

DISTRICT DIALOGUE - November 2025

Northeast Kansas Lions District 17A

Chart Your Course



Save the Dates:

Cabinet Meetings 10 am to 12:30 pm

Feb 7 – Zoom only

Jun 13 – Salvation Army
Worship Center, Olathe

PLAN TO ATTEND

District 17A Convention

April 10 - 11 (NEW DATE)

DoubleTree Inn & Suites
Manhattan

SAVE THE DATE

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



Wow! It's already November and what an amazing year it has been so far. Lions have been active in their local communities doing what Lions do best.

Here is something for our local clubs to consider:

District and Club Community Impact Grants

Did you know that clubs that donate to LCIF at a qualifying level can get a club community impact grant? If club donations are less than the qualifying level, credits can be aggregated up to the district, together with credits for donations to LCIF from other clubs in the district to help the district qualify for a District Community Impact Grant. When the grant is approved, the district has one year to complete the project. All communities in the district can help identify a community project that benefits their community and with the help of the district Lions can make an impact in a local community.

Lions can you help to identify a community project that will impact the community you serve?

Grants require LCIF approval and only donations to the Empowering Service Fund (unrestricted) are eligible. Qualifying districts and clubs can use earned credits for local projects by submitting a DCG application. Applications submitted by districts must be signed by the current district governor and be certified via resolution by the current district cabinet. Projects receiving DCG funding shall be clearly identified as being made possible by Lions and LCIF through appropriate recognition, signs, and public relations activities.

Grant examples:

- Support humanitarian projects that enhance community welfare and showcase Lions' impact.
- Fund health initiatives, such as wellness programs or playground equipment.
- Develop community engagement activities that foster collaboration between Lions and local organizations.

To learn more about the Grant visit this link: <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/start-our-approach/grant-types/district-club-community-impact-grants>

If you have questions, please reach out to me or our District LCIF Coordinators: PCC Bobby Duvall or PID Deb Weaverling.

Together we can make a lasting and impressionable impact in our local communities.

DG Irene Haws
irene@idesignGS.com





Roger Yost **1st Vice-District Governor**

Good and Not So Good Holidays

We come to the time of year to celebrate, be thankful and remember. (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah and many others worldwide.) Many of us families and couples are fortunate to have the means to celebrate, others have very little or nothing.

Our cultures and our beliefs may vary, but Lions worldwide can make things easier for a few or many. Club service may be as little as a gift to a family or individual, a neighbor. An invitation to celebrate as a group or just a sit down with a cup of coffee or tea. Thankful to have someone to reach out to, a kind hand or word of encouragement.

There are many ways to help. Volunteer at a food bank or kitchen, deliver meals or have food drives. Give monetary donations to groups that always never have enough at this time of year. Asking an elderly neighbor to come for a holiday meal, letting them know they are not alone or forgotten.

Keep in mind every holiday may be celebrated differently and at different times. Thanksgiving in Canada was celebrated on October 13, 2025 and will be on October 12, 2026, as the United States celebrates in November each year. Christmas is celebrated differently by many cultures. Hanukkah begins the evening of December 14 and ends on the evening of December 22, 2025. Lets all be grateful for what we have and are able to give.

The purpose of human life is to serve and to show compassion and the will to help others.

- Dr. Albert Schweitzer

Roger Yost 1st VDG 17A
Yostfarms@hotmail.com

Lead to Serve. Serve to Lead.



District 17A Global Action Team

Vania Castro
Global Leadership Team Coordinator
drvaniacastro@gmail.com

Rick Dodson
Global Service Team Coordinator
dodsonr23@gmail.com

Eric Strimple
Global Membership Team Coordinator
estrimp81@msn.com

Eric Tweedy
Global Extention Team Coordinator
erictweedy@icloud.com

The GAT is a vast network of dedicated Lions — at all levels — who are focused on helping districts achieve their MISSION 1.5 targets.

This important team is positioned to help foster club membership growth, build strong, innovative leaders and increase Lions' visibility in the community through impactful service.

GAT leaders play a larger part in ensuring districts are held accountable in reaching MISSION 1.5 targets.

By leading by example and providing the guidance necessary to navigate challenges and celebrate success, only then can Lions be successful.

