

DISTRICT DIALOGUE - MAY 2026

Northeast Kansas Lions District 17A

Chart Your Course



We Serve

Save the Dates:

4TH DIST. CABINET MEETING
Jun 13 – Salvation Army
Worship Center, Olathe

GPLLI -

**Great Plains Lions
Leadership Institute**

July 17 - 19

Register and pay by June 1

YOUR VOTE MATTERS!

State Convention

May 30- 31, 2026

Hutchinson, KS

Zone Meetings:

Scheduled by the Zone Chairs for the clubs in each zone attended by club presidents & club secretaries. club vice-presidents are welcome

District Officers:

Irene Haws

District Governor

Roger Yost

1st Vice District Governor

Cheryl Kerns

2nd Vice District Governor

Stephanie Heisler

District Secretary

StephanieRHeisler@hotmail.com

Ron Nichols

District Treasurer

coachronnichols@gmail.com

Rick Dodson

District Administrator

dodsonr23@gmail.com



Governor's Message

Leadership planning is underway for the coming year at the district level and at the club level. For the best year ever it is good to have the training for your position. Are you a returning officer or new at your post? You are invited to

attend the training for officers at the Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute. The deadline to apply for GPLLI is coming soon. Register and pay by June 1. See registration details in this newsletter.

There is also position specific learning paths on the Lions Portal. If you don't have an account you can register at www.lionsclubs.org, Click on Log in and register, then log in using the email and password for your personal account. On the menu bar click on LEARN. Look for available trainings. Or search "Secretary Training" or "President's Training" in the search box. This will bring up the path for this training. Please reach out to me if you have questions.

I am excited to be working on rebuilding the Abilene Lions Club with a Service First approach. Together with other members on the District Global Action Team, we are rebuilding a club that got down to only two members. Soon I will be meeting with the Atchison Lions Club and start up efforts to rebuild that club as well.

We are building the new generation of Lions. Rebranding who Lions are, what we do and why someone would want to join us. We are making a difference.

Thank you to the clubs that are building their membership and serving their communities with Scholarships, Summer Activities, Community Fairs and Rodeos, just to name a few. Don't be afraid to learn from the clubs in your zone, share resources and ideas at the Zone Meetings. Together we can do more and be smarter about how to go about growing new clubs in Kansas.

Please respond to the email from Kansas Lions to register for the State Convention in Hutchinson,

I want to encourage club officers to attend district and state level functions. Going forward we can do better when we work together, as clubs in a zone, and zones in a district and the districts in the State. Leadership in Lions is worth the effort. Thank you for your service.

DG Irene Haws

irene@idesignGS.com

**MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE USA/CANADA LIONS
LEADERSHIP FORUM IN MEMPHIS**

[register at https://lionsforum.org/](https://lionsforum.org/)





District Governor-Elect Roger Yost

Okay, where did April go?? Our Lions year is almost over. With our State Convention almost here, training of new officers is continuing. Let's take a look back at this year.

DG Irene set her sights high. Some may have thought them to be unattainable, but she has shown with determination and support of her cabinet it can be done.

At the end of this month, we all have a responsibility to attend our State Convention in Hutchinson. The Lions State Band is getting set to perform and international speakers are on their way.

Over the past years attendance has dropped dramatically. Yes, costs have gone up, not just for motels and gas, but also for the use of facilities to hold our conventions. If anyone has a suggestion how to further reduce the cost don't be afraid to voice your opinions. Plans are already in the works for my District Convention next year in April and the State Convention in Topeka in June.

Meeting in person are preferred, but as we all know costs sometimes exceed and can't be justified. Zoom meetings are affordable and have attendance that have at times exceeded our in-person meetings.

Upcoming events yet this year:

State Convention – May 29-30, Hutchinson

4th Cabinet Meeting – June 13, Olathe

International Conference – July 1-7, Hong Kong

1st MD17 Cabinet Meeting – August 8, Wichita

1st 17A Cabinet Meeting – August 15, Topeka, National Guard Museum, Forbes Field

Prepare ahead plan to attend and keep informed of what's happening in our Lions of your District and great State of Kansas.

Remember, We Serve.

It always seems impossible until its done. - *Nelson Mandela*

Roger Yost DG Elect

Yostfarms@hotmail.com

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



Lead to Serve. Serve to Lead. Global Action Team

Vania Castro, GLT

Global Leadership Team Coordinator
drvaniacastro@gmail.com

Eric Strimple, GMT

Global Membership Team Coordinator
estrimp81@msn.com

Rick Dodson, GST

Global Service Team Coordinator
dodsonr23@gmail.com

Eric Tweedy, GET

Global Extension Team Coordinator
erictweedy@icloud.com

Kansas Lions Directory is online

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

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

District Dialogue Publication Details: Email news articles and upcoming events to 17Anews@gmail.com

Deadline is the first of the month for publication at mid-month.

