



# District 17N News

68 Lions clubs serving in south central and south east Kansas | June 2025

Find us on the web at [kslions17n.org](https://kslions17n.org) or on Facebook as KansasLionsDistrict17N



## Thank you for an amazing year

Our current Lion's year is quickly coming to an end. First and foremost, I want to express my sincere gratitude for the support that you have given me over the last three years.

What an amazing journey, not 100% sure where the time went. It seems that it was only yesterday, that Lion Linda McCormick nominated me for 2nd VDGE at the Emporia District Convention.

It was a privilege to serve with two great District Governors; IPCC



Lori Langley and CC Pam Bilyeu. Their friendship and guidance have meant so much to me.

A District Governor is only one person, what makes them successful comes from the Lions within their districts. This simple fact could not be truer and due to the efforts of each of you and your clubs, we are finishing strong. We started the year with "goals" and the district has come together as one to achieve and exceed those goals.

Let's review how we stand in relation to our four primary goals, set at the beginning of the year.

**Membership and Extension Goal:** Add one

new club and end the year with a positive growth.

It may have taken time, but success is ours, thanks to the commitment of PCC Harry Stockwell. Welcome new members of our newest club, Augusta Servant Lions Club.

As of June 2, the Portal reflected a +12 increase in total membership.

It was interesting to see the monthly "new member" report on the portal. Each month, the club with the greatest increase in number of members added received a donation to LCIF made in their club's name. The Emporia Lions Club was the May winner.

*Continued on next page*



## Save the Date! District Cabinet Meeting

**June 14**

Benton Community  
Building, 150 Main St.  
Registration opens 9:30 am;  
meeting begins at 10 am  
Sloppy Joe lunch \$10  
RSVP to Barb Schattak  
by June 10

[ksyorkies@gmail.com](mailto:ksyorkies@gmail.com)

## Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute

**June 27-29**

Baker University  
Baldwin City, KS

## Lions International Convention

**July 14-17**

Orlando, Florida

[lionscon.lionsclubs.org](https://lionscon.lionsclubs.org)

## USA/Canada Forum

**September 18-20**

Atlantic City, NJ

Info at

<https://lionsforum.org>

## Kansas Lions District 17N Leaders

**District Governor**

**Shari Neidhardt**

Towanda Lions Club

316-304-3644

[19Faith58@gmail.com](mailto:19Faith58@gmail.com)

**1st Vice District Governor**

**Clark Lindstrom**

Wichita Downtown Lions Club

316-258-2781

[cflindstrom@yahoo.com](mailto:cflindstrom@yahoo.com)

**2nd Vice District Governor**

**Melanie Snider**

Baxter Springs Lions Club

417-529-2138

[lionmelsnider@gmail.com](mailto:lionmelsnider@gmail.com)

## Governor's note

*Continued from previous page*

We have outlined several other key areas where new clubs can be formed. Many of the towns in our district once had a Lions Club, so what keeps them from having a club again. With a solid effort by our Lions, we have an opportunity to bring back clubs.

**LCIF Goal:** Set our goal at \$30,000, to support the LCIF causes.

Thanks to your generosity, we will end the year with over \$40,000 in donations. District 17-N achieved 100% club donation status for the 2024-2025 Lions year.

Donations no matter how small or large make a difference somewhere in the world.

**Training Goals:** 100% of the Zone Chairs trained.

Virtual training using Zoom has provided us an amazing avenue for meetings and training, keeping costs and time beneficial to all of us.

We also hosted training sessions at the Cabinet meetings and virtually for club officers.

**Service Reporting Goal:** 50% of our clubs report-

ing their service projects. We fell short with only 43% of our clubs reporting, but there is still time to report service activities.

Although the percentage reflected that we fell short of the goal, our clubs are actively engaged in so many different service projects. We know this for a fact, from what the DG Team heard about and saw during our official club visitations.

Portal reflects that our clubs completed 561 service projects, serving over 11,5459 people, and reaching a total of over 8957 hours.

I am so proud of the accomplishments by our district this year. Serving as your District Governor and you Making Your Mark, is a cherished memory that I will have forever.