Source: <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/resources-for-members/resource-center/global-action-team>



Cheryl Kerns
2nd Vice-District Governor

I had the pleasure of meeting with the Shawnee Lions in October. They have a year-round fundraiser by helping at sporting events. They make diabetic kits and rice bags to give to school nurses. They also do A LOT of vision screenings! I then met with the Topeka Lions Club. They have sorted glasses, are preparing for their 5K fundraiser, have distributed hygiene products to several organizations, and donate/distribute books for the Reading Action program. Finally, I met with the Linwood Lions Club... what a vibrant community. They provide scholarships to seniors and dictionaries to every third grader.

They have multiple fundraisers and give generously to many in their community.

As promised, I'm going to share some ideas that I learned at the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum. Your club can collect/ make hats, put them each in a baggie, and then distribute to homeless shelters or even tape to park benches. The nickname for the project is Chase the Chill. Your club can choose a "Charity of the Month" allowing individual members to pick their favorite charity and research what items are most needed. Then the members can contribute from the list. "Sundaes on Tuesdays" was a summer project that a club did during July and August. The kids would be given a sundae and the Lions read books to the children while they ate.

It's okay to think outside the box, shake things up, and do something new! Have you asked your newest members what they would like to do?

At the end of September I had pancakes with the Louisburg Lions. In early October I helped roll brats with the Overland Park Host Lions. I was back to pancakes with the Leawood Lions then off to Baldwin City to help make funnel cakes! I have assisted the Shawnee Lions and the Overland Park Host Lions with vision screenings.

Thank you, again, to all my clubs for sharing your stories and your purpose.



District Governor Team



The Barrel Room - Nov. 1 Cabinet Meeting at Liquid Art Winery

The MD17 Kansas Lions Directory is online,

Visit [KansasLions.org](https://kansaslions.org). This is password protected. Your Zone Chair has the password. Any changes to club meeting dates/times/ locations will 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.

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>

View the District Website here: <https://kslionsdistrict17a.org>



Warm Hearts, Strong Pride:
A Winter Membership Challenge for Lions
December 1, 2025 – February 28, 2026

As the snow falls and the days grow shorter, let's keep our Lions Pride shining bright!

This winter, the challenge is simple: stay connected, serve together, and share the warmth of Lionism.

How to Build the Pride This Winter

1. Warm Hearts Through Service

Choose a project that spreads warmth — literally or figuratively — throughout your community.

Here are some **winter service ideas** for your club:

- Host a coat, glove, or blanket drive for those in need
- Sponsor a “Souper Bowl” food collection for your local food pantry
- Volunteer to serve hot meals at a community kitchen
- Partner with schools to provide winter care kits (hats, socks, hygiene items) for students

- Deliver Valentine's cards or small gifts to nursing home residents or first responders
- Offer to shovel snow or do light yardwork for seniors or disabled neighbors
- Organize a pet food drive to help local shelters through the winter months
- Collect and donate books or puzzles for hospital or senior center activity rooms

Nothing warms a cold day like the heart of a Lion in action.

2. Stay Connected With Fellow Lions

Winter can feel long and quiet — so make sure your club keeps the fun alive!

Try one of these:

- Chili cook-off or soup supper fundraiser or social
- Game or trivia night with prizes or themed teams
- Hot cocoa and cookie exchange before or after a meeting
- “Ugly sweater” night at your January meeting for laughs and fellowship
- Host a virtual meeting or service event if weather keeps people home — it still counts!

3. Reconnect & Reach Out

Take time to personally reach out to members you haven't seen in a while. A phone call, coffee meetup, or handwritten note can make a big difference.

Remind every Lion how important they are to the Pride — because strong clubs are built on strong relationships.

4. Invite Others to Join the Pride

Every Lion has the power to grow our Pride!

Bring a friend, family member, or coworker to a service project or social night. Let them see first-hand what it means to serve with heart and compassion. The best invitation is your example.

5. Share Your Lion Pride

Post photos and stories of your club's winter service and fun using #WarmHeartsStrongPride and #LionsServe.

Share your warmth online — your story could inspire someone new to become a Lion!

The Goal

Keep our clubs active, connected, and growing through the cold months — proving that no season can freeze the heart of a Lion. Together, we'll build the Lions Pride, strengthen our friendships, and continue to serve with compassion and joy all winter long.



