



District 26-M7
The Heart of
Missouri Lions

Between the Lions



MARCH 2025

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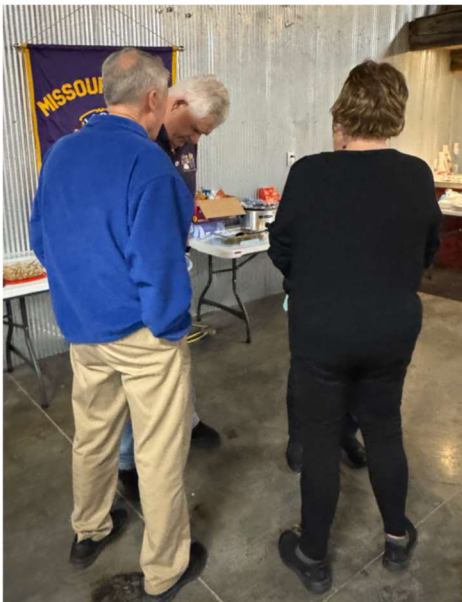
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DISTRICT CONVENTION PHOTOS

26M7 District Convention was held March 7 and 8.





23rd ANNUAL GREAT PLAINS LIONS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
Sponsored by the Lions of Multiple Districts 3, 9, 17, 26 and 38
Baker University,
615 Dearborn Street, Baldwin City, Kansas 66006
June 27-29, 2025

UPDATED REGISTRATION FORM (Please type or print legibly)

NAME _____ Badge Name _____ Gender _____
Last First Initial
ADDRESS _____
Street/PO Box City State/Province Zip/PC
PHONE () _____ () _____
Home Bus/Cell Email
Home Club _____ Sub District Number _____ LCI Mbr # _____
Years in Lions _____ Highest Office Held _____

Registration Fee is **US\$220** if received by **April 30, 2025**, and must accompany the registration form. **Beginning May 1, 2025, the base fee increases to US\$240.** Make checks payable in US funds to GPLLI and, along with the registration form, mail to ID Hans Neidhardt, 7400 NW Ayr Road, Potwin, Kansas 67123.

Application Deadline: May 31, 2025
"Applications will not be accepted without full payment."

Your registration fee includes seven meals, all Institute costs and dormitory rooms (Friday and Saturday) at Baker University. Please note that the dormitories are smoke free. You are permitted to request a specific roommate. Check in will take place at the **Harter Student Union** from 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. on Friday, June 27th and check out must be completed by 8:00 A.M. on Sunday, June 29th. We offer a souvenir shirt for an additional US\$25. Shirt size _____ (they run a little large).

The following information must be completed before registration will be accepted.

_____ Diabetic Diet requested _____ Vegetarian Diet requested
_____ Wheelchair Access required _____ Vision Impaired (List what accommodation(s) are needed)
_____ Hearing Impaired (List what accommodation(s) are needed)

Please list any other special requests _____

Questions about the Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute may be directed to: ID Hans Neidhardt, Registrar, 7400 NW Ayr Road, Potwin, Kansas 67123, (316) 435-2800, or hnnwizardofoz@gmail.com. Additional information will be sent to attendees prior to the start of the training session, to include directions, campus map, daily schedule, etc.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

We are asking for the following information in case of an emergency arising during the 2025 Institute. This information will be maintained until the close of the Institute and then shredded.

Emergency Contact Name _____ Relationship _____

Contact telephone: HOME _____ WORK _____ CELL _____

Medical information that needs to be shared with emergency responders: Please feel free to use the back.

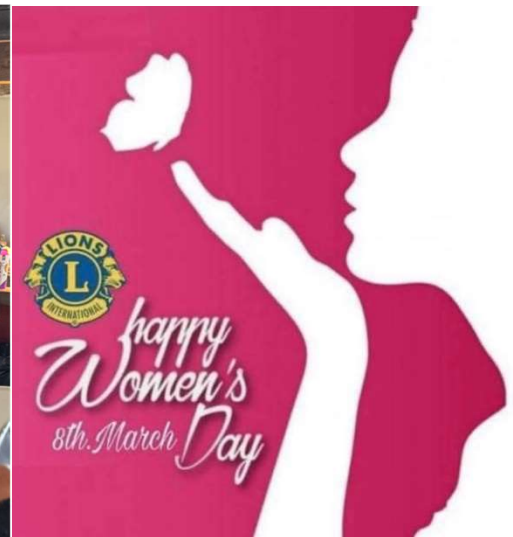
**** LCIF Donations Collection:** Historically, we have accepted individual and/or club donations during the training course. Donations are entirely up to each individual and/or clubs, and are in no way mandatory.



