



The Kansas Lions News

Vol. 65 No. 2 • Winter 2019 • Kansas Lions online: www.kansaslions.org

Make it to Manhattan for Mid-Winter Rally

The holidays are looming but take a moment to flip your calendar ahead and mark the dates for the 2020 Mid-Winter Rally, returning Jan. 24-26 to Manhattan. The destination again is Four Points by Sheraton Hotel and Convention Center, 530 Richards Drive.

Special guest

Past International Director Ardie Klemish, from Anita, Iowa, and her husband, PDG Ken, will be our special guests. Director Klemish 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 Klemish is a retired banking and insurance compliance officer. She is a member of the Adair Lions Club since 1999 and has held many offices within the association,



PID Ardie Klemish

including club president, district governor and multiple district GLT coordinator. Kansas Lions know her from Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute.

Director Klemish has received numerous awards, including a Membership Key Award, an International Leadership Award, two Extension Awards and an International President's Award. She is also a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow.

In addition to her Lions activities, Director Klemish has been active in numerous professional and community organizations, including the Iowa State Fair, the Casey Federated Women's Club, 4-H and as a church organist and choir director. Director Klemish's husband, Ken, is a past district governor and a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow.

Director Klemish will bring an LCI update to Kansas Lions at a seminar Saturday afternoon and will be the featured speaker at the banquet.

Seminars

There will be two additional seminars Saturday morning. Rick Dodson, MD-17 Lions Clubs International Foundation coordinator, will present information about Campaign 100.

See MID-WINTER RALLY on page 6

Two key 2020 MWR dates

Jan. 8, deadline to book hotel room (call 785-539-5311)

Jan. 17, deadline to reserve meals – form on page 7

Kansas Lions bid farewell to two former LCI directors

Kansas Lions have lost two members of our International Family in 2019. Past International Director Blaine Rush died April 28 and PID Robert G. (Bob) Tonjes died Aug. 21.

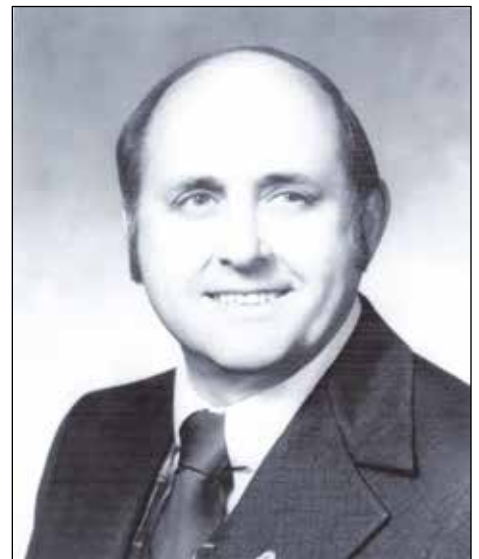
Rush, 91, was a native of Chanute, where he was born April 9, 1928. He was a graduate of Chanute High School and received his bachelor's degree in business from Ottawa University, Ottawa, Kan. He married Vina Lea Angell Rush on Jan. 29, 1950. PID Blaine worked in the banking industry for more than 60 years and was living in Colorado Springs at the time of his death.

While in Colorado Springs, he was a member Vista Grande Baptist Church.

His passions were serving his church, community, and he enjoyed many outdoor activities. Blaine's family was very important to him and he was always telling them, "We have a lot to be thankful for."

In 1955 he became a member of the **Smith Center Lions Club** in Kansas, where he maintained a long standing perfect attendance record. He maintained his Kansas membership after later moving to Colorado. PID Rush served as national/multinational coordinator for Campaign SightFirst, and was chairman of the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum in 1994. The recipient of numerous awards, he was

See LCI DIRECTORS on Page 10



Past International Director Blaine Rush

From the Council Chair –

This is exciting time to be a Lion

Greetings Lions! The Lions year got off to a quick start and is going by very rapidly. It is an exciting time to be a Lion.

It is exciting to see so many fundraising projects so far this year. We have dined on pancakes and sausage, chili, fish, steak, turkey and noodles, spaghetti, and hot dogs and hamburgers. These events support Lions clubs in providing service projects that are tied to our Five Global Causes, such as eyeglasses for those in need, vision screening for children, food drives to eliminate hunger, Diabetes Awareness programs, care and assistance for families dealing with cancer, and helping communities with environmental projects. Please remember our Five Global Causes: Diabetes, Environment, Hunger, Vision, Pediatric Cancer. These causes define our second century of Lions service and define our motto of serving.

It is exciting to realize that we have already completed two State Council

events, one in August and one in October. The October meeting featured our Global Action Team Leader, PCC Chris Gentry from western Nebraska. He addressed membership issues, recruitment and retention, and got us thinking about where we can locate new clubs in areas that are in need of Lions' services. Thank you, Lion Chris, for making time to visit us in Kansas.



CC Patrick Laham

We have also made visits to many areas of the Multiple District, including Arkansas City, Atchison, Benton, Burlington, Eureka, Great Bend, Hays, Hutchinson, Inman, Lawrence, Lyndon, Newton, Parsons, Topeka, Wellington and Wichita.

It is exciting to know that our numbers are holding steady and that we have some great events coming up in the near future. As of Nov. 1, our Multiple District numbers look like this: District K, 1,403 members and 75 clubs; District A, 1,707 Lions and 77 clubs,

Continued on next page

Meet the Council Chair

Editor's note: The last issue featured information on the new District Governors. Here is a brief biography of CC Patrick Laham.

I retired from Wichita State University in 2010. Before working as Printing Department supervisor/coordinator at Wichita State University, I taught printing and graphic design for 15 years for Wichita USD 259 and what is now known as WSU Tech.

I am married to my lovely wife, current Multiple District Environmental Chair, Lion Merle. We celebrated 43 years of marriage in October 2019. We have three adult children, six grandchildren, and one great grandchild on the way.