Visit and Join the District 17A Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/kansaslionsdistrict17a> Share your club's posts to this group too! District Website: <https://kslionsdistrict17a.org> (past issues of the District Dialogue are saved here).



First Vice-District Governor-Elect

District Convention was a success! It is always good to renew friendships and make new ones! Money was raised through the gift basket silent auction to help send more youth to the diabetes camp. Three young individuals expressed their hope for our world through the Peace Poster Contest. The "Pound" auction raised money to help other lions attend training. Around a dozen lions became certified as Guiding Lions...ready to help clubs when needed.

By the time you read this, I will have attended the Kansas River Clean-up. What a clear demonstration of making our communities better. What did your club do for the Environmental week of service? Plant a tree? Clean up a park? Thank you for the many contributions to your community...it doesn't go unnoticed!

Now I'm looking forward to State Convention! It will be in Hutchinson, May 29th and 30th. The meetings will be held at Hutchinson Community College. There will be an excursion to the salt mines on Friday night and, of course, on Saturday a performance from the Kansas Lions Band. The Cosmosphere is one block away with discounts given with your convention name badge. All proceeds from the Silent Auction will go to support childhood cancer. Registration is open...do it now, before you forget! I look forward to seeing you there!

Cheryl Kerns

First Vice-District Governor-Elect

**THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING THREE CLUBS WHO SHOWED UP
FOR THE RIVER CLEAN UP DISTRICT SERVICE PROJECTS DURING
THE NATIONAL WEEK OF SERVICE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT:**

**LAWRENCE LIONS AND MIAMI COUNTRY TRAVELING LIONS (LAWRENCE RIVER CLEAN UP)
AND THE TOPEKA LIONS (MANHATTAN CLEAN UP)**

News from the Lions Health Program

Thank you to all of the Lions and Lions Clubs that made donations to the District 17A Diabetes fund. Because of your generosity the District has been able to send 7 youth to a diabetes camp in the summer of 2026. District A has spent \$4,100.00 on these 7 Diabetes Camp Scholarships. To me this is what you Lions do to fulfill the Lions Motto "WE SERVE". These 7 youth will learn how to eat correctly, how to prepare foods that they can eat, how to take their blood sugar and log the results, all of the time having FUN doing it. You Lions have given these 7 Youth a new look at the diabetes they have. On behalf of them, I want to say THANK YOU.

The Camps are in June and if you would like to have one of the families come to give a program for your club I would be happy to contact one of them to see if they would like to visit your club. We do not give out the contact information unless I contact them and they agree to visit your club.

If you want to know more please contact me and I will explain in more detail.

Lion Vern Failor
Lions District 17A Health Program

STATE CONVENTION SERVICE PROJECT TO BENEFIT PEDIATRIC CANCER PATIENTS

The 2026 MD-17 Convention Service Project will be creating Comfort Care Kits for pediatric patients and their siblings. I've included an information sheet for your use.

Please:

- 1) publish the info in your newsletters
- 2) circulate the info as much as possible on your media sites
- 3) contact me with the names of local patients that should be included

Any questions or suggestions?

MD-17 Global Service Chair,
PDG Carleen Rajala
913-481-7328
10612 W. 93rd Terrace, Overland Park. Ks. 66214



[Comfort Kits for Childhood Cancer Victims!!!](#)

2026 MD-17 State Convention Service Project will focus on support and comfort for ***Childhood Cancer Patients & Siblings*** by donating comfort kits for use during the actual treatments, time waiting between treatments and journey to and from the treatment centers.

District Lions are asked to donate some of the following items at the convention in Hutchinson on May 30th, to send with other Lions or to send them to GST Carleen Rajala prior to that date.

Items needed for the **patients** are:

- small bottles of ***unscented lotions and hand sanitizers***
- hand-tied fleece blankets*** (any super cozy throw size blanket)
- quesy pops or drops*** (available on Amazon)

Items for **patients and siblings** are:

- crayons & coloring books
- activity, crossword puzzle, word search or sudoku books
- water bottles

If there is a local pediatric cancer patient that you would like to give a kit to, please contact PDG Carleen Rajala 913-481-7328 lioncarleen@gmail.com.



District 17A
**A BIG HELLO TO OUR
NEW MEMBERS!**



Jana E Elkins, Leawood
Sponsor: Not listed

Marc E Elkins, Leawood
Sponsor: Not listed

Aaron Kline, Leawood
Sponsor: Colin Fitzgerald

Samantha Miller, Oskaloosa
Sponsor: Tara Newman

Leann Sanders, Oskaloosa

Sponsor: Tara Newman

Judy L Brewer
Sponsor: Priscilla McCabe

Tracy Gardner, Topeka
Sponsor: Linda Sloan



Lion Eric Strimple, CGL (Certified Guiding Lion)
(He, Him, His)
District 17A Global Membership Team Coordinator

Mobile 785-331-7757
Email estrimp81@msn.com
PO Box 574, Eudora, KS 66025

••• APRIL 2026 •••

Reminder:

**Be sure and input your newly elected club officers into the
Lions Portal.**

If you have questions please contact our District Administrator.

