities.

There is a change to the normal routine this year. The Thursday night dinner will **not** be a part of your registration. But reservations will be made at the Boulevard Grill in the Double Tree by Hilton (the convention hotel). Let convention chair Margy Sundstrom know if you will attend so enough space is reserved. You may reach her at 940-390-7430 or email: margaret1226@gmail.com.

The convention kicks off Friday morning with the Foundation and Committee meetings, along with the Fourth State Council Meeting. Throughout the weekend, the **Lawrence** and **Eudora Lions** will provide a Hospitality Room. Please

See **STATE CONVENTION** on page 4



Hula dancers, including CC Deb Weaverling, will help Lions celebrate a milestone birthday at State Convention. Contributed photo



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Key Dates

May 10: Deadline for hotel rooms (785-841-7077); ask for Lions block (rate: \$109)
May 24: Deadline for registration/meals (see page 5)

CC Deb Weaverling endorsed as International Director candidate

A special State Convention held at Mid-Winter Rally has resulted in the endorsement of Council Chair Deb Weaverling as a candidate for International Director of Lions Clubs International.



CC Deb Weaverling

PDG Chris Bauer, chair of the MD-17 Constitution and By-Laws Standing Committee, opened the special convention on Saturday afternoon, Jan. 27, by telling Lions that an endorsement would be good for three years.

Past International Director Bill Phillippi said that two candidates had expressed interest in being endorsed, both from District A. An election

was held at the district level, which resulted in CC Weaverling emerging as the proposed candidate. The purpose of the special State Convention was to formally endorse her candidacy.

PCC Beverly Nichols and Lion Jack Walker presented the nominating and seconding speeches (see complete text of those speeches on page 2). The speeches highlighted CC Weaverling's accomplishments both in and out of Lions, and concluded that she possesses the attributes to represent Kansas Lions well and be a successful International Director.

A ballot vote was taken and Lions voted to endorse CC Weaverling as a candidate for International Director.

After the vote, CC Weaverling told Lions that she had been seeking guidance from other Lions and past International Directors as she prepared to become a candidate.

"I promise you this will be my full-time job," she said. "I

See **WEAVERLING** on page 2

interest in being endorsed, both from District A. An election

Nominating speeches extol reasons CC Weaverling is worthy candidate

Editor’s note: Following are the nominating speeches for Council Chair Deb Weaverling to become a candidate for International Director. The speeches were given at the special State Convention during Mid-Winter Rally.

Nominating speech by PCC Beverly Nichols

It is my pleasure to place the name of Deb Weaverling in nomination as a candidate for our district’s endorsement as an International Director. I want to focus on her Service, her Team work, her Persistence, her Outreach, and her Enthusiasm.

WE SERVE is the battle cry of all Lions. Deb has known about service since childhood. Where better to learn about

Weaverling *Continued from previous page*

learn from all of you. This journey, to stand in front of you and say I will be an International Director candidate from Kansas, I wouldn’t give it up for anything.”

She thanked PCC Beverly and PDG Neal Nichols for being guides and mentors. She also thanked Lion Margy Sundstrom for being her traveling partner to many Lions events. And she said, “I am honored and blessed to do this with my husband (Lion Ron).”

Kansas Lions now have an endorsed candidate for consideration at the LCI Convention July 5-9 in Milan, Italy. Read more about CC Weaverling’s journey in an article published in The Leavenworth Times and reprinted with permission in this issue on page 14.

service than in the American military? Deb was born in Honolulu, where her soldier dad was stationed at Schofield Army Barracks. After a brief time in Germany, the family moved to Columbus, Ga., home of Ft. Benning. Deb grew up in Columbus, where she met a young army officer named Ron Weaverling. She served as an active army officer’s wife in locations all over the United States as well as Europe. The last post was at Ft. Leavenworth, and the area has been Deb and Ron’s home since 1990.

TEAM WORK is vital to any individual who is successful in a leadership role. Army life – both as a child and as an officer’s wife – gave Deb a golden opportunity to be part of a team, sometimes as a member and sometimes as a leader. She spent 16 years coaching a competitive swim team and had the pleasure of seeing two daughters receive swimming scholarships to their respective colleges. She has been part of a team in multiple civic organizations – United Way, American Red Cross, Chamber of Commerce – receiving awards for leadership in some of those organizations. And certainly, as a Lion she has been part of a team at the local, district, and state levels.

PERSISTENCE – and time management also are necessary characteristics for a successful leader. Deb earned a bachelor’s degree in business and an MBA, both with a focus on human resources, while working full time, coaching her daughters’ swim teams, and maintaining a household. And she still found time to become a Lion.