Eric Strimple
Global Membership Team Coordinator

District 17A
A BIG HELLO TO OUR
NEW MEMBERS!



Shelby L Dingu, Baldwin City
Sponsor: William Cooper

Koy Colby, Concordia
Sponsor: Amber Colby

Michael Drummer, Concordia
Sponsor: Cristie Drummer

Rebecca Giubieo, Eudora
Sponsor: Eric Strimple

Sanda Kwan, Leawood
Sponsor: Mathew Roening

Colleen Jones, Overland Park Host
Sponsor: Robert Jones

Josh Hilewitz, Sabetha
Sponsor Terry Weldin

Becca Johnson, Sabetha
Sponsor: Terry Weldin

Stacy Looney, Sabetha
Sponsor: Terry Weldin

James Malsom, Sabetha
Sponsor: Terry Weldin

Elija Moore, Scandia
Sponsor: Donald Melby

Samuel Slinker, Scandia
Sponsor: Donald Melby

Maia Sloan, Topeka
Sponsor: Linda Sloan

Muhammad Chohdry, KU Eye Center
Sponsor: Shannon Baker

Sarah Frederick Fisher, KU Eye Center
Sponsor: Shannon Baker

• • • OCTOBER 2025 • • •



Donations for the Flint Hills Bread Basket Food Pantry - following the Cabinet meeting in Manhattan.



**Need help setting up your club's
Facebook Page?**

Reach out to Public Relations Chair,

Eric Strimple
estrimp81@msn.com

or Irene Haws, District Governor
irene@idesignGS.com



Service Team Coordinator

1. DG Irene Haws wants to remind us that “We Serve”. Everything else exists to support that.
2. Reminder that International President A. P. Singh is asking that we help amplify Lions International global impact during the following designated weeks:

a. Mental Health and Well-Being (October 4-12, 2025). As of Nov. 1, In the Lion portal, 6 clubs reported an activity during this week: Assaria, Easton, Lansing, Miami County Traveling, Overland Park host, Shawnee, and Topeka Sunflower. (Topeka Lions Journey for Sight & Mental Wellness 5K was added after this report was made)

b. Hunger (January 3-11, 2026)

c. Environment (April 18-26) which aligns with Earth Day and would be an excellent time for our district-wide Service Project for the Kansas River.

3. As of October 26th, 30 clubs (44%) have inputted service projects in the Lion Portal. 173 activities with 43,578 people served. 4,405 volunteer hours reported.

4. Breakout of activities reported:

6	Childhood Cancer
2	Diabetes
4	Disaster Relief
18	Environment
30	Hunger
46	Humanitarian
42	Vision
22	Youth
4	Administration

5. For district-wide functions, DG Irene’s guidance is to have a service project at the District Convention and all Cabinet Meetings. She encourages us to share service ideas among clubs (Zone meetings?). She also encourages us to market our service projects, particularly new projects in the community, by promoting what Lions are doing and inviting others to volunteer and help. Her monthly newsletter will feature service projects, so I ask you to input your projects in the Lions Portal and/or send me short blurbs with photos after each project. I will edit them and send to the newsletter editor.

6. Reminder that in DG Irene’s goals submitted to LCI, she included the following about service: “To increase the impact and relevance of service in my district, raise awareness of club service, and attract prospective members during my district governor term, I commit to work with my team to actively contribute to global impact and increase the percentage of Lion and Leo clubs reporting service.

- Our team will focus on the following two global causes: Environmental and Hunger.
- Our team will ensure 90% of Lion and Leo clubs in our district report service.

She is committed to ensuring that I, as GST District Coordinator, promotes the importance of timely planning and reporting of service.”

7. The Service Activity Reporting (SAR) Card can be used to capture the critical information for service reporting. It can then be sent to the District Administrator for helping your club report service (photo below) training is also available for presidents and secretaries to report service.

Continued on the next page...

REPORTING SERVICE IS AS EASY AS REMEMBERING... WWW123

WHAT?

WHERE?

WHEN? # HOURS SERVED?

VOLUNTEERS # OF PEOPLE SERVED

SERVICE ACTIVITY REPORT

LION PORTAL Service Activity Reporting

Just collect the necessary information and give it to your club President or Secretary to submit. Also, the District Administrator can submit it officially online via the Lion Portal on behalf of your club. Reporting keeps our District, MD and Lions International in the loop on how We Serve.