LIONS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION – Orlando, Florida. July 13-17, 2025.

https://lionscon.lionsclubs.org/?utm_source=Eloqua&utm_campaign=CON_EN_LionsConOrlandoPromo2_1564608773&utm_medium=email

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AT DISTRICT CONVENTION



HOLTS SUMMIT LIONS

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

News Tribune



\$2.00

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 16, 2025

VOL. 97, NO. 5

WWW.NEWTRIBUNE.COM



Joe Gamm/
News Tribune

Free meal

ABOVE: Henry Anderson, 8, settles in to enjoy pancakes Saturday morning during the inaugural Holts Summit Lions Club free pancake breakfast. His family said Henry enjoys volunteering for Lions Club programs, which goes hand-in-hand with Cub Scout activities.

TOP RIGHT: Melissa Anderson makes pancakes for the breakfast. Anderson is the club treasurer and also serves as the district governor for Lions in Mid-Missouri. BOTTOM RIGHT: From left, Holts Summit Lions Club vice president Don Soph and Dakota Jones serve pancakes to Bob Hall on Saturday.



ELDON LIONS

The Eldon FFA debate team preforms for the Lions club as they prepare for state competition



PDG Lion Ed Bierbower shown presenting Eldon 8th grade art student Kimberly Russell with a \$50 club appreciation check for her participation in the Lions 2024 Peace poster contest





Cory W. MacNeil/News Tribune

Shelby Vencil, left, a Wardsville Lions Club member, carries a tray of grilled chicken to the serving line where club members were preparing to-go plates Saturday during the club's annual barbecue fundraiser.

Braving the cold to barbecue

Joe Gamm

joe@newstribune.com

The sun had just come up, but the smokers were already up to temperature and ready for pit masters as the Wardsville Lions Club hosted its annual barbecue Saturday.

Proteins went on the grills early, as customers requested chicken, pork steak or bratwurst for the 1,100 dinners with cole slaw and baked beans that went out the door. Also purchased were 112 racks of St. Louis-style pork ribs, according to club President Chad Laune.

"We always have the barbecue on the last Saturday of February," Laune said. "We kind of enjoy it when the weather's bad, because not too many people want to get out and barbecue."

Staff members began preparing food Thursday, when they seasoned meats and pulled the membranes off the backs of all the ribs. One volunteer spent about three hours opening 1-gallon cans of beans and pouring them into a vat before doctoring them with extra seasoning.

The event, which has been occurring for at least 20 years, allows customers to

hop in their cars, drive to the club and pick up dinners. They don't even want to get out of their cars, Laune said.

Long-time club member Tim Wilbers said the drive-thru began during the COVID-19 pandemic. He worked the desk at the gate, where "a lot of the older people said, 'Don't get rid of the drive-thru.'"

Ribs are very popular, Laune said, and customers love all the food.

"But the most popular dinner really does rotate. One year, we ran out of chicken. The next year, we ran out of pork steaks," Wilbers said.

To prevent from having waste, the club limits the number of each meal it prepares, Laune said.

"If we sell out, we sell out," he said. "We've never completely run out of food. But some years when you get down to the last half hour, you're like, 'Well, folks, all we have is chicken left.' Or, 'All we have is pork steaks left.' Nobody complains."

The chicken, pork steak or bratwurst dinners each cost \$15. The rack of ribs was \$25.