OUTREACH to others – individuals and clubs – is a trade-

Continued on next page

2018-19 Council of Governors

Council Chair

Deb Weaverling (Ron)
Leavenworth Lions Club
127 Hampton Court
Lansing 66043
H 913.727.5582
C 913.683.3846
dweaverling@gmail.com

17-A
John Burns (Becky)
Olathe Evening Lions Club
14726 S. Murray Lane
Olathe 66062
C 913.558.7838
jwb101644@gmail.com
District website:
kansaslions17A.org

District Governors

17-K
Reland A. Cole
Great Bend Evening Lions Club
76 South East 20th Road
Great Bend 67530
C 620.797.5401
colebody@carrollswab.com
District website:
<https://lionswowinks.org>

17-N
Patrick Laham (Merle)
Augusta Lions Club
1308 Bobbie Street
Augusta 67010
H/C 316.648.2078
PatrickLaham@gmail.com
District website:
kansaslions17n.org

Calendar

- May 31-June 1, 2019
*Fourth State Council Meeting/
State Convention, Lawrence*
- July 5-9, 2019
*Lions Clubs International Convention,
Milan, Italy*
- July 26-28, 2019
*Great Plains Lions Leadership
Institute, Maryville, Mo.*

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on Facebook



Continued from previous page

mark of Deb's life as a Lion. Visits to district clubs as a Vice District Governor and then as District Governor are expected. Deb's commitment during those three years went far beyond attending just club meetings; she helped with fundraisers and service projects, often with Lion Ron at her side. Before she was elected to a district office she served as zone chair for six different district governors. That's a lot of service! She was **Leavenworth Lions** Visitation Chair for several years. She and a contingent of 10-12 Leavenworth Lions visited a district club each month. Several foreign military officers are active members of the Leavenworth Lions Club. Deb and Ron have been able to reach out to those officers and their families both formally and informally. These contacts, along with military stations overseas, give Deb an appreciation for different cultures and customs that she can expect to encounter as an International Director.

ENTHUSIASM is a trademark of Deb Weaverling. Her enthusiasm starts with people. She truly loves people and makes a person feel good just to be in her company. She loves her own family – three daughters and eight grandchildren. Even with her many Lions' activities, she and Ron find time to actively engage with their grandkids. Deb is an avid Chiefs fan. This creates a bit of friendly tension with the equally avid Steelers fan who lives at the same address.

Deb has a heart for service; she is a team player, and she demonstrates her contagious enthusiasm in all that she does. I ask you to join me in endorsing Deb Weaverling as our district's candidate for International Director.

Seconding speech by Leavenworth Lion Jack Walker

Fellow Lions,

I am honored to provide a second to the nomination from PCC Nichols for Council Chair Debra Weaverling to be an International Director. For 20 years, CC Deb has been an integral part of our state's largest club. She has demonstrated her ability to lead and manage through all the offices from the club, the district, and now the State Council. She holds a BS in Business and a Master's in Business Administration. CC Deb has been trained in Lionism at Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute, Advanced Lions Leadership Institute, the Leadership Excellence course in Phoenix and District Governor Elect Training at the state and International level. She understands Lionism and has put its ideals in practice in all the leadership roles she has undertaken to include formation of a new club and being a Guiding Lion of the **Tonganoxie Lions Club**.

The Leavenworth Club rewards dedication, commitment and leadership with presentation of the Melvin Jones Fellowship and the Claude DeVorss Fellowship; Deb Weaverling has been honored by our club with both, along with being designated the Lion of the Year for 2002. CC Deb has all of these traits and has been recognized with the International President's Leadership Medal and several Certificates



Past Council Chair Beverly Nichols (left) congratulates current CC Deb Weaverling after Lions formally endorsed Weaverling as a candidate for International Director. Nichols gave the nominating speech. Photo by Becky Funke

of Achievement for her dedicated leadership.

The role of an International Director is not just an honorary title, it is a title that signifies that the Lion who holds the title is knowledgeable of the Lion programs, dedicated to service and is willing to work for the betterment and growth of Lionism. Being an International Director involves travels and the commitment to be prepared to fulfill a director's commitment to the International Family.

Deb Weaverling has demonstrated her willingness to carry that load while serving as the Council Chair. In fact, she and her Lion husband Ron were solid partners in fulfilling those commitments and gaining some fame as the team where you get two for one. Deb is a gracious hostess or guest with whom you feel at ease quickly. She fits in with any group effortlessly and will represent Kansas Lions well as she represents the International Lion Family with other Lions clubs.

Lion Deb still participates with her home club as a board member and the treasurer of the Club Charities. She has remained active in the local community with her active membership in the Women's Division of the Chamber Of Commerce, where she was a former President and recognized with the presentation of the National Athena Award for making a difference and giving back to the community.

She has served as a board member of the Local American Red Cross for 10 years and is now serving as the Treasurer for the United Way of Leavenworth County.

CC Debra Weaverling is the right person, with the right training and experience, at the right time to continue her leadership as an International Director, helping to lead our organization to a brighter future.

State Convention *Continued from page 1*

enjoy refreshments and fellowship.

The speaker for the Friday luncheon is one of our own, Lion Tina Jinkens from the **Eudora Lions Club**. She will tell us about how Lions has affected her life and her training for the Boston Marathon.

On Friday night we will enjoy hula dancing, including our own CC Deb Weaverling. For those of you who saw the dancers at the 17A District Convention, you know you are in for a real treat.

Saturday morning is always a highlight. We will be treated to a fantastic performance by the 2019 Kansas Lions Band. It will be held in Baldwin City at Baker University. Driving directions

will be included in the convention book.

