



# DISTRICT DIALOGUE

DISTRICT 17-A

## Governor Rich Notes

### Quotes About the Power of Forgiveness.

*To err is human; to  
forgive, divine. Alexander  
Pope*

*I have always found that  
mercy bears richer fruits  
than strict justice.  
Abraham Lincoln.*

*The weak can never  
forgive. Forgiveness is the  
attribute of the strong.  
Mahatma Gandhi*

*Always forgive your  
enemies; nothing annoys  
them as much. Oscar  
Wilde*

*To forgive is to set a  
prisoner free and discover  
that prisoner was you.  
Lewis B. Smedes*



**T**he Holiday seasons are just around the corner! Lions can serve so many ways during this time of year. Thanksgiving is a big part of what we do! Thanks for what you are doing to serve your community. I commend the clubs that have regular food events that serve the needy and offer chances for Lions to spread our message to the public! I know many of you will be providing meals and gift baskets for the Holiday season. The need never goes away

and where there is a need there is a Lion!

I hope to see you at our Cabinet meeting on the 5th but if you can not make it in person I want to encourage you to attend on Zoom or at a watch party where you can enjoy the fellowship and celebrate our work! We have worked very hard to continue the great traditions that our District has established in years past and we continue to show the success and effort needed to meet our membership, service and leadership goals to make this another fantastic year in service.

The 75th Anniversary celebration in Atchison, the Sunflower Topeka Lions Steak Fry, The Manhattan Clubs' annual pancake feed, The Keats Fall Festival, The monthly meals served by the Concordia Lions, Chapman Lions Labor Day Festival, Assaria, Gypsum and Leonardville Hullabaloo, the list goes on and on. All of our events serve the community and mark the efforts of Lions to serve and serve the common good.

I want to thank Bernard Lee PDG for his outstanding work with the Sight Foundation and collections of used eyewear! Bernard has been an outstanding Lion for decades and deserves all our appreciation for his outstanding commitment to repurposing eye glasses that have been donated. We have made a huge impact on so many lives because of Bernard's tireless efforts. Thank you and a great big Lions roar to PDG Bernard Lee!

I know that we have a few struggling clubs across our District. Please contact me if you are one of them. Whether your club has declining membership or simply is not having many service or fund raising events contact me so I can lend the District resources to you. We are a District of Clubs and we need each and everyone to function at our highest level. I want to personally thank you and encourage you to allow our team to assist you with your projects and efforts to serve. The team includes you and every Lion who has the heart of service.

Happy Days in Salina is April 28th and 29th! It is not too early to make plans to bring your old cars and trucks to participate in our parade and festivities! We need your club banner hoisted by your club members and your Happy Days Attire to ensure that the public in Salina sees our Pride and Hearts of Service! Let's show our story in action and make new friends and neighbors! We will have fun and prizes for those who dress the part and provide the best example of Happy Days in Lionism! "We Serve!



## THANKFUL

Grateful and thankful – I am grateful and thankful for so very many things.

- My parents recently celebrated their 72<sup>nd</sup> Wedding Anniversary
- I have a roof over my head, food to eat and a car to drive
- With that car to drive, I can drive to clubs throughout our district to visit with my fellow Lions, to hear your news and to cheer you on (District 17 A is Smokin' Hot!)
- That the Women Lions in our District created and maintain services to our communities such as #TheDeeperWindowAssociation, #NAACP, #TheRichardAllenCulturalCenter – through thick and thin, they serve. And in serving, they are models to all of us – that creating services for our communities, they just step out and do it.
- I am especially grateful for all of you, who you are and all that you do so well
- 1st VDG Caroline Arter



November is the month when Lions Club International promotes diabetes awareness. This is a great time for your club to have a service project for this cause. It can be simple or extravagant; whatever your club thinks is viable. Example, our Tonganoxie Lions Club takes individual packets of sugar free candy to the diabetic residents at our local assisted living facility. Those residents look forward to the special treat.

Diabetes afflicts over 463M people worldwide and causes more than 4.2M deaths annually. Check out the following webpages [Diabetes webpage](#). This includes service ideas and planning tools for [World Diabetes Day](#) on November 14.

2<sup>nd</sup> VDG Margy Sundstrom  
[Margaret1226@gmail.com](mailto:Margaret1226@gmail.com)



