

The Club House



Kansas Lions District 17A Newsletter



August 2023

LEADERSHIP REPORT



From the Acting District Governor



I want to welcome you to the first edition of the District 17A newsletter, **"The Club House."** This year I have the honor of serving as your acting District Governor and 1st VDG simultaneously. This Lions year will be filled with growth in 17A and we will be having FUN along the way too.

One thing you will start to notice is our monthly newsletter is for YOU! I want this to be a newsletter you look forward to receiving and enjoy the pictures and outtakes from club projects around our district. If you have photos of projects to share with the district, please share them with our newsletter editors, Lori Kesinger and Martha Kehr, by emailing them at 17anewsletter@gmail.com.

I know this year will be fantastic for all of us and I look forward to serving with you. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at margaret1226@gmail.com or text/call 940-390-7430.

Kansas Lions District 17A

"SERVICE FROM THE HEART WILL HELP US IN CHANGING THE WORLD "

Acting District Governor/
1st Vice District Governor

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[FIND US ONLINE!](#)

District website: kslionsdistrict17a.org • YouTube: [@kansaslionsdistrict17a88](https://www.youtube.com/@kansaslionsdistrict17a88)
Kansas State Lions: kansaslions.org • Lions Clubs International: lionsclubs.org

News from Council Chair Lori Horton

Happy New Year Kansas Lions! To recap so far, it has been eventful to say the least! I was proudly elected by the Council of Governors to serve as your 2023-2024 State Council Chair and I am looking forward to serving you all this year! As I turn my attention from just District N to the multiple district of Kansas, I am so proud of how well the clubs did this last year with recruiting, service reporting, LCIF donations and training. We saw growth all over and I know it will continue this year. The District Governor teams in all 3 districts are working hard to assemble the best people to help attain these goals and they will need all your support. There are so many events coming up including our health screening booth at the Kansas State Fair in September, please sign up to help if you can!

The first State Council meeting of the year will be on August 12 in Wichita and the first District cabinet meeting will be soon after. If you wonder what goes on beyond your club or would like to know



The last year of sharing your successes in fundraising and more has truly been one of the highlights of my life, I have never had more fun and I am grateful that you let me join in for a while! Let's make this year even more successful

what those dues are used for, these are your opportunities to learn and ask questions, please try to attend at least one, all are welcome! These meetings are always a perfect time to share with other clubs and learn from each other and most of all, have fun!

On a personal note, I hope to attend as many of your events as possible but I need a little forewarning, so be sure to send them to me via email at CELEBRATIONSBYL@YAHOO.COM so I can add them to my calendar, I can't wait!

than the last by continuing to work TOGETHER to share our love of Lions, our spirit of helping, serving and giving back to our communities and most of all to selflessly share our gifts and talents to "Change the World"! This is the message of International President, Dr. Patti Hill and what a wonderful and timely message it is. Remembering why we all joined Lions and leading with Kindness, Love and Compassion reminds me of a quote from Arthur Peter, I leave you to ponder it: "Helping one person might not change the whole world, but it could change the world for one person." Here's to another amazing year for Kansas Lions, remember... WE SERVE!

Respectfully submitted by Lori L. Horton, 2023-24 Council Chair MD 17

From the 2nd Vice-District Governor



Lion Irene Haws

I moved to Topeka, KS since 1987, lived in Omaha, NE from 1992-1993 before returning to Topeka KS. I am very active in the Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors, Jayhawk Area Council of Boy Scouts of America where my son is an Eagle Scout. I have operated my freelance business, I-Design Graphic Services since 1999 after my husband died of a heart attack in 1999. I joined Lions in 2001 and the very next year was a third vice-president. I have served multiple times as president.

