



District Dialogue

January 2022

District Governor Dr. Vania Castro • Editor Michele Reese

Happy New Year! – District Governor Dr. Vania Castro

“Ordinary people can do extraordinary things that can change the course of history.” Jonathan Dyer



I hope you all enjoyed the holiday season with your loved ones and friends. Thank you to everyone that despite all the challenges of previous years you have served with excellence this year in your clubs, community, district, and in the Lions organization as a whole. Due to the remarkable efforts of district 17A, we passed the halfway point of our Lion year successfully and will now rise to the challenge of finishing strong over the next six months.

As Helen Keller stated, “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” We can celebrate the results of our collective efforts to grow our district. We started our Lion year on July 1 with 73 clubs and 1,492 members. Our current balance is 1,534 members in 73 clubs. Currently we are up 50 new members. This is an amazing

accomplishment by our leadership and all our district members. I am glad to be busy inducting members all around the district. Welcome new members! Also, we have completed club officer training and will continue to provide in person hand-on training for MyLCI and MyLion. This training has proven to be effective since over 50% of our clubs are reporting their service projects in MyLion. In addition, more clubs are making contributions to LCIF. I am thrilled to be doing MJF presentations in several clubs. “MJF is a tremendous contribution to humanity” and a great way to honor the legacy of our founder Melvin Jones whose birthday is this month.

The district is alive, and we have some exciting Lions gatherings that you don’t want to miss. Please save the dates and join us for these outstanding educational and fun events including our upcoming Mid-Winter Rally (Hilton Garden Inn, Salina, February

4-6), Third District Cabinet meeting (Double Tree by Hilton – Lawrence, February 12), and our 17A District Convention (Fort Leavenworth, Leavenworth - April 1-2). More detail information about our district convention should be out shortly.



I look forward to seeing you around the district soon. It is a great honor to be your 2021-2022 District governor. As always, I am here to serve you.

Let’s continue to keep our district vibrant and on fire...



Momentum is Key to Success in 2022 – 1st Vice District Governor Richard Webster



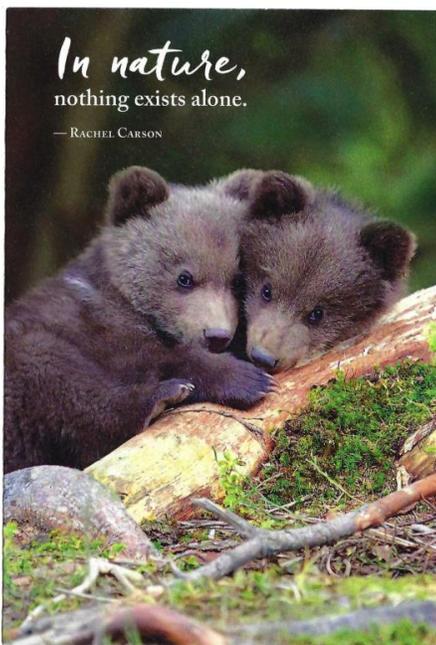
Happy New Year! Welcome to the new year 2022! Congratulations for a wonderful year in 2021. Our district has had a tremendous start for our Lions year. Membership growth is a possibility for the first time in recent memory. Lions are back to pre-pandemic activities and public service. Holiday celebrations in person happened again and clubs are celebrating anniversaries for decades of service and in some cases a century. Fantastic!

We must keep the momentum going. The best way to do that is to continue our membership growth. We now enter the second half of our Lions year and to ensure we finish strong we must recruit more hands and friends to help with our service and meet our goals. We are gradually reaching our goal for reporting service to My Lion. Thank you for your efforts in keeping this information current and available. It is important and impressive to see how much Lions do in service and meeting community needs. This information is useful and an important way we attract partners to our campaigns to meet the objectives of our core causes internationally.

Our District goal for contributions to LCI is also in sight. PDG Rick Dodson presented a matching challenge for giving Tuesday. There will be a telethon as well to further our contributions to LCI which funds our great causes and provides grants for our District needs. Woodbine recently made a large contribution and recognized three new Melvin Jones Fellows! Congratulations and thank you for your dedication and service. Baldwin City and Eudora have recently made sizable contributions to LCI. Our Clubs are responding and setting a great example. Thank you for all you do!

