



District 26-M7
The Heart of
Missouri Lions

Between the Lions



JANUARY 2025

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DISTRICT GOVERNOR

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SECOND VDG BRUCE BERGER

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) provides grants that empower the service of our members. Since its inception in 1968, LCIF has awarded more than US\$1.2 billion in grant funding. Among the grant types available is the District and Club Community Impact Grant (DCG). This relatively new grant offers opportunities to support humanitarian activities in the community.

Some district Lions are exploring the possibility of applying for a DCG to provide a native wildflower garden at the new location for the Special Learning Center (SLC) in Jefferson City. What makes this



a great project for District M7 is that the SLC serves all the counties in the district except for Benton. At a meeting with SLC senior management, the idea was met with great enthusiasm.

The children served by the SLC often don't have much connection to the natural world. The new SLC will be opened in 2025 on Weathered Rock Road in Jefferson City. There is an area on the property that is ideally suited for a native wildflower garden.

We, as Lions of District M7, through LCIF, can improve the lives of the vulnerable population served by the SLC. According to LCIF, there are funds available to the district, and this is exactly the type of project envisioned for such a grant. Right now, this is just a concept, but with the help of our foundation, we can make it a reality.

*nothing changes
if nothing changes.*

DISTRICT 26M7 CABINET MEETING

Please join us for the District Cabinet Meeting! This meeting is open to **ALL Lions** and we encourage you to attend.

We will have a brief review of the reports and happenings of the Council of Governor's Meeting and then let's talk about the growing needs of our communities and brainstorm as to how we can serve more people than ever before!

DATE: FEBRUARY 1, 2025
LOCATION: ROCKY MOUNT LIONS CLUB
20337 DELL DRIVE
ROCKY MOUNT, MO



AN INVITATION FROM
THE DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM
Lions DG Missy, 1VDG Bill and
2VDG Bruce

RSVP not required,
but appreciated.
steve.dale.duncan@gmail.com

Free breakfast provided by the
Rocky Mount Lions Club
starting at 8:30 am.

17th Annual District 26-M7 Convention

March 7-8, 2025

Red Rock Acres - 1748 State Road OO - Holts Summit, MO



Our international guest is International Director Robert "Ski" Marcinkowski of Fairbanks, Alaska, United States, who was elected to serve a two-year term International at the association's 106th International Convention in Melbourne, Australia, June 21 through June 25, 2024.

Director Marcinkowski is a retired Army aviator and a government civil servant. During his 42 years of service in the United States Army he flew numerous types of helicopters and was the commander of Fort Greely, Alaska. He is currently the director of plans and operations at the Logistics Readiness Center, where he serves as deputy for all installation logistics at Fort Wainwright in Alaska.

Director Marcinkowski is a charter member of the Interior Baseball Lions Club, where he served the baseball community since 2003. He held several offices within the association including club president, club secretary, zone chairperson, district governor, first and

second vice district governor, club, district, and multiple district LCIF coordinator and council chairperson, among many other positions.

In recognition of his service to the association, Director Marcinkowski received numerous awards, including multiple Lion of the Year Awards, multiple International President Leadership Certificates, multiple International President's Certificates of Appreciation and International President's Medals. He is also a Melvin Jones Fellow and a Lions Legacy Society member. In addition to his Lion activities, Director Marcinkowski served on the Alaska State Veterans Advisory Board, local school board, and local platting board. He is also a member of the Army Aviation Association of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars and coached high school and American Legion baseball teams for 13 years.

Director Marcinkowski and his wife, Janis, also a Lion and a Melvin Jones Fellow, have two children.

Schedule of Events (subject to change)

Friday, March 7

Registration 5 - 6 pm
Hospitality 6 - 9 pm

Meat & Fish options will be provided, please bring a dish to share.

Tea, lemonade and water will be provided.

BYOB

Saturday, March 8

Registration 8 - 9 am
Morning Session 9 am - 12 pm
Governor's Luncheon 12 - 1:30 pm
in the Dark
Afternoon Session 1:30 - 3 pm
Election 3 - 3:30 pm
Adjournment

2025 District 26-M7 Convention Registration Form

Name of Lion _____ Club _____

Name of Lion/Guest _____ Club _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Number Attending Friday Hospitality (free) _____ Number Attending Saturday _____ x \$40 = _____

Register by February 28, 2025.

Make checks payable to District 26-M7. Mail to the Holts Summit Lions Club c/o PDG Don Soph, PO Box 389, Holts Summit, MO 65043

Or register online for a \$3 fee at <https://holtssummitlionsclub.square.site> or scan the QR code above.



