



District 17N News



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



Derby Lions President Brock Stuhlsatz (red shirt) presents a \$500 check to support Derby Fire and Rescue's Fall Prevention Coalition

Clark's Comments

Growing membership

"Lead to Serve, Serve to Lead. We are committed to leaving this world better than we inherited. Together, our service makes it possible. And, we can expand our service by growing our membership."

— Lions International President, A.P. Singh

Recently, PDG Richard Caldwell asked ChatGPT (remember my article last year about how to use ChatGPT?) to give the District 17N Global Action Team (GAT) something to help clubs set a plan for membership recruitment.



The following is what he came up with and he recently sent it to Club Presidents, but I thought it should be shared with everyone who gets this news-letter too. Need some recruiting ideas? Lions International has 100 new member recruiting ideas that may help your club maintain its present membership and potentially grow your current membership

<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/search-results?keys=100+Recruiting+Ideas>. You can pick and choose those that fit your Club.

Continued on next page

Save the Date!

USA/Canada Forum

September 18-20

Atlantic City, NJ

Info at

<https://lionsforum.org>

Kansas Fall Rally

Saturday, October 25

Lindsborg, KS

See page 10-11



District 17N

Cabinet Meeting

Saturday, November 8

Girard Public Library

17N District

Convention

with ID Bert Nelson

February 27-28, 2026

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

New Member Recruitment Plan

1. Define Your Target Audience

Who to recruit? Young professionals, retirees, local business owners, civic-minded individuals, people of diversity; particularly women and younger adults, or students.

Why join? Emphasize the club's community impact, potential for leadership growth, personal and professional networking, and the opportunity to participate in global service with over 1.4 million other Lions.

2. Polish Your Message

Create a short "elevator pitch": "We're local volunteers making a global impact. Join us to serve the community, grow your personal skills, and connect with leaders who care like you."

Share your personal stories of impact—people connect with people, not just missions. Try to match their passions with what your club or Lions International is making a difference in people's lives.

3. Host a "Bring a Friend" Event

Provide an Open House, community service project or casual mixer at a location where people like you want to recruit like to be.

Include light refreshments, prepare a short club presentation, have verbal and written testimonials, and make sure you have ways to sign up by having current copies of the membership applications. Know the cost of applying and the club dues.

Make it fun and inviting, not just a meeting. Again, consider incorporating a community service project. If it is a new environmental project for the Club, be sure to read about and enter the newly announced District 17 N Environmental Project Raffle. See the information included in the newsletter. Looking for new service projects? Here's 100 ideas: <https://www.lions-clubs.org/en/search-results?keys=100+Service+Ideas>. Always remember to promptly and consistently enter all of your service projects in the Lions International Portal.

4. Use Your Tools

Social Media – Share stories, videos and upcoming events.

Flyers/Posters – Prepare a club brochure about your club's activities and services and place them in libraries, coffee shops, distribute at community and local events.

Local Media – Use ChatGPT to prepare press

releases, local newspaper stories, or even try scheduling radio interviews.

5. Empower Current Members

Encourage each club member to bring one potential recruit to a club meeting within the next two months.

Create friendly challenges or incentives for members who refer new Lions, i.e. the Lion with the most potential recruits or new members each month gets a free meal.

6. Follow Up

Collect potential member contact info at events.

Send thank-you emails or notes and send invitations to attend your club meetings each month.

Pair potential recruit members with a club member mentor or buddy to introduce them to club members, encourage engagement in activities and services, and provide club orientation to help the potential member feel that they belong.

7. Track, Adjust, and Remember

Keep a simple spreadsheet or list of prospects with contact information and follow-up status. Keep asking them to join until they do.

Review what's working monthly and tweak your approach.

Remember: *"The only purpose in life is to have a life of purpose. This is an Association for everyone who has the heart to serve."* A.P. Singh

District Governor Clark Lindstrom



Service ideas for Mental Health Week

Mental Health and Well Being – Week of Service is October 4 – 12, 2025.



Mental Health includes prevention activities, such as suicide, domestic violence, veterans and active-duty military, physical health decline, children of divorce or fractured families, substance use disorders, aging, and lifestyle or life-change adjustments. I probably overlooked a few areas – not intentionally. Actually, all

of us have our mental health affected throughout our lives and seeking assistance or help is not a weakness but shows strength and desire to be well, to take care of ourselves.