All the money the club raised will go to good causes, Wilbers said. In the past, money has helped with installing a baseball field at

[Please see Barbecue, p. 6](#)

Barbecue:

[Continued from p. 4](#)

the club. Money raised this year is expected to be used for Lions Club vision programs and to make a donation to the Special Learning Center. The largest fundraiser for the club each year, the barbecue was expected to clear \$7,000-\$8,000 after expenses.

About 10 percent of dinners each year are delivered, Wilbers said. As he was speaking Saturday, staff members filled a \$600 order that went to a Jefferson City car dealership. Deliveries were limited Saturday to five or more orders.

With the Home Builders Association Home Show being held on the same weekend, it was a significant destination for deliveries. Another big customer Saturday was Blair Oaks High School, as the district was hosting an archery tournament.

"We pre-sell 60-70 percent (of the meals)," Laune said. "Our members are very good. Each usually buys five tickets."

Stanley Kolb, a founding member of the club, said he enjoys the

camaraderie of being around other Lions members. Other members joked with Kolb that he's earned the right to supervise while they do some of the strenuous work.

"I've been here every year since they started," he said. "I haven't missed it."

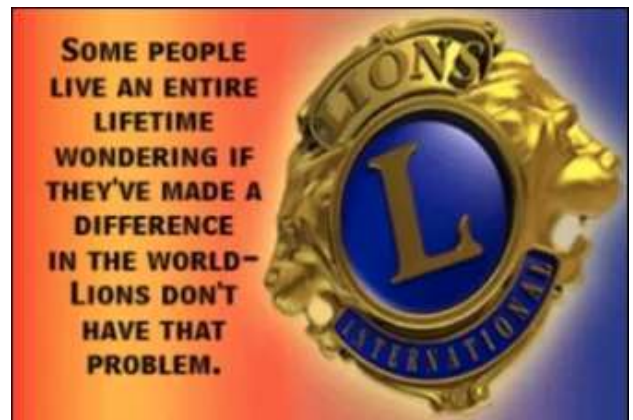
<https://jchostlions.org/%22a-century-of-service%22>



SAVE THE DATES: Jefferson City Host Lions will celebrate a CENTURY OF SERVICE with events on June 13 & 14, 2025.

June 13, 2025 - Evening reception with our International guest at Canterbury Hill Winery & Restaurant in Holts Summit
June 14, 2025 - Evening buffet dinner to celebrate our 100th Anniversary at Canterbury Hill Winery & Restaurant in Holts Summit.

JC Host Lions performed vision screenings for all ages at the Home Builders Association (HBA) Home Show at the Capital Mall.





Jefferson City Host Lions, who are also volunteers at Runge Nature Center, spent time on March 10, 2025 repairing and replacing tree swallow nest boxes. Lions from left to right: Terry Rittenhour, Dan Bernskoetter, Bruce Berger, and Darin Hackmann.

WARSAW LIONS



ROCKY MOUNT LIONS



CHAMOIS LIONS

The Chamois Lions Club met for their regular monthly meeting on Monday evening, February 10, 2025 at the Chamois Community Center. Despite schedule conflicts with high school basketball and cases of the flu, fifteen Lions were present for all or at least a part of the dinner and business meeting.

Prior to the dinner, Lion President Robin Lieneke led the Chamois Lions in the Pledge of Allegiance and Lion Steve Duncan offered the table prayer. The Ladies of St. Mary's Catholic Church served a delicious dinner of pulled pork, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, cherry jello salad, and two different kinds of chocolate cake for dessert.

Lion President Robin Lieneke presided at the business meeting.

Lion President Lieneke requested that the meeting agenda be approved and with no objections voiced, Lion President Lieneke declared the agenda approved. Copies of the minutes of the January 13, 2025 meeting had previously been distributed electronically by Lion Secretary Beth Sieg and paper copies were available for those Lions who prefer paper. With no objection voiced, Lion President Lieneke declared the minutes approved. In the absence of Lion Treasurer Nelson Sieg, Lion President Lieneke presented a detailed written financial report from Lion Treasurer Sieg for the Chamois Lions general account and Lion Building Co-Chairperson Randy Thoenen presented a financial report for the Community Center.