I have been a Lion since 2009, having served the **Augusta Lions Club** in all leadership positions, including board member, Tail Twister, Program Chair, Membership Chair and Club President. I am a 2013 graduate of the Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute, a 2015 graduate of the Advanced Lions

See CC BIO on next page

2019-20 Council of Governors

Council Chair

Patrick Laham (Merle)
Augusta Lions Club
1308 Bobbie Street
Augusta 67010
H/C 316.648.2078
PatrickLaham@gmail.com

District Governors

17-K
Tom Baumann (Diana)
Hays Lions Club
2005 Northglenn Lane
Hays 67601
C 785.871.1971
tom.baumann@ymail.com
District website:
<https://lionswowinks.org>
Convention: March 13-14, 2020/Hays

17-A
Diane Hentges (David)
Kansas City Downtown Lions Club
812 N. Washington Blvd.
Kansas City 66102
C 913.708.5323
dkhentges0503@gmail.com
District website: kansaslions17A.org
Convention:
April 24-25, 2020/Concordia

17-N
Marla Larison (Jess)
Baxter Springs Lions Club
3306 SE Boston Mills Road
Columbus 66725
H 620.674.8449/ C 620.674-1517
lionmarlalarison@gmail.com
District website:
kansaslions17n.org
Convention: April 17-18, 2020/Chanute

Calendar

Jan. 24-26, 2020
Mid-Winter Rally/Third State Council Meeting, Manhattan

June 5-6, 2020
State Convention/Fourth State Council Meeting, Topeka

June 26-30, 2020
International Convention, Singapore

Follow MD-17
• on the Internet:
www.kansaslions.org

• on social media:
Like Kansas Lions
on Facebook



Continued from previous page

and District N, 1,518 Lions and 74 clubs. We are all working hard to increase those numbers and strengthen our clubs. That is exciting in itself.

We are looking forward to a great Kansas Lions Mid-Winter Rally in January. PID Bill Phillipi is planning a great experience in Manhattan. Please plan on joining us Jan. 24-26. Our guest will be Past International Director Ardie Klemish and her husband, Ken, from Iowa. Details are in this issue. Be sure to check it out!

Please save the dates of June 5-6, 2020 for the 101st Kansas Lions State Convention at Topeka. PCC Bobby Duvall is making plans for a great time in the Capitol City. Washburn University is hosting the Kansas Lions Band, and the band concert will be a highlight of the convention.

It is an exciting time to be a Lion leader. My goals for the Council this year are similar to my goals as District Governor last year. In a nutshell, I want to increase general membership in the Multiple District, and would like to bring our numbers back up to the 5,000 member level. I want to better communicate our five global causes and their importance to everyone. I want to increase training opportunities for all levels of leadership – club, district, and multiple district. I want to increase female membership overall, and would like to attain 35 percent in the Multiple District.

I want to increase support of LCIF and have each District meet its goal as

set by the Multiple District LCIF coordinator. Lastly, I want to promote the importance of Diabetes Awareness to all clubs and Lions. One out of every three adults has prediabetes!

More than a dozen Lions from our Multiple District attended the Midwest Faculty Development Institute in Independence, Mo. in October. Those Lions received specialized training in presenting topics of interest to all Lions. The Lions who completed the Institute will be certifying as Lions Trainers by making presentations throughout the Multiple District, and will thereby become eligible to present at Lions events everywhere.

Lastly, it is exciting to congratulate the **Wichita Downtown Lions**, the oldest club in Kansas, on their 100th anniversary of service. There are several other clubs in the Multiple who are preparing to follow Wichita Downtown, with centennial celebrations of their own. Congratulations on this wonderful milestone of service!

Those are just a few of the reasons it is an exciting time to be a Lion. Just being a part of so many great things happening in our state should excite everyone and inspire all of us to share that excitement with others. Why not invite others to join us?

I hope to see each and every one of you in Manhattan at Mid-Winter Rally. I wish you all a happy and blessed holiday season and best wishes for a continued prosperous Lion year. Please remember the less fortunate around the world, and the Lions who serve them.

CC Bio

continued from previous page

Leadership Institute, and a participant in the Kansas Lions Leadership Roundup in 2017 & 2018. I recently completed requirements to become a Certified Lions Trainer at the Midwest Faculty Development Institute.

I also am a recipient of an International President's Certificate of Appreciation, and am a Melvin Jones Fellow. I have previously served Lions District 17N for four years as Diabetes Awareness Chair, and as Zone Chair. Lion Merle and I are both Certified Guiding Lions.

I enjoy meeting other Lions, and have attended many District, State, and International functions, including the International Conventions in Chicago 2017 and Las Vegas 2018, as well as the Leadership Institutes and Trainings during my service as a Lion. Lion Merle and I attended the 2016 USA/Canada Forum in Omaha and my District Governor Training in Las Vegas in 2018. I am also enrolled in the Bachelors Program at Lions University.

In addition to being an active Lion, I am a Butler County Master Gardener, serving on the Board of the Augusta Community Garden, and on the Executive Board and Program Development Council of the K-State Butler County Extension. I am also a huge fan of University of Kansas athletics. Rock Chalk!

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

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NOTE: The next issue of The Kansas Lions News will be the final issue. The Council of Governors has voted to discontinue funding for the newspaper as of June 30, 2020.

Deadline for final issue: April 1, 2020

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.

Audio-Reader receives grant thanks to Topeka Sunflower Lions

For Your Ears Only. Our used audio product sale, For Your Ears Only, was held in September and it grossed more than \$43,000. A big thank you to everyone who donated albums, CDs, stereo equipment, and other audio products to this sale. Thank you to all the Lions who helped by transporting donations to our studios and those that helped during the sale. Collection of items for next year will begin in June 2020.

Volunteer Appreciation. Audio-Reader volunteers were treated to a brunch at Maceli's Banquet Hall Oct. 6 in Lawrence. More than 60 volunteers were recognized with certificates noting years of service from 5 years to 45 years.

Holiday Party. Audio-Reader's annual holiday party will be held Monday Dec. 8 from 4 to 7 p.m. at our studios, 1120 W 11th Street in Lawrence. Everyone is invited. Please bring a holiday dessert to share.