I close with the following quote, *"Those who are willing to go the extra mile are the ones who exhibit a spirit of excellence, which leads to success in all aspects of business and life."* – David Meltzer.

*Lion Shari Neidhardt  
District Governor, 2024-2025*

## Blazing new trails: a challenge for your club

Trails – I tend to pull on my old comfortable shoes, trudge the low-grade rock-free trail to arrive at the bluff where the view is familiar. This path yields to me the same feedback, the same self-messages, feelings



and thoughts, the same perspectives and the same expectations of the world. I'm thinking I need to explore – blaze a new trail.

My exploration may include finding new inputs, learning new methods, learning about my environment, listening, and consciously rejecting the premise that being uncomfortable is a bad thing.

My quest to blaze a different trail has me wondering if clubs may benefit from the same exploration. Should clubs look for new sources of feedback; are they listening to their members and identifying members' interests? Should clubs challenge their ways and methods; reconsider their current projects and consider new service needs; and reach outside their comfort zones? Exploring is scary, hard and requires effort, and usually means questioning everything that is comfortable, for example:

- Consider retrying something that didn't work before.

- Ask members if they want to see new projects – what are they?
- Do current projects – the long-standing ones – still meet current needs?
- Are there needs, near and dear to the hearts, of members, friends or neighbors that Lions could serve?
- How can fun be incorporated?
- Are face-to-face meetings necessary and how often and long should meetings be?
- Have community members been asked about what they see is needed (church leaders, auxiliaries, merchants, city employees, school administrators, support group leaders, medical and mental health personnel, etc.)?

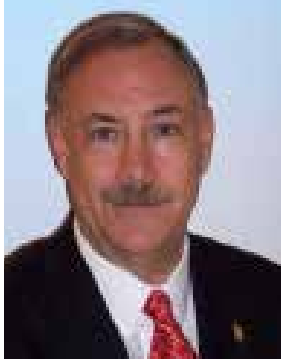
- Have prospective members been invited and re-invited, disregarding the objection of "I'm too busy"?

My human nature is to look for trails that provide pleasing views and little effort; however, I know that the real rewards (the good feeling deep in my soul) are often the result of going places that I never dreamed I would go or never attempting things that I could do. Let's explore different or new trails and reap great rewards!

*Lion Melanie Snider  
Second Vice District Governor, 2024-2025*

# LCIF roundtable: speedy facts for you

At the recent 103rd Kansas Lions State Convention in Wichita, most of the last day was to promote Lions Club International Foundation. The convention was filled with opportunities to support, inform, and educate attending Lions on one of the greatest assets of our Association.



One of the convention events was “speed learning” about LCIF. Participants visited six information tables, each with a different LCIF-related topic. There was a 10 minute time limit at each table and

when a whistle blew, Lion attendees would go to another table/topic.

Table 1 was lead by PID Anne Smarsh with the topic of the relationship of Lions International Club, founded in 1917, combined with Lions Club International Foundation, founded in 1968. LCI focuses on mobilizing Lions and Leos to carry out service projects to support the five global causes of vision, hunger, environment, childhood cancer, and diabetes as well as three focus areas of youth, disaster relief, and humanitarian efforts. The foundation focuses on providing financial support for that mobilization through various grants and funding.

Table 2 was lead by 17 A DGE Irene Haws with the topic of grants. There are 14 types of grants. They are matching grants, District and Club Community (DCC) impact grants, vision grants, childhood cancer grants, hunger grants, diabetes grants, disaster relief, emergency preparedness, community recovery, or major catastrophe grants, Leo service pilot grants, and three types of Lions Quest grants.

I led Table 3 on the topic of how to make an LCIF donation. We talked about donating online or in the portal using credit or debt card, or PayPal for one time or reoccurring donations. Another way to pay is snail mail using a Melvin Jones Fellow form to donate by check. We talked about wire transfers and the option to use Venmo if Lions wanted to donate that way.

I informed attendees about planned giving through an estate or trust by filling out a Planned Giving Declaration Form. Donations of cryptocurrency can be made as well. Stocks and securities can also be donated to LCIF. Calling 1.630.203.3836 and donations can

be taken over the phone.