Lion President Lieneke called on Chamois Lions Club liaisons to other Chamois and Morrison civic groups for reports on the activities of those groups. Lion Melissa Arlen, who is the Mayor of the City of Morrison, and Lion Vice President Scott Mertz, who is the liaison to the Chamois Fire Department, were absent so there were no reports for those organizations. At present, there is no Lion who is a member of the City of Chamois government so there was no information for that organization. Lions Jeff Kormann and Susan Sundermeyer, who are members of the Chamois Historic Preservation Commission (CHPC), reported that the CHPC will meet on Wednesday, February 19, 2025. Lion Kormann, who is also a member of the Chamois Industrial Development Corporation (CIDC), reported that the CIDC met on February 4, 2025 at Heritage Community Bank (HCB) with seven members in attendance. The CIDC elected new officers with Lion Kormann to serve as President, discussed a possible real estate transaction, and also presented new ideas for community revitalization. The CIDC will meet again in May 2025 and may possibly meet earlier if needed. Chamois Lions were encouraged to attend meetings of the CIDC. Lions Susan Sundermeyer, Steve Duncan and Jeff Kormann, who are members of the Osage County Agritourism Council (OCAC), had nothing to report other than 2025 memberships in OCAC are for sale at a cost of \$30.00 for individual, family, and non-profit organization memberships and \$75.00 for business memberships. The Chamois Lions Club is a non-profit organization member of OCAC and will renew its membership. To conclude the reports on activities of other civic groups, Lion Kormann, who is a member of the Missouri Community Betterment (MCB) Board of Directors, reported that MCB continues to solicit individual and corporate donations to eventually create an Endowment Foundation to make grants available to local MCB organizations to assist with community betterment projects. The current MCB savings account is known as the "Better Together Fund" and is managed by the Community Foundation of Northwest Missouri. Lion Kormann has been appointed by the MCB Board of Directors as Chairman of the "Better Together Committee".

Two items of old business, special project updates, and ad hoc committee reports were listed on the meeting agenda.

Due to Winter weather issues, all of the City Park improvement projects are on hold. These projects include the installation of a new door on the Chamois City Park ballpark storage shed, to make some minor repairs to ballpark fences, to hopefully rebuild the second story of the Old Bandstand and to remodel the lower level, and the cooperative project with American Legion Post 506 and Chamois Masonic Lodge #185 to erect a 40-foot flagpole that is visible both from inside the park and from the Missouri River.

Lions Mark Mehmert and Steve Duncan reported that with much assistance from volunteer Kody Hackmann the City of Chamois Christmas decorations have been taken down. In addition, through the efforts of Lion Scott Mertz and the Chamois High School junior class, the City of Chamois Christmas tree on the Old Town Square has been undecorated and the decorations stored.

Two items of new business were presented and discussed.

Lion Steve Duncan reported on the Lions District 26-M7 Cabinet meeting that was held at the Rocky Mount Lions Club on Saturday, February 1, 2025. Nine Lions Clubs with twenty-seven Lions in attendance were represented at the meeting. Much information in regards to district, State of Missouri, and Lions Clubs International (LCI) service projects was shared. LCI focuses on seven major areas of service—vision, disaster relief, hunger, environment, youth, diabetes, and childhood cancer. Vision projects are very much of a focus locally. KidSight, which is a project to vision screen children in schools and day care centers, has been most active. Since July 1, 2024, 28,669 Missouri children have been screened at 433 events in 94 counties. There have been 2,653 children identified who need a full eye exam including 615 children who were at high risk for vision loss. In Lions District 26-M7, of which the Chamois Lions Club is a member, over 4,000 children have been screened this year using just Lions volunteers and not KidSight staff. Another major vision project is the Lions Eyeglasses Recycling Center, which is operated by Lions District 26-M7 and involves the sorting, cleaning, reading by lensometers to determine prescriptions, documentation of prescriptions, and then distribution of donated used eyeglasses. During 2024, over 50,000 pairs of prescription, reading and sun glasses were distributed by organizations who performed mission trips and another 40,700 pair of unsorted glasses were provided to a church that wants to start an eyeglasses recycling program.