Grant. Due to support from Lion Daniel Martinez of **Topeka Sunflower Lions**, Audio-Reader received a \$2,500 grant from the Prairie Band Pottawatomie Nation (photo at right).

Awards. Audio-Reader received six awards at the International Association of Audio Information Services conference in June. Program awards were presented in the Magazine, Narrative Reading, Holiday Special, and Promotional Announcement categories. Volunteer Carl Graves was recognized for Volunteer Excellence and Outreach Coordinator (and Lion) Lori Kesinger received the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Audio Description. Audio description is being provided this winter for the Broadway Series at The Lied Center of Kansas as well as all performances at Theatre Lawrence. A special Audio Description Reception will be held prior to the Dec. 11 performance of "Rudolph, The Red Nosed Reindeer: A Musical" at the Lied Center. Discount tickets are available for this performance by calling the box office



Meredith Johanning, assistant director of development for the Audio-Reader Network (center) accepts a grant check from the Prairie Band Pottawatomie Nation. Contributed photo

at 785-864-2787 and requesting the "audio-reader ticket block." The reception is at 6 p.m., performance at 7 p.m.

Other upcoming audio description dates are:

Saturday Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 15, 2:30 p.m., "Matilda: The Musical" at Theatre Lawrence.

Thursday Jan. 23, 7:30 p.m., "The Color Purple" at The Lied Center.

Saturday Jan. 25, 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 26, 2:30 p.m., "The Compleat Works of Wllm Shkspr (Abridged)" at Theatre Lawrence

Sunday Feb. 16, 2:00 p.m., Russian National Ballet, "Don Quixote" at The Lied Center.

Tuesday Feb. 18, 7:00 p.m., Peking Acrobats at The Lied Center.

Audio-Reader staff are available to make presentations to clubs. To schedule a speaker call 785-864-4600 or email: reader@ku.edu.

KLSF report: Mobile Screening Unit has new upgrades

MSU (Mobile Screening Unit). A reminder to all Lions Clubs who opt to utilize the MSU: we can provide promotional materials to help make this project successful in your communities.



The MSU is an excellent tool to promote better health and diabetes awareness. There have been some recent upgrades to the MSU with additional modifications planned to enable us to

continue its use for the future of Kansas Lions and well-being all of our Kansas residents.

Audio-Reader. Did you know? Audio-Reader's signal is available through a skill for Amazon Echo and Echo Dot devices.

Claude DeVorss Fellowship. PDG Jim Tubach reports there have been 110 fellowships awarded.

Kansas Eye Bank and Research Center (KEB). Year to date KEB has had 322 eligible donors for transplant

with 403 corneas recovered with the intent to transplant and 190 eyes recovered for research. There have been 156 corneas supplied for domestic transplant and 87 for international transplant, this includes 45 for local transplants to help individuals renew their ability to have desired vision.

Kansas Kid Sight – Vision screenings reported from District A – 6 months to 6 years, 4,762 screened with 525 referrals; 7 year to 18 years, 2,215

Continued on next page

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screened with 186 referrals; District K – 6 months to 6 years, 1,094 screened with 117 referrals; others screened – 2,768 with 180 referrals.

Kansas Vision Coalition. This coalition is providing education to Kansas School Nurses about the suggested guideline for vision screening in schools. Legislation regarding these guidelines has not been enacted into law. The number of births in Kansas is estimated at 40,000 annually, giving Lions ample opportunity to screen preschools, daycares and those schools requesting our assistance with the automated screeners.

Mark Doyen Used Eyeglass Collection. PDG Bernard and Viola continue to pick up and sort reusable eyeglasses collected from around the state. These are sent to Kansas prisons for processing.

*Lion Sylvia Reinhardt, RN
KLSF VP & 17-A Director*



Lions Sight Week proclamation signing

Governor Laura Kelly (seated) proclaimed Oct. 7-11 as Lions Sight Week in Kansas. Joining her were, left to right, Lion Pam Failor, PDG David Hentges, DG Diane Hentges, Lion Vern Failor, PDG Terry Weldin, PDG Don Cunningham and PID Gene Vogel, Kansas Lions Sight Foundation President. Contributed photo

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

State Fair screening efforts literally may be saving lives

Lions Clubs International President Dr. Jung-Yul Choi states Lions are a shining example to the world of the good that can be accomplished by uniting in harmony.

Congratulations, Kansas Lions, for 10 years of offering free health, vision and hearing screenings at the annual Kansas State Fair. The Kansas Lions Sight Foundation (KLSF) would like to express our sincere gratitude to all Lions, volunteers, nursing instructors and students for working together to provide these free services to all fair attendees.

The original plan for the KLSF Mobile Screening Unit (MSU) was to help the residents of Kansas identify health, vision and hearing concerns to maintain wellness and health. The MSU can be used in any part of the state of Kansas. The annual State Fair is the event where all Lions come together to provide these screenings at a large venue.

We were privileged at this year's Fair to provide more than 3,500 screenings. The need for the Lions' emphasis on diabetes awareness was evidenced by identifying 52 individuals with a blood sugar reading over 400; one individual had a blood sugar reading of 522. Poorly managed diabetes can lead to serious complications, including eye disease, cardio-

vascular disease, kidney disease, nerve damage and possible amputation. Some parents are now consenting to have their children screened for high blood pressure and high blood sugar.

One example of the value of the children's vision screenings we offer was a 10-month-old bright and lively little girl. Her vision screening showed severe astigmatism in both eyes. The positive from this is that it was detected at an early age and can be addressed by an eye care professional.

The numbers from the various screenings at this year's fair were: field of vision, 522 screened, 48 referred for follow up; visual acuity, 495 screened, 126 referred for follow up; PediaVision, 1,020 screened, 143 referred for follow up; pediatric hearing screening, 207 screened, 51 referred for follow up; adult hearing, 902 screened, 395 referred for follow up; blood pressure, 1,608 screened; 276 referred for follow up; and blood sugar, 1,595 screened, 392 referred for follow up.



The KLSF State Fair Committee:

Lions Dan Heersche, Vern Failor, Sylvia Reinhardt, and PDG Randy St. Aubyn

Mid-Winter Rally *continued from page 1*

The campaign's goal is to raise \$300 million by June 2021.