The official celebration will be held at Saturday's Kansas Lions **birthday party** luncheon. Our guest speaker will be Matthew Veatch, state archivist at the Kansas State Historical Society in Topeka. He will talk with us about Kansas and Kansas Lions over the past 100 years.

We have two great seminars lined up for Saturday afternoon. One will be PCC Mary Rynearson from California. She will tell us about the new program, "New Voices." Guys, this is NOT just for the ladies. She will provide great information for everyone.

Our second seminar will feature LCIF

Campaign 100. We will hear about how this foundation works and about the great things that LCIF does.

Our banquet Saturday evening will honor our current Council and present our incoming District Governors. Our featured speaker for the banquet will be International Director Tom Gordon from Newmarket, Ontario, Canada.

Mark the calendar, reserve your room and meals and pack your bags.

Also be sure to get your artistic juices flowing and get your theme basket made for the basket auction, with bids accepted until 3 p.m. Saturday. Winners will be announced at the banquet (*see details below*).

State Convention • May 31-June 1 • Lawrence

ID Tom Gordon is convention special guest

International Director Tom Gordon from Newmarket, Ontario, Canada, was elected to serve a two-year term as a director of Lions Clubs International at the association's 100th International Convention held in Chicago June 30-July 4, 2017.

Director Gordon is a retired educator and owner of a human resources training company. A member of the Newmarket North Lions Club since 1982, he has held many offices within the association, including club secretary, treasurer, and president, zone and region chairperson, district governor and council chairperson and multiple district GLT coordinator.

In addition, Director Gordon has presented training and information seminars at local, multiple district, and international conventions. Director Gordon also is a Lions Quest trainer and trainer-of-trainers and has presented Lions Quest workshops across Canada and the U.S. since 1988. He also is a member of the faculty of the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum.

In recognition of his service to the association, he has received numerous



ID Tom Gordon

awards, including the Membership Key Award, the Extension Award, two International Leadership Awards, and two International President's awards. He also is a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow.

In addition to his Lions activities, Director Gordon has been active in numerous professional and community organizations, and has served on the board of directors of York Region Addiction Services, Habitat for Humanity and Lions Quest Canada.

Director Gordon and his wife, Gillian, who also is a Lion, have two daughters, one son, three grandchildren, two nieces and four grandnieces.

Gift basket auction details

Here is how you can be involved in the gift basket auction at State Convention.

Choose a theme to reflect the history, heritage or highlights of living in your community. Fill the basket with lots of goodies and bring it to the State Convention in Lawrence by Friday evening's meal.

Bid on purchasing your favorite basket before 3 p.m. on Saturday. Pick up the basket(s) you purchased after the banquet on Saturday evening.

The auction is sponsored by the Multiple District PDG Club with proceeds to go toward scholarships for Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute (*see p. 13*).

To register or if you have questions, contact PDG Carleen Rajala 913-481-7328, lioncarleen@gmail.com.



KANSAS LIONS STATE CONVENTION
May 31 – June 1, 2019
Lawrence, Kansas

*Let's celebrate 100 years
of Kansas Lions*



Registration and Meal Reservation Form

	Number		Amount
Registration (fee applies to all attendees except Leos)	_____	@\$10.00	\$ _____
Friday Lunch, baked potato bar & more	_____	@\$16.00	\$ _____
Friday Dinner, Kansas City BBQ buffet	_____	@\$18.00	\$ _____
Saturday Lunch, boxed lunch (ham and swiss croissant)	_____	@\$15.00	\$ _____
BIRTHDAY PARTY!!			
Saturday Banquet, chicken parmesan, potato, green beans, salad, carrot cake	_____	@\$19.00	\$ _____
Gratuity included in all meal prices		TOTAL	\$ _____

Please list any special dietary needs _____

Lion(s) Leo(s) guest _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Lions or Leo Club _____

District **K A N** (please circle one)

Make check payable to Kansas Lions

Mail reservations to: Lion Lela Gillispie by May 24, 2019

1414 Givens Road, Manhattan, KS 66503

785-532-8611 kayg7@cox.net

FINAL DATE FOR MEAL RESERVATION IS 05/24/19

ROOM RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BEFORE May 10, 2019

DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON, 200 McDONALD DRIVE, LAWRENCE, KS 66044

Call 785-841-7077 and ask for Kansas Lions block.

Please complete and return by deadline.

EXHIBITORS / VENDORS TABLE REQUEST FORM

Kansas Lions State Convention – MD 17

May 31 – June 1, 2019

Name of Exhibitor / Vendor _____

Contact person _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Contact phone #: _____ Email _____

Please check as necessary. Indicate if more than one table is needed.

_____ Electricity requested

_____ Not-for-profit or Lions Program/Foundations or pin collector

_____ For-profit Companies

Special request:

Suggested hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday (Most Lions will be off site at the band concert from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday.)

Exhibitor area will be ready for exhibitors to set up after 3 p.m. Thursday.

Area Description: one table (8'x30" that is skirted/covered) and two chairs.

Electricity is limited; first come, first serve for electrical outlets.

Email or mail completed form by May 23, 2019 to:

Lion Bob Jernigan Jernigan165@yahoo.com

PO Box 165 785-887-6160

Lecompton, KS 66050

If you have any questions, please contact Lion Margy Sundstrom 940-390-7430 or email margaret1226@gmail.com.

