



# District 17N News

68 Lions clubs serving in southcentral and southeast Kansas | November 2024

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



## District Governor Notes

### **As we prepare for the holiday season – Lions always serve**

Important Notice: Early in October, Lions received an email from Lions Clubs International concerning the 2025 Lions Club International Convention. The email was the official notice that the International Convention location was moved from Mexico City, Mexico, to Orlando, Florida. Additionally, the dates of the convention also had to be changed. The revised dates of the convention are July 13 – 17, 2025.

Unforeseen circumstances caused the change in convention location and dates. The fully functioning and updated “convention website” should be operational very soon. Let’s support 1VDG Clark by attending the convention when he takes over the reigns as the 2025-2026 District Governor.

At the district level, I just want to express my sincerest thank you to all the District 17-N Lions—you are awesome. As a district, we have been able to maintain a positive membership growth and with everyone’s help, we hope to continue that trend.

During the October Lions International Board meeting in Natal, Brazil, Lions International President Oliveira called me his District Governor. He also commented that he was closely watching me, as we continue working towards a positive Mission 1.5 year (no pressure there).

Congratulations goes out to the Valley Center Lions Club for bringing in the largest number of new members for October. As part of the

*Continued on next page*



## **Coming Up!**

### **Mid-Winter Rally**

January 17-18

Courtyard by Marriott

Junction City

with special guest

ID Anthony Paradiso

### **Third District Cabinet Meeting**

January 25

Zoom

Details in the

January newsletter

### **District 17N Convention**

February 28-March 1

Bel Aire

### **Save the Date!**

### **Kansas Lions State Convention**

May 29-31

DoubleTree @

Wichita Airport

### **Lions International Convention**

July 13-17

Orlando, FL

## **Kansas Lions District 17N Leaders**

### **District Governor**

**Shari Neidhardt**

Towanda Lions Club

316-304-3644

19Faith58@gmail.com

### **1st Vice District Governor**

**Clark Lindstrom**

Wichita Downtown Lions Club

316-258-2781

cflindstrom@yahoo.com

### **2nd Vice District Governor**

**Melanie Snider**

Baxter Springs Lions Club

417-529-2138

lionmelsnider@gmail.com

# Governor's note

*Continued from page 1*

current District Governor program, the \$10 donation to LCIF has been made in the club's name.

Knowing the "need" and in response to the recent widespread hurricane Helene damage, LCIF approved a \$100,000 Major Catastrophe Grant to provide much needed aid to the impacted areas. District 17-N Lions have also stepped up, donating over \$3,500 to LCIF, to help with disaster grants relating to hurricane Helene.

On October 28, our second District Cabinet meeting was held in Lyndon. A big thank you to the Lyndon Lions Club for hosting the cabinet meeting and providing an outstanding lunch (multiple soups, salad, drinks, and of course cake, brownies, and cookies. Attendance of 28 Lions provided the quorum required to allow us to hold an official meeting. A beautiful day, great enthusiasm, and fellowship helped make the meeting a success.

As we enter the Thanksgiving and Christmas "holiday season", there are so many opportunities for Lions to provide service within your communities. From ringing the bells for the Salvation Army, to providing food baskets, collecting Toys for Tots, clothing, etc.,

this time of year is especially hard on many families.

I would urge every club to take on some type of service project to help your community. Even the little things you do, will make a huge difference to those in need.

I will close with the following quote by Nelson Mandela, "*What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is the difference we have made to the lives of others.*"

*Lion Shari Neidhardt  
District Governor, 2024-2025*



**Lion leaders gather in Lyndon for the Second District 17N Cabinet meeting.**

## 2nd Vice District Governor

# Lions change to meet needs worldwide

Change - I haven't been able to escape the insistence that "You must change!" – frankly, I am tired of hearing it EVERYWHERE!

My grandmother used to matter-of-factly and calmly tell my mother it's just a phase whenever Mom expressed frustration with my changing behavior. My boss used to tell me that change was inevitable and



necessary, so get on board or get on out. My spouse used to say, "Baby, we gotta' change to make this work."

Darn it! I hate having to admit whoever said I must change was right. Whether I knew it was happening or not, I realize that I have been changing ever since my life began. (I am not referring to age, health or weight – not going there!) I have been

adapting each day to survive challenges and embrace joy. So now, change is just my new normal? Guess change is inescapable.

What a "light bulb" moment for me, when I applied that same thinking to Lions Club. Our organization has changed to meet the needs of the world resulting from climate, economics, resource availability, politics, technology, cultures, community, and human kindness.