Lions can serve as a resource to their community in sharing hotline information through the club's social media presence; engaging state and county resources to provide local law enforcement entities or school

personnel Mental Health First Aid training or Suicide Prevention training; contacting Senior Citizen Centers to host an activity day or consider being a friend to a senior without local family support; working with local veterans' programs; contacting your local Mental Health Community Center for ideas; helping a new mom who may be overwhelmed; asking your ministerial alliance what service is needed; or connecting with friends/family that are struggling. This list is not all-inclusive – just a springboard for club's ideas.

Mental Health affects all generations and may be a short-term or lifelong battle. Lions can be a path to well-being.

Clubs participating in the three International Weeks of Service meets one element of the Club Excellence Award this year.

I look forward to seeing the creative service that Lions will be doing in October.

1st VDG Melanie Snider

Let's get ROARING to go!

WOW! Here we are three months into the new Lion year. It has been a busy time of training, visiting clubs, and zoom meetings.



In August, I visited Cedar Vale, Derby, Girard, Osage City, Oxford, and Walton Lions Club. What I have noticed are Lions who are immensely proud of their clubs and enthused with what they accomplish in their communities. At some of these club visits there were guests who could

be potential new members.

On the evening of August 25, I attended a zoom meeting challenging our constitutional area to create 100 clubs in 100 days. What I learned was to be enthusiastic about Lions and have attitude. Show your enthusiasm at being a Lion when you go out and ask others to become a member. Also, show enthusiasm about becoming a new club in a new town. Remember, enthusiasm and attitude will help you create a great and wonderful path to innovative ideas, members, and new clubs.

If you do not know how or who to ask about becoming a member get on lionsclubs.org and search for Recruitment Made Simple or click on this link [Member recruitment | Lions Clubs International](#). This has useful information to help you find new members or even help with the questions about starting a new club. Remember IP Singh's motto "Lead to Serve and Serve to Lead" as Lions this is something we do every day as we serve.

In visiting my clubs, I have seen service with a smile. When potential members see us love each other, smile at each other and genuinely having fun together, they will want to join us. I hope to see you soon on club visits, bringing in new members or attending a charter night for a new club.

*In Lionism,
2VDG Barb Schattak*



MISSION 1.5

Order Peace Poster kits by October 1

There's still time to get a Peace Poster kit and host a contest in your community.

The International Peace Poster Contest theme is "Together As One." Students ages 11, 12 or 13 as of November 15 are eligible to participate in the International Peace Poster Contest.

Peace Poster kits are available from Lions International through October 1. You can order a traditional printed kit or save on postage and download a complete kit at lionsclubs.org/peaceposter. The digital kit contains all the same elements as the traditional printed kit and complete directions. It's important to note that deadlines for the local contest are different than what is in the kits.

The deadline for entries in the District 17N Con-

test is November 7. Clubs can mail posters to District Peace Poster Chair Lion Lorraine Stockwell, 7205 SW 163rd St, Augusta, KS 67010 or bring them to the District Cabinet meeting on November 8 at the Girard Public Library. Judging will take place at the Cabinet meeting.

For more information about the district-level contest, contact Lion Lorraine Stockwell at 316-644-7502 or by email at lorie1999_1999@yahoo.com



Making Change For Diabetes

New challenge for camp scholarships

This year we are moving forward with our commitment to raising funds to support scholarships for Diabetes Camp. To date we have \$5,400-plus in our account.

I have been told there will be an increase in camp fees for next summer. We will adjust what we give per scholarship based on the increase.

At the District 17 N Cabinet meeting we held a 50/50 drawing. We took in \$150. The \$75 prize was awarded to Lion Linda McCormick with \$75 added to our camp account.

I presented District Governor Clark, our Vice District Governors and Zone Chairs that were present with Mason jars with labels that say, "Making Change for Diabetes." They will request donations from clubs during their visits. I challenged all Zone Chairs to a friendly competition. The Zone that collects the most donations by our convention will receive a prize for their zone, TBD. Zone Chairs that were not present, I will mail your collection jar to you.



Camp registration begins in February, but camp openings fill quickly. We need to get the word out soon. If you know of any child with Type 1 diabetes that would benefit from going to camp and need financial assistance, have them contact us for assistance. Please contact the school nurses in your area and let them know about the program and to contact us for further information.

Come on out to Parsons on September 13 to Walk for Diabetes Awareness! Our STRIDES EVENT starts with a fundraiser breakfast from 8am to 9am. The breakfast will be served by Labette Health Rector Diabetes Center, The Cardinal Station and Parsons Lions. The Walk begins at 9 am with a proclamation from our mayor.

