



District 26-M7
The Heart of
Missouri Lions

Between the Lions



JULY 2024

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DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE



Happy New Lions Year fellow M7 Lions! I'm excited to set up club visits and learn all about how your club is serving your community. On a note of general housekeeping, please

make sure you update your club officers in the Lions Portal as soon as possible. If you need assistance, please reach out!

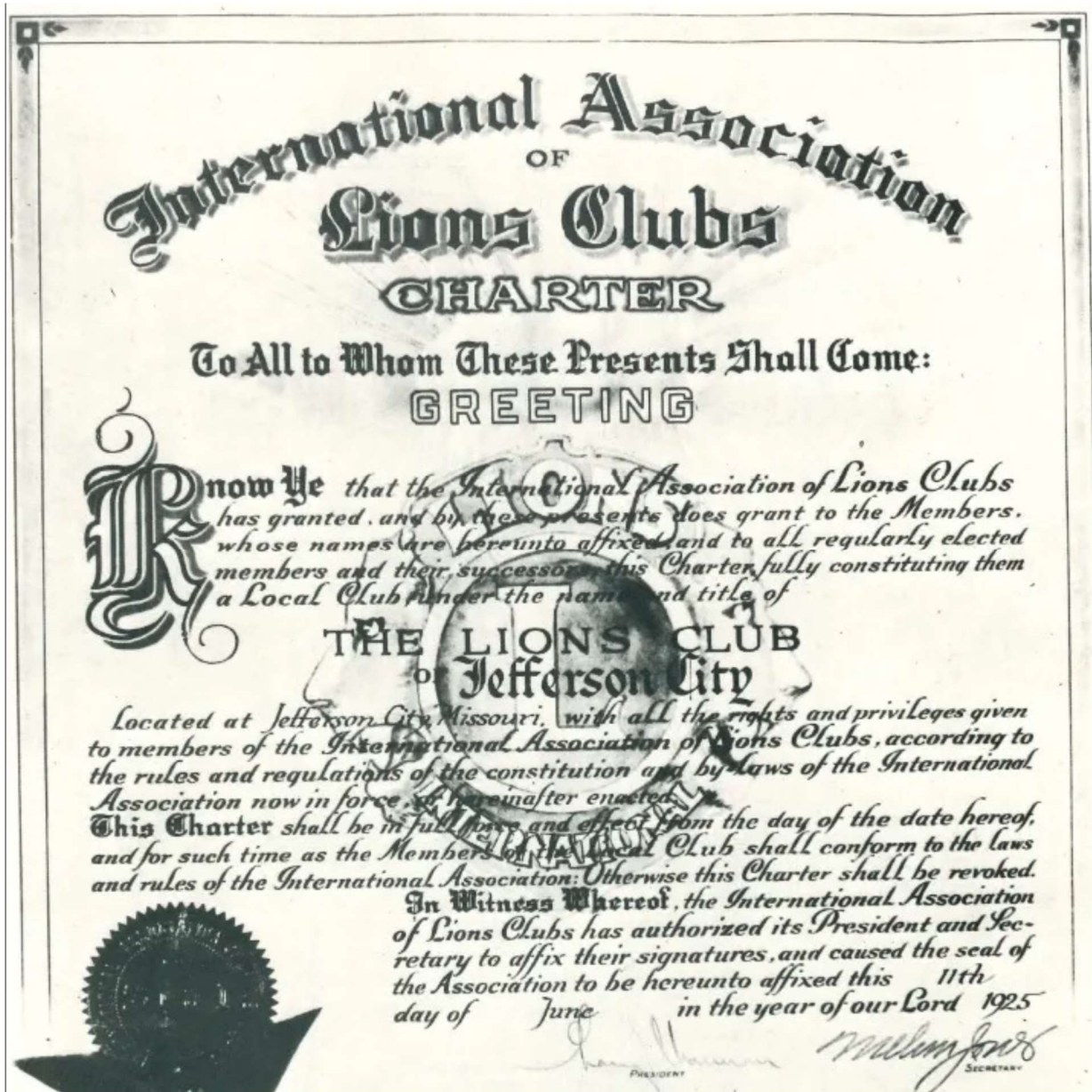
As we strive to reach 1.5 million members worldwide by 2027, don't forget to ask friends, family and coworkers to join you at your meetings or events.

