



District 17N News



67 Lions clubs serving in south central and south east Kansas | October 2025
Find us on the web at kslions17n.org or on Facebook as KansasLionsDistrict17N

Clark's Comments

An attitude of gratitude

Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.

—Arthur Ashe

I saw a meme on Facebook that reminded me that it was World Gratitude Day and it made me reflect upon feeling thankful for who and what is going on in my life instead of thinking or being concerned about what and who I don't have in my life. The following is just my abbreviated "I'm grateful for" list from September.



The past month, district and statewide, we should all be extremely grateful for the opportunity afforded the many Kansas Lions who volunteered their time and energetic efforts to help make the Kansas Lions Sight Foundation Health Screening Booth a success at the Kansas State Fair.

Lion Vern Failor is a super service hero for organizing everything it takes to perform sight screening to thousands of fair goers, young and old, and making sure there were volunteer nursing students to perform potentially lifesaving blood sugar and blood pressure tests. I only got to serve in the booth three days, but many other Lions volunteered many more hours and days. I bet you felt great about what you did to help people feel better regarding their health, just like I did, as you drove home.

I am grateful for the fact that 1st VDG Melanie Snider, 2nd VDG Barbara Schattak, and at least four of the ten Zone Chairs have jump-started the "Lead to Serve, Serve to Lead" Lion year with Club and Zone meetings sharing the important talking points of the 2025-26 Lions International and District goals and plans.

They are:

- To increase club membership by just +1 by 6.30.26.

Continued on next page

Coming Up Mental Health and Well-Being Week of Service

October 4-12

See pages 8-9 for
resources

Fall Rally

October 24-25

J O Sundstrom

Conference Center

Lindsborg

Registration on page 10



2nd District 17N Cabinet Meeting

November 8

Girard Public Library

17N District Convention

February 27-28

Goddard

Kansas Lions District 17N Leaders

District Governor

Clark Lindstrom

Wichita Downtown Lions Club

316-258-2781

cflindstrom@yahoo.com

1st Vice District Governor

Melanie Snider

Baxter Springs Lions Club

417-529-2138

lionmelsnider@gmail.com

2nd Vice District Governor

Barb Schattak

Lyndon Lions Club

785-221-7994

ksyorkies@gmail.com

Governor's Comments

Continued from page 1

- Grow at least two new clubs to have more hands to serve others in need with purpose and pride
- Consistently and promptly report all club service efforts and hours in the portal.
- Encourage clubs to start a new environmental project to be entered to win an art quality Lion Statue.
- Use the new 2025-26 Club Excellence Award guidelines for deserving club success recognition next year.
- Ask for donations to the "Change for Diabetes" jars for scholarships to attend Camp Discovery,
- Encourage members to enjoy and have fun entering the 2025-26 District 17 N photo contest being announced in this newsletter.
- Make a plea to all members to donate what they can, even if it's \$1, as soon as they can to LCIF

while striving to achieve the new \$45,888 District 17 N goal and by continuing the "Bag-of-Bucks."

I also always appreciate it when we include our families and friends in our meetings, projects, and service.

Bottom line, we should focus on gratitude every day. I believe that will attract better outcomes to our Mission 1.5 membership challenge.

If we stay positive and mutually appreciate the super service Lions provide everyday throughout the globe, we will hopefully attract an abundance of more Lion members to rebuild clubs in need of it, start new clubs in communities who tell us we are needed, and generate a tremendous commitment of diverse like-minded service oriented individuals willing to accept our invitation to join Lions International.

Be the change you want to see in the world.

—Mahatma Gandhi

Clark Lindstrom

17N District Governor 2025-2026

Service is about caring for others

October – the time when temps are comfortable; when community festivals, school athletics, and Halloween activities abound – when **LIONS SERVE!**

Often when I read Lions magazine, other district newsletters or see posts on social media, I feel that I am not serving/volunteering or giving enough.