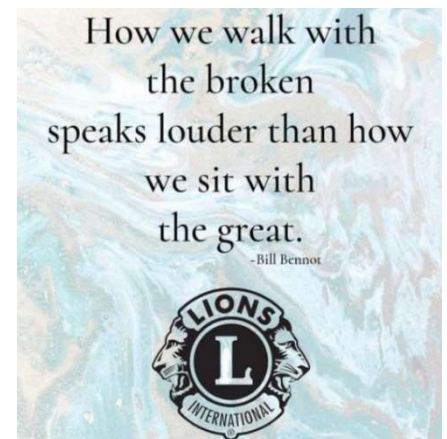
Lion President Lieneke and Lion Dawna Keilholz, who has served for the past five years as a co-chairperson on the Chamois Day Committee, reported on a recent meeting of representative of the City of Chamois, Osage County R-1 School PTO, and the Chamois Lions Club to discuss the future of Chamois Day. The City of Chamois has agreed to take over Chamois Day and will establish an advisory committee to assist in putting on Chamois Day. Hopefully this advisory committee will include representatives from the City, the Chamois Lions Club, the Osage County R-1 School PTO, other civic groups, and churches. Lion President Lieneke will serve as the Chamois Lions Club representative on this advisory committee and Lion Scott Mertz will serve as the Chamois Fire Department representative. The advisory committee will meet on Monday, February 17, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

Two announcements were made. The Lions District 26-M7 Convention will be held on March 7-8, 2025 in Holts Summit, MO. Registration is \$40.00 per Lion. Chamois Lions Club members were encouraged to attend the annual convention. Hearing Sweepstakes Raffle tickets, the proceeds which are used to promote hearing projects, are for sale. Several Lions purchased raffle tickets and those funds will be forwarded to the Lions District 26-M7 Hearing Chairperson.

February birthday wishes were extended to Lion Donna Weiser. Prayer concerns were expressed for those community members who have health issues to include Lions Susan Sundermeyer, Mark Lieneke, and Michael Edwards. All three of these Lions were present for the meeting.

To conclude the meeting on a humorous note, Lion Steve Duncan shared several “Smiles for Today”. Two such smiles included “Procrastination is totally a good thing. You always have something to do tomorrow and you have nothing to do today.” and “I am proud to announce that I have completed the first item on my bucket list. I have the bucket.” To provide even more food for thought, Lion President Lieneke shared several profound “Sentences that live in my head rent free”.

The next meeting of the Chamois Lions Club will be on Monday, March 10, 2025 at the Chamois Community Center. Dinner will be at 6:30 p.m. with the meeting at 7:00 p.m.



LIONS YOUTH CAMPS AND EXCHANGE

We have received applicants and still have some yet to receive but I have accepted the following so far.

Female	Ekin Kabakci	Turkey
Male	Lutfu Ata Uysal	Turkey
Male	Remo Wibler	Germany
Female	Henriette Wundisch	Germany
Female	Inkeri Leskela	Finland
Male	Myagmarsuren Munkhbat	Mongolia
Female	Shuuderkhen Khurts	Mongolia
Male	Franciszek Kowalski	Poland
Female	Roberta Albanese	Italy

I'm hoping you have some Host Families waiting to choose an International youth for 10 days.

They arrive in St. Louis July 1st, picked up by first host family until Thursday July 10th, transfer day to second host, second host will have their youth until camp Sunday July 20 after 6pm with dinner provided delivered to "Camp Brim Shire" St. James, Mo. First Host Family will pick up after camp until the youth returns home, around July 28-29.

Please provide me with emails and I will get the youth's information to them for choosing.

I could use ideas for more activities at camp and a male and female around 20-25 to help at camp as peers. Maybe Leos in your area might want to help. There would be no cost for their stay at camp.

We will NOT have a meet & greet at the end. We will try to have a get together with the youths' food dishes during camp. The meet & greet were only attended by Host families and Lions that helped prepare the location for the event. The meet & greet were done to encourage our youths and other Lions to attend and to learn about this wonderful program.

I have attached the Host Family application and information.

Look forward to hearing from each of you.