**WOW! LIONS ARE AWESOME!**

I have already been amazed by the clubs I have visited and the greatness you bring to your communities. I applaud you for your adaptability and look forward to learning more about the ways Kansas Lions will continue to grow and change the world and me right alongside them!

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

## 1st Vice District Governor

# AI apps that can work for your club

*“Stop being afraid of what could go wrong and start being excited about what could go right.”—Tony Robbins*

Fresh from the USA/Canada Forum back in September; Lions Virtual is Lions Helping Lions. The “AI revolution” is a new innovative training program that dives into two significant, but fairly easy to use, powered apps.



These Lion apps are designed specifically to help Lions grow, rebuild, and

promote their community service throughout your respective area—city, state, country, or even globally if we are to reach the 1.5 million member “mark” within the next couple of challenging years.

Here’s what you and your marketing/membership Lions need to explore to start being excited about what could go right.

LionsMaps2Grow is an app tool that can be your go to for all things club related. This can be ideas and suggestions for chartering a new and different kind of club or club branch. It can also help to start rebuilding existing clubs by creating marketing outreach plans or crafting some workable marketing strategies to try.

Map2Grow is here now and it just might be your club’s solution to grow in membership and service projects specific to your community’s needs and wants. It can potentially take you every step of the way.

LionsMarket2Grow is an app that turns your Lions Portal data of service projects into stupendous con-

tent with just a few clicks. I’ve seen it done on recent Zoom meetings and tutorials are on YouTube. This app will be your tool to generate simple or complex press releases about your club or your service projects or community events and it even has access to local media contacts. You will see that it is relatively easy to “make your mark” by doing better to promote club services after it is reported in the portal.

All this potential is achievable by signing up for a free OpenAI ChatGPT. Be sure to enroll in the FREE 4.0 version now available. You can start using it immediately, but there are daily usage limits. If your club has the funds, there is a PRO plan available for a cost, but it has been suggested that any cost be shared with multiple clubs or districts so more can take advantage of the possibilities and stop being afraid of the what could go wrong or seems to be going wrong now.

Membership growth is the key to our continued success in the district, state, and globally. More members means more service to those in need; potentially 1 billion people in need. Our District goal is two new clubs this coming fiscal year and a positive member gain of at least 50 members. The #1 duty as a Lion is to always be growing the Association. There’s only one thing greater than being a member of Lions Club and that is helping to build one. We will continue to grow through member retention and new member recruiting, but we also need to charter new clubs because we simply are losing clubs faster than we are chartering new ones. Keep Roaring More in 2024 Lions!

*Clark Lindstrom*

*First Vice District Governor, 2024-2025*

## Portal help available at your fingertips

At the recent district cabinet meeting, the topic of service reporting and using the Lions Portal came up several times, with zone chairs noting that some clubs are still struggling with the new Portal.

There’s help available, right at your fingertips. If you go to the Lions Portal there are three tabs right on the home page:

- Frequently asked questions
- Training videos -- Links to YouTube videos on topics related to the Portal. Most are only a few min-

utes in length and offer tips on using the portal, club management and much more.

- Quick Guides offer step-by-step help on many topics.

Still have questions about the Lion Portal? Contact the Member Service Center by calling 1 630-468-6900 or emailing [lionssupport@lionsclubs.org](mailto:lionssupport@lionsclubs.org). Support hours are Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 4:30pm CST.

PDG Chris Bauer is also available to help. Contact him at [lionchris@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lionchris@sbcglobal.net)



# Peace Poster winners announced

Judging for the annual Peace Poster Contest took place at the 17N District Cabinet Meeting on October 26 in Lyndon.

Students ages 11, 12 or 13 were challenged to create a poster on the theme *Peace Without Limits*. The winners of the international contest will be announced by February 1.

District leaders selected first, second and third place from about a dozen entries from across the district. The first place poster will be forwarded to the Kansas Lions Peace Poster Contest. Winner of that competition will be recognized at MidWinter Rally.

All the district winners will be recognized at the District Convention in March.

First Place poster was created by Ivan Esparza, sponsored by the Bel Aire Lions Club.

The Second Place poster was created by Avery Mallory, sponsored by the Augusta Lions Club.

Third Place was awarded to the poster created by Kimberlyn Foster, sponsored by the Humboldt Lions Club.

Peace Poster kits for the 2025-2026 contest will be available from Lions International in January.