We Serve is about caring for others, not about how big the service provided is.

Our communities' needs are big and varied. Volunteering to serve through community clean-up, park upgrades, blood drives, projects for youth, school personnel recognition, senior support, assistance to pet shelters, first-responder supports, and food bank assistance are great and necessary service to our communities.

Service is also small acts, such as a meal delivery, the pick-up of an online order for a friend or neighbor; a phone call of support to someone who is struggling or lonely; the sharing of a joke via social media that let's others know they are being thought of; a kind word to someone who has inspired you; or a visit/card to a nursing home resident. While small acts of service do not appear to be monumental, they are often monumental to the one served.

So, I ask you to take a moment to reflect on your service, to think about the lives you have impacted and recognize that your service is appreciated. I personally thank you for what you give of your time, your resources and your heart to serve. I am proud to serve alongside you.

Melanie Snider

17N 1st Vice District Governor 2025-2026

Peace Poster deadline approaching

The deadline for the 2025 Peace Poster Contest is approaching fast.

Entries should be sent to District Peace Poster Chair Lion Lorraine Stockwell by November 7 or brought to the District Cabinet meeting in Girard on November 8. Judging will take place at



the Cabinet meeting.

Mail posters to District Peace Poster Chair Lion Lorraine Stockwell, 7205 SW 163rd St, Augusta, KS 67010. For more information about the district-level contest, contact Lion Lorraine Stockwell at 316-644-7502 or by email at lorie1999_1999@yahoo.com

A new conversation to have with potential members

Well, after delayed plane travels home or flat tires, we have all gotten back from the USA/Canada Forum held in Atlantic City, New Jersey safely! We all received great training and came home with new memories, new friends, and valuable information.

I volunteered at the Forum store and had an exciting time meeting Lions from all over and having great conversations with those I helped. Also, during meals you never sit at the same table with the same people, what a wonderful way to meet new people and get great ideas.

During the sessions I attended one statement stood out to me. When you are meeting a potential new member ask them “what is your passion?” “What ser-



vice are you excited about to help others?” It made me think about how I am asking individuals to join my club and our organization. I have in the past discussed our global causes and what my club is active in but never asked about their “passion.”

In the future, I will be asking about their passion. Getting to know them and to know where they can fit in the best in the club. Their passion could chart a new course of action for our club and/or our district.

We need to remember to ask about their passion as it is a fantastic way to bring new members in and create new clubs. Remember to ask, “What is your passion?” “how would you like to serve?” Maybe if we change our mindset in how we ask potential new members we can grow for the better and serve better.

Barb Schattak

17N Second Vice District Governor 2025-2026

Membership update

Augusta Servant Club wins membership challenge

The newest club in the district, the Augusta Servant Lions, will be grateful and surprised to know that they won both July and August District Governor membership challenge by inducting the most new members with two new members each month. I am personally making a \$10 per new member donation, \$40 total, to the unrestricted LCIF fund in the club's name which is one of the requirements for a Club Excellence Award. Who wants to spend my money in future months? Just induct the most new members and it's a win/win for everyone.

For the month of August, we had nine new members with eight drops leaving us with +1 members than July. Being positive is always good.

Mission 1.5 Recognitions

Three District 17N clubs received Mission 1.5 banner patches for 100% Club Retention in 2024-2025. Inman, Oxford and Westphalia clubs received the recognition from Lions International.

In addition, two 2024-2025 club presidents were recognized for club's with membership net gains. Certificates of Appreciation will be presented to Barbara Schattak of Lyndon Lions Club and Olivia Lehman of Westphalia Lions Club.

New Member Kits

If your club has a supply of New Member kits, you

need to discard old membership and sponsor certificates signed by the past international president and replace them with certificates signed by International President A.P. Singh.

Order new membership and sponsor certificates/packets now from the LI Store in the portal. It's free shipping, so order a bunch just in case. You'll be glad you did.