Thanks
Lion Toni Mahoney
314-805-7391



Become a Host Family

Is Hosting Right for Me?

Hosting an exchange youth is guaranteed to be a rewarding experience because:

- You experience the joy of sharing your culture and customs.
- You learn about the exchange youth's customs and culture.
- You open a new world of thinking to the exchange youth.
- You make a new friend - maybe a friend for life.

If this sounds rewarding, you may enjoy being a host family for the

Lions YCE Program! Please check out the following video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l4M9d31AAJ0&ab_channel=LionsClubsInternational

Expectations of a Host Family

Room and Board - You are expected to provide room and board for the youth. It is recommended that youth be roomed with youth of similar ages and similar genders. Meals should be balanced and healthy.

Transportation - Typically, you are responsible for all the youth's transportation during the exchange. Travel may include but is not limited to, transfers to and from the airport or train station, transfers to other Host Families or International Camp, transportation to and from any planned activities by you and/or the Host Club.

Financial responsibilities - Payment for cultural activities is dependent on the agreement made between you, the youth, and the Host Club. Some programs offer stipends or scholarships for participating Host Families.

Selecting an Exchange Youth - Hosting a youth is dependent upon desired age, gender, interests, and nationality and upon the availability of the youth meeting those requirements. Your local YCE Chairperson will advise you of available youth. You can learn more about the roles and expectations of a YCE Host Family by checking out the [YCE Host Family Handbook](#)! Potential Host Families must be screened by the Host Lions Club and YCE Chairperson. Availability: It is important that you make sure your family's schedule allows accommodation to spend enough quality time with the youth.

SHOW ME LIONS EYEGLASS RECYCLING

The Show Me Lions Eyeglass Recycling Facility is located at 710 Sandstone in Cedar City / North Jefferson City, Missouri. Your group can help sort eyeglasses. To volunteer at the building, contact: Lion Don Soph, PDG, 314-304-5054 or email donsoph@hotmail.com or Lou Ann Hathcock, PDG, 573-338-4687 or email balloonsisters@aol.com.

Lohman Lions Alberta and Gary Zumwalt are in charge of filling orders for recycled eyeglasses for mission trips. If anyone wants to contact them to help with this task, their phone number is 573-782-3560. Also, if anyone knows of a mission group that wants recycled eyeglasses, they can submit an email request to: showmelionseyeglassrecycling@gmail.com.