Let us keep our eyes to the future. Lions are attracting new members and younger volunteers this year and we need their energy and ideas. Once a need is seen there just needs to be the will to address it. The ability to see ourselves interconnected is the variable that will determine whether we succeed or fail. We all can work together in this new year to become a more complete District with active and evolving service. Try something new or try something again. Just because a project failed in the past does not mean it can't be successful now. Take what we have learned and combine it with what has changed and make history! "We Serve."

Memorial Trees – 2nd Vice District Governor Caroline Arter



I learned from the District Governor that the Tescott Lions Club presented her with

a tree that will be planted in her honor by the Arbor Day Foundation. She received a card from the Club stating that they had purchased a tree in recognition of her leadership. What a brilliant idea!

With that thought in mind, the District Governor and the Environmental Committee will be purchasing a tree from the Arbor Day Foundation for each District 17-A Lions Club in honor of your work as Lions.

Funding is provided from a variety of sources including personal gifts. The Presidents of each Club will receive a card from the Arbor Day Foundation confirming that a tree has been planted in honor of their Club.

The Living Gift opportunity is described on the Arbor Day Foundation website [Plant-a-Tree Gift - Restore a Community in Need – A Living Tribute](#) and is easily accessible. Additional options for giving are also listed.

"Plant a tree in someone's honor and restore a community or state forest in need. Our community restoration plant-a-tree gift allows you to have a tree planted for someone outside of the National Forest system, in states such as New York, Ohio, New Jersey, Texas, Pennsylvania and more.

"Your trees will be planted through local and state tree recovery programs to restore communities, state forests and nature preserves that have been impacted by natural disasters such as wildfires, hurricanes, floods and tornadoes.

"Each honorary tree planting includes an elegant, personalized, FSC Certified commemorative card. Choose from a wood grain commemorative card, or a sympathy greeting card if the tree planting is in memory of someone

Breathe more deeply this coming year!

District Convention Reminder – PDG Rick Dodson, GLT 17-A Chair

A reminder that the District 17-A convention is scheduled for April 1-2, 2022, at Fort Leavenworth's Frontier Conference Center. Additional information and registration procedures will be provided separately by the Chair.

New Year Offers Time for Reflection – Eric Strimple, GMA Champion



The new year brings new perspectives and goals for many people. It gives us time to reflect on what we have accomplished over the last year and what we

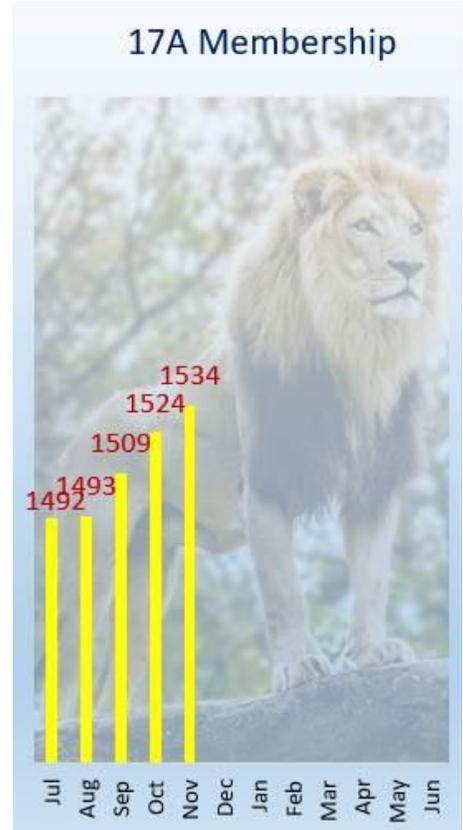
hope to accomplish in the year ahead. This is a wonderful time to also reflect on your Lion service, how you helped your community, and ways that you can grow as a Lion in the year ahead.