Invites will be sent soon for the first District M7 Cabinet Meeting to be held on August 17, 2024.

Lion DG Melissa



JEFFERSON CITY HOST LIONS



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 Member Geri Surface received the Melvin Jones award on June 19, 2024.

A long time JC Host Lions Club Member.

[https://www.newtribune.com/.../snapshot-presiding.../...](https://www.newtribune.com/.../snapshot-presiding.../)



NEWSTRIBUNE.COM

Presiding Cole County commissioner dedicated to community | Jefferson City News-Tribune

JC HOST DECORATES MOBILITY CART



<https://mobilityworldwide.org/>

Mobility Worldwide aims to end immobility by producing and distributing mobility aids to those who need them most in underserved communities. Mobility Carts offer those with disabilities access to a fuller life by increasing their ability to work, provide for their families, and interact with society.

Since 1994, Mobility Worldwide has produced and distributed its signature Mobility Carts. Their all-terrain type construction allows people to take them where wheelchairs simply cannot go, and the hand crank or push/pull design offers increased mobility without the need for batteries or charging infrastructure.

The JC Host Lions Mobility Cart was entered in the Mobility Worldwide fundraiser in Columbia and is then shipped across the world and put to use.

Lions Janet Ousley, Bernice Holtmeyer, Debbie and Charlie Lindquist, Janice and Billy Bonnot



BW Robinson award given to Steve Duncan at The District Picnic

B. W. Robinson District Service Award

In serving our communities and others, Lions create lasting testaments to their presence. Often these testaments are in the form of city parks, ballfields, trees, restored vision, or memories of assistance provided in time of need.



District 26-M7 established the B. W. Robinson District Service Award in 2012 to honor the legacy of a remarkable Lion who made a career of serving Lions. Having served as district governor in District 26 G, he relocated to District 26 B and transferred to what is now the Jefferson City Host Lions Club. His Lions journey continued as he served as Lions Clubs International Director from 1980 - 1982.

Beyond the club level, he served as district governor, multiple district Leader Dogs liaison, mentor and international director.

Throughout his membership, he showed great energy and influenced others to seek greater ways to serve. He had other careers along the way – father, grandfather, great-grandfather, noted educator and sergeant-at-arms in the Missouri Senate. The B. W. Robinson School for the Severely Disabled in Rolla is named in his honor. His selfless contributions to the Lions of Missouri, Lions Clubs International and the citizens of Missouri continue to inspire Lions.



Chamois Lions Club News

(Printed in its entirety as requested by Lion Linda Bierbower)

The Chamois Lions Club met for their regular monthly meeting on Monday evening, June 10, 2024 at the Chamois Community Center. Ten Lions and two guests, Michael Marcum and daughter Mia, were present for the dinner and business meeting.

Prior to the dinner, Lion Steve Duncan led the Chamois Lions in the Pledge of Allegiance and Lion Duane Paulsmeyer offered the table prayer. The Ladies of St. Mary's Catholic Church served a delicious dinner of turkey & cheese wraps, Summer sausage & cheese, crackers, various salads, veggie tray, pickles, fruit, and cake for dessert.

In the absence of Lion President Robin Lieneke and all three Lions Vice Presidents, Lion Steve Duncan presided at the business meeting.

Lion Duncan requested that the meeting agenda be approved and the Chamois Lions voted to approve the agenda. Copies of the minutes of the May 13, 2024 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 Duncan declared the minutes approved. Lion Treasurer Nelson Sieg presented a detailed written financial report. With both Lion Building Co-Chairpersons in Lions Dale Hackmann and Randy Thoenen absent, there was no report on Chamois Community Center finances and maintenance issues.