In Loving Memory of Anne S. Nielsen  
1950 - 2022

## In remembrance of an outstanding Woman in Lions and Friend

Anne S. Nielsen, died unexpectedly in an automobile accident on Wednesday, September 21, near Marysville, KS. She departed for heaven too soon and left a trail of aching hearts of people whom she has touched. It was a gift to know Anne. We always looked forward to seeing Lion Anne during our Kansas Lions gatherings. I personally will miss her warm and friendly hugs, her lovely smile, and the conversations about family, Lions activities, and our plans for Women in Lions events. I will cherish the memories I have of Anne. We were planning for her to be one of our keynote speakers this year at our second "Women in Lions" Conference, as she represents Women in Lions at its best, and she understood the deeper meaning of promoting Women in Lions in our district and beyond. She was an inspiration to us all with her wisdom, selflessness, and kindness. As the Kansas Lions Sight Foundation Coordinator for the Solar Eclipse Glasses Program, she graciously provided a wonderful presentation to our District 17A cabinet members last year. I remember what our now 1<sup>st</sup> VDG, Caroline Arter, mentioned after her presentation "She is a lovely, wonderful lady." In addition to this, we were so grateful for her efforts and leadership regarding a Lions service project promoting a statewide "vision safety program" and Lions connections. Another special thing about Anne was her love for people especially infants and toddlers - she frequently was quoted as saying "Don't forget the babies" whenever she was helping to meet their needs. She was an excellent teacher with a masters and a doctorate in Special Education from the University of South Dakota, and she taught the blind and visually impaired for over 40 years in North Dakota, Washington State, Wisconsin, and Kansas. As well as conducting vision screenings in Manhattan, KS, Anne also traveled internationally, including to Peru and Nigeria, to teach and assist in vision training for children. She was an active member of the Manhattan Lions Club. The world needs more of her positivity, optimism, and love. She'll be missed by all who knew her. Finally, thank you Women in Lions for all you do! We are planning several recruiting events for women around our district this fall and next spring. Stay tuned!



Yours in lifelong service!  
IPDG Dr. Vania Castro  
Women in Lions Chairman

## News from the Lions Health Program

Please remember November is Diabetes Awareness month and November 14 is World Diabetes Day. What is your Lions Club doing to support this program?

There is no emphasis in December form LCI so I want to take this time to say something about the VSP Certificates LHP has been distributing. We hope they have been a help to your Clubs and have saved you some funds. The way I understand the program these certificates redeemed (**used by your client**) by December 14<sup>th</sup> that means that I will not distribute any certificates after Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>. Please get your request to me ASAP. **Lions Clubs you need contact me directly DO NOT go through a third party such as your District Governor or the Lions State Office.**

Lion Vern Failor  
MD 17 Lions Health Program

District 17-A Global Service Report  
Oct.15, 2022

**Service Summary:** Since July 1st, 2022, **27 of 73 clubs** (37%) have recorded **184** service activities (+ 63) serving **67,576 (+19,175)** people and donating **4,049** hours of volunteer service(+2390).

Examples of recent projects that show Lions partnerships in community activities include **Keats** Lions helping Joy Closet, a tractor show and a fall festival, **Louisburg** participating in the Cider Fest, **Concordia** participating in the Toy Run and the annual Buddy Walk, **Leavenworth** Lions volunteering with the Carousel and Deeper Window, and **Eudora** sponsoring a fund-raiser for Bird's Nest. **Milford** Lions helped educate local students by having them assemble the Emergency Diabetic Kits for the schools. It's always a plus when others are encouraged to join Lions in Service!

**\*\* November is Diabetes Awareness month for Lions\*\***

### Service Projects

Lions of 17-A have joined other Kansas Lions in creating flag banners for veterans. Lions have been asked to sign and add a personal message to stars and hearts which will be placed on banners to form American flags. These will be glued on the banners at the **Second State Council Meeting** for distribution. At least **33 District 17-A Clubs** have participated in this project as of Oct. 15th. *Of the 33 clubs who participated recorded any activities on MyLCI this year.* *in the project—only 17 of the clubs have recorded any activities on MyLCI this year.* That means 16 clubs will be able to record a project in the "OTHER" category. **Hopefully every club that participates will enter it on MyLCI!!**

## Hats & Gloves for Vets!!!!

At the **second Cabinet meeting** (November 5th in Abilene), District Lions will again collect **gloves and beanie/stocking caps** for the **veterans** homes. This year's donations will go to groups in the Abilene area and Leavenworth area. Bring donations to the Cabinet meeting or contact GST Carleen Rajala to get involved.

Any questions, comments or suggestions? Please contact me.

PDG Carleen Rajala [lioncarleen@gmail.com](mailto:lioncarleen@gmail.com) 1- 913-481-7328

**Remember, please send all your event and recognition information to our webpage. Let us help you promote and advertise your projects and special events!.**



## **MD-17 Environmental Photo Contest**



The 2022-23 Environmental Photo Contest is open to all Kansas Lions and Leos. Photographers must be Amateurs (no professionals, those working as photographers or selling their works). This year's contest will depict four categories and one Special Theme.

Categories are as follows:

- Animal life
- Plant life
- Urban or Natural landscape
- Weather phenomenon.

(No people in photos submitted in the categories above.)

- Special Theme: Service projects.

This category can have persons in them and can be any Lions project in progress or newly completed.

Example: Lions planting trees or kids playing in a new park, etc.

Photos need to be original, unaltered and taken in Kansas this calendar year. Photos should measure 8" x 10" and printed borderless on high quality photo paper. Photos with white borders will be disqualified.