Club Name:

Reporter:

Contact Info:

8. DG Irene has a special interest to ensure that Lions clubs in District 17A know about the Kansas River (aka The Kaw). She wants to make sure that clubs are aware of Clean up and Conservation Opportunities through Friends of the Kaw and the Kansas River Keeper and other partners. The river runs through District 17A and serves as a source of drinking water for more than 800,000 people* in cities and towns in our district. Sharing this information, she hopes to bring a sense of unity with the clubs in the district. She encourages a district service project that includes as many clubs as possible in an effort to provide a district-wide service related to the Kansas River.

*Click on or copy and paste to your browser:

<https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/places-we-protect/kansas-kaw-river/>

Also visit: <https://kansasriver.org/>

----- LEAD TO SERVE. SERVE TO LEAD. -----



2026 Regional Opportunities for Leadership Training

Multiple Districts 3 (Oklahoma), 9 (Iowa), 17 (Kansas), 26 (Missouri), and 38 (Nebraska) are hosting two outstanding “leadership enhancement” training opportunities at Baker University, Baldwin City, Kansas.

Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute (GPLLI) is July 17-19, 2026 Faculty Development Institute (FDI) is July 16-19, 2026

General information and application forms can be downloaded from <https://kansaslions.org/gplli-and-fdi>

When filling out the applications please complete all of the requested information prior to submitting your application. Course fee payment must be submitted with the application.

APPLICATION & PAYMENT DEADLINE - June 1, 2026.

A limited number of \$200 Scholarship Reimbursements are available from the District. Reimbursement for after completing the course.



**Building Stronger Leaders, Serving a Stronger District –
PDG Dr. Vania Castro – 17A Report
10/28/2025**

As we continue to serve this fiscal year under the leadership of **International President A.P. Singh**, whose theme “*Lead to Serve and Serve to Lead*” and **District Governor Irene’s** inspiring vision “*Chart Your Course,*” we are collectively setting a strong direction for **District 17A**. In my role as **Global Leadership Team (GLT) Chair, Leadership Development Team (LDT) Chair, and New Voices – Women in Lions Chair**, my focus remains on cultivating capable leaders and driving measurable, sustainable results as follows:

- 1. Lions Portal Hands-On Training:** held on **August 30, 2025**, this session engaged Lions from multiple 17A clubs in an interactive, practical training on navigating and applying the **Lions Portal** platform to strengthen administrative efficiency and club operations.
- 2. Leadership Resource Spotlight** distributed to all 17A club officers: ***Strengthening Leadership with the Club President/First Vice President*** — a concise, one-page hub featuring master links to essential leadership tools, governance guides, best practices, and FAQs. The resource also includes an **E-book on leadership and governance** to further support club success.
- 3. Club Officer Training Opportunities:** club officers (Presidents, Treasurers, Secretaries, and Zone Chairs) continue to enhance their leadership skills through the **Lions Portal** and **Learning Path**. The **Spring 2025 Club Officer Training Video** is available on our 17A website, and a **dedicated in-person training session** is scheduled for **May 2026** to equip officers with advanced leadership and management tools.
- 4. Guiding Lions Virtual Training:** scheduled for **January 2026 (date TBD)**, this district-wide virtual training will empower Lions serving as **Guiding Lions**, reinforcing mentorship and supporting clubs in development, retention, and rebuilding efforts.
- 5. New Voices / Women in Lions Symposium:** planned for **March 7, 2026**, this global-minded symposium will highlight the impact of women in leadership and service. It is expected to be **one of the largest celebrations of women in Lions**, amplifying stories of empowerment, inclusion, and innovation across continents. Stay tuned for registration details!

Leadership Development & New Voices – Women in Lions

The **Leadership Development Team (LDT)** will continue to identify, mentor, and prepare emerging leaders for service at all levels of our organization. A **second committee Zoom meeting** will be scheduled by **early December 2025** to review initiatives and expand collaboration. Through **New Voices: Women in Lions**, we will continue to recognize and empower women leaders who demonstrate excellence in **service, leadership, membership, and marketing/communications**. Our upcoming **hybrid symposium (March 7, 2026)** will serve as a platform for inspiration, inclusion, and action-oriented dialogue.