Following the walk there's more activities including a pickleball clinic, Kid's Yoga, Zumba activities by PRC, train rides by Kiwanis Club, inflatables and information booths. The event will be at Forest Park and run from 8am to noon. The Farmers Market will also be open during that time.

We would love to come to your club to give a program.

PDG Don Cunningham
620-238-3616 ; cunning98@yahoo.com
Lion Elaine Hudson
620-423-1144; louehudson@gmail.com

Youth Exchange looking for host families

Hosting a youth exchange student is the experience of a lifetime—just ask one of the hosts from 2024 (pictured at right).

PCC Harry Stockwell, MD 17 Youth Exchange Chair, is contacting youth exchange chairs from countries around the globe now to arrange visits for summer of 2026. He would like to have a list of potential host families in place to move forward with facilitating exchanges.

He is also looking for students who would like to go

abroad for a month next summer as well.

For information contact Harry at 316-644-7622 or email: h.l.stockwell49@gmail.com.

Japanese students visited Kansas in August 2024



New environmental service challenge for this year

It's time for each and every Lions Club in District 17N to be thinking of, planning and participating in a new environmental service project for 2025-26.

This year, there is an emphasis on "new." We look forward to having many, if not all, of the District 17 N clubs participate this year.

The purpose is to increase the impact and relevance of Lions Club service in the district, raise awareness of club environmental activities and potentially attract environmentally like-minded new members.



This will also hopefully increase the number of Lion and Leo members reporting community service from 40% to at least 50% or much more.

District club members and their leadership are being challenged to create a new, exciting, and "fun" environmental community service project, event, fundraiser or activity that has not been done before by the club based upon your community needs.

After doing so, provide the details and information in the entry form on this page, and mail postmarked before February 1, 2026, to the District GST (Global Service Team) Chair Lion Kathy Pratt, P.O. Box 131, Towanda, KS 67144.

Also, please enclose a printed picture of the club members participating in the new environmental project. All entries will be displayed at the District 17-N Convention in Goddard for Lions to view.

There will be a random drawing of all entries for the artful desk-sized Lion statue pictured. Submissions may also be displayed at the MD-17 2026 State Convention to learn from each other and share ideas. If you have questions contact Lion Kathy if you have

any questions; 316.932.2659; email: kpratt558@gmail.com or DG Clark 316.258.2781.; email: cfindstrom@yahoo.com

By the way, Lions International has just announced a special service week for Lions Clubs worldwide to address the critical cause of helping the environment to coincide with Earth Day from April 18-26 in 2026.

The theme is "Protecting Tomorrow, Today!" By participating, clubs and members will become part of creating positive change and making a difference in communities around the globe together.

So get involved, plan another club environmental service project, and help drive collective action for a better future!

2025-2026 Environmental Service Project Entry



Club Name and City: _____

Concise description of environmental project with date project was entered in the Portal:

Name of Lion Submitter: _____

Phone # & Email of Submitter: _____

Include a photo of your project and mail to:
Lion Kathy Pratt,
P.O. Box 131
Towanda, KS 67144
Deadline is February 1, 2026



Around the District

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



Bel Aire Lions served up delicious fried chicken and mouthwatering wings at the Wichita Children's Home. The kids dove into a whirlwind of fun with bingo, cornhole, and Connect Four, all while grooving to the upbeat tunes provided by the DJ. Laughter and joy echoed throughout the event, ensuring a fantastic time for everyone involved!



We Serve

Above—Valley Center Lions Mike Hamilton and Brandon Pratt with representatives of Wichita Adaptive Sports as the Valley Center club presented a \$1,000 donation to the organization.

Right—Wichita Northwest Lion Diana Kaufman helps at a recent Salvation Army school supply distribution.

Club members also volunteered at Kansas Food Bank Warehouse. Bagging potatoes are Grace Riggs, Lion Shelle Heinen and Faith Riggs.





Colony Lions have been busy sprucing up the community. They replaced a 20-year-old welcome sign on 69 Highway (above) and rebuilt the collection box for can recycling.



At left—Goddard Lions welcomed new teachers to Goddard Public Schools with a \$100 cash gift to help with classroom expenses. At left, Lions Lori Mathews, Charles Presnal and Jeff Presnal at Eisenhower High School with new teacher Donna Miles and principal Todd Hague.