Seventeen Kansas Lions recently participated in the first Midwest Faculty Development Institute, held in October in Independence, Mo. The purpose of the institute is to develop and expand the number of skilled Lions' faculty available for use in training at the club, district and multiple district levels. Lions who participated in this three-day course will be required to conduct a local training event within six months of attending the institute, in order to complete the FDI requirements. Come hear some of these Lions make their presentations during the other Saturday morning seminar.

Celebrating our youth, bring your 'green'

The Saturday luncheon perennially celebrates our youth and this tradition will continue at the 2020 MWR. District Peace Post Contest winners will vie for State honors. This year's theme is "Journey of Peace."

Lions also will honor our Leo clubs at the luncheon. Leos need to reserve their meals but they do not pay a registration fee for MWR.

The luncheon also will feature a new event, the "Parade of Green." Clubs, zones and districts are encouraged to bring donations for the LCIF Campaign 100 or the Kansas Lions Foundation. Mid-Winter Rally chair PID Bill Phillipi said this will be a new event for Kansas but it already is done elsewhere.

"Other multiples do it. It will boost LCIF Campaign 100," he explained. "People will be asked to line up and hand over their contributions."

Band auction

The Kansas Lions Band Foundation is again having an auction Saturday afternoon. The foundation is requesting help with donations for this popular event. Items should be new or handcrafted. Breads, pies, jelly or other canned food also are accepted and typically are best sellers.

If you have items and need help getting them to Manhattan, contact your Band Foundation member or District or Vice District Governor and these Lions will make sure your items get to the auction.

Environmental photo vote

Lions will cast ballots and choose the "people's choice" environmental photo contest winner at MWR. All entries are due to your district environmental chair by Jan. 1. This is always a popular part of the rally – see contest information and rules elsewhere in this issue on page 9.

Hotel and meal reservations

You must make your MWR hotel reservation by Jan. 8. To reserve a room, call the Four Points at 785-539-5311 and ask for the Lions

block. This is important to give Lions credit toward the meeting space. Don't delay – Lions are encouraged to call in as soon as possible. The block of rooms will be cancelled after Jan. 8.

A meal reservation form is on the next page. All meals must be reserved in advance and those reservations are due by Jan. 17. You may mail your meal reservation to Lion Lela Gillispie at 1414 Givens Rd., Manhattan, 66503. Meal tickets will be available for pick up at the information table.



Friday, January 24

6:30 p.m. Dinner, entertainment, Regency A

Saturday, January 25

All day – interactive booths, pin displays, hallway near meeting rooms; Voting on environmental photo contest entries

7:30 a.m. Kansas Lions Band Foundation, Conference IV
Kansas Lions Sight Foundation, Conference I-III

8:00 a.m. Budget & Finance, Executive Board Room

9:00 a.m. Leos, Conference V

Environmental Committee, Conference IV

10 a.m. Constitution & By-Laws, Executive Board Room

11 a.m. Public Relations, Executive Board Room

Long Range Planning, Conference I-III

Seminars – Regency B

10-10:45 a.m. Faculty Development Institute participants

11-11:45 a.m. Rick Dodson, LCIF Campaign 100

Saturday, January 25 (continued)

Noon – 2 p.m. Luncheon, hosted by KLF, Regency A

Recognizing our Leos and Peace Poster Contest winners

2:00 p.m. K-I Committee, Conference I-III

2-3 p.m. Special seminar: LCI update from PID Ardie Klemish

3:45 p.m. Kansas Lions Band Foundation Auction,
atrium area near restaurant

6:00 p.m. District Governors, Council Chair,
Past International Family assemblé

6:30 p.m. Banquet, Regency A

Special speaker: PID Ardie Klemish

Sunday, January 26

8:00 a.m. Devotional and Meeting by PDG Club, Regency B

9:00 a.m. State Council Business Session, Regency B

2020 MD-17 Mid-Winter Rally

January 24-26, 2020

REGISTRATION AND MEAL RESERVATION FORM

Registration (all attendees must pay except Leos)		_____	@ \$10.00	_____
Friday Dinner <i>Chicken</i>	Friday 6:30 pm	_____ tickets	@ \$19.00	_____
Lunch – MEXICAN BUFFET	Saturday 11:45 am	_____ tickets	@ \$15.00	_____
Banquet – BBQ Beef Brisket	Saturday 6:30 pm	_____ tickets	@ \$19.00	_____
Or Meal Package discount	<i>Includes all 3 meals and registration fee</i>	_____ tickets	@ \$62.00	_____
TOTAL				_____

Lion(s), Leo(s), guest _____

Mailing address/E-mail _____

Phone _____

Lions/Leo Club _____ District : **K A N**
(circle one)

Mail reservations to:

Lela Gillispie
1414 Givens Road
Manhattan, KS 66503
E-mail: kayg7@cox.net
C – 785-532-8611

Final date for meal reservations:
JANUARY 17, 2020

Final date for room reservations:
JANUARY 8, 2020
(Reserve a room by calling 785-539-5311)

Make meal checks payable to: Mid-Winter Rally (all meals must be reserved)

Exhibitors / Vendors Table Request Form

Mid-Winter Rally 2020

Four Points by Sheraton - Manhattan

January 24-26, 2020

Name of Exhibitor / Vendor _____

Contact Person _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contact Ph: _____ E-Mail _____

_____ **Electricity Requested** (Please check if needed)

_____ **Not for Profit Lions Programs / Foundations and Pin Collectors** (Please indicate if more than one table is needed)

_____ **For Profit Companies**

Special Requests: _____

Exhibitor's Hours: Suggested Hours: 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday.

Area Description: One 8' table and two chairs. Electricity is limited. First come, first served.

Mail to: State Secretary Linda McCormick, 231 South Tyler, Wichita, 67209 or e-mail: KansasLions@aol.com **by January 15, 2018.**

MUST HAVE TABLE(S) RESERVED IN ADVANCED

Please help identify every pin, button related to Kansas Lions

Past District Governor Chris Bauer, chairperson of the MD-17 Lions Historical Committee, is trying to identify all pins and buttons related to Kansas Lions.