I feel every Lion should continually do this throughout their service journey to take the time to look back to realize how they have grown as an individual. Aside from serving our communities, being a Lion also provides us with great insight and opportunities for personal growth and development. Encouraging Lions to grow will also help your retention efforts because they

will see they are getting more out of it than just serving others.

“When you do the things in the present that you can see, you are shaping the future that you are yet to see.” – Idowu Koyenikan

Attending the mid-winter rally in February is an excellent way to work on your personal growth and Lion service journey. The event is perfect for revitalizing and remotivating Lions with decades of service. Still, it is also a fantastic opportunity for our new Lions around the state to learn more about what being a lion is about, what the foundations do, and hear from guest speakers. The friendships and conversations that you will gain will help you bring innovative ideas to your community and help you look to the future of serving your community through Lions.



DIABETES



ENVIRONMENT



HUNGER



VISION



CHILDHOOD CANCER

Welcome 12 New Lions to District 17-A – PCC Beverly Greenwood, GMT



District 17-A is growing by leaps and bounds. At the current rate, we should reach our goal of 100 new members by the end of December 2021. We will be above and beyond by the end of the 2021-2022 Lions year in June.

Keep up the great recruitment and excitement for membership growth. If you are having difficulty recording your club information, email PDG Rick Dodson at dodsonr23@gmail.com for administrative assistance. Share service and Lionism wherever you go and with all that you meet.

Happy New Year to all!

New Member	Lions Club	Sponsor
Steve James	Clyde	Gary Sipe
David Woodman	Leaswood	Herb Strain
Jacqueline Williams	Leavenworth	Dionne Smith
Deb Brown	Milford	Linae Jenkins
Kelsey Hanzlicek	Milford	Lovena Blodgett
Lana Melton	Milford	Linae Jenkins
Sean Rigsby	Milford	Linda Rigsby
Sam Flick	Miltonvale	Dayle Scott
McDowell Steele	Salina Downtown	Randell Steele
Jared Koster	Tescott	Christopher Sparks
Jill Koster	Tescott	Lee Sparks
Richard Shermoen	Wamego	Richard Webster



54.8 Percent of District Clubs Have Reported Projects – PDG Carleen Rajala, GST 17-A Chair



Since my last report, 320 service activities have been recorded by District 17-A Lions Clubs, representing 6,431 volunteer hours and 93,886 people served. Thank you to the following Lions clubs for reporting recent service projects information: Abilene, Valley Falls and Wetmore. Forty (40) of the 73 clubs in the district have now reported activities on “MyLion” bringing our percentage to 54.8%!

District Service Projects : As of Dec. 14th, 74 service projects touching the lives of an additional 22,267 people were added to MyLion. A special thank you to Topeka Sunflower Lions and the Lansing Lions for delivering the hats and gloves collected at the Cabinet meeting to the veteran hospitals. Be on the watch for details on the February district cabinet service project!

Lions Clubs from Valley Falls, Auburn, Lansing and Tonganoxie have already recorded holiday festivities. Olathe, Leavenworth, Tonganoxie, Salina Downtown and Manhattan Sunflower are some of the many clubs ringing bells for the Salvation Army. Eudora managed their annual Angel Tree Project. Shawnee once again is providing vision screening and handing out books at the Shawnee Community Services Holiday Event. Donations have been made by Topeka Sunflower Lions (Baby Jay’s Legacy of

Hope), Topeka (YWCA of NE Kansas), Lansing (CASA’s Secret Santa, St. Jude and the Leavenworth VA Hospital), Valley Falls (LCIF), Auburn (LCIF) and Shawnee(LCIF). Note: Many other clubs donated to LCIF on Giving Tuesday thanks to the matching funds offer from PDG Rick Dodson. They should be recording their donations on MyLion also.



January will focus on “Thank a Local Hero Projects”, which encourages Lions to honor those community groups whose work is frequently taken for granted. Recently Basehor, Leavenworth and Tonganoxie sent goody bags as a thank you to local daycare workers. Shawnee Lions are planning on recognizing the local custodians in January. Also clubs are encouraged to celebrate Melvin Jones’ January birthday.