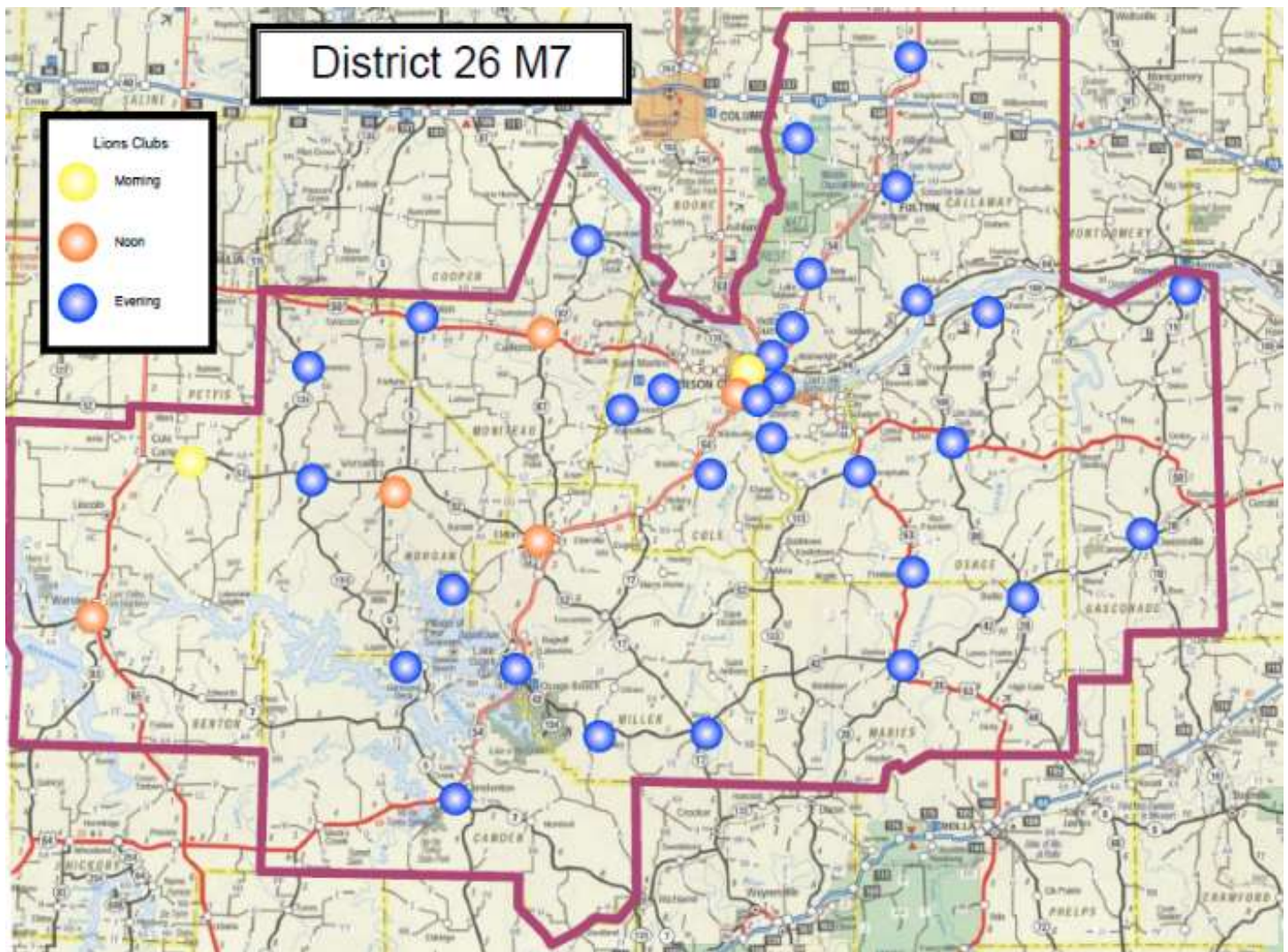
SPECIAL REQUEST: We are in need of more volunteers to come to the building to work on eyeglasses - sorting, washing and reading, in order to be able to provide glasses to those that need them. Mission trips have increased and we need volunteers to be able to have glasses ready for distribution. If you cannot volunteer to work at the building but do collect glasses, you can still help. Glasses can be sorted by: readers, adult prescription, kids prescription, adult sunglasses and kids sunglasses. It would also help if the glasses were taken out of the cases, since we have no source for cases. All broken, scratched and parts-missing glasses can be separated and labeled as scrap which can be used to get money to use for shipping out the glasses for mission trips. All of this would help immensely. Thank you! – Alberta
To volunteer at the building, contact: Lion Don Soph, PDG, 314-304-5054 or email donsoph@hotmail.com or Lou Ann Hathcock, PDG, 573-338-4687 or email balloonsisters@aol.com.

How To Sort Used Eyeglasses For the Jeff City Eyeglass Recycle Center

Scrap Metal – metal frames that are broken
New/Demo – Comes from a eyeglass store; may have tags
Special Frames – May have side protectors on frame
No Markings –
Pediatric – Kids glasses
Readers – look on ear pieces(temple) for + sign
Non-RX Sunglasses -
RX Sunglasses -
Other Frames – Most prescription eyeglasses will go here
Gold Plated – old thin frames

Broken Plastic Frames – Throw Away
Eyeglass Cases – See if a resale center will take them or throw away.

Submit your event or article to Lyle at lrosburg@hotmail.com for inclusion in the next District Newsletter.



ZONE 1	ZONE 2	ZONE 3
California	Brumley	Belle
	Camdenton	Chamois
Florence	Eldon	Freeburg
Jamestown		Hermann
	Iberia	Linn
	Lake Ozark	Owensville
Versailles	Rocky Mount	Vienna
Warsaw		Westphalia