MUST HAVE TABLE(S) RESERVED IN ADVANCE

Now is time to sign up Lions Band students for 2019 camp

Kansas Lions Band – 2019. This annual event is fast approaching. Kansas Lions clubs, have you selected your student(s), sent in their applications, or made a donation to help cover the cost of the camp for a deserving student outside of your local area?

The last several years have given us the opportunity to meet the needs of multiple students who do not have a local Lions club or allow more students than the local club can sponsor. During these recent years, Lion Shari has been successful (via emails and phone calls) at finding sponsors for the students who do not have sponsors.

As of April, MD-17 has 231 clubs. That would be a great band if each club sponsored at least one student. The good news is that there are many clubs that sponsor multiple students. The not so good news is that there are several clubs that do not sponsor any students. The cost of \$250 to send a student to the Kansas Lions Band camp (a fee that has not seen an increase in many years) is a small price for a service organization to pay to help further a student's musical knowledge and playing ability. As Lions we follow the creed and motto "We Serve." Our service to community, state, nation, and world is what makes us one of

the best service organizations anywhere.

If you have never been to a State Convention and enjoyed the Saturday morning concert, you have missed out on a performance that is truly remarkable. You would soon recognize the extreme achievement these students accomplish with supreme effort in just more than three days. Students arrive on registration day (Tuesday at noon). Once registered, each plays for an instructor to receive chair placement assignments and some even go the extra mile to try out for a spot in the Jazz Band. Finally, that first evening, they start the first of many long rehearsals.

The students participate in hours and hours of rehearsal for the next three days. A normal day starts with a wake-up knock on the door at 6 a.m. by a friendly chaperone and ends with a room check at 10:30 p.m. by the same friendly chaperone. With only three days of rehearsal, the students perform Friday night, showcasing the various ensembles and

lively tunes from the Jazz Band. The very next morning the students perform for the Lions, parents and guests with a full band concert.

As Lions, we know the meaning of commitment and accomplishment. Kansas Lions Band students also know those virtues. Your financial assistance and support for this program has made it a part of our history and something of which we can be very proud. A club's decision should not be simply based on dollars and cents, but what it means to the enrichment of your student. Remember, every large fire started with one simple little spark. Who really knows where the next great musical artist will come from?

I will close this call to serve with a quote from William Bennett, former U.S. Secretary of Education, "*The arts are an essential element of education, just like reading, writing, and arithmetic ... music, dance, painting, and theater are all keys that unlock profound human understanding and accomplishment.*"

*In Lionism Service,
PCC Hans & Lion Shari Neidhardt
Kansas Lions Band Committee Chairs*



It's getting late - do you know where your Lions band students are? Get them signed up today for the 2019 band camp at Baker University.



Lions Band students rehearse intensely to prepare for their performances.

STATE CONVENTION BOOK ADVERTISEMENT

This is your opportunity, as an individual or as a club, to be a part of the 2019 Lions State Convention. The State Convention book will be both informative and commemorative, as we are celebrating 100 years of Kansas Lions. It is a great way for both Lions and Lions clubs to have a part in this celebration.

Yes, I/we would like to sponsor an advertisement in the State Convention book:

_____ Full page \$110.00 (3.25 x 8.5 inches)

_____ Half page \$60.00 (3.25 x 4.25 inches)

_____ Quarter page \$35.00 (3.25 x 2 inches)

_____ Individual sponsorship listing \$15.00

_____ Individual sponsorship listing (**BOLD**) \$25.00

All ads printed in color.

Club Name _____

Individual Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please complete and return with your payment to PCC Beverly Nichols,
6116 West 85th Terrace, Overland Park, KS 66207. Email the ad to taximath@aol.com.
(All ads must be pdf or jpeg format and be the correct size.) Call 913-642-7520 with any questions.
Make check payable to: Kansas Lions State Convention.

DEADLINE FOR ADVERTISEMENT IS MAY 10, 2019.

State Convention agenda

Thursday, May 30

3-6 p.m. Registration, Lobby Area
3-6 p.m., 8-10 p.m. Hospitality Room

Friday, May 31

8 a.m.-5 p.m. Registration (closed during luncheon)
8 a.m. Kansas Lions Sight Foundation
9 a.m. Budget & Finance / Kansas Lions Band Foundation /
K-I Committee
9 a.m.-5 p.m. Hospitality Room (closed during luncheon),
Displays/vendors
10-11:45 a.m. Fourth State Council Meeting
Noon Luncheon, hosted by PDG Club; Guest speaker:
Lion Tina Jinkens, Eudora Lions Club
2:00 p.m. State Convention Business Session
Immediately following meeting:
Kansas Lions Band Foundation Board of Directors Election
of Officers 2019-2020 (current District Governors, District
Governors Elect, Current Band Foundation Directors,
Incoming Foundation Directors).
3:30-5 p.m. First & Second Vice District Governors Elect
(2019-20) & Spouses

6:30 p.m. Dinner/Entertainment: Hula dancing

Saturday, June 1

7:30 a.m. Kansas Lions Foundation
8-5 p.m. Displays and Exhibits/Registration
(closed for Band Concert & Luncheon)
10 a.m. Band Concert, Baker University
(directions in convention book)
11:45 a.m. Luncheon; Guest speaker: Matthew Veatch,
state archivist, Kansas State Historical Society
Following luncheon – Service of Remembrance, remembering
our Lions who have died in the past year
2-4:30 p.m. Special Seminars
PCC Mary Rynearson from California, “New Voices”
LCIF Campaign 100
6:00 p.m. State Council, DGEs, International Family,
Convention Chairs assemble for march in
6:30 p.m. Convention Banquet;
Special speaker: International Director Tom Gordon

The State Convention concludes after the Saturday banquet.