First Place — Ivan Esparza  
Sponsored by Bel Aire Lions Club



Second Place — Avery Mallory  
Sponsored by Augusta Lions Club



Third Place — Kimberlyn Foster  
Sponsored by Humboldt Lions Club

# Portal, District trainings available online

Thank you to all the Lions who have participated in this year's training. We have held trainings for: Zone Chairs, Club Officers, Lion Portal Trainings and Club Orientation Trainings. If you have completed one of the trainings that are available in the LEARN section on the Lions Portal, please send an email to DG Shari Neidhardt and me so we can insure you receive credit for completing the training.

I am encouraging each Lions Club in our district to go through the Club Officers Training and especially the Club Orientation Training. Both of these trainings will be available after November 15 on our District 17N website: [kslions17n.org](http://kslions17n.org).

Once you complete the training, answer the short questionnaire included after each training and send the completed questionnaire to DG Shari Neidhardt, (19faith58@gmail.co) and myself (bilyeuskies@hotmail.com) to insure you receive credit for completing the training.

These trainings are available for you to complete AT YOUR OWN LEISURE!! We want you to be informed and understand what Lions International and the Kansas Lions and the Lions of District 17N are all about.

The trainings give insight into the positions you

hold, or perhaps are considering, as well as how Lions work together to serve those in our community, outside our community and around our world.

Find out how YOU fit into our amazing organization that is the WORLD's LARGEST SERVICE ORGANIZATION!! Grab your computer, iPad, a drink—maybe a hot cocoa or hot tea—with these cooler days on the way, and learn why all Lions strive to live up to our motto...WE SERVE!!

*CC Pam Bilyeu  
17N GLT Leader*



## MISSION 1.5

MISSION 1.5 is the drive to grow to a minimum of 1.5 million Lion members worldwide on July 1, 2027, so we can meet the growing needs of our communities and serve more than a billion people annually.



**TURKEY & NOODLES  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>  
PARSONS MUNICIPAL  
BUILDING**

**11 AM - 3 PM**

**COST: DONATION**

**TURKEY AND NOODLES, MASHED POTATOES,  
GREEN BEANS, ROLL AND DRINK**

**PROCEEDS HELP FUND HUMANITARIAN PROJECTS**

## Welcome to the Pride

*New members by October 29*



New Member	Sponsor
<b>Chanute</b>	
Brian A Mishler	Ronald Burkman
<b>Galena Route 66</b>	
Neil Oglesby	Doug Gatewood
<b>Garnett</b>	
Ryan Most	Skip Landis
<b>Girard</b>	
Krista Wood	Wilda Pentola
Ryan Wood	Wilda Pentola
<b>Newton</b>	
Todd Graber	Daniels Heinze Jr
<b>Oxford</b>	
Robert Bales	John Pasman
Edward Spencer	Erenest Nel
<b>Valley Center</b>	
Tobias Conrady	Judy Conrady
Kemberlee Jacobs	Myrna Hamilton
Steve Jacobs	Myrna Hamilton
Morgan Wood	Myrna Hamilton





## Around the District

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



**Towanda Lions handed out mini flying discs and candy at Trick or Treat in downtown Towanda.**



**Baxter Springs Lions and Leos held an informational and fundraising event on White Cane Day, October 15.**





Independence High School's KAY Club assisted the Independence Lions Club in sorting donated glasses that are collected for distribution in developing countries. KAY Club members Dylan Cooley and Hailey Garner joined club advisor Susan Weaver in sorting through hundreds of donated pairs of eyeglasses.



Bel Aire Lions helped with the fall book fair at Isely Elementary. Pictured are PDG Richard and Ginny Caldwell



Wellington Lions held a STRIDES Walk during Fall Fest events in downtown Wellington. The Sumner County Health Department offered blood glucose screenings and walkers followed a trail of informational signs, enjoyed healthy snacks and some took home nice prizes.







**Marquette Lions collected a truck load of food at Trick or Treat So Others Can Eat. The collected food will be donated to the McPherson County Food Pantry.**



**With 900 visitors "spooked" and about 300 non-perishable food items collected, the Neosho Rapids Lions Haunted House was a success.**

## ***Parade Invitation***

Wichita Downtown Lions have entered the Lion float in the Wichita Veterans Day Parade on Saturday, November 9.

First Vice District Governor Clark Lindstrom is coordinating and invites Lions from area clubs to participate in the parade and other activities that afternoon at Exploration Place.

Lions will have a table at the information fair following the parade at Exploration Place.

For more details, contact VDG Clark at 316.258.2781 or email at [cflindstrom@yahoo.com](mailto:cflindstrom@yahoo.com).