Brazito - Honey Creek Lions Club

3220 Route E

Jefferson City, MO 65101

Annual Chili & Chicken Noodle Meal



Dine in (all you can eat)

or Carry out available

Sunday January 26th

Starts at 11am

Adults: \$12.00 Kids 6-12: \$6.00 Under 6 Free

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

LIONS MANNED THE KETTLE AND RANG THE BELL:

Lions from around Cole County are manning the Jefferson City area Salvation Army Kettles. Make your contribution today (12/6)! WE RING AS WE SERVE!



Wayne Osgood Ring the Bell for Salvation Army 2024

On Friday December 6, 2024 Lions club members from Holts Summit, JC Breakfast, JC Evening, JC Host, Lohman, and Wardsville participated in the Wayne Osgood Ring the Bell for Salvation Army Day on December 6. The total raised was \$18,361.52

The totals by location are:

Location	Address	Total Location
GERBES - SUPER (East)	2101 Schotthill Woods Dr.	\$765.59
GERBES - WEST	2805 W. Truman Blvd.	\$435.91
HOBBY LOBBY	2235 Missouri Blvd.	\$739.94
HY-VEE	3721 W. Truman Blvd.	\$628.35

Capital Mall	3600 Country Club Dr.	\$616.12
SAM'S CLUB	849 Stoneridge Pkwy.	\$559.07
Schnucks	1801 Missouri Blvd.	\$4,978.67
SCHULTES	1904 Southwest Blvd.	\$1,202.11
WALMART - EAST	401 Supercenter Dr.	\$467.49
WALMART - EAST	401 Supercenter Dr.	\$451.34
WALMART - WEST	724 W. Stadium Blvd.	\$621.54
WALMART - WEST	724 W. Stadium Blvd.	\$638.02
WESTLAKES Ace Hardware	2305 Missouri Blvd.	\$192.50
CENTRAL BANK	238 Madison St.	\$545.74
HAWTHORN BANK	132 E. High St.	\$5,147.29
Hy-Vee Pharm	3721 W. Truman Blvd.	\$371.84
Grand Total		\$18,361.52

Jefferson City Host Lions



HAM & BEAN and CHILI **BOX LUNCH – CURBSIDE or DINE IN**

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Ham & Bean Box

- Ham & Bean, Sauerkraut, Cornbread, and Brownie.

Chili Box

- Chili, Crackers, Hot Dog, Cornbread, and Brownie.

**Curbside or Dine In Box at
St. Peters Church - Selinger Centre**

11:00am until 1:30pm and 4:00pm until 6:30pm

(while supplies last)

Adult tickets \$10.00 in advance or \$12.00 day of.

Lyle at 573-291-7159 for 'advance-ticket' information

A NEW VIEW ON LIFE: MATT'S CORNEA TRANSPLANT JOURNEY

"Someone selflessly gave me the gift of sight, and it's overwhelming. What did I do to deserve such love and compassion?"



Matt with his family

For Matt, a cornea transplant meant the difference between fading vision and a world brought back into focus. Matt's journey began unexpectedly after a seemingly minor ear infection ruptured as he slept. As he wiped his pillowcase, discharge from his ruptured eardrum, mixed with dirt beneath his contact, led to a rare fungal infection, causing severe vision impairment.

After initial treatment from his primary ophthalmologist, Matt was referred to Dr. Kenneth Goins at the University of Kansas Health System. "I learned about Saving Sight and a little about what could happen, and we talked about possibly looking for a donor," Matt said. Tests revealed the fungal infection in his eye was progressing rapidly, and Dr. Goins informed him he'd need a cornea transplant to preserve any hope of sight. "They were concerned I could lose 100% of my eyesight, and I needed a transplant ASAP," Matt recalled.

Despite the challenges, he stayed focused on the possibility of regaining his sight.

Matt's experience with transplants started years before his cornea surgery when he received a life-saving kidney transplant from a living donor. That experience helped shape his understanding of the power of eye, organ, and tissue donation, but it wasn't until he faced potential blindness that he fully appreciated how vital even the smallest parts of the body can be.

"I didn't know how much a single tissue could impact someone's life until I was faced with losing my sight," Matt said. "It's incredible that two people have now given me this chance to live fully."

For Matt, the cornea transplant stands as a reminder of the selflessness of donors and the profound difference their gifts make. Gratitude filled Matt's heart as he spoke

of the donor who made this possible.

"I am forever grateful," Matt said. "Someone selflessly gave me the gift of sight, and it's overwhelming. What did I do to deserve such love and compassion?" The impact of his donor's gift goes beyond Matt's renewed vision—it's a testament to human kindness and the power of eye, organ, and tissue donation. To those unfamiliar with the impact of donation, Matt has a simple message:

"You might be able to save someone's life or change their world just by checking that box on your license," Matt said. "It's a chance to help someone in a way that goes far beyond what we can understand."