This includes State and District pins, club pins, anniversary pins, leadership pins, training pins, DG/PDG pins, award pins, convention pins, personal pins, membership pins, sponsor pins, band pins, donation pins, fundraiser pins, ID/PID pins, campaign pins, Pin Trader Club pins, promotional pins and more.

He would like photos and information about all Kansas pins. *His goal is to identify every Kansas pin ever made.*

Please send information to lionchris@sbcglobal.net or mail to Lion Chris Bauer, 924 North 11th Street, Humboldt, KS 66748.



Deadline for environmental photo contest is Jan. 1 *Here are the rules*

The 2019-20 Environmental Photo Contest is open to all Kansas Lions and Leos.

This year's contest will depict four categories and one Special Theme.

Categories are as follows:

- Animal life
- Plant life
- Urban or Natural landscape
- Weather phenomenon.

(No people may appear in photos submitted in the categories above.)

• Special Theme: Environmental Service projects. Photos entered in this category can include people and can be a project in progress or newly completed. Example: Lions planting trees or kids playing in a new park, etc.

Photos should be original and unaltered and taken in your area this calendar year. Photos should measure 8x10 inches and be printed borderless on high quality photo paper. Photos with white borders will be disqualified. Photographers accept responsibility for the cost of taking and processing all photos.

Lions clubs and Leo clubs are invited to submit one photo in each category to their District Environmental Chair by Jan. 1, 2020. The photographer should specify in which category the photo is to be entered.

Contest photos become the property of Kansas Lions, which reserves the



2019-2020

MD-17 Environmental Photo Contest

Name: _____

Club: _____

E-mail: _____

District: ☐ K ☐ A ☐ N

Please specify category

- ☐ Animal life
- ☐ Plant life
- ☐ Urban or Natural landscape
- ☐ Weather phenomenon

Special Theme:

- ☐ Environmental Service projects

The last category can have persons in picture

NOTE: All photo(s) must be taken in Kansas

Please submit one form per entry

Contest photos become the property of Kansas Lions

right to disqualify entries that do not meet contest criteria or that may be viewed as inappropriate or objectionable. An award will be presented to the winning photographers and the photos will be featured in *The Kansas Lions News*. Competition photos at all contest levels will be judged impartially based on originality, artistic merit and technical quality. Winners will be announced at Mid-Winter Rally.

Environmental Photo Contest district chairs are:

District K: Louise Greenberg, gberg@ruraltel.net.

District A: Daniel Martinez, danielkane05@yahoo.com.

District N: Cindy Scovill, cscovill1@cox.net.

State Environmental Chair: Merle Laham, mc.laham@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE

MD 17 Leadership Round-up SATURDAY, MARCH 28 IN MCPHERSON



There really is a FREE Lunch. WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS IN DISTRICT NEWSLETTERS AND BY E-MAIL

LCI Directors

Continued from page 1

a multi-level Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow and received the Ambassador of Good Will Award, the highest honor bestowed upon a member by the association. He was a member of the board of the Kansas Children's Service League, the Rathert Charitable Foundation, and the district Boy Scouts.

He is survived by his children, Jodi (Jim) Wyss, Randy (Tami) Rush, and Jackie (Chris) Rodgers; sister, Sherrill (Chuck) Hoover; grandchildren, Derick B. (Shannon) Wyss, Brett J. (Kate) Wyss, Tiffany A. (Mike) Decker, Christina (Wes) Harrison, Wendy (Adam) Fisher, Kristen (Kyle) Schenk, Kale (Sharin) Shank, DeeDee Rodgers-Penny, Carisa (Blair) Dodson and Evan Rodgers, 26 great-grandchildren, and two nieces and one nephew. Blaine was preceded in death by his parents and his wife (Vina Lea).

His memorial service was May 11. Memorials may be made to The Integrity Bank Charitable Trust, Vista Grande Baptist Church or the Lions Clubs International Foundation.

Robert (Bob) Tonjes

PID Robert (Bob) Tonjes, 90, was a native of Carthage, Mo, where he was born on June 24, 1929. He was a graduate of Carthage High School and attended Joplin Junior College, where he graduated in 1949. He then transferred to Valparaiso University in Indiana and graduated in 1951 with a bachelor's degree in business administration. He was a member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity. Following his graduation from Valparaiso, Bob enlisted in the United States Air Force during the Korean War. He served for four years with the Air Force Auditor General, including one year in Greenland. He was discharged from the service in 1955 as a Staff Sergeant.

Bob then was employed by the Kansas City Power & Light Company as an accountant and retired after 39 years with the company. In 1961, he met his future wife, Lorraine Pritchard, on a



*Past International Director
Robert (Bob) Tonjes*

blind date. Apparently, he was quite impressed, because they were married in June of 1962, a marriage that lasted 57 years.

Bob was a member of the American Legion, the Accounting Division of the Missouri Valley Electric Association and the Edison Electric Institute. He became a Lion in 1955. He was the sole surviving charter member of the **Prairie Village Lions Club** when the club disbanded in 2012 after 50 years of service in the community. PID Tonjes had 43 years of perfect attendance. He served two years as President of the club and seven years as Secretary.

He was living most recently in Overland Park and was a member of the **Overland Park Host Lions Club**. Bob served the Lions District three years as Cabinet Secretary and one year as District Governor. He was also the State Council Chairman for the Kansas Lions.

PID Tonjes was elected to serve a two-year term as International Director at the association's 70th International

Convention, held in Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China, in July 1987. In this capacity, he and Lorraine traveled in excess of 120,000 miles visiting Lions in more than 20 states and 11 countries.

While serving on the board of directors, he was appointed to the Constitution and By-Laws Committee, where he served as chairman during his senior year. During his term of office, he was also appointed to two special presidential ad-hoc committees. Past Director Tonjes served as moderator at three USA/Canada forums, as a member of the Planning Committee for five additional forums, as a presenter at two District-Governor elect Seminars and as a group leader for the school. He also served as a sector coordinator for Campaign SightFirst. For his many contributions to the association, he received the 100% District Governor Award, a Key Member Award, the District Governor's Extension Award, two Presidential Leadership Awards, three International President's Awards and the Ambassador of Good Will Award, the highest honor awarded by LCI.