## ***BuonGiorno!***

Saturday, November 9, 2024  
Bel Aire Lions Club Meatball Dinner  
4 - 7pm

### ***A Taste of Italy***

- Handmade Southern Italian Meatballs
- Homemade Tomato Sauce with Pasta
- Garnished with Imported Pecorino-Romano Cheese
- Toasted Garlic Bread, Salad & Dessert
- Dine-in or Carry-Out



**\$15.00/Adults \$6.00/Children 3-10 Under 3; Free**  
**Cash or Check only**

Served at Gospel Assembly Church 4230 N Oliver Bel Aire, Kansas 67220



# We Serve

**Wichita Northwest Lions** follow up their third Thursday meeting every month by volunteering at the Kansas Foodbank Warehouse.

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**Baxter Springs Lions** will host a Veterans Dinner following the community's Veterans Day Parade on the first Saturday in November. The club will also host a Blood Drive on November 14 at the high school.

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A Hunter's Breakfast on the first Saturday of pheasant season is the next project for the **Windom Lions**.

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**Pittsburg Lions** are compiling a cookbook as a fundraiser.

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**Galena Route 66 Lions** are planning a Veterans Day celebration.

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**Inman Lions** are planning their annual Fun Night/Bingo Night for November 23. Play bingo for a Thanksgiving dinner package.

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**Columbus Lions** drove their 1940 firetruck and handed out candy in the local high school Homecoming Parade and the Columbus Day Parade.

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**McCune Lions** received a grant from the Kansas Health Foundation to continue improvements to their community park with the addition of public restrooms.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Share your service and fundraising projects to newsletter17N@cox.net.*

## District Goal: \$5,000 for Camp Discovery scholarships

*From PDG Don Cunningham,  
District Diabetes Chair:*

Currently there are 248,300 diabetics in Kansas or about 11% of the adult population. Every year 13,000 adult Kansans are diagnosed with the disease. Your club can help to inform your community about the importance of diabetes education. Type 2 diabetes many times can be prevented. Once you are diagnosed diabetes can be managed with proper diet and exercise and medications. However, left untreated it can be deadly. Everyone should have an annual check up with your health care professional.

Remember to send a donation from your club or individually to District Treasurer Lion Barb Schattak. Please mark "diabetes" in memo on your check.

We are raising funds to help send kids to Camp Discovery Diabetes Camp. I'm challenging each club to send \$100. My goal is to raise \$5,000 this year.

## Moundridge Lions Club ANNUAL SOUP SUPPER

JOIN US FOR SOUP, CHILI AND DESSERT!

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH  
5:00 TO 7:30 PM**

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT  
JAYSON, ANDREA & MADDIE KAUFMAN

Moundridge Senior Center  
100 N Schmidt Ave, Moundridge, KS 67107

### Wear it Wednesday

On the 3rd Wednesday of each month, let's all wear our Lions vests, shirts, hats, pins, or whatever you have all day!

When you are asked, "What's that?" be ready to tell them about all the wonderful things that Lions do for others.

06-19  
07-17  
08-21  
09-18  
10-16  
11-20  
12-18  
01-15  
02-19  
03-19  
04-16  
05-21  
06-19

Email your pictures to Lion Eric Tweedy [erictweedy@icloud.com](mailto:erictweedy@icloud.com)  
All pictures will be posted on the Kansas Lions Facebook group, and some will be submitted to the Lions Magazine!

## Lions Health Program

# World Diabetes Day is November 13

Please remember November is Diabetes Awareness month and November 13 is World Diabetes Day. What is your Lions Club doing to support this program?

If you need help in finding a program, please ask—we can help you.

There is no emphasis in **December** from LCI so look at your community and find another organization or family in need and extend them a helping hand. Remember “WE SERVE.”

We want to take this space to

say we all hope all of you have a Happy Thanksgiving and please remember those in your communities that do not have enough.

*Lion Vern Failor*

*MD 17 Lions Health Program*

## Environmental photo contest returns with digital format

The Lions year 2024-2025 Environmental Photo Contest is open to all Kansas Lions and Leos. Only digital photos will be accepted in this year and all future contests.

This year's contest will feature the five categories as follows:

- **Animal life**
- **Plant life**
- **Urban or Natural Landscape**
- **Weather Phenomenon**

No people are to be pictured in the four photo categories above.

- **Environmental Service**

### Projects

This category can include persons/Lions in the photo. It may be a project in progress or a newly completed one.

All submissions must be taken in Kansas and must be your original work, i.e. taken by you. Do not submit previous entries. Submissions become the property of MD17.

Kansas Lions reserve the right to disqualify entries that do not meet the contest criteria or that may be considered inappropriate.