Table 4 was PDG Rick Dodson sharing information about the Melvin Jones Fellowship. This honor is given to a Lion, any person, or even another service/support organization with a \$1,000 donation made by a Club or Lion in one lump sum or by installments. The honor is recognized by a plaque and lapel pin. Donations can be unrestricted in the empowering service fund or restricted to go towards a global cause or focus area. Kansas has 1,602 MJF recipients and 106 progressive Melvin Jones Fellows—those who have continued to donate above the \$1k.

Table 5 was about the LCIF Chain of Leadership with 17 K DGE Lou Morgan. The three LCIF leadership roles in Kansas MD 17 are the Club LCI Coordinator, the District LCIF Coordinator, and the Multiple District LCIF Coordinator. They all educate about the LCIF mission, programs and encourage member donations.

Lastly, Table 6 was PDG Richard Caldwell. He provided listening Lions with ways every club can raise funds for LCIF. The club treasury can donate on an annual basis if the club chooses to do so. Many have a standing policy to support LCIF with a specific amount per member.

There were ideas shared about special LCIF “fun”draisers that clubs can do. Most clubs promote LCIF through encouraged continuous individual Lion donations. Donations from businesses and other charitable organizations are also one way to raise funds for LCIF. Have an LCIF designated donation box at each and every service project or fundraising event.

The 2025-26 District 17 N Governor Team will continue to bring the “Bag of Bucks for LCIF” to each official Club visit to be passed around for member donations where the money donated will be sent to Lions International in the club’s name in the unrestricted fund so we can achieve the 100% of Clubs donating goal.

How does your Club raise funds to support LCIF? I’d like to know. Please email me at [cflindstrom@yahoo.com](mailto:cflindstrom@yahoo.com) so I can share it with others in the District, State, and possibly to Lions International.

*Lion Clark Lindstrom  
First Vice District Governor, 2024-2025*





**PDG Chris Bauer, pictured with PIP Douglas Alexander, DG Shari Neidhardt and ID Hans Neidhardt, received a Leadership Medal.**



**Lion Jackie O'Neal, pictured with PIP Douglas Alexander and ID Hans Neidhardt, received a Leadership Medal during the state convention banquet.**



**Five Melvin Jones Fellowships were presented at the Convention Banquet. The Fellowship represents a \$1,000 donation to Lions Club International Foundation. Clockwise from top left: Lion Faith McDaniel, Lion Christine Hockett, Council Chair Pam Bilyeu, Lion Steve Fisher and Lion Brian Jenson.**

## New club chartered

A new club has been formed in Augusta. The new club, Augusta Servant Lions, will meet the second and fourth Mondays at 6 pm at Holiday Bowl, 310 State St., Augusta.

The new club is sponsored by Wichita Downtown Lions and Guiding Lion is ID Hans Neidhardt. Charter president is PDG Tom Smarsh, secretary is PCC Harry Stockwell and treasurer is Lion Amanda Corby. Watch for an announcement of their charter celebration.

### Other charter members are:

Austin Bratton	Bret Corby
Debbie Corby-Lawson	Angela Duncan
Lynn Faulkner	Ron Haney
Val Haney	Alyssa Jameson
Amanda Krack	Lonny Pace
Victoria Plunkett	Cindy Shyrock
William Skaggs	Sarah Sykes
Connie Taylor	Ashley Thrill
Darlene Turner-McCollum	Joni Vittitow



## Kansas Lions Band Foundation

### Lion Quilt Raffle

Quilt Size: 78" by 98"

Note: The photo displays the actual quilt top, it does not show the additional brown and green border.

Raffle tickets can be purchased from DG Shari and/or Kansas Lions Band Foundation Executive Officers/Directors.

**Raffle Tickets: \$10.00/each or 3/\$25**

Drawing for the quilt will take place during the August Council Meeting. Proceeds will be used to support the Kansas Lions State/International Band programs.