DG Clark

Welcome to the Pride

New members in September



New Member

Sponsor

Burlington

Chari Bauman
Kiersten Wonser

Holly Myers
Lynzie Stucky

Derby

Kendra Fernandez

Brock Stuhlsatz

Marquette

Dallas Peterson

A J Elmer

Pittsburg

Bonnie Warlop

Shannon Gerwert

Winfield

Nicholas Ford

Ralph Royston



A Special Grant Returning Part of What You Donated – Providing Direct Impact to Your Community



District and Club Community Impact Grants (DCG):

This particular grant offer Lions the opportunity to support humanitarian activities in their respective communities. DCG funding comes directly from the funds that a club or district have contributed to LCIF. To be eligible for this grant, donations to LCIF must be made as unrestricted. 15% of the unrestricted donations made are available to the district and/or club once the minimum donation amount is achieved in a fiscal year. For districts the minimum total donation amount is \$10,000 and for clubs the minimum total donation amount is \$5,000. Example: A club and its individual members collectively donate \$5,000.

During the next fiscal year, they are eligible to receive back \$750 for a community DCG activity. Currently all three districts have available DCG Grant balances. Clubs that also have available balances include: District K – Goodland; District A – Baldwin City, Lansing, Leavenworth, Manhattan Sunflower, and Topeka Sunflower; District N – Towanda and Valley Center.



Grant in Action – Art therapy for Ukrainian children.

Throughout the war in Ukraine, thousands of refugees have fled from Ukraine to Iceland. “They are almost completely without belongings,” said Past Council Chairperson (PCC) Laufey Jóhannsdóttir. “They have just the clothes and shoes they are wearing when they arrive at Keflavík Airport.” With a strong desire to help the Ukrainian refugees, the Lions Club Eik Gardabaer in Iceland developed a plan and applied for a District and Club Community Impact Grant (DCG) from Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF). The club used the DCG funds to hold art therapy workshops for children arriving from Ukraine who were suffering from post-traumatic stress syndrome. “Most of the children have traveled for days or

weeks in challenging conditions, having to leave everything behind as a result of the war,” said PCC Jóhannsdóttir.

Forty children ages 8 to 12 attended the six-week workshop. The US\$8,450 DCG helped provide two art therapists to lead the art workshops, art supplies, educational equipment including iPads for the children and a field trip to an Icelandic farm. “It is one of the most pleasant and heartfelt service projects I have done in my 40 years of being a Lion in Lions Club Eik Gardabaer,” said PCC Jóhannsdóttir.

Innovative DCGs, like this one, support humanitarian activities and expand Lions’ compassionate efforts. In times of adversity, Lions around the world are answering the call to service and strengthening their communities with the assistance of DCGs.

Your LCIF Coordinator Team Members

MD-17 Coordinators
PID Bill Phillipi
PID Hans Neidhardt

District K Coordinators
PCC Randy St. Aubyn
PDG Kathy Bell

District A Coordinators
PID Deb Weaverling
PDG Bobby Duvall

District N Coordinators
PCC Pam Bilyeu
CC Shari Neidhardt



Around the District

Submit your club activities to newsletter17n@cox.net
Deadline is always the 25th of the month



Marquette Lions recognized Dennis Swisher along with his wife Gayla on his 50 years of membership.



Independence Lions Club hosted a "Thank You" picnic at Kiddy Land in Riverside Park for City of Independence park and cemetery staff and their families.



Anchor Lodge 224 presented \$2,000 to the Westphalia Lions Club to aid in fundraising for a new ADA compliant playground set for the Westphalia City Park.



Wellington Lions new fundraiser was placing 84 flags in yards around their community on Labor Day. The club picked up this fundraiser after Kiwanis Club gave it up. The club bought the flags and poles from Kiwanis, and added more customers — buying more flags and supplies. Flags were placed before 9:30 am and picked up 6 pm.