Lion Duncan called on Chamois Lions Club liaisons to other Chamois and Morrison civic groups for reports on the activities of those groups. Lion Melissa Strope, who is the Mayor of the City of Morrison, and Lion Scott Mertz, who is a member of 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 Chamois city government so there is no liaison to the City of Chamois. Lion Susan Sundermeyer, who is a member of the Chamois Historic Preservation Commission (CHPC), reported that the CHPC rummage sale fundraiser on Saturday, May 18, was a huge success. Lion Jeff Kormann, who is a member of the Chamois Industrial Development Corporation (CIDC), was present and reported on behalf of Lion Debbie Huff, who is President of the CIDC. The CIDC has filed their IRS Form 990-N for tax year 2023. Lion Huff sent a request to continue the "Back-to-School Supplies" program that provides school supplies to students at Osage County R-1 School. Lions were encouraged to make individual contributions to this program and the Chamois Lions Club will make a donation if individual donations are not sufficient. Personal donations to this important program can be mailed to the Chamois Industrial

Development Corporation in care of the Old Schoolhouse on the Hill B & B at 402 S. Main Steet in Chamois, MO 65024. Lions Steve Duncan, Susan Sundermeyer, and Jeff Kormann, who are members of the Osage County Agritourism Council (OCAC), reported that OCAC has two tours planned. There will be a Ranch Life tour on June 25, 2024 and a Christmas Country Church & Cookies Trail tour on Friday, December 13, 2024. Lions Duncan and Kormann also reported on a recent tour that members of the OCAC made of a portion of the proposed Rock Island Trail. On May 23, 2024, several members of the OCAC Board toured a 3 ½ mile stretch of the old Rock Island railroad from Freeburg to the railroad bridge over the Gasconade River. The tour was hosted by District 61 State Representative Bruce Sassmann, the Director of Missouri State Parks David Kelly, and Trail Development Coordinator Ron Bentsch. This stretch of the proposed Rock Island Trail has tremendous potential as a tourist attraction for Osage County and thus offers a significant economic development opportunity. There is a 700-foot tunnel at Freeburg, the 3 ½ miles to the Gasconade River offers a beautiful view of the terrain with rock cuts and valleys, and the Gasconade River bridge is a 1,776-foot structure built in 1902. Lion Jeff Kormann, who is a member of the Missouri Community Betterment Association (MCB) Board of Directors, reported on the MCB Awards Program to recognize communities for service projects and announced that the Annual MCB Fall Conference would be held on October 21, 2024 at the Missouri Farm Bureau in Jefferson City.

Nine items of old business, special project updates, and ad hoc committee reports were listed on the meeting agenda, but due to the absence of several Lions who are most responsible for the projects there were no updates for many of the projects.

Four of the projects for which there were no updates pertain to work at the Chamois City Park. There is a need to install a new door on the Chamois City Park ballpark storage shed, make some minor repairs to ballpark fences, possibly provide volunteer assistance with a project to rebuild a portion of the roof over the ballpark grandstand, and the need to install wifi at the Chamois Community Center.

There was no new information in regards to a project to install a flagpole at the Chamois City Park. American Legion Post 506, Chamois Masonic Lodge #185, and the Chamois Lions Club have undertaken a cooperative project to install a 40-foot flagpole somewhere on City property at the City Park so that the flagpole is visible both from inside the park and from the Missouri River. The flagpole has been purchased and received. Volunteer assistance to pour concrete for the base of the flagpole, to set the flagpole, and to eventually light the flagpole has been arranged for. The City of Chamois has approved the project.

The project to rebuild the second story of the Old Bandstand remains a high priority. Lion Susan Sundermeyer provided a brief update on efforts to find a contractor to undertake this project. Some potential contractors have been identified but no meetings with such contractors have yet been scheduled.

Lion Steve Duncan reported on the second produce box food distribution project that was held on Thursday, May 30, 2024 on the St. Mary's Catholic Church parking lot in downtown Chamois. Central Missouri Community Action has arranged for a mobile food pantry for Chamois utilizing a program under the direction of the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program. This second distribution of food items was a huge success as 100 boxes were distributed with more protein items included this time. The next scheduled food distribution will be on July 11, 2024.