**Thank you for your support.**

## Welcome to the Pride

New members in April & May



### New Member

### Sponsor

#### Cedar Vale

John Pontious  
Lorri Pontious

Dwight Mattocks  
Dwight Mattocks

#### Chanute

Tomi Craig Mishler

Brian Mishler

#### Derby

Thomas Donnay

Hans Neidhardt

#### Emporia

Matthew Hastings  
Steven Hildebrand  
Bryanna Spafford

Dave Eldridge  
Mike Petitjean  
Mike Petitjean

#### Garnett

Shawn Brandt  
Troy Laplant

David Branton  
Michael Canavan

#### Girard

Mary Cole

Steve Cole

#### Halstead

Karol Smith

Myrla Haury

#### Inman

Katy Reinecker  
Nicholas Reinecker  
Barbara Tuxhorn

Tim Nichols  
Tim Nichols  
Tim Nichols

#### Lyndon

Cecil Sharp  
Jennifer Struchen  
Todd Struchen  
Bill Walker

William Karr  
Barbara Schattak  
Gary Schattak  
Gary Schattak

#### Neodesha

Edward Duensing

Don Adams

#### Newton

Kent Little

Daniels Heinze Jr.

#### Osage City

Colton Williams

Gary Griffith

#### Oxford

Frank Brown  
Terri Spencer

John Pasman  
John Pasman

#### Pleasant Valley

Dan Wee

David Martin

#### Valley Center

Michael Miller  
Tammy Miller  
Mylinh Nguyen

Anne Carter-Hainlen  
Anne Carter-Hainlen  
Jana Burks

#### Wellington

Darlene Reimer

Rhonda Fitzpatrick

#### Westphalia

Bernard Huss

Arden Payer





# Around the District

Submit your club activities to [newsletter17n@cox.net](mailto:newsletter17n@cox.net)  
Deadline is always the 25th of the month



**Above: Humboldt Lions had 44 kids who caught 101 fish at the recent Fishing Derby.**

**Left: Bel Aire Lions served hot dogs to more than 600 kids at Isley Elementary's Career on Wheels event.**



**Wellington Lions recognized a group of Wellington High School Juniors at a recent assembly. The club recognizes outstanding WHS Junior leaders each year. These students were selected for their outstanding leadership qualities, exemplifying the Lions Code of Ethics, showing strong character, loyalty, friendship, and respect for fellow students, teachers, school district, employees, and themselves. After the assembly, the students were guests at the Lions meeting for lunch. The WHS Junior Leaders introduced themselves and shared what school and community activities they are involved in.**





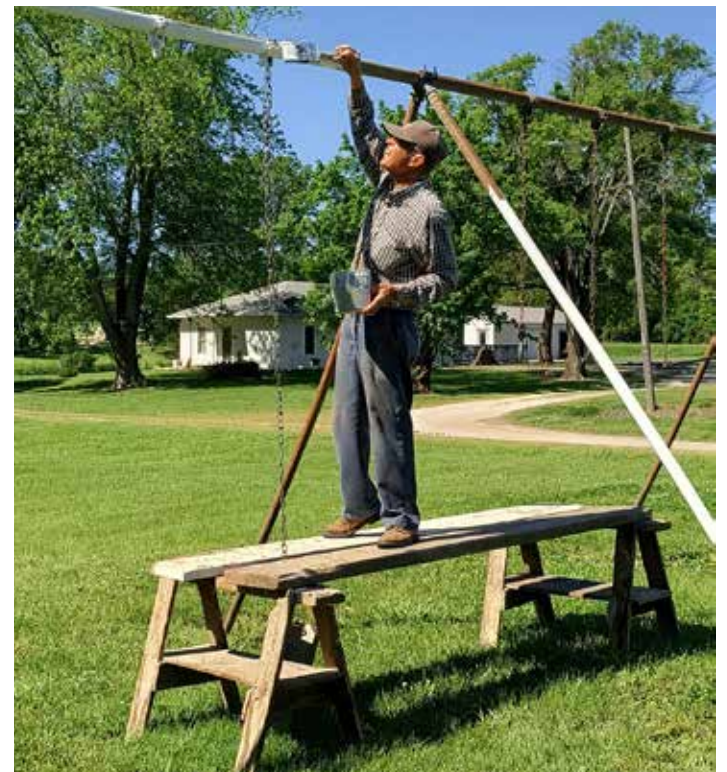
**Above: Augusta Lions participated in "Fill A Pot" in Downtown Augusta**