By-laws updates on agenda for State Convention business meeting

Editor's note: The following by-laws changes will be voted on at State Convention. The proposed additional language is in **bold** and underlined. Language to be deleted is marked with ~~strikethrough~~.

ARTICLE X

Kansas-International Committee

SECTION 2. This committee shall consist of one member from each District, who shall be a past District Governor in good standing of a Club in good standing, appointed or re-appointed by the respective District Governor prior to the first State Council Meeting and any Past International President and Past International Director residing in and in good standing within Multiple District No. 17, as ex officio members. The Chairperson of the Kansas-International Committee shall be selected by a majority vote of said District committee members.

SECTION 5. The Kansas-International

Committee shall meet at the discretion and call of the Chairperson or at the request of **the majority of the any four (4)** voting members. A majority of the total voting membership of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VI

State Council Committees

SECTION 6. The following State Council Standing Committees ~~shall~~ **may** be appointed by the Committee on Committees:

Add (9) Global Service Team (GST) and (11) State Publications

- (1) State Convention
- (2) International Convention
- (3) Budget and Finance
- (4) Constitution and By-Laws
- (5) Long Range Planning
- (6) Historical
- (7) Global Membership Team (GMT)
- (8) Global Leadership Team (GLT)

(9) Global Service Team (GST)

(10) Public Relations

(11) State Publications

In Constitution ARTICLE XII Alignment and In By-Laws ARTICLE IX Amendments

SECTION 3. AUTOMATIC UPDATE: When amendments to the International Constitution and By-Laws are passed at the International Convention, any amendments that would have an effect on Multiple District 17 Constitution and By-Laws shall automatically be updated in this said **multiple** district constitution and by-laws at the close of the International Convention. **In addition, when the Lions Clubs International Board of Directors approve mandatory changes to the Multiple District Standard Constitution and By-laws they shall automatically be updated in this said multiple district constitution and by-laws.**

DELEGATE CERTIFICATION FORM – 2019 MD 17 STATE CONVENTION

Club Name _____ Lion _____

This certifies that the above named person is a duly elected

Delegate Alternate

To the 2019 MD-17 Lions State Convention at Lawrence, KS on May 31, 2019

And said Lion is in good standing with their club. The Club President or Secretary attests to this appointment.

President or Secretary Signature

Delegate/Alternate Signature

NOTE: This form must be presented upon registration at the State Convention. Per Lions Clubs International and MD-17 Constitutions and By-laws, all Clubs, in good standing with the Association, MD-17 and their District, shall be entitled to one (1) voting delegate and one (1) alternate for each ten (10) members, or major fraction thereof, of their membership on April 1, 2019. All Past District Governors, Past International Officers and International Officers shall be entitled to full delegate privileges, independent of club delegates.

*****PLEASE HAVE THIS FORM COMPLETED AND BRING IT WITH YOU TO THE CONVENTION*****

**Got
news?**

Send it to The Kansas Lions News

E-mail: ndbdesk@cox.net

Mail: Nancy Borst, PO Box 127, Goddard 67052

Deadline for next issue: July 1, 2019

Please send original photo files – do NOT downsize! Thanks!

Kansas Peace Poster winner earns LCI recognition

The theme for this year's Peace Poster Contest was "Kindness Matters" and Kansas Lions honored three statewide winning posters at Mid-Winter Rally.

The first place poster was created by Raquelle Torres, 13, from Ulysses. She is an eighth grader at Kepley Middle School and was sponsored by the **Ulysses Lions**. She was unable to attend MWR. Raquelle wrote that, "Kindness Matters to me because I believe it shows character and can affect someone in a positive way. Whether it be brightening someone's day by helping in the time of need or by spreading joy and happiness or simply showing humility, your actions speak louder than words. Our kindness makes the world a better place. Making an injury feel better with love, being a friend to someone who you see needs one, showing sympathy for someone who cannot provide for themselves, and a simple hug to show you care when life is overwhelming. Those are some of many random acts of kindness."

Her poster won acclaim from Lions Clubs International, where it was named one of 23 Merit winners in the



Raquelle Torres (District K) topped entries in Kansas and also won an LCI merit award.

31st Annual International Peace Poster Contest. That honor was based on the poster's creativity, originality and portrayal of the theme.

Raquelle received \$500 from LCI along with a certificate of merit. Hers was one of 600,000 posters entered.

Only 116 posters were forwarded to LCI for consideration.

The second place winning poster at the statewide level was created by Kyla Lankton, 12, from LeRoy. She is a sixth grader and was sponsored by the **Westphalia Lions**. Her poster won the District N contest. Kyla wrote about kindness, "Be that piece of kindness every puzzle's missing."