In 2022 we started a club branch with the specialty focus of human trafficking awareness and prevention as well as diabetes awareness and prevention. Like many clubs we have older members and starting the branch was one way to increase the number of members in our club and with a vision/mission that they

2nd Vice District Governor Kansas
Lions District 17A
President Topeka Lions Club
Liaison, Topeka Twilight Lions Branch
Club
Membership Chair, Topeka Lions Club
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Greetings Lions,
I am looking forward to visiting with many clubs in the district and attending events so I can learn more about your communities.

A little about me: I was raised on a small farm in Oklahoma, attended college and graduated with two bachelor's degrees from Pitt State. First in Fine Art and the second in Printing Technology in Commercial Graphics.

were interested in. Many Twilight Lions Club Branch members work in a career that is closely associated with support services surrounding human trafficking and domestic violence.

Outside of my professional career as a bank marketing and events coordinator. I enjoy the outdoors. My outdoor activities include running, hiking, kayaking, shooting, sailing and golf. Additionally, I enjoy ballroom dancing, line dancing and watercolor painting.

Global Membership Team Chair (GMT)



Lion Eric Strimple, CGL

1.5 million Members Is Achievable with Everyone's Help!

Is 1.5 million members attainable for Lions Clubs International to achieve by the end of 2027? Absolutely, but Mission 1.5 is going to take all of us working together as a team to grow 17-A in membership over the next four years. You may be asking how we plan to do it, with the help of your district GAT team and the implementation of the new GET coordinator. You will have a team of dedicated Lions ready to serve the District and work closely with your local club.

My name is Eric Strimple and I have the privilege of being your Global

(He, Him, His)
District 17A GMT

Mobile 785-331-7757
Email estrimp81@msn.com
PO Box 574, Eudora, KS 66025

Membership Team (GMT) leader for this lion year. I have had the opportunity over the years to work closely with our International President and Vice Presidents to grow the Global Membership Approach (GMA) at the District, State, and international levels. I look forward to using my knowledge to work with you as we use parts of the GMA process to grow membership by finding ways to increase membership satisfaction and membership retention. Be on the lookout for more information as we start to roll out our membership growth plan for the 2023-2024 Lion year.

Global Extension Team Chair (GET)



My name is Eric Tweedy, and I am a member of the Eudora Lions Club. I am excited to be the District (and Multiple District) Public Relations & Lions Information Chairperson and District Global Extension Team Coordinator. My goals include expanding our reach on Facebook and other social media platforms and starting a new LGBT+ and Family Lions Club in the Lawrence area.



Lion Eric Tweedy
DEIB Advocate
He, Him, His

Global Service Team Chair (GST)



PDG Lion Diane Hentges
District 17A GST
dkhentges0503@gmail.com
913-708-5323

Hello Lions of District A!

I am Diane Hentges and I have the privilege of serving as your GST for Lions year 2023-2024. I look forward to serving our District. I have been a Lion for over 33 years serving my club as president, board member, and membership chair to name a few club level positions. In addition, I have served as zone chair, been a guiding Lion and have had the privilege to serve as your District governor and State Council Chair and currently serve as President of the Kansas Lions Foundation. Follow the newsletter for my monthly article about SERVICE.

My goal is to encourage clubs to start one new service project this year. This project should reflect a need in their community keeping LCI's Global Causes in mind. The LCI causes are: Vision, Hunger, Environment, Diabetes, Childhood Cancer & Youth. I will organize a service activity for each District Cabinet Meetings. Clubs can explore partnering with another Lions Club or service club, more hands mean more service. Let our efforts and our actions show our community know how we serve.

I am available to work with club GSTs. My contact information is dkhentges0503@gmail.com and the phone number is 913-708-5323.

Peace Poster - Dare to Dream



Hello Fellow Lions,

My name is Lion Kim Baker, from the Overland Park Host Lions Club. I am the **Peace Poster Chairperson for District 17A** for the 2023-2024 Lions Year. My goal for this year is to have at least one club, who has not participated in the Peace Poster Contest, participate this year.