These initiatives represent **deliberate investments in District 17A’s future**. Together, we will **lead with purpose, serve with impact, and achieve lasting growth** for our clubs, our district, and our global Lions family.

In Service and Friendship,

PDG Dr. Vania Castro

GLT Chair | LDT Chair | New Voices – Women in Lions Chair

District 17A



MD-17 KANSAS LION OR LEO 2025-2026 ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTO CONTEST ENTRY FORM

LION/LEO NAME: _____

CLUB: _____

EMAIL: _____

DISTRICT: _____

PLEASE SPECIFY PHOTO CATEGORY:

_____ ANIMAL LIFE

_____ PLANT LIFE

_____ WEATHER PHENOMENON

_____ URBAN OR NATURAL LANDSCAPE (No people can be shown in picture)

_____ ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE PROJECT (People/Lions/Leos can be in photo)

1. All photos must be taken in Kansas and be your original work, i.e. taken by you.
2. Please submit this form with each category entry.
3. All submitted contest photos become the property of Kansas Lions.
4. MD 17 Kansas Lions reserve the right to disqualify entries that do not meet the contest criteria or that may be considered inappropriate.

DEADLINES FOR CONTEST

1. Submit/email the digital photos and entry form to your respective district environmental chairperson before **February 1, 2026**. District K: Louise Greenberg, gberg@ruraltel.net, District A: PDG Terry Weldin, terryweldin@gmail.com, or District N: Kathy Pratt, kpratt558@gmail.com
2. Each district will select their contest winners in each category and then submit them to the MD 17 Environmental co-chairs by **April 20, 2026**.
3. MD 17 Lions will vote to select the final winners during a period of April 25 through May 15 by either paper ballot or by electronic means. Paper ballots will be sent out by email from the State Office.
4. To increase participation, a Lion may only win in one category.
5. Don't forget to enter photos of Lions doing service in the community.
6. Winners will be recognized and awarded at the MD 17 State Convention May, 2026. By submitting photos, the **photographer gives the Kansas Lion MD 17 permission to use the photos in any publications, social media, websites, displays and other places without payment or other consideration**. Additionally, by submitting a photo that includes human subjects, the photographer is indicating that they have obtained full permission from those subjects for the photograph to be used in department medium as well.
7. We ask that all photo submissions are **not digitally manipulated or enhanced**. Photos that have been altered will be disqualified. Photos that have been edited using Instagram filters will not be accepted. Normal cropping, color correction, etc. are acceptable. **Please remove watermarks/trademarks before entering.**



Lions Health Program

November is Diabetes Awareness Month. To participate in this month we ask each club to do a project to remember this month and make others aware of the effects of Diabetes. One of the ways to help with this worthy cause is send a youth to a Diabetes Camp administered by the American Diabetes Association. The next camps are listed below.

Camp Discovery near Augusta, Kansas

Date June 7 -- 12, 2026
 Age 8 - - 16
 Registration begins Feb. 1, 2026
 Cost \$1650 - 50% Family \$825
 Family Register \$150
 Dist. 17-A Lions Scholarship \$675

Camp Planet D near Lawson, Mo

Date July 12 -- 17, 2026
 Age 7 - - 17
 Registration begins Feb. 1, 2026
 Cost \$1400 - 50% Family \$700
 Family Register \$150
 Dist. 17-A Lions Scholarship \$550

ADA will publish the registration form in February 2026. To participate just plan a program or send a donation to Lion Vern Failor.

It is time to start looking for youth to go to a Diabetes camp next summer. So talk to your school nurses and see if they have youth in their schools that would like to go to a camp. Lion Vern has a poster that can help you with this. Lion Vern has material that will help you find these youth. There is poster to take to your school nurse to place on the school bulletin board, ask your LHP Chair Lion Vern for a copy.

In that same vain your District has a Diabetes Camp Fund. So ask your club to make a donation to your District Diabetes Fund by sending a check made to your District, write **Diabetes fund on the memo** and send it to Lion Vern Failor or send it to the District Treasurer.

State-Wide Vision Screening July 1. 2025 to the present:

6mo. to 7 yrs 1553 screened 250 rereferred
 5 to 18yrs, 2453 Screened 256 Referred
 Volunteer Hours 334

Lion Vern Failor

5201 SW 27th St, Topeka, KS 66614 email: vlfailor@gmail.com, phone 785-231-3960