Third place in the state contest went to Keira Beverly, 13, from Tonganoxie. She is an eighth grader at Tonganoxie Middle School and was sponsored by the Art Club and **Tonganoxie Lions**. Her poster was the winning entry in District A's contest. She wrote, "Though most people may think 'peace' means a calm, quiet place, I believe that 'peace' opens a gateway of freedom and respect of equal rights of the people and working together to gain justice that prevails in the world."

This year's contest was chaired by PDG Sheryl Brenn.

See third place poster photograph on next page.



Kyla Lankton (District N) poses with her second place poster. Photo by Becky Funke



'Kindness Matters'

A happy Keira Beverly (District A) was the third place winner in the MD-17 Peace Poster Contest. She shows off her award here with Lion & U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran, R-Kan., who attended the Saturday luncheon. This year's theme was "Kindness Matters."

Photo by Becky Funke

2019 Mid-Winter Rally • Jan. 25-27, 2019 • Manhattan

MWR luncheon highlights youth, new LCI diabetes initiative

By Nancy D. Borst

The Saturday luncheon at Mid-Winter Rally was busy with presentations and information.

In addition to honoring youth, PDG Sheryl Brenn presented a Melvin Jones Fellow to her daughter, Laurel Warren, secretary of the **Wamego Lions Club**.

Longtime Kansas Lion U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran spoke briefly, admitting he had invited himself to the luncheon. He lamented that his day job keeps him from staying involved at the club level.

"I miss connecting with my Lions every Tuesday at noon," he said. He has been a Lion for 42 years and is a member of the **Hays Lions Club**.

He said the attitude and approach of Lions can be so important to what the future of our country.

Among the new LCI initiatives is diabetes and Lions at the MWR luncheon heard firsthand about the disease from Lora Furster of the American Diabetes Association. The Hutchinson native

works with summer camps in several states for children with diabetes.

She said when children come to the camps, they get to be themselves because everyone else is just like them. "Kids come to camp where they are the normal people," she said. For perhaps the first time, they are where checking blood sugars frequently, eat-



Lora Furster

ing frequently, wearing insulin pumps and injecting insulin is normal.

More information about these camps is on the ADA website. She encouraged Lions to help send campers to these special camps, which she said have been literally transformative for the youth involved.

"We foster the positive and grow independence," she said.



PDG Sheryl Brenn (left) presented a Melvin Jones Fellow award to her daughter, Laurel Warren, during the Mid-Winter Rally luncheon in Manhattan. Photo by Nancy D. Borst

ID Xinopoulos emphasizes membership in talks at MWR

By Nancy D. Borst

Special guest Lions International Director Nicholas Xinopoulos shared his experiences – both in Lionism and in life – at the 2019 Mid-Winter Rally in Manhattan.

He serves on the membership development committee. He told Lions during a Saturday morning seminar that specialty Lions clubs are growing at a faster rate than regular clubs, adding that up to 25 percent of a specialty club's members can live outside the immediate geographic area. Forty-six specialty clubs were awaiting approval at the time, each with more than 20 members.

He challenged clubs to think outside the box. Put together a list of what each officer does and share it with members. Ask if anyone has anything to say “for the good of the club,” allow people to open up and respect and listen to all sides. Lions needs to be relevant to members, and vice versa.

“Change can be positive,” he said. “There’s always something different you can do.”

Xinopoulos was born and raised in the mountains of northern Greece, in a one-room house with a clay floor. His mother always saved a plate of food for someone who was worse off.

“Times were very difficult. My mother taught us how to share,” he said. “We had nothing. I don’t take anything for granted.”

He emigrated to the “greatest county in the world,” and has never forgotten the day he became a citizen. He still treasures the U.S. flag the judge gave him after the ceremony.

He learned about Lions in America from a man named Jesse, who was

a local store owner. One day Nicholas went to the store and observed something remarkable. A woman was looking at the meat for sale with longing. Jesse marked the meat down in price so she could afford to buy it.

Nicholas went with Lions when they delivered Christmas gifts to the less fortunate. A 3-year-old girl thanked him for her gift. That was his “remember when”

moment that he realized why he was a Lion, he said.

“That little girl taught me how to be sensitive with what we do,” he said.

He commended Kansas Lions for all that they do. There are more than 48,000 clubs worldwide in 214 countries. LCI has applications from three more countries wanting to join the Lions family.

Again at the evening banquet, he brought the focus back to membership. He spoke to a 40-something year old Lion who had been a member for six months. This Lion had sponsored several other Lions and quickly became an ambassador for his club. Nicholas asked him why he didn’t become a Lion sooner. The man replied with

three things: he was never asked, he thought only older people were Lions, and he thought you had to be somebody special to be a Lion.

“Don’t miss an opportunity to ask someone to work beside you,” the ID said.



International Director
Nicholas Xinopoulos

Sight Foundation to hold vote on bylaw updates

There are two small changes that need to be made to the Kansas Lions Sight Foundation bylaws to coincide with changes made earlier in the year to the Standard Operating Procedures.

Change #1. Article VI, Section 2, sentence 2, change from “Kansas Lions for Sight Chairperson” to “Kansas Lions Sight Week Chairperson.”