I look forward to working with everyone. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Lion Kim

kimbaker56@gmail.com

order your Peace Poster Kits

Meet Your District Secretary

Hi, my name is Karen Lane and I am secretary of the Eudora Lions club. I also have the honor to serve as District Secretary this year. I joined Lions in 2021 to serve my community and beyond to the best of my ability. I was humbled to receive the GAT Chairpersons Award for a new service project I spearheaded with my local club in 2022-23. For 2023-24, I want to continue serving with my local club and brainstorming innovative ideas to help my community while expanding my presence in the Lions Organization to help where I can. Please feel free to reach out to me.

Lion Karen Lane

Secretary Eudora Lions Club

District 17A Secretary

785-925-1544

klane1063@yahoo.com



District Treasurer



Hello! I am Ron Nichols and I will be the treasurer for District 17A. I am closing in on 40 years of Lionism having been in the Hiawatha Club-33 years and currently in the Tonganoxie Club. My goals for the coming year are to continue to serve in all ways possible and to continue the fine tradition of fiscal responsibility for the district. I look forward to serving you as your treasurer and fellow Lion.

email me at coachronnichols@gmail.com

Look for the rest of the new leadership team in the September newsletter!



FIRST COUNCIL MEETING

Saturday August 12 in Wichita

MD17 Kansas Lions are excited to announce our first Council Meeting of the new Lions year. We have listened to your feedback and consolidated this event to one day, making it more accessible for you.

Join us to learn about our latest initiatives and services available exclusively to Lions Club members. You will have the opportunity to network with other Lions and share your ideas for the future. Don't miss out on this exciting event!

MD 17 Kansas
1st State Council Meeting
August 12, 2023
9:00 AM to 4:30 PM
Wingate by Wyndham
5500 W, Kellogg Drive, Wichita, KS

Clink on the link (Join Us Now) below to register for the noon banquet. We encourage all Lions to attend.

[JOIN US NOW](#)

Volunteers Needed at Kansas State Fair

The Kansas Lions Sight Foundation (KLSF) has provided health screenings at the Kansas State Fair since 2009. The screenings are available for all ages and consist of blood pressure, blood sugar, and vision screening. We operate with 2 shifts of Lions a day, **9:30am to 2pm** and **1:30pm to 6pm**. It takes 6 nursing students plus 1 instructor per shift and 5 to 6 Lions and the coordinator per shift. The Fair is 10 days long (beginning on Friday September 8 and continuing to Sunday September 17) that is 20 shifts times 6 Lions or **120 plus Lions** and **140 nursing students** and their instructors.

We have four community college nursing schools that supply all of the nursing students and instructors. They have already committed to assist us. The duties of the Lions are to register each client (as all must have a signed consent form), operate some of the screening equipment and work as ambassadors of good will by talking to the people as they pass by and encouraging them to participate in the health screenings. Depending on the crowd you may have the opportunity to visit the fair and only work part of your assigned shift. Randy St Aubyn and Jackie O'Neal are coordinating all of the activities. We are short just 18 Lions volunteers. Look at the chart below and let us know if you can assist. Lion Jackie O'Neal 316-734-2176 glammother@yahoo.com

Lion Jackie O'Neal
glammother@yahoo.com
316-734-2176



<u>Day and Date</u>	<u>Times</u>	<u>Volunteers</u>
Thur. September 14th	1:30-6:00	Need 2
Fri. September 15th	1:30-6:00	Need 3
Sun. September 17th	9:30-2:00	Need 4

News from the Kansas Lions Health Program

Lions Clubs International LCI has five (5) initiatives that they promote throughout the year. They are: **Childhood Cancer, Diabetes, Vision, Hunger** and **Environment**. Each of these are assigned a different month by LCI as the focus that month. Watch this space (and the district website) for information on each of these initiatives.

Our Global Causes

Did you know that there is a Kindness Matters Award that your club can get by doing a worthy project that month? LCI asks you to write a story about your project. Included in this story is a description of the project, the number of people served, the number of hours served and the number of volunteers. Has any Lions Club in Kansas received this award? Wouldn't it be nice to see some of these awards in District 17?