Much discussion focused on a community dinner to be hosted by the Chamois Lions Club. Lion Secretary Beth Sieg reported that tentative plans are to host a dinner for community residents on July 22, 2024 from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the Chamois Community Center. The menu will include chicken and gravy, mashed potatoes, chips, a veggie tray, various desserts, and tea and water. In an effort to better educate the public on who the Lions are and what some of the service projects are, Lion Treasurer Nelson Sieg has designed a brochure that promotes the Chamois Lions Club and hopefully will serve as a recruiting tool for new members. This brochure will be made available at the community dinner.

To conclude old business, Lion Secretary Sieg reported on behalf of the Scholarship Committee. The \$500 E. E. Turner Scholarship was presented to Chamois High School graduate Elsey Wuelling and the \$500 Chamois Lions Club Scholarship was presented to Kael Holloway. Congratulations to these scholarship recipients.

Two items of new business were introduced and addressed.

Chamois Day will be held on Saturday, September 21, 2024. Planning is underway, but no Chamois Day Committee members were present to provide an update.

Lion Steve Duncan provided an update on the recent Lions District 26-M7 special meeting to appoint district officers for the 2024-2025 Lions year. Past District Governor (PDG) Lion Melissa Anderson of the Holts Summit Lions Club will serve as District Governor, Immediate Past District Governor (IPDG) Lion Bill Foglesong of the Eldon Lions Club will serve as First Vice District Governor, and Lion Bruce Berger of the Jefferson City Host Lions Club will serve as Second Vice District Governor. Chamois Lions were encouraged to get more involved in Lions District 26-M7 activities and to support these new Lions leaders.

Lion Secretary Sieg shared two items of correspondence. Information was received from Community Coordinator Jenn Millard of Central Missouri Community Action in regards to the produce box distributions and a thank-you note was received from Osage County R-1 School for use of the Community Center restrooms during end of school class picnics held at the Chamois City Park.

June birthday wishes were extended to Lion Kay Schwinke. Prayer concerns were expressed for those community members who have health issues to include Lion Mark Lieneke and Lion Lieneke's mother Marie Lieneke.

To conclude the meeting on a humorous note, Lion Steve Duncan presented some profound "Insights". For example, "Exercise makes you look better. So does wine. Your choice.", "To err is human. To blame it on someone else shows management potential", and "Lazy is such an ugly word. I prefer the term 'selective participation'".

The next meeting of the Chamois Lions Club will be on Monday, July 8, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at the Chamois Community Center.

CHAMOIS JULY 8

The Chamois Lions Club met for their regular monthly meeting on Monday evening, July 8, 2024 at the Chamois Community Center. Thirteen Lions and two guests, City of Chamois Mayor Marie Slusser and husband Guy Slusser, were present for 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 grilled brats and hot dogs, baked beans, potato salad, slaw, tomatoes, and cake for dessert.

Lion President Robin Lieneke presided at the business meeting.

Lion President Lieneke requested that the meeting agenda be approved and the Chamois Lions voted to approve the agenda. Copies of the minutes of the June 10, 2024 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. Lion Treasurer Nelson Sieg presented a detailed written financial report. Lion Building Co-Chairpersons Dale Hackmann and Randy Thoenen were both present and Lion Thoenen presented a Chamois Community Center financial report.