Bob enjoyed traveling, visiting all 50 states and more than 20 countries. He and Lorraine were members of the St. Michael's and All Angels Episcopal Church in Mission, Kan.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents: Gerd and Hermine Tonjes; two sisters, Dorothea Hickey and Lois Haubein, three brothers, Robert Edward Tonjes, Donald Tonjes, and Richard Tonjes. He is survived by his wife, Lorraine, two nieces, five nephews and many great nieces and nephews.

His memorial service was Aug. 24, 2019. Memorial contributions may be made to the Kansas Lions Sight Foundation, c/o Kansas University Medical School, or the St. Michael's and All Angels Church in Mission, Kan.

**Kansas
Lions
online**

Kansas Lions: www.kansaslions.org

Kansas Lions Foundation: www.kansaslionsfoundation.org

Kansas Lions Sight Foundation: www.lions4sight.com

Kansas Lions Band Foundation:

www.kansaslions.org/Kansas_Lions_Band.html

R – O – A – R! *Local Lions 'serve'*

Pittsburg Lions partner with students for 'wand' project

Frontenac High School class had a great idea but needed a mentor. Enter Lions.

The **Pittsburg Lions Club** has sponsored a service project spearheaded by the Frontenac High School sophomore gifted class. The class was looking for a community service project, but knew they needed the guidance of a group with a wealth of knowledge and experience. So Camden McDonald approached his mother, Jenifer, a Pittsburg Lion, to help find a fit and mentorship.

SEK Wands for Wildlife benefits a wildlife rehabilitation nonprofit in western North Carolina, that recycles old mascara wands to help remove fly eggs and larva from the fur of animals. The wands work great because the bristles are so close together and gentle to use on the injured and orphaned wild animals receiving care.

So, what do mascara wands have in common with the Lions club mission? Since the Lions work “to empower volunteers to serve their communities,” and the FHS students wanted to volunteer to help improve circumstances within the environment, the partnership seemed a win-win.

The purpose of the project was three-fold: 1) provide a service that helps our environment, 2) teach our youth needed skills that will be beneficial in their lives beyond high school, and 3) encourage our youth to engage in community service and spread the reach of Lions club to a new generation.

The project began last year when the students were freshmen. During the initial meeting, the students selected area



Frontenac High School project leaders are, left to right, Coy Medlin, Hannah Lee, Abe Frederick and Camden McDonald.
Contributed photo

businesses spread throughout the community to contact about becoming a drop-off location for mascara tubes. By having the students initiate the communication, the hope was to enhance their personal knowledge, grow from new experiences, and develop better interpersonal communication skills. Eight area businesses have offered to become designated sites: Frontenac High School, Raider Express, Labette Bank-Frontenac, Lindburg Pharmacy North, Celebrations by Lori, Attractions Salon, Ascension Via Christi Hospital, and Jagged Edge Salon in Girard, Kan.

All the businesses received a collection box decorated and delivered by students. Weekly pick-up of the wands is conducted by a Lions club member. When there is a substantial number of wands, the students schedule a date and coordinate with other students wanting volunteer hours to clean and package the wands to be mailed to the Wands for Wildlife Foundation. The students cleaned, prepped and mailed 200 wands in April 2018 and 580 wands in October 2019.

The national response to the request for wands was large so they only take submissions in October and April, but are in need of items on the national wish list. So over the summer sales of hand-drawn notecards of wildlife creatures have raised \$55 to purchase items off of the wishlist. The group also participated at OktoberFest in downtown Pittsburg and sold glow sticks, bracelets, and rings as another fundraiser.

This community project will continue for the remainder of these students' high school careers. We look forward to see how this project leads these students in their future philanthropic and volunteer endeavors.

Submitted by Lion Jenifer McDonald

Kansas Lions History Project

We need your help. The historical committee is collecting electronic copies of historical Lions documents from the past 100 years of Kansas Lionism. We would like to have electronic copies of newspaper articles, newsletters and other items detailing the history of your club, district, and multiple district.

Items of interest are event flyers/posters, club charters, banners, awards, photos, newsletters, etc. Just scan the item or take a picture of it and e-mail it to PDG Chris Bauer at lionchris@sbcglobal.net. Or if you have a paper copy, you can mail it to PDG Chris Bauer, 924 North 11th Street, Humboldt, KS 66748. Thank you.

*PDG Chris Bauer
MD-17 Lions State Historian.*

First Kansas Lions Club celebrates century mark

Kansas' first Lions Club is the **Wichita Downtown Lions Club**, which was set to celebrate its first 100 years of service on Dec. 4 at Rolling Hills Country Club in Wichita. Special guest speaker is First International Vice President VP Judge Haynes H. Townsend. Check the next issue of *The Kansas Lions News* for coverage. Contributed photo



50 years and counting ...



The **Troy Lions Club** recently celebrated 50 years of service to their community. Right, Troy Lions President Neil Lednický and his wife, Jessica, are pictured with DG Diane Hentges and her husband, PDG David, at the anniversary celebration. Signature club activities include the annual 4th of July event (parade and fireworks) and a longstanding commitment to maintain the baseball fields. Contributed photos

Youth Exchange

Vilma Elovaara from Finland visited the **Augusta Lions Club** in July. Vilma was an International Lions Club Exchange Student. PCC Harry Stockwell is the Multiple District 17 Exchange Student Chair. Pictured with Vilma are Lion Lorraine and PCC Stockwell, her sponsors. Photo by Merle Laham



Faculty Development Institute builds training instructor pool

Seventeen Kansas Lions participated in the first ever Midwest Faculty Development Institute Oct. 18-20 at Independence, Mo. The purpose of the three-day institute is to develop and expand the number of skilled Lions' faculty available for use in training at the club, district, and multiple district levels.