Girard High School students Bailey Glaser and Meckenzie Wood used the Girard Lions Club as the basis for a social media strategy plan, earning Second Place at the Kansas Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) competition. Their strong performance qualified them to represent Girard at the FBLA National Leadership Conference held in Anaheim, California this past June. Meckenzie recently visited the club to share their work highlighting the club's mission of serving the community through vision care, hunger relief, support for youth, and more.





OXFORD WATERMELON FEED

September 6, 2025

FOOD TRUCKS WILL BE ONSITE ALL DAY

Oxford Friendship Center will be open all day, 7am-5pm (Water, Restrooms, A/C)

8am	Fun Run (Registration @ 7:30)
8am	Car Show Registration
8am - 10am	Biscuits & Gravy @ American Legion
9am - 2pm	Car Show
9am - 4pm	Vendors Open in Napawalla Park
9:15am	Parade Line-Up
9:45am	RCB Bank, Ice Cream Social
10am	Parade
11am - 4pm	Inflatables
11am - 3pm	KLEY / TWISTER Radio Station Giveaways & Music
11am - 1pm	Tiny Hinies Petting Zoo
11am	Dunk Tank, Sr. High Cheerleaders
11am	Face Painting, Sr. High Cheerleaders
11am	Snocones, Jr. High Cheerleaders
11am	Sucker Tree, Jr. Class
11am	Welding Booth, AG/FFA
11am	Free Microchipping, Wellington Humane Society
12pm-4pm	Poker Run (Registration Starts @ 11am)
12pm-2pm	Cornhole Tournament (Registration @ 11am)
1pm	Afterprom Cake Walk
1pm - 3pm	Kids Games (Turtle Race, Coin Dig, Egg Toss, and more!)
1pm	Horse Shoe Tournament (Registration @ 12:00)
2pm	Free Watermelon Feed, Oxford Lions Club
5pm - 6pm	BINGO, Oxford Friendship Center
8pm - 11pm	Justin Brown & The Tri-County Drifters Band
Dusk	Masonic Lodge Fireworks Display

Welcome to the Pride

New members in August



New Member

Sponsor

Augusta Servant

Pat Firebaugh

Carbondale

Josh Fisher

Genevieve Fisher

Goddard

Jeff Presnal

Charles Presnal

Wellington

Pam Parker

Sue Denny

Winfield

Tyler Gaskill

Loretta Ledy

Augusta Servant Club Fundraiser

The newly formed Lions Club in Augusta has a fundraiser—selling Lions logo decals.



This Lions logo measures 5 & ½ inches by 5 & ½ inches and can be placed on any smooth surface.

Price is \$ 10.00 each. Contact Tom Smarsh to place your order: Cell: 316-393-3808 or email: tom_smarsh@hotmail.com

19th Annual Valley Center Lions Car Show



Friday, September 12, 2025

(Rain Date Sunday, September 14 - 2pm-5pm)

Main Street, Valley Center

Presented By



(316) 755-4200
EDENSAUTOSALES.COM

- * 1/2 Mi N. of 77th Street on Meridian
- * 4:00 pm 'til 9:00 pm
- * Registration : 3pm - 6:30pm
- * Rods - Customs - Cars - Trucks
- * Judged Awards
- * Door Prizes - Food
- * A Great Time In Downtown VC!



Bring the whole family and visit the Lions KIDS FUN ZONE!

Early entry includes a Formosa Lions All Beef Pizza & Soft!

MENTAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING WEEK

OCTOBER 4-12, 2025

An initiative by
International President
A.P. Singh



**Resource for
service ideas:**
<https://bit.ly/3V0OypE>



2025-2026 Roadmap to Success! Club Excellence Award

2025-2026 Excellence Awards updates

Applications will not be necessary for the 2025-2026 award cycle. Awards will be distributed by Lions International to clubs that meet the updated criteria and eligibility requirements.

Club Excellence Award criteria

The Club Excellence Award acknowledges the dedication and legacy of service within individual clubs

MEMBERSHIP

- Induct a **minimum of two or 20% new members, whichever is greater** (not including transfer, reinstated or charter members). Eligibility is determined based on the club's membership count on June 30th of the previous Lion year.
- Or sponsor a **new Lions club**.

SERVICE

- Report a minimum of **four service activities** to Lions International.
- **Three** of these activities must show **participation in each of the three** International Weeks of Service

Amplify your club's impact during Weeks of Service

This initiative unites Lions and Leos worldwide to address the critical issues of mental health and well-being, hunger, and the environment. By participating, you'll be part of three impactful weeks dedicated to creating positive change and making a difference in communities around the globe — together. So get involved and help drive collective action for a better future!