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 Scott Mertz, who is a member of the Chamois Fire Department, were absent so there were no reports for those organizations. Guest City of Chamois Mayor Marie Slusser presented a detailed report on City of Chamois activities. Given the recent windstorm damage at the City Park, much of Mayor Slusser's report focused on that issue. The City of Chamois has received a preliminary damage report and estimate of an insurance settlement from the insurer and local contractor Grayson Light hopes to begin repairs around August 1. The Chamois Lions Club can provide some volunteer labor to assist with repairs to the grandstand, pavilion, and ballpark fences. The City of Chamois has agreed to purchase additional security cameras for the City Park and will work with the Chamois Lions Club on the installation of Internet services at the Chamois Community Center to enhance security within the City Park. New Chamois City Marshal Riley Lewis's paperwork is complete and he will begin his duties as Marshal on August 1. To conclude her report, Mayor Slusser confirmed the location of a new flagpole for the City Park. The installation of a flagpole is a joint project of Chamois American Legion Post 506, Chamois Masonic Lodge #185, and the Chamois Lions Club. Lion Jeff Kormann, who is a member of the Chamois Historic Preservation Commission (CHPC), reported on behalf of the CHPC and thanked Mayor Slusser for the City of Chamois efforts to put in a crossing over the drainage ditch on the west side of the Townley House to allow access to the house. Lion Kormann also reported that the CHPC did not receive grant funds from a recent grant application but will again submit a request for funds next year. Lion Kormann, who is also a member of the Chamois Industrial Development Corporation (CIDC), reported on behalf of Lion Debbie Huff, who is President of the CIDC. Lion Huff sent a request to continue the "Back-to-School Supplies" program that provides school supplies to students at Osage County R-1 School. Lions were encouraged to make individual contributions to this program and the Chamois Lions Club will make a donation if individual donations are not sufficient. Personal donations to this important program can be mailed to the Chamois Industrial Development Corporation in care of the Old Schoolhouse on the Hill B & B at 402 S. Main Street in Chamois, MO 65024. Lions Steve Duncan and Jeff Kormann, who are members of the Osage County Agritourism Council (OCAC), reported that OCAC Ranch Life tour on June 25, 2024 was a huge success with the tour bus completely sold out. A Christmas Country Church & Cookies Trail tour is planned for Friday, December 13, 2024. Two other OCAC events will be the annual "Taste of Osage County" event scheduled for September 14, 2024 and a "Farm to Table" dinner scheduled for September 28, 2024 at Prairie Star Farms in Bland, Mo. Lion Jeff Kormann, who is a member of the Missouri Community Betterment Association (MCB) Board of Directors, announced that the 60th Annual MCB Fall Conference will be held on October 21, 2024 at the Missouri Farm Bureau in Jefferson City. The theme of the conference is "Honoring the Past, Embracing the Future" and featured speakers will include Dr. Sean Siebert the creator of "Invent Yourself" LLC, Jacob King who has been heavily involved with Missouri FFA and will engage youth attendees by using a steel guitar, and national speaker and entrepreneur Jaclyn Rowe who will speak on "The Power of Personalities".

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

Four of the projects pertain to work at the Chamois City Park and some of these were addressed during City of Chamois Mayor Marie Slusser's report. There is a need to install a new door on the Chamois City Park ballpark storage shed, make some minor repairs to ballpark fences, possibly provide volunteer assistance with repairs to the roof over the ballpark grandstand, and the need to install wifi at the Chamois Community Center. Discussion did focus on the wifi installation project and Lion President Lieneke and Lion Dawna Keilholz will contact vendors RadioWire and Wave Internet in an effort to select a vendor and complete the installation.

As covered in Mayor Slusser's report, a site for the flagpole at the Chamois City Park was confirmed and hopefully this project will move forward. The plan is for a 40-foot flagpole that is visible both from inside the park and from the Missouri River to be installed. The flagpole has been purchased and received. Volunteer assistance to pour concrete for the base of the flagpole, to set the flagpole, and to eventually light the flagpole has been arranged for. The City of Chamois has approved the project.

The project to rebuild the second story of the Old Bandstand remains a high priority. Lion Susan Sundermeyer was absent, but Lion Jeff Kormann reported that CHPC board member Judy Maxey has been attempting to identify potential contractors.

Lion Steve Duncan reported that Central Missouri Community Action has arranged for a mobile food pantry for Chamois utilizing a program under the direction of the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program with the third food distribution scheduled for July 11, 2024.

To conclude old business, Lion President Lieneke reported that due to schedule conflicts the planned Chamois Lions Club dinner for community residents that was tentatively scheduled for July 22, 2024 from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at the Chamois Community Center has been postponed. This dinner and a possible new date will be addressed at future Lions Club meetings.

Two items of new business were introduced and addressed.