**Rick Dodson
District Administrator
dodsonr23@gmail.com**

2026 GREAT PLAINS LIONS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (GPLLI)

GPLLI Event Description: “Training to prepare Lions for leadership positions throughout the organization. The GPLLI program is customized to best accommodate the needs of the area.” Dynamic facilitators from across the Great Plains will provide emerging Lion leaders with modules on diversity; goal setting; Lions fundamentals; local issues; mission statement; motivation; public speaking; time management; and working in teams.

GPLLI Candidate Description: “Qualified candidates are Lions ready to pursue leadership roles within their Lions communities. Club Leaders would benefit from attending.” **NOTE: Previous attendees are not eligible to participate without prior approval from the Institute Coordinator.**

GPLLI Sponsors: Multiple Districts 3 (Oklahoma), 9 (Iowa), 17 (Kansas), 26 (Missouri) and 38 (Nebraska).

WHEN: July 17-19, 2026. Check-in at the dormitory will take place from 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. on Friday, July 17, 2026. Adjournment and checkout, by Noon on Sunday, July 19, 2026.

WHERE: Baker University, Baldwin City, Kansas 66006.

COST: US \$220 per attendee if payment received on or before April 30, 2026. Cost increases to US \$240 beginning May 1, 2026. Registration covers single occupancy room, seven meals, and all course materials. Lion attendees may request to room together if desired. Mail completed application and check to PID Hans Neidhardt, 2744 E Ironstone St, Park City, KS 67219. You may also pay registration fee by Venmo (@Hans-Neidhardt).

SPECIAL Needs: If you have special needs (meals, mobility, sight, hearing, etc.) please be sure to provide this on your application. Attached additional sheet if necessary.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES: Please download the fillable PDF application and provide complete information to the entire application before printing and submitting it. If you are given a hard copy of the application, please print the information legibly. Application deadline is June 1, 2026.

Curriculum Coordinator/Registrar:

PID Hans Neidhardt
2744 E Ironstone St, Park City, KS 67219
316-435-2800
hnwizardofoz@gmail.com

24th ANNUAL GREAT PLAINS LIONS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
Sponsored by the Lions of Multiple Districts 3, 9, 17, 26 and 38
Baker University,
615 Dearborn Street, Baldwin City, Kansas 66006
July 17-19, 2026

REGISTRATION FORM (Please type or print legibly)

NAME _____ **Badge Name** _____ **Gender** ____
Last First Initial
ADDRESS _____
Street/PO Box City State/Province Zip/PC
PHONE () _____ () _____
Home Bus/Cell Email
Home Club. _____ **Sub District Number** _____ **LCI Mbr #** _____
Years in Lions _____ **Highest Office Held** _____

Registration Fee is **US\$220 if received by April 30, 2026**, and must accompany the registration form. **Beginning May 1, 2026, the base fee increases to US\$240.** Make checks payable in US funds to GPLLI or use Venmo (@Hans-Neidhardt). Mail registration form along with check (if paying by check), to PID Hans Neidhardt, 2744 E Ironstone St, Park City, Kansas 67219. You can also email the registration form to PID Hans Neidhardt (hnwizardofoz@gmail.com).

Application Deadline: June 1, 2026

“Applications will not be accepted without full payment.”

Your registration fee includes seven meals, all Institute costs and dormitory rooms (Friday and Saturday) at Baker University. Please note that the dormitories are smoke free. You are permitted to request a specific roommate. Check in will take place at the **Harter Student Union** from 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. on Friday, July 17th and check out must be completed by 8:00 A.M. on Sunday, July 19th. We offer a souvenir shirt for an additional US\$30. Shirt size _____ (they run a little large).

The following information must be completed before registration will be accepted.

_____ Diabetic Diet requested _____ Vegetarian Diet requested
_____ Wheelchair Access required _____ Vision Impaired (List what accommodation(s) are needed)
_____ Hearing Impaired (List what accommodation(s) are needed)

Please list any other special requests _____

Questions about the Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute may be directed to: PID Hans Neidhardt, Registrar, 2744 E Ironstone St, Park City, Kansas 67219, (316) 435-2800, or hnwizardofoz@gmail.com. Additional information will be sent to attendees prior to the start of the training session, to include directions, campus map, daily schedule, etc.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

We are asking for the following information in case of an emergency arising during the 2026 Institute. This information will be maintained until the close of the Institute and then shredded.

Emergency Contact Name _____ Relationship _____

Contact telephone: HOME _____ WORK _____ CELL _____

Medical information that needs to be shared with emergency responders: Please feel free to use the back of this form.

**** LCIF Donations Collection: Historically, we have accepted individual and/or club donations during the training course. Donations are entirely up to each individual and/or clubs, and are in no way mandatory.**