The curriculum was designed to enhance training delivery skills and training techniques that will increase the quality of training and overall effectiveness of Lions leadership development programs. Starting in 2018-2019, the Faculty Development Institute's focus has changed to emphasize training delivery skills more and no longer includes sessions on curriculum development. Lions who completed the FDI are expected to be able to effectively deliver training sessions with provided materials.

Qualified candidates were those Lions who have some experience as instructors at local Lions training events, had demonstrated basic instructional skills, and had a keen interest in further developing those skills. A candidate's training experience included using PowerPoint to support training delivery. Participants were not expected to create any materials while at the FDI, but be able to use PowerPoint and other provided materials for some activities.

Lions who participated in this three-day course will be required to conduct a local training event within six months of attending the institute, in order to complete the FDI.

Since this was a self-funded FDI, the Midwest Faculty Development Institute provided curriculum and meals according to the dates and schedule of the institute. A non-refundable participation fee of \$100 per participant was required to offset a portion of these costs. Participants also were responsible to pay for their own transportation, hotel and other travel related expenses to and from the institute site.

The following Multiple Districts, Districts and Clubs contributed to help fund the institute: Iowa, \$1,000; Kansas, \$1,250; Missouri, \$1,250; Nebraska, \$1,250; District 26-M5 \$200; Independence Host Lions, \$200, for a total budget of \$8,650.



Kansas Lions who participated in the Faculty Development Institute were, back row left to right: PDG Dan Funke; Ron Weaverling, PID Gene Vogel, PDG Terry Weldin, PDG Bill Kincaid, 1st VDG Chris Bauer. Center row: PDG Jerry Loney, CC Patrick Laham, PCC Deb Weaverling, 2nd VDG Richard Caldwell, PCC Hans Neidhardt, PID Bill Phillipi, DG Tom Baumann, 1st VDG Rick Dodson. Seated: PDG Carlene Rajala, Dorothy Herring, PCC Helen LaBlanc, 1st VDG Vania Castro, 1st VDG Diana Baumann. Contributed photo

Participant numbers by state were: Alabama, 1; Iowa, 5; Kansas, 17; Missouri, 8; Nebraska, 1; Oklahoma, 3. Faculty members were PCC Diana Benzing (Iowa), CC David Wentworth (Nebraska), PID Dr. Dwayne Garrett (Missouri), 2VDG Dr. Vania Castro (Kansas), PID Gary Fry (Iowa) and 1VDG Rick Dodson (Kansas). Leaders who had the vision for the institute are PID Bill Phillipi (Kansas), PID Ardie Klemish (Iowa), and PID W.R. O'Riley (Missouri).

Institute Manager GAT Area Leader/PDG Greg Gilliam wrote of the weekend, "All participants and faculty had an enjoyable time and learned together. We have received many notes, from participants and faculty, with applause.

"We appreciate Lions Clubs International, Institutes Division, giving us the opportunity to host this self-funded FDI. We hope to have the opportunity to provide other institutes in the future."



Faculty and staff from the MFDI training were, left to right: CC David Wentworth, PID Gary Fry, PID "Doc" Garrett, VDG Dr. Vania Castro, PCC Diane Benzing, VDG Rick Dodson, PID Bill Phillipi & PDG Greg Gilliam (onsite manager). Contributed photo

Helping the books

During the week of Oct. 14-18, members of the **Bel Aire Lions Club** volunteered to help the Isley Elementary School Library in Bel Aire with the Fall book fair. Pictured is Lion PDG Andy Horner presenting a donation from the club to the Librarian Ms. Andrea Brainard. Contributed photo



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

Local clubs maximize local grant opportunities –

Norton Lions Club purchases vision screener

In November 2018, the **Norton Lions Club** entertained the idea of purchasing a vision screener. The club asked Jim Huenergarde, who is with the **Hays Lions Club**, to come speak to the club about the vision screener that Hays had purchased.

He informed the club that the cost of the screener is \$8,000. The vision screener assists in the detection of refractive errors, strabismus, anisocoria and the media opacities. The fully automated screener conducts a comprehensive refractive assessment, analyzes the pupil size, creates a gaze deviation chart and uses advanced digital imaging for quick reference of more advanced issues.

Children's vision problems, if detected at an early age, are 95 percent correctable. The screener is designed for children as young as six months of age. It only takes 30 seconds to screen a child.

The Spot Vision Screener, as it is called, detects nearsightedness, farsightedness, astigmatism (blurred vision), strabismus (crossed eyes) and unequal refractive power and unequal pupil size. Jim encouraged the Norton Lions Club to investigate purchasing one of these Spot Vision screeners.

In June 2019, Lion Melanie Archer submitted a grant to the Norton County Community Foundation and the Dane G Hansen Foundation to help purchase the Spot Vision screener and on July

2, the screener was ordered. Lions David Davis, Melanie Archer, Sue Urban, Roy Skrdlant and Dale Carlson were then trained on the use of the screener.

As of Sept. 26, 2019, the Norton Lions Club has screened 530 children from ages 2 thru 18! Of those 530 children that were screened, 56 were found to have problems and were encouraged to get a complete eye exam.

So far we have screened children in three local daycare centers, Head Start, Eisenhower Elementary School and the Norton Junior/Senior High School.

Another service of the Norton Lions Club is that if someone cannot afford glasses, the club will help pay for them after they get an exam from Dr. Ben Cole, a local eye doctor.

Independence Lions pursue, receive community chest funding

For the first time in the history of the **Independence Lions Club**, the club will receive generous funds from the Independence Community Chest — a 501c3 tax-deductible organization that provides funds to more than 20 local non-profit civic organizations.

The Independence Community Chest approved a \$3,000 donation to the club for fiscal 2020. Those funds will come to the club in four installments (\$750) throughout the 2020 calendar year.

The club reached out to the community chest for funding after the club lost its primary revenue stream through the Lions Dens concession stand at Riverside Park. The Lions Club typically does not reach out to foundations or other fundraising organizations. However, seeing the considerable revenue drop that the club has experienced so far in 2019, club president Andy Taylor reached out immediately prior to the community chest's board interviews of civic organiza-

Continued on next page

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tions in June. The funds will be used to continue the vision care programs and Kiddie Land projects.