Given that the new 2024-2025 Lions Club year begins on July 1, Lion President Lieneke declared new officers installed. These officers served during the 2023-2024 year and all graciously have agreed to serve a second term. Officers include President Robin Lieneke, First Vice President Rev. Jason Hilkerbaumer, Second Vice President Scott Mertz, Third Vice President Randy Thoenen, Secretary Beth Sieg, Treasurer Nelson Sieg, Tail Twister Sherry Reyes, Lion Tamer Connie Smith, LCIF Chairperson Robin Lieneke, Club Service Chairpersons Michael Edwards and Steve Duncan, Marketing/Communications Chairperson Mark Mehmert, Membership Chairperson Melissa Arlen, and Directors Susan Sundermeyer, Randy Thoenen, Mark Lieneke, and Duane Paulsmeyer.

Much discussion focused on Chamois Day. Chamois Day Committee members Lions Dawna Keilholz and Becca Mehmert reported on plans for Chamois Day, which will be held on Saturday, September 21, 2024. The theme this year is "One Town, Many Friends". Flyers to promote the event have been designed and will be posted at local businesses and churches. A T-shirt design has been created and shirt order forms are available with shirts to be screen-printed by local T-shirt vendor Matt Shockley. Broken Arrow will again provide main stage entertainment and activities will include food and craft vendors, hayrides, a bingo scavenger hunt, washer and cornhole tournaments, a pulled pork contest, and the traditional Osage County R-1 School parade at 10:00 a.m. There will again be a raffle with some larger in value prizes. The raffle is the primary fundraiser to offset the costs of Chamois Day. As always, there is a need for more volunteers to help with the fundraising raffle and the labor required for many of the activities. The Chamois Lions Club does not have the membership to fill the many required volunteer time slots so community members are urged to please volunteer. Everyone is welcome to become involved in helping with Chamois Day.

Lion Secretary Sieg shared two items of correspondence. Notice has been received from the Missouri Secretary of State for the Chamois Lions Club, a nonprofit corporation, to file the 2024 Annual Registration Report, which is due by August 31. Lion Steve Duncan will file this report. A letter was received from Brad Stieferman of Stieferman Construction Services LLC. in regards to plans to expand the rock quarry located just east of Chamois. In accordance with The Land Reclamation Act, this letter is a required legal notification to landowners whose property is adjacent to the quarry. The quarry expansion will not impact the Lions Club's property.

Two announcements were made. Lion Steve Duncan reported that a Missouri Lion, Past District Governor Lion Debbie Cantrell, was elected as an International Director at the recent Lions International Convention held in Melbourne, Australia. The Osage County Commission will hold a Town Hall Meeting at the Chamois Community Center on August 1, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. to provide information on a proposed Road & Bridge tax issue.

July birthday wishes were extended to Lion Mark Lieneke. Prayer concerns were expressed for those community members who have health issues to include Lion Mark Lieneke..

To conclude the meeting on a humorous note, Lion Steve Duncan presented some profound "Life Experiences". For example, a wife challenged her husband who had made four trips to the dessert table at a dinner and said "Doesn't that embarrass you?" to which the husband replied "No, I keep telling them that the desserts are for you". Another example of how to handle a real-life situation involved a man who took his suit to the cleaners and was told that the cost to clean and press the suit would be \$40. The man instead took his suit to a charity shop next door and donated it. The charity shop cleaned and pressed the suit and put it in a display window. The man bought his suit back for \$15.

Due to schedule conflicts, the next meeting of the Chamois Lions Club will be on the third Monday in August rather than the second Monday. The meeting will be Monday, August 19, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at the Chamois Community Center.

RUSSELLVILLE LIONS FIREWORKS DISPLAY

Russellville Lions Club fireworks display shakes ground

By Garrett Fuller
For the News Tribune

RUSSELLVILLE — Kendra Infranca drove more than three and a half hours to compete in the Russellville Lions Club's all-terrain vehicle rodeo.

Instead of leaving right after Saturday's competition, she was among the crowd dazzled by the Russellville Lions' annual fireworks display. The colorful display — predominantly featuring red, white and blue — was choreographed to patriotic music, with an occasional thundering boom that shook the ground. The show was the first Infranca was able to watch this year.

"It was good, it was like it would've been if I was at home," she said about the display.