Click the link below for more details.

Look in this space for information on each of the 5 initiatives in the coming months.

Lion Vern Failor

Kansas Lions Health Program

Kindness Matters Award

Congratulations!



**Kansas Lions Treasurer
Hans Neidhardt
Elected International Director
at Lions International
Convention in Boston**

Kansas Lions are proud to announce that Hans Neidhardt from Potwin, Kansas, USA, was elected to serve a two-year term as an international director of Lions International at the association's 105th International Convention in Boston, Massachusetts, USA, July 7 through July 11, 2023.

Director Neidhardt is a retired Colonel with 39 years of service in the United States Air Force. After retiring from his career in the military he served another eight years as a Special Education Paraprofessional/substitute teacher. Since 2020, he has been fully retired.

Inspired by their community service and camaraderie, Director Neidhardt became a Lion in 1981 after joining the Potwin Lions Club. Since 2015, he has served with the Towanda Lions Club. He has held a number of offices within the association including more than 15 years of service as multiple district council treasurer. He has also served as the Great Plain Lions Leadership Institute (GPLLI) curriculum coordinator and registrar as well as a GPLLI facilitator. ID Hans and wife 1st VDG Shari have also been the coordinators of the Kansas Lions Band for 19 years.

In recognition of his service to the association, he has received numerous awards including multiple International President's Certificates of Appreciation, an International President's Leadership Award and two International President's Awards. He is also a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow.

In addition to his Lions activities, Director Neidhardt is active in numerous professional and community organizations including more than 40 years of membership with the American Legion. He is the recipient of several military distinctions and honors including KSANG Company Grade Officer of the Year, the USAF Legion of Merit, and the Kansas Medal of Excellence.

Director Neidhardt and his wife, Shari, also a Lion and a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, have two children, five grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Around the **District**

Submit your club activities to 17Anewsletter@gmail.com

Upcoming Training Opportunities



Come join us for the
**First cabinet meeting for
District 17A**

Topeka & Shawnee County Public
Library

District17A Zone Chairs

There will be a brief zone chair training session on Saturday, August 19, 2023 immediately following the 17A Cabinet

Marvin Auditorium 101B

When: Saturday August 19, 2023
Time: 10:00am

Send rsvp's and all reports by August 16 to Karen Lane, District Secretary at klane1063@yahoo.com

Following the cabinet meeting a brief Zone Chair Training class will be held by PID Deb Weaverling and Lion Ron Weaverling

meeting. That meeting begins at 10am at the Topeka & Shawnee Public Library in Topeka.

Come join us for insight on how to make your year as Zone Chair a success.

*PID Deb Weaverling
Lion Ron Weaverling*

Pictures from Recent Events

Our district Lions Clubs have been busy serving their local communities!

Send your action photos to 17Anewsletter@gmail.com by the 25th of each month to be included in next month's newsletter.



**Basehor Lions Wings Cook-Off
(July 2023)**

Advanced Lions Leadership Institute



From the Community

Aaron's Story

Listener Aaron O. was born prematurely and has lived with retinopathy of prematurity ever since. He's undergone many surgeries since birth which gave him some vision, but reading even a paragraph or two is very challenging and uncomfortable. In high school he would pay other students to read books for him, and he spent years searching for another option. Then he found Audio-Reader.

"Audio-Reader has helped me get back into reading things that are interesting to me. I've always loved reading, but it is difficult to do for long periods of time. Audio-Reader helped me find material I never knew I needed and now can't live without!"

-Aaron O. (Listener)

AARON'S STORY IS A GREAT EXAMPLE OF HOW LIONS CLUBS SUPPORT MAKES A HUGE DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF AUDIO-READER LISTENERS.

If you would like a staff member from Audio-Reader to speak at your club's meeting, contact Martha Kehr.

(800) 772-8898 | reader.ku.edu | mkehr@ku.edu



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