As he continues to recover and adjust to his new vision, Matt hopes to honor his donor's legacy by sharing his story and encouraging others to become registered donors.

HOLTS SUMMIT LIONS

Donuts with Santa Update: Santa saw 53 kids. All the money raised today is going to pay off elementary school lunch balances.



JC HOST LIONS www.jchostlions.org

<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.

CHAMOIS LIONS

The Chamois Lions Club held their regular monthly meeting and annual Christmas party on Monday evening, December 9, 2024 at the Chamois Community Center. Sixteen Lions and one guest, Laura Thoenen, were present for the dinner, business meeting, and gift exchange.

Prior to the dinner, Lion Third Vice President Randy Thoenen 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 ham, Texas potatoes, green beans, slaw, homemade dinner rolls, and cherry cheese cake and oreo cheese cake.

Lion President Lieneke presided at a shortened version of the business meeting. With no objections voiced, Lion President Lieneke declared the meeting agenda approved. Copies of the minutes of the November 11, 2024 meeting had previously been distributed electronically by Lion Secretary Beth Sieg and paper copies were available for those Lions who prefer paper. Again, with no objections voiced, Lion President Lieneke declared the minutes approved. Lion Treasurer Nelson Sieg presented the financial report and Lion Building Co-Chairman Randy Thoenen presented a report on the Community Center finances and maintenance issues.

Given the social nature of this Lions Club meeting, Lion President Lieneke dispensed with the usual reports from other Chamois civic groups with two exceptions. Lion Jeff Kormann, who is a member of the Chamois Industrial Development Corporation (CIDC), reported that the CIDC will hold its annual meeting on Monday, January 20, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Heritage Community Bank (HCB) board room. The purpose of this meeting will be to elect officers and reorganize. Interested Lions are welcome to attend. Lion Scott Mertz, who is a member of the Chamois Fire Department, reported that the Fire Department has added one new member and responded to six calls in the past month.

Three items of old business were addressed.

Lions Scott Mertz and Steve Duncan reported that the City of Chamois Christmas decorations have been put up. Lion Mertz led a group of Chamois High School (CHS) senior class members in decorating the Christmas tree on the Old Town Square. The Chamois Lions Club voted to pay the senior class for this project and proposed that going forward each year the senior class could decorate the tree and the junior class could undecorate the tree. Lions Dale Hackmann, Michael Edwards, and Steve Duncan along with volunteer Sean Hackmann put up the new City of Chamois Christmas decorations which were purchased from the City of Booneville. The old City of Chamois Christmas decorations have been sold to an individual from Brookfield, MO who collects antique Christmas decorations.

Lions Jeff and Pamela Kormann and Steve Duncan reported on the Osage Caring Projects "Adopt-a-Family for Christmas" project. The Chamois Lions Club adopted two families and members of the Lions Club then shopped for the children in each family. The gifts will be delivered to the Osage Caring Projects drop-off location by Lion Nelson Sieg.

Lions Scott Mertz and Beth Sieg reported on Santa's visit to Chamois that was held on Saturday, December 7, 2024. The Osage County R-1 School Pirate Pride Band played at approximately 4:45 p.m. at the Old Town Square where Santa Claus and the Grinch arrived by fire truck. Then, the Osage County R-1 School PTO had a hot dog and chili supper at the St. Mary's Catholic Church Parrish Hall. The PTO also had a silent auction and children received candy provided by the Chamois Lions Club. Turnout for this event was outstanding with over 200 meals served by the PTO.

Two items of new business were addressed.

Lion President Robin Lieneke reported that there is a need to assist a local resident with a move from a house to an apartment. Several Lions Club members volunteered to help with this move.

Lion Randy Thoenen provided an update on the bid process to rent the Chamois Lions Club agricultural ground located east of Chamois on the south side of Highway 100. Four bids were received and opened by Lions Thoenen and Mark Mehmert. Lion Thoenen has been in contact with the winning bidder in order to sign a three-year lease agreement on the ground.

Lion President Lieneke reported that there were no December birthdays. Prayer concerns were expressed for various members of the community who are ill or in need to include Lions Susan Sundermeyer and Mark Lieneke.

To conclude the business meeting, Lion President Lieneke called on Lion Steve Duncan to share a joke. Lion Duncan shared a series of "Funny Christmas Jokes".

With no further business that required attention, the Chamois Lions held their annual Christmas party. With Lion Debbie Mehmert presiding over the festivities, the Chamois Lions enjoyed the annual "Rob Your Neighbor White Elephant Gift Exchange". As usual, there were many clever, creative, and fun gifts and a wonderful time was had by all.

The next meeting of the Chamois Lions Club will be on Monday, January 13, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at the Chamois Community Center.

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 we walk with
the broken
speaks louder than how
we sit with
the great.