Lion service at times of disaster was the focus of a display at a recent Sedgwick County Emergency Management event. PCC Harry Stockwell, 17N DG Clark Lindstrom, Wichita Northwest Lion Peggy Dilsaver-Carter and PDG Richard Caldwell represented Kansas Lions Foundation Alert Team at the event.



Valley Center Lions with the "Golden Lion Float" in the Fall Festival Parade on September 20.



Six members were formally inducted at a recent Inman Lions Club meeting. From left, DG Clark Lindstrom, new Lions Dave Moore, Barb Tuxhorn, Katy Reinecker, Scott Friesen, Nick Reinecker (kneeling), Bruce Thiessen (sponsor), Royce Regehr, and Tim Nichols (sponsor).

Bel Aire and Wichita Downtown Lions pulled the Lions Club Float for the Maize Club at the Maize Fall Festival, September 27. Pictured from left are Lions Gary O'Neal, Arlin Hill, James Schmidt, Ginny Caldwell and Richard Caldwell.



STRIDES WALK
FOR
DIABETES AWARENESS

JOIN THE WELLINGTON LIONS CLUB AS
WE ENGAGE OUR COMMUNITY IN THE
FIGHT AGAINST DIABETES

REGISTRATION FREE

**SATURDAY
OCT 4, 2025
9AM - 11AM**

DOWNTOWN
WELLINGTON, KANSAS
SW CORNER OF 7TH & WASHINGTON AVE

FREE BLOOD SUGAR
TESTING BY
STRIDES

EVERY LAP
INCREASES YOUR CHANCE
FOR A BOON PRIZE!

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK - [FACEBOOK.COM/NOONLIONSROAR](https://www.facebook.com/noonlionsroar)

BEL AIRE LIONS CLUB

Fall Festival Car Show

Dash Plaques for all entries
Prize Drawings throughout the event!
Voting Ends at 12:30 PM
Awards Announced at 1:30 PM

October 18 th 2025	10:00 AM	\$10 per car
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Bel Aire Recreation Center
5251 E 48th St N Bel Aire, KS 67220

Trophy Categories: People's Choice - Car, Truck & Motorcycle, Best Display, Lion's Club Choice, Mayor's Choice, Police Department Choice & Participants' Choice



Lions International

LIONS AND LEOS ARE WORKING TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING, TO EDUCATE AND SUPPORT THEIR COMMUNITIES, AND ADVOCATE FOR POSITIVE CHANGE.



MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Facts and Statistics

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. The 17 goals are an urgent call for action by all countries — developed and developing — in a global partnership. Achievement of the SDGs also relies on the involvement of volunteer organizations who connect governmental strategies and initiatives with complementary, yet essential, community action.

THIS GLOBAL CAUSE SUPPORTS SDG #3



ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES



An estimated **700,000 people die by suicide every year** (World Health Organization).



On average, **2% of health budgets go to mental health** (World Health Organization).



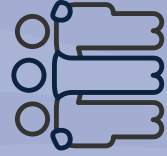
People who are exposed to adverse circumstances — including poverty, violence, disability and inequality — are at **higher risk of developing a mental health condition** (World Health Organization).



Depression is the leading cause of disability globally, affecting an estimated more than 300 million people worldwide — the majority of them women, young people and the elderly (United Nations).



For depression, the gaps in service coverage are wide across all countries: in high-income countries, an estimated **23% of cases receive minimally adequate treatment for depression and in low- and lower-middle income countries this is estimated at 3% of cases** (World Health Organization).



More than 80% of all people with mental disorders live in low- and middle-income countries, where the vicious cycle between mental health and poverty is particularly prevalent because of a lack of welfare safety nets and poor accessibility to effective treatment (World Health Organization).



Lions International

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MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Service Ideas



Promote education, awareness and advocacy resources and tools from reputable organizations such as the **World Health Organization** and **World Federation for Mental Health**.



Explore the **World Health Organization's mental health and well-being stigma reduction resources** and promote them using social media to highlight the importance of lessening mental health stigma and debunking common misconceptions.