Mark your calendars

Mental health and well-being
October 4-12, 2025

Hunger
January 3-11, 2026

Environment
April 18-26, 2026

LEADERSHIP

- Report **newly elected club officers in Lion Portal by May 15** of the current Lion year. A minimum of **10% of the club's members** complete any **three courses** in the Lions Learning Center.
- The club **president for the current Lion year** must **not have served more than two consecutive terms**.
- A minimum of **two or more club officers** (president, vice president, secretary or treasurer. Of which, **one must be the club president**) complete Club Officer Training (online with the Lions Learning Center or in-person as reported by a GLT coordinator in Learn) **between July 1 – December 31** of the current Lion year.

DONATIONS

- Contributed to LCIF a minimum of the club's **membership total on June 30th of the previous Lion year (2024-2025), multiplied by US\$20**.

Join Us in Lindsborg Kansas for our Fall Rally October 24 and 25



Get ready for an exhilarating change at this year's Fall Rally! 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—no more three-night stays at \$130 per night or four hotel-catered meals!

Instead, why not kick off your weekend with some delightful scavenger hunts on Friday afternoon, or explore the charming and quirky shops that Lindsborg has to offer? 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 on the Main Floor in the 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 8:00 AM and then dive into a day filled with engaging seminars that are sure to inspire! And let's not forget the Band Auction at 11:00 AM on the second floor of the **Sundstrom Conference Center**—your chance to support our Kansas Lions Band as they prepare for their performance in Hutchinson next May.

We'll have a wonderful meal at 12:15 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 4:00 pm. Come one, come all, and experience the camaraderie, excitement, and community spirit that makes our Kansas Lions Multiple District 17 truly special.



visit LINDSBORG
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

Reservation for Fall Rally 2025 October 24-25 at 12 Lindsborg, KS

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.

All registrations must be made by no later than October 15, 2025.

Those who register and do not show up will be charged.

Registration form for Fall Rally October 24-25

First and Last Name _____ District _____

Address _____, City and Zip _____

E-mail _____ Phone Number _____

Name of any additional Lions or guest in your party _____

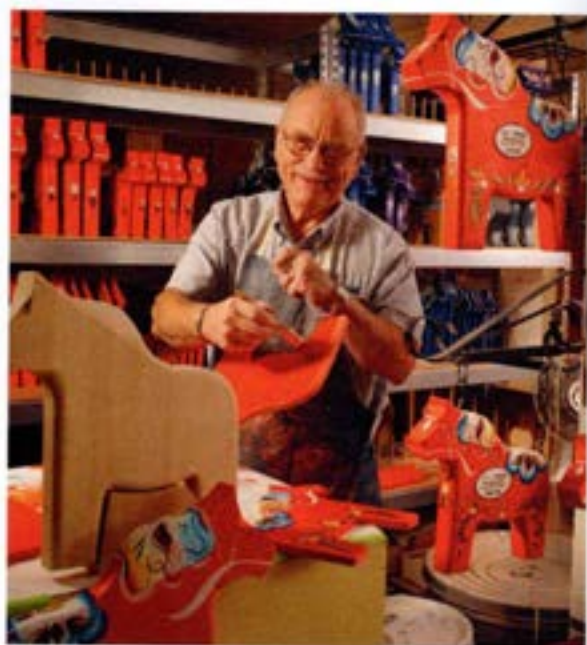
Noon Saturday Cost per meal \$25.00 Number of Meals _____ Cost _____

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 South Tyler, Wichita, KS 67209
Registrations due no later than October 15.



HEMSLÖJD

🏆 Winner in 8 Wonders of Kansas!

Offers Scandinavian gifts, crafts, and souvenirs.

201 N Main St. | 785.227.2053 | hemslojd.com

SMALL WORLD GALLERY

Displays photography and other works by local and visiting artists.

127 N Main St. | 785.227.4442 | smallworldgallery.net

COURTYARD

Houses multiple businesses offering local art and hand-crafted products. Located in Lindsborg's vintage movie theatre.

125 N Main St.

SMOKY VALLEY ARTS & FOLKLIFE CENTER

Celebrates Swedish heritage and folk art through exhibits and programs.

114 1/2 S Main St. | 785.227.7034 | svafo.org

LINDSBORG ARTS COUNCIL

Promotes art and cultural activities in the community.
lindsborgarts.org