-Bill Bennot



**SOME PEOPLE
LIVE AN ENTIRE
LIFETIME
WONDERING IF
THEY'VE MADE A
DIFFERENCE
IN THE WORLD-
LIONS DON'T
HAVE THAT
PROBLEM.**



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 hawizardofz@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

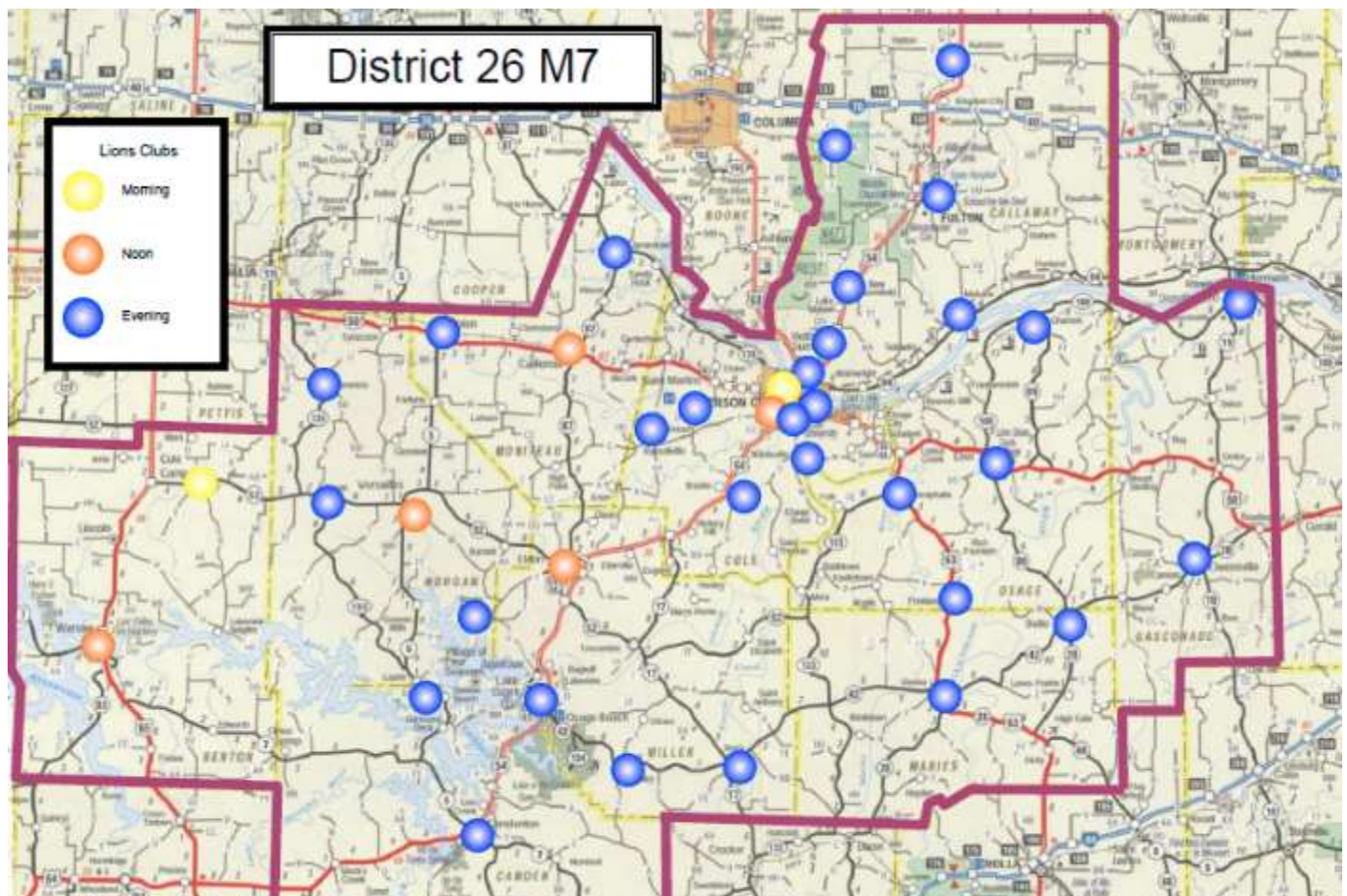
We are asking for the following information in case of an emergency arising during the 2025 Institute. This information will be maintained until the close of the Institute and then shredded.

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.



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

ZONE 4	ZONE 5
<u>Brazito-Honey Creek</u>	<u>Auxvasse</u>
<u>Jefferson City Breakfast</u>	
Jefferson City Capital	
Jefferson City Evening	Holts Summit
<u>Jefferson City Host</u>	Millersburg
Lohman	<u>Mokane</u>
Russellville	New Bloomfield
<u>Wardsville</u>	