Change #2. Article VII, Section 6, sentence 1, change from “The Kansas Lions for Sight Committee” to “Kansas Lions Sight Week Committee.”

These changes clarify the role of the elected directors. One from each of the three districts will be elected as Sight Week Directors, formerly known as Candy Day Directors.

The board approved these changes and the entire membership will need to vote on the changes at the State Convention.

The Kansas Lions News is published periodically by the Kansas Lions Foundation, 231 S. Tyler Road, Wichita, KS. 67209.

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Deadline for next issue: July 1, 2019

*Please send your news to Nancy either via e-mail or snail mail.
Send original photos –do not downsize them. Let Nancy know if you have questions.*

Leos seek financial help to reach leadership forum

Kansas Lions has a positive dilemma.

There is a growing interest from Leos to seek leadership training. Luckily, they can attend the USA/Canada Leo Leadership Forum. This year it is in Phoenix, Ariz.

The dilemma is: they are kids and an allowance won't cover the cost of the Forum. It costs about \$700 per person to cover the hotel, registration, meals and all activities. This does NOT include airfare.

Help is needed from Lions clubs to help our Leos attend! Checks can be made payable to either: USA/CANADA LEO LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION or KANSAS LIONS FOUNDATION. Both are tax-deductible and both are helping our Kansas Leos go to the Forum!

Any amount is welcome and needed. If you can't "sponsor" a Leo to go, please at least make a financial contribution and we'll combine your donation with others to make this happen.

All checks should be sent to: Cheryl Kerns, 15710 S. Widmer, Olathe, KS 66062.

Registration is due in June so please send your donations soon. The youth



Kansas Leos made blankets at Mid-Winter Rally for pediatric cancer patients.

Photo by Becky Funke

can't commit to going until they know they have your help!

Omega Leos

State Leo co-chair Matt Kerns told the Saturday MWR lunch audience there is a group of Omega Leos forming at Kansas State University. Omega Leos are ages 18-30 who are not quite

ready to be Lions. He and Leo co-chair Deanne Heersche will visit with Lions clubs to talk about this new type of Leo club.

Leo clubs who sent members to MWR were Mulvane, Blue Valley West and Goddard. Blue Valley West Leos won a Leo Excellence Award for 2017-18 from LCI.

Great Plains Lions Leadership Forum returns to Maryville, Mo.

Plan now to participate in a great Lions learning opportunity. This year's Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute will be held July 26-28 at Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, Mo.

GPLLI is an intensive, professional and valuable leadership skills program for Lions who have not served as District Governor within the last five years. You will learn skills for club, job, community and church, as well as personal development.

Registration is from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Friday, July 26. Adjournment and checkout is by 3 p.m. Sunday, July 28. Lunch on Friday, July 26 is at noon.

The cost is \$190 per attendee if received by the Registrar on or before May 1, 2019. The cost increases to \$210 beginning May 2. Registration covers a double occupancy room, seven meals, and all course materials. Single occupancy rooms, if available, require an additional \$40. Any remaining costs will be covered by funding from Lions

Clubs International and contributions from participating multiple districts.

Any Lion, Lioness or Leo who has attained majority and who has not served as a District Governor in the past five years is eligible. No previous attendees are eligible without prior approval of the Institute Coordinator, PID Bill Phillipi.

This institute is being sponsored by Multiple Districts 9 (Iowa), 17 (Kansas), 26 (Missouri) and 38 (Nebraska).

Dynamic presenters from across the Great Plains will provide emerging Lion leaders with modules on communication skills, team building, delegation, time management, conflict management, project management, diversity, motivation, goal setting/action planning/personal mission statement and leading effective meetings.

Scholarships are available on a first come, first served basis from some PDG clubs in the state. Contact your District Governor for information.

Kansas ID candidate shares her Lions journey with hometown paper

Editor's note: The following is reprinted with permission from The Leavenworth Times.

By Rimsie McConiga

Debra Weaverling knew as she was advancing through leadership roles at the club, district and state level at the Lions Club that the sky was the limit since Lions provide all members with extraordinary opportunities for leadership development, training and application. She now is running for international director (ID).

"I recognized that I can positively affect the future of Lions at the International level," said Debra. "My experience and passion to continue to serve is the reason I'm running. I want to give back to the U.S. and the world."

There are currently 34 IDs serving Lions Clubs International (LCI) and 11 are from the U.S. and (its) territories. The IDs help Lions' members chart the course for the club's second century of helping their communities and people around the world.

Debra says the chief responsibility of the international directors is to be the ambassador for the sitting Lions Clubs international president, and to promote Lionism and commitment of LCI to Lions across the world. "In practical terms that translates into three major areas: committee work, LCI participation and international ambassador."

Lions Club is the largest humanitarian and service organization in the world and has 1.4 million members in 190 countries. This much-respected club was established in 1917 in Chicago for the betterment of members' communities and the world. Chicago businessman Melvin Jones initiated a meeting with business clubs from across the country and the Association of Lions Clubs was formed. It became international in 1920.

There are more than 200 members in the Leavenworth Lions Club and it is the largest in Kansas. It is in the top 20 Lions Clubs in the United States.