Contact local, state/province and federal government representatives to advocate for increased mental health funding and expanded services. Use our **Lions Advocacy Toolkit** to get started.



Explore ways to increase access to vital mental health screening services in your community among underserved groups by contacting and utilizing mental health professionals, psychologists and psychiatric physicians in your networks. Connect with local stakeholders such as schools, hospitals and community leaders to collaborate on shared goals.



Volunteer at your local center for elderly care to assist with enrichment and well-being events.



Support **Lions Quest** social-emotional learning and well-being curriculum for youth in your community. Consider providing promotional support and curriculum delivery for Lions Quest by applying for a **Lions Quest Promotional Grant** or **Lions Quest Community Partnership Grant**.



Use resources from the **International Association for Suicide Prevention** to highlight **World Suicide Prevention Day** in your community.



Provide assistance to mental health agencies and treatment centers by hosting fundraisers, providing publicity on social media and collecting needed supplies.



Encourage well-being and development of life skills among youth by creating a local social and mentorship group in your community. Get started by **watching this video** about Camp Conquer, a community-based youth wellness group created by Lions in Delaware, USA.

lionsclubs.org/mental-health

Join Us in Lindsborg for Fall Rally October 24-25

We've waved goodbye to the lengthy Mid-Winter Rally and ushered in a fresh, exciting fall event that packs all the fun into a shorter time frame!

Come to the charming community of Lindsborg for the new **Fall Rally**. Kick off your weekend with some delightful scavenger hunts or explore the charming and quirky shops that



Lindsborg has to offer on Friday afternoon. Afterward, gather with friends at one of the fantastic local restaurants for a memorable evening, and then join us for the Kansas Lions Band Foundation (2nd Floor) or the Kansas Lions Foundation (Main Floor) meetings in the J.O. Sundstrom Center at 7:30 pm—because who doesn't love a good meeting with friends?

On Saturday morning, lace up your sneakers for our inaugural Kansas Lions STRIDES Walk at 8 am and then dive into a day of engaging seminars that are sure to inspire! And let's not forget the Band Auction at 11 am on the second floor of the Sundstrom Conference Center—your chance to support our Kansas Lions Band as they prepare for band camp in Hutchinson next May.

We'll have a wonderful meal at 12:15 pm with Swedish dancers to entertain us. We will finish our seminars and have our council meeting in the afternoon and then adjourn no later than 4 pm. Come one, come all, and experience the camaraderie, excitement, and community spirit that makes our Kansas Lions Multiple District 17 truly special.

You have two options to register for Fall Rally at 102 North Main Street, Lindsborg

- Go to <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/2025-fundraising-gala-1452> on Zeffy to register and pay by credit or debit card.
- Fill out the registration below and mail in. You can pay when you arrive.

Registration deadline is October 10

Those who register and do not attend will be billed

Register now for Fall Rally October 24-25 in Lindsborg

First and Last Name _____ District _____

Address _____, City and Zip _____

E-mail _____ Phone Number _____

Name of any additional Lions or guest in your party _____

Noon Saturday Cost per meal \$25.00 Number of Meals _____ Cost _____

Registration Cost per Registration \$5.00 Number of Registrants _____ Cost _____

Leo Registration Cost per meal \$12.50 Number of Registrants _____ Cost _____

(Leos do not pay for registration. KLF pays for other ½ of meal.)

Total _____

Send to Kansas Lions Office, 231 S. Tyler, Wichita, KS 67209
Registration is due no later than October 10

Environmental Photo Contest returns

Keep your eyes peeled and your camera or phone handy, the MD-17 Environmental Photo Contest returns for 2025-2026.

Contest rules are on the entry form below. Deadline for entries for each district contest is February 1, 2026. The first round of judging will be at

the District level. District winners will advance to the statewide competition, with winners announced at the state convention in Hutchinson.



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.**