Taylor said he hopes to contact several other local sources about short-term funding of various projects until the club is able to shore up its financial situation.

The Independence Lions Club is indebted to the Independence Community Chest for its decision to provide funds to the club.

KLF offers 'Pink Lion,' other donation levels

The Kansas Lions Foundation serves as the Humanitarian, Educational and Charitable arm of Kansas Lions to benefit local community and youth programs.

The Foundation supports the ALERT Team, truck and trailer; the Emergency Grant Program (KLAT); annual Peace Poster contest; Lions Quest Youth Education Program; Leo club members; the Lions Youth Exchange Programs, and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Camps.

With all these responsibilities there is always a need for contributions to the Kansas Lions Foundation. Levels of donations are the Sunflower Level (any amount), the Pink Lion (\$100), and the Bill and Dorothy Wunder Youth Fellowship (\$500). Bill Wunder was a past International President of Lions Clubs International, and Dorothy contributed greatly to Kansas Lions.

For each \$100 donation, a donor will receive a Pink Lion pin. If a donor contributes \$400 for four Pink Lion pins, he or she also will receive a Bill Wunder pin. Purchase of these pins can be done through Kansas Lions State meetings or by mailing the form (http://kansaslionsfoundation.org/donationpledge_form.pdf) or by contacting John Scovill, PO Box 73, Humboldt, KS 66748, jscovill1@cox.net.

LCIF grants come in various types

Lions Clubs International Foundation's Campaign 100 continues. The last issue of *The Kansas Lions News* provided information on MD-17's goals to support Campaign 100 and benefits Kansas has received from LCIF (disaster relief, vision screening devices and Quest program). This article will highlight the various types of grants available from LCIF.

Humanitarian grants. This is one of the two types of LCIF grants that are best known. There are several categories of these grants. Probably the most requested are matching grants. These are for large-scale Lions service projects that address unmet humanitarian needs. The grant must serve large populations and requires 2-3 clubs to be financially involved with matching cash funds. It requires District Cabinet or MD Council endorsement. Grants are in the range of \$10,000-\$100,000. Other categories are Lions Quest, Diabetes and Sight-First grants.

Disaster relief funding. This is the other most commonly known LCIF funding and falls into several categories. The most well-known are Emergency grants and Disaster Preparedness grants. Emergency grants are for immediate relief aid (not long-term shelter or building activities) for natural disasters. Lions must be actively involved in relief efforts. Grants are in the range of \$5,000-\$10,000 and must be requested by the District Governor in the affected area within 30 days of occurrence.

Disaster preparedness grants are for disaster and emergency preparedness training and activities for Lions, e.g. stockpiling of relief goods or disaster kit assembly. Kansas Lions Foundation ALERT Trailers are an example of this

type of activity. They may also be used for community education and outreach to encourage preparedness. Grants are in the range of \$5,000-\$10,000 with local Lions contributing 10 percent of the requested grant amount. These grants must be requested prior to, not during, a disaster. Other types of Disaster Relief Funding are Community Recovery, Matching, and Major Catastrophe grants.

New Grants. There are two types of new grants: Leo grants and District/Club Community Impact grants. Leo grants are for community projects developed, planned and implemented by Leo clubs. The activities should address a community need and highlight Leos to the community. Districts or multiple districts may apply; no matching funds

are required. There is a maximum of \$2,500 per district or \$5,000 per MD. Community grants are available to both districts and clubs where 15 percent of their unrestricted LCIF donations are available to be given back to the local level once a minimum donation level is reached. The minimum donation level is \$10,000 for a district per fiscal year and \$5,000 for a club per fiscal year.

These are brief overviews of the grants. District Governors and LCIF Coordinators can provide specific details of any grant.

Here is an update of our LCIF donations as of Sept. 30.

Final donation results for 2018-2019.

District 17K – \$14,410 (22 of 75 clubs participated).

District 17A – \$29,170 (38 of 77 clubs participated).

District 17N – \$14,416 (26 of 74 clubs participated).

See LCIF on next page





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LCIF

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Total donations for our State were the highest that I have records for even though only 38 percent of our clubs made donations.

Current donation results for 2019-2020 through our first quarter.

District 17K – \$2,720 (4 of 75 clubs participated)

District 17A – \$6,734 (13 of 77 clubs participated)

District 17N – \$1,855 (7 of 74 clubs participated)

LCIF set some very ambitious targets for us for the last two years of Campaign 100. Based on prior donation experience, those targets may be a little steep. However, one goal we set for ourselves should be very attainable. We would like to have every club in the State contribute something this year and next. We are still seeking some clubs to become Model Clubs. Your coordinators have more information on this.

Don't you think it's time we step up and support our Association's humanitarian efforts and give back some of what has been so generously given to us?

Yours in Lionism,

Rick Dodson

MD-17 LCIF Coordinator

Find others who want to serve, invite them to become Lions

As our communities change, the needs of our communities change. As we are looking to gain new members we need to look for potential Lions that are seeking to meet the needs of our communities. Our motto is "We Serve" and we need to look for individuals who are serving the needs of our communities.

November was National Diabetes Awareness Month and hopefully your club found some project to support local diabetics. We should look at our yearly events calendar and consider coordinating some events with national events like Heart Month for Women. A Strides walk for Diabetes could be a

great event for your club and it does not have to be in National Diabetes month to be successful.

We must ask. In order to recruit new members, we need to look for opportunities. I have personally asked hundreds of individuals in the last 25 years to become members of the **Burlington Lions Club**. I have successfully recruited more than 25 members. Just Ask is a way to recruit members to provide greater service for our communities. No successful sales person makes a sale with every call but they keep on making those sales calls and we need to do the same.

WE SERVE when we "Just Ask!"

PDG Terry Weldin, MD 17 GMT



Golden award

Lawrence Lion Meredith Johanning recently received her Gold Centennial Pin for sponsoring **Lion Dan Skinner**, who has remained a Lion for at least 3 years and a day. Council Chair **Patrick Laham** (pictured here) awarded **Lion Johanning** her recognition.

Photo by Merle Laham