Any Kansas Lion or Leo is welcome to participate in any or all contest categories. All photographers accept responsibility for the cost of taking or processing all submissions.

Pictures must each be submitted with the entry form below, specifying the category in which their photo is to be entered.

Submit/email the digital photos to Kathy Pratt, District N Environmental Chair, by January 1, 2025.

In an effort to increase participation, a Lion may only win in one category.

Each District will select their contest winners in each category prior to the 2025 Mid-Winter Rally and submit them to the MD17 Environmental Chair at the Mid Winter Rally. Online voting will begin at MWR and conclude on or about May 1, 2025; details to follow. Winners will be recognized at the MD17 State Convention in Wichita.

**Send photo contest entries to**  
Kathy Pratt, [kpratt558@gmail.com](mailto:kpratt558@gmail.com)

## **ENTRY FORM LIONS YEAR 2024-25**

### **MD-17 ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTO CONTEST**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CLUB: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

### **PLEASE SPECIFY PHOTO CATEGORY:**

☐ **ANIMAL LIFE**
☐ **PLANT LIFE**  
☐ **WEATHER PHENOMENON**
☐ **URBAN OR NATURAL LANDSCAPE**  
☐ **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE PROJECT (CAN INCLUDE LIONS IN THE PHOTO)**

**ALL PHOTOS MUST BE TAKEN IN KANSAS**

**PLEASE SUBMIT THIS FORM WITH EACH ENTRY**

**ALL CONTEST PHOTOS BECOME THE PROPERTY OF KANSAS LIONS**



Wow we are really rockin' it when it comes to serving our communities through the service of vision screening here in 17N!

I want to thank all of the clubs who have been in the schools, day cares, libraries fairs and festivals for being proactive in assessing the

eyesight for children as well as for adults.

Clubs please remember to report your results by emailing to PCC Helen LeBlanc (hleblanc1953@gmail.com) for the western portion of our district and CC Pam Bilyeu ([bilyeuskies@hotmail.com](mailto:bilyeuskies@hotmail.com)) for the

eastern part of the district. Included is the updated form for this year's reports. We in turn report to our State Council Chair for Kid's Sight to show the impact our service has here in Kansas.

*Pam Bilyeu*  
*Vision Screening Co-Chair*

### Kansas Lions District 17-N Free Vision Screening Informed Consent & Release Statement

**Parent/Guardian: Please fill out the following. All information is kept confidential.**

#### PLEASE PRINT & ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS

Child's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_ F \_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Child's Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Month Day Year

Parent or Guardian \_\_\_\_\_  
Is your child currently under the care of an eye doctor? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

#### RESULTS

\_\_\_\_\_ **Pass** We are unable to detect a vision problem at this time. This screening is not a substitute for a complete pediatric eye exam. Consult an eye care professional if a vision problem is suspected.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Unreadable** We were unable to get a reliable vision screening result for this child. Consult an eye care professional if a vision problem is suspected.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Refer** Child should be examined by an eye care professional because he/she *may* have a vision problem.

#### Lions Vision Screening Consent

##### CONSENT:

I hereby give permission for my child (Childs Name) \_\_\_\_\_ to participate in the vision-screening event. I understand that the information derived from this screening is preliminary and is not absolute or conclusive. I have read and understand the following regarding this program.

\_\_\_ The information obtained from this vision screening is preliminary only and does not constitute a diagnosis of vision problems. Not all vision problems are detected by the vision screening process.

\_\_\_ I understand that some screening results may indicate the need for a follow-up evaluation. I am responsible for arranging for an eye exam with an eye doctor of my choice. I understand that I am responsible for all costs of any eye exams.

\_\_\_ I may be contacted if my child does not pass this vision screening.

\_\_\_ I will not hold the Lions organization, their employees, agents, officers and representatives liable for any injury which may accrue as a result of the vision screening, including but not limited to errors of commission, errors of omission or other misdiagnosis.

Signature of Parent or Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Dist \_\_\_\_\_



*You are cordially invited to the*  
**Wichita Downtown Lions Club's  
105<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

*Special Guest Speaker*  
**International Director  
Hans J. Neidhardt**

**Wednesday, December 4, 2024  
Rolling Hills Country Club  
223 S Westlink • Wichita KS  
\$34.00 per person**



**6:00 PM Reception • 6:30 PM dinner**

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**RESERVATION FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Club \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Club \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Price is \$34 each. Please send check for your reservation to  
Wichita Downtown Lions Club, 10 W Rolling Hills Dr, Wichita, KS 67212**