Lisa Mehrhoff, president of the Russellville Lions' fireworks committee, said greater community support enabled the organization to make the show last longer. Working with Timmy G's Fireworks, the \$7,000 budget comprising of community donations from the past year allowed for a 12-14-minute show that began at 9:30 p.m., synchronized to the playing of the national anthem.

T.J. Gibson, of Timmy G's Fireworks, said he met with the

[Please see Display, p. 5](#)



Garrett Fuller/News Tribune

Fireworks light the night sky with vibrant colors Saturday above the Russellville Lions Club's grounds.

www.newstribune.com



Garrett Fuller/News Tribune

Josie Doolittle, left, reaches for a fish caught by 2-year-old Gwendolyn Ebbert, right, during a fishing game Saturday at the all-terrain vehicle rodeo at the Russellville Lions Club. Ebbert was accompanied by her older brother, Theodore Ebbert, second from left, and mother Amanda Ebbert.



Garrett Fuller/News Tribune

All-terrain vehicle rodeo participants in the stock class line up Saturday on the Russellville Lions Club grounds for the individual racing to begin. The event attracted racers from all across Missouri, many of whom stayed to watch the organization's fireworks display after dusk.

Display:

[Continued from p. 4](#)

organization months in advance to plan the show around the Lions Club's fireworks budget. As ATV rodeo participants raced on the dirt track up the hill, Gibson spent the whole day setting up pyrotechnics to execute the plan.

Mehrhoft said it was the organization's best year for fundraising to provide the show, allowing for the \$1,000 increase in the display's budget. She added donations continued rolling in throughout the week leading up to the show, which followed a push in late June.

In addition to individuals, several local businesses and organizations contributed to the fireworks display and ATV rodeo. The Russellville-Lohman Fire Protection District provided financial support in addition to assisting with the display to ensure everybody's safety.

"Some people we weren't even trying to get money from, and they just approached us and just gave us money, which was awesome," Mehrhoff said.

Russellville Lions President Ben Mehrhoff said the annual fireworks display, as with the Lions Club's other events and projects, is designed to give back to the community.

"It's something we give back for them putting up with us," he said with a chuckle.

Ben Mehrhoff intends to grow participation at future Independence Day weekend celebrations by adding more activities. In addition to the fireworks and ATV rodeo, a bounce house was setup for children, along with classic games like a ring toss. The Lions Club sold barbecue at its concession stand, and cotton candy and snow cones were also available.

To contribute to next year's fireworks display, Ben Mehrhoff said to message the Russellville Lions Club Facebook page.

"We provide a pretty good show," he said. "Some say it's better than Jefferson City's."

LINN LIONS – Osage County Fair

See more photos at <https://www.facebook.com/LinnLionsClub>



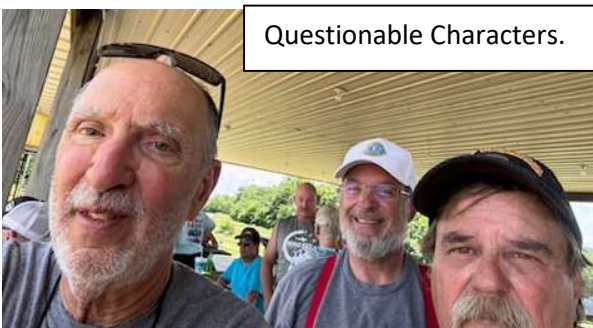
RUSSELLVILLE LIONS ATV EVENT



Past President Dana Frisby



Russellville Lion Secretary Lisa Mehrhoff



Questionable Characters.



Fireworks sale supports area nonprofit's community outreach

By Ryan Pivoney

rpivoney@newstribune.com

HOLTS SUMMIT — "Fish, fish, fish. Do we have any more fish?" Linda Baker asked as she scoured the rows of fireworks Sunday at the stand organized by the Holts Summit Lions Club.

After finding a box to unload, Baker, a member of the Lions Club, went back to counting.

"Fish, fish, ummm bacon," she said, sliding over to a new stack of multi-shot aerials. "Bacon, bacon, bacon."

The Holts Summit Lions Club ordered more than 3,500 pounds of explosives for its annual fireworks sale this year, according to Tony Vaughn, chair of the organizing committee.