Lions Ron and CC Deb Weaverling

The LIONS acronym stands for Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nations' Safety. The Lions motto is "We Serve." And serve they do. Local Lions Club programs include sight conservation, hearing and speech conservation, diabetes awareness, youth outreach, international relations, environmental issues, and many other programs. Serving as a united force for good and focusing on projects to help people around the world are so important to the club that the discussion of politics and religion is forbidden.

For Debra, her 21 years of service to the Lions has made her eager to serve on the international stage. It has been a journey that she has savored.

To be a candidate a member must be a member in good standing and have served as district governor. "Successful IDs are proven leaders who are diligent preparers with sound

Continued on next page

We Serve • We Serve • We Serve • We Serve • We Serve • We Serve

Volunteers needed for Mobile Screening Unit at 2019 State Fair

The 2019 Kansas State Fair will begin on Friday, Sept. 6 and end on Sunday, Sept. 15. Kansas Lions volunteers are needed to provide free health, vision and hearing screening to fair attendees.

The fair board has made a change in the hours the fairground buildings are open to the public. The Sunflower North Building, where



the Kansas Lions Sight Foundation's (KLSF) Mobile Screening Unit (MSU) is set up, will open to the public at 11 a.m. on Sept. 6. MSU screening will begin on Sept. 7.

The building will open at 8 a.m. on all other fair days and will close at 8 p.m. except for Sept. 15, when it will close at 6 p.m.

Screenings will begin at 9 a.m. on

Sept. 7, 8, 9 and 14. Screenings on other days will begin at 10 a.m. Volunteers need to be at the MSU location 30 minutes prior to the beginning of their shifts. Screenings will end each day at 6 p.m. but Lions are required to have someone at the MSU until the building closes.

Please contact Lion Sylvia Reinhardt at e-mail poorfarmer@eaglecom.net, home telephone 785-200-6132, or cell phone 620-921-0130 to set up a time for your Lions club or individuals to assist with this service project.

Continued from previous page
 judgment who can inspire and motivate others to serve,” says Debra.

Candidates for international director must first receive the endorsement of their club and compete for election at the district and state level. If endorsed at these levels then Lions Clubs International certifies the endorsed candidate. The selected candidate then runs for election at the upcoming Lions Clubs International Convention. Then the elected international directors serve a two-year term with travel commitments as extensive as 32 weekends each year.

As Debra gets ready to attend the 102nd annual Lions Club International Convention in Milan, Italy in July where the IDs will be elected, she is not only excited about the outcome, it has given her the opportunity to look back at the history of the organization. “At the 1925 Lions Clubs International Convention, Helen Keller challenged Lions to become the ‘Knights of the Blind’ in the crusade against darkness,” says Debra. “This began a century-long mission impacting hundreds of millions of lives through vision-re-

lated, charitable work. As LCI moves into our second century of service and humanitarian work, we are committed to taking positive action to directly impact our communities and the world through the power of service and action. LCI enables global causes for hunger, vision, diabetes, childhood cancer and the environment. At the club level in their own communities each club determines how to enact these causes and other causes they support.”

The Leavenworth Lions Club funds scholarships for Leavenworth High School students, conducts vision screening in the elementary schools and helps fund vision costs for those in need, to name just a few of their causes.

Debra initially joined the Leavenworth Lions Club in 1998 to better serve her community. “I became a Lion in my heart while participating in youth vision screenings in our community. To see the impact, we can have on a child’s life by detecting vision problems at an early age is a rewarding experience. In Kansas we find about 10 percent of early grade school children who have vision issues that have not yet been

detected. Think of the impact on the child’s ability to learn. Our cooperative effort with the schools and the school nurses is inspiring. Our partnership each year enables Lion members of my club the opportunity to serve by volunteering.”

As Debra excitedly awaits the Lions Club International Convention in Milan and the vote for new international directors, she looks to the successful years of Gudrun Yngvadottir, who is a Lions Club member in Iceland and who became the first woman international president in the association’s history in 2018 — an inspiration for Debra and a reminder that anything’s possible when people work side by side.

“To quote Lions Club International’s founder, Melvin Jones, ‘You can’t get very far until you start doing something for somebody else,’” says Debra. “This is the biggest personal lesson that Lions has reinforced in my heart. Service clubs of all types nationwide need the next generations of young Americans to get involved and serve others at the community level. Lions Club is one of the great options to do just that.”

Annual Kansas Lions Band Foundation auction

‘Do I hear five, give me five ...’



The annual Mid-Winter Rally Lions Band Foundation auction was a hit again this year in January at Manhattan. Eager bidders gave generously to win coveted items and support a great cause at the same time. The auction raised approximately \$2,700. Photos by Nancy D. Borst



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Celebrating Earth Day

Members of the **Bel Aire Lions Club** helped kindergarten students at **Isley Elementary** celebrate Earth Day April 4. Classes participated in worm composting, worked on plantings at the entrance sign, prepared flowers to take home to be planted, and other projects. The Lions who helped assisted in these classes and learned along with the students. Lions pictured here, clockwise starting at upper left, are Phil Shull, Gary O'Neal and Grace Kneil.

Photos contributed by Richard M. Caldwell