All photographers accept responsibility for the cost of taking and processing all photos. Lions Clubs and Leo Clubs are invited to submit one photo in each category to their District Environmental Chair by January 1, 2023. The photographer will specify which category their photo should be entered on a separate piece of paper (such as Photo Contest Form) or photo will be disqualified.

Photos in the state contest will be voted on at the Mid-Winter Rally in January 2023.

Contest photos become the property of Kansas Lions. Kansas Lions reserves the right to disqualify entries that do not meet contest criteria or that may be viewed as inappropriate or objectionable. An award will be presented to the winning photographers. At all levels of the competition photos will be judged impartially based on originality, artistic merit and technical quality.

**District K: Louise Greenberg, [gberg@ruraltel.net](mailto:gberg@ruraltel.net)**

**District A: Daniel Martinez, [danielkane05@yahoo.com](mailto:danielkane05@yahoo.com)**

**District N: Wanda Weldin, [wandaweldin@yahoo.com](mailto:wandaweldin@yahoo.com)**

**State Environmental Chair: Merle Laham, [mc.laham@gmail.com](mailto:mc.laham@gmail.com)**

## **Monthly GMT Report**

Congratulations District 17A! Eighteen new Lions were added during the month of September. Please welcome the following New Lions!

<u>Name</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
Dori Smith	Atchison	Daniel Smith
Tyler Ottensmeier	Belleville	Tim Davis
Kaitlyn Beikmann	Concordia	Jennifer Thrash
Kathleen Gledhill	Leavenworth	John Bradford
Daniel Marshall	Linwood	
Stephanie Marshall	Linwood	
Matthew Kerns	Miami Traveling	Cheryl Kerns
Andrea Brown	Milford	Beverly Greenwood
Robert Fry	Miltonvale	Ron Goldsmith
Duane Morris	Minneapolis	Douglas Plummer
Juanita Morris	Minneapolis	Duane Morris
Damon McKinney	Minneapolis	Scott Aushman
Marcus Klika	Olathe	Gary Jennings
Jennifer Klika	Olathe	Gary Jennings
Nancy Holloway	Onaga	Lester Harris
Tammi Foster	Oskaloosa	Kristi Shuler
Brian Nichols	Overland Park Host	Beverly Nichols
Ronald Ellis	Valley Falls	Gerald Heinen

Wendy Nin from Zone Three is the winner for September with 4 new Lions!

### Anniversaries:

60 years: Ed Wettig, Leavenworth; Wayne Stander, Topeka Sunflower; Robert Robson, Abilene

50 years: Larry Coder, Effingham; Robert Falk, Effingham; Dan Coup, Hope

40 years: Dale Davidson, Hope

30 years: Marguerite Jacobson, Topeka Sunflower; Dwight Benfer, Longford; Steve Aksamit, Bennington

20 years: Lawrence Levine, Leavenworth; Ron Weaverling, Leavenworth; Steven Wieters, Barnes; John Surber, Belleville

10 years: Caroline Arter, Leavenworth; Don Cash, Troy; Chris Anderson, Leonardville; Gary Burt, Bennington; Mike Helget, Keats; Vern Bulk, Keats; Deb Kephart, University of Kansas Eye Center; Abigail Strickland, University of Kansas Eye Center

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kim Baker GMT

October 18th: District 17A is plus 3 for our Lions year

## Save these important dates!

November 5th District 17A Cabinet Meeting. Abilene KS Public Library. Bring stocking hats and gloves for VA Clinic Patients. Lunch orders due by November 3rd. Zoom available.

November 15th Membership Dinner in Junction City at the Family Buffet. Contact DG Rich Webster for RSVP.

November 19th 1st Hybrid Annual Region 4 Women in Lions workshop in Junction City at Bella's Italian Restaurant 605 Washington. 11:30 A.M. to 3:PM  
RSVP: Lovena Blodgett [lovenablodgett26@yahoo.com](mailto:lovenablodgett26@yahoo.com). by Nov 16th.

January 20th & 21st Mid Winter Rally Junction City, KS. Courtyard by Marriot 310 Hammonds Dr. 785-210-1500

February 11th District 17A Cabinet Meeting Trinity Baptist Church Hwy 24 Wamego, Ks. Contact DG Rich Webster for RSVP.

## From the Editor

Here is the November 2022 District Dialogue. If you missed the deadline, the 15th of the month before the newsletter is scheduled to come out, you can re-write your article to make it more timely and send it for the next issue. Or if that is not possible perhaps your item could be put on the Facebook page. Please send every item in an email, not a PDF. I need to be able to resize and re-shape most items to fit the space and a PDF cannot be edited without special software. A few photos are welcome but only in jpeg format.(jpg for Windows users) Word documents are fine. Just attach them to an email.

Thanks, Janeice Crosson, Editor. [jancrosson@gmail.com](mailto:jancrosson@gmail.com)

“Remember, be so happy that when others look at you, they will be happy too.”