"That's America," he said. "It's loud and boisterous, right?"

The indoor fireworks stand, located at 116 E. Hillcrest Ave. in Holts Summit, is in full swing ahead of the Fourth of July holiday. Sales began Thursday.

Vaughn said the first weekend of sales went OK.

"It usually starts pretty slow early on — this first week or so," he said.

Sales tend to pick up during the final week of June, Vaughn explained. Holts Summit's annual Fireworks Festival, set for 5 p.m. June 28 at Greenway Park, serves as a good reminder, he added.

People often buy fireworks instead of going to the show, or buy small novelty fireworks to enjoy at the festival.

Others, Vaughn said, get inspired.

"Some will try to buy one of everything and just really go off," he said.

The Lions Club is selling artillery shells, which are launched into the air for a colorful display, with prices

ranging from \$30-\$150.

Small fireworks, like bang snaps, sparklers, tanks and smoke grenades, have been the most popular purchases so far, Vaughn said.

"The kids see it around, they see the tents and get excited," he said, "so they're buying a lot of the smaller, novelty stuff. As we get a little bit closer, it'll grow to some of the bigger multi-shots and artillery shells and such."

Fountain fireworks may be a more popular option if conditions are dry, Vaughn said.

"That does make a difference in what people look for," he said. "Last year it was dry, so these bigger ones, a lot of people shied away from. They went more for the fountains, which are a lot more contained."

Vaughn said he hasn't heard much about dry conditions this year, but he's watching forecasts. Rain in the spring helped but it's been dry recently.

"We hope for rain, honestly, to alleviate that fear some," he said. "But I haven't heard too many concerns yet."

The fireworks sale is the largest annual fundraiser for the Holts Summit Lions Club.

Vaughn didn't have a monetary goal for the fundraiser but estimated the sale would



Ryan Pivoney/News Tribune

Linda Baker, a member of the Holts Summit Lions Club, counts multi-shot aerial fireworks Sunday at the club's firework stand at 116 E. Hillcrest Ave. The Holts Summit Lions Club has organized the sale for at least 15 years and it has become the club's largest annual fundraiser.

generate about \$10,000. Proceeds fund the club's community support efforts, like its food pantry, vision testing program and sponsoring Boy Scouts.

Vaughn said the sale has gained a sizable following since it started more than 15 years ago.

Jefferson City code prevents the discharge of fireworks within city limits.

Vaughn said he enjoys watching fireworks but has largely given up on light-

ing them himself. It's the atmosphere that draws him in.

"It's just fun — the camaraderie and the atmosphere of being outside with the group," he said, "whether it's family, neighbors or friends."

The Holts Summit Lions Club fireworks stand is open from 5-7 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Check the Lions Club Facebook page for further times.

www.newstribune.com



MISSOURI STATE LIONS WEBSITE:

<https://lionsofmissouri.org/>

ELDON LIONS - Miller County Fair Parade.

Lion Jason McGaye, DG Ed and Linda Bierbower, President Robb Young, First VDG Bill Foglesong ready to throw some candy to the kids at the Miller County Youth Fair parade.



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. Contact Jesse Hathcock at 573-338-5530 or jess26m7@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.

EVENTS AROUND THE DISTRICT:

- DISTRICT CABINET MEETING at the Holts Summit Lions Club. Saturday, August 17. Breakfast provided starting at 8am and meeting starts at 9am.
- JC HOST LIONS “2025 69th HAM & BEAN and CHILI” event on Wednesday, February 5, 2025 with drive through carryout box lunches of Ham & Bean or Chili serving 11-1:30 and 4-6:30 at St. Peters Church in Jefferson City (next to the Capitol). Workers and eaters are welcome!
- JC HOST LIONS “2025 63rd DUSTY DESKINS PEANUT DAY” on May 16, 2025 selling all around Jefferson City for \$1 a bag or 6 for \$5.
- JC HOST LIONS “*SAVE THE DATES*”: Jefferson City Host Lions will celebrate a CENTURY OF SERVICE with events on June 13 & 14, 2025.

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