**Right: Wichita Downtown Lions volunteered for the Arkansas River Clean-up.**



**Neosho Rapids Lions Club donated \$500 to Elmendaro Township Library, located in Hartford.**



**Westphalia Lions gave playground equipment at the park a fresh coat of paint for the summer.**



# Online officer training offered in June

New and returning club officers can gear up for the coming year with training offered by District 17N leaders on Thursday, June 12 beginning at 7 pm.

Learn more about the duties of your office and where to find resources from Lions International to help you lead your club.

Training is offered via zoom. Log into the following link to take part in the training:

Join the Zoom meeting at this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84826156409?pwd=Mh-C3vMxbPKoFqSlink95M6RXf7rsye.1>

Meeting ID: 848 2615 6409

Passcode: 288191

For more information about the training, contact District N Global Leadership Team member Pam Bilyeu at [bilyeuskies@hotmail.com](mailto:bilyeuskies@hotmail.com).

## Almost to the goal for diabetes camp

PDG Don Cunningham reports that District N is almost to the goal of \$5,000 for diabetes camp scholarships.

Earlier in the year, PDG Don challenged the clubs in the district to donate \$100 to fund scholarships of up to \$650 for a child to attend one of two camps hosted in Kansas by the American Diabetes Association.



District clubs have donated \$4,600 toward the goal. PDG Don asks that any clubs who still wish to donate bring the donation to the June 14 District Cabinet meeting in Benton.

## Save the Date

First MD 17 Council Meeting

Saturday, August 2

8 am to 4 pm

Wingate by Wyndom

at Wichita Airport

5500 W Kellogg | Wichita, KS

Lunch is \$15

Watch for registration information from Kansas Lions State Secretary Dan Funke in the coming weeks.

## Officer Reporting

Has your club secretary reported new officers to Lions International via the Lions Portal. Is your club meeting date, time and place up-to-date on the Portal?

The information is needed to complete the MD 17 Directory this summer. Make sure your club information is up-to-date by June 15.

Verifying each member's information in the portal, including email address, is helpful to ensure members receive information about Lions throughout the year.

Need help with reporting? Contact PDG Chris Bauer at [lionchris@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lionchris@sbcglobal.net) or call 620-473-2406

## SAVE THE DATE!!

LYNDON ANNUAL "GET REV'D UP" ALL MOTOR SHOW

JUNE 21, 2025 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM RAIN OR SHINE

SPONSORED BY THE:

Lyndon Lions Club and American Legion Post #125

Registration at the City Park from – 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM

Awards Presented at 2:00 PM



LYNDON CITY PARK, HIGHWAY 75, LYNDON, KS

LIVE DJ! FAMILY FUN..... FOR EVERYONE!!

TOP 15 AWARDS AND 16 SPECIALTY AWARDS!  
BREAKFAST, LUNCH... & MORE AVAILABLE AT THE SHOW!

\$20.00 FOR EACH VEHICLE (Registration form on reverse side)  
DASH PLAQUES FOR ALL ENTRIES!!

Registration Forms available online at: <https://e-clubhouse.org/sites/lyndonks>

SUBMIT REGISTRATIONS by JUNE 18, 2025, TO:

Lion Barb Schattak, 330 Washington St, Lyndon KS 66451  
785-221-7994 or [ksyorkies@gmail.com](mailto:ksyorkies@gmail.com)

Make checks payable to Lyndon Lions Club in memo place: Lyndon Car Show  
For more info contact: Commander/Lion Danny Roush: 785-640-6511 or [razrhawk@hotmail.com](mailto:razrhawk@hotmail.com)

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST BE REGISTERED FOR THIS FUNDRAISING EVENT  
THANK YOU!!

In case of inclement weather, the day of this event, please call Danny or Barb to confirm it is happening.