Need service suggestions? lioncarleen@gmail.com 913-481-7328

2022 Mid Winter Rally is Fast Approaching – From Kansas Lions Multiple District 17



The MD 17 Kansas Lions Mid Winter Rally will be held in Salina at the Hilton Garden Inn, February 4-6, 2022. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this informative annual conference with Lions from across the state. Featured speaker for the Saturday evening banquet will be Past International Director Joyce Middleton from Bridgewater, Massachusetts (pictured right).

A highlight will be the presentation of Peace Poster winners from the three Kansas districts. This will be done at the Saturday, February 5th, luncheon hosted by Chair Diana Bauman. The first place

winner’s entry has already been sent to the international competition at LCI headquarters. The 2021 theme was “We are all Connected.” Enjoy additional meetings and learning session, too.



Register early for the Mid Winter Rally. A block of rooms have been reserved at the Hilton Garden Inn, 3320 S. 9th St., Salina, KS 667401. Please ask for the Kansas Lions group discounted rate for the nights of February 4th and 5th. The website is <https://hiltongardeninn.guestreservations.com> or telephone contact is 855-680-3239. More details will be included in the February *District Dialogue*.

Training Update for Online Reporting – PDG Rick Dodson, GLT 17-A Chair



The next hands-on training session for MyLCI and MyLion will be held on January 15th, at Perkins Restaurant in Salina. Training will be from 10 am to Noon followed by a free lunch. The primary training audience is Zone Chairpersons and principal club officers such as President,

Secretary, Treasurer, and Club Administrator. Thank you, Region 4, for hosting this training.

The first hour will be a demonstration of the two apps; the second hour will be hands-on with club representatives actually inputting data into the programs. Reservations for the training must be made as

soon as possible, but no later than January 8th to ensure we have sufficient trainers available. Send reservations to PDG Rick Dodson, Dodsonr23@gmail.com or call 913-240-5302. Also, those with reservations will be provided additional information on the class after the January 8th deadline.

Thank You for your LCIF Generosity – PDG Rick Dodson, GLT 17-A Chair



On “Giving Tuesday”, November 30th, a match challenge was given to Kansas Lions, and you responded in a very generous fashion. The match challenge had several levels: 3X match for amounts donated if a club hadn’t donated since Campaign 100 started (July 2017), 2X amount donated if a club hadn’t given this year (since July 1st), or 1X amount donated if a club or individual had already donated this year.

Some donations missed the November 30th deadline, but were still honored. Some members were inspired to make donations without a match. The following were Districts’ donation results:

District 17-N: \$1,410

District 17-A: \$4,000

District 17-N: \$400

Totals for Kansas Lions: \$5,810 donated and \$6,200 matched.

Thank you for your support for our Foundation. Please continue to donate during the last 6 months of Campaign 100. Use this as an opportunity to honor a hard-working Lion with a Melvin Jones Fellowship or donate to provide funds for the many disaster relief or humanitarian efforts of our great Foundation.

LCIF’s second annual Tell-A-Thon will be coming up in June. Do we have any Lions that would like to issue match challenges? If so, contact me to discuss how we can do it.

Happiness to All in the New Year – International Director Debra Weaverling



Hello Lions of Kansas. I hope you had a wonderful Christmas with your family and friends. Our home was full of love and laughter, there is nothing like enjoying the Christmas holiday with grandchildren. Although we have four grandchildren that live very close to our new home, the other four were reachable by FaceTime. The holidays in the Weaverling home are always a wonderful time of the year. We are thankful for all the wonderful blessings and opportunities given to us.

On December 28th, Ron and I flew to Pasadena, California to attend the Rose Bowl Parade. This was an opportunity we could not pass up. It is one of the many things to do on my Bucket List. We are now a part of the tradition of Lions decorating the Lions Clubs International float. We were able to see the float in October during the LCI Board Meeting; it was complete with the many colors of paint upon it. We helped many other volunteers put the flowers of color on the float, it looked amazing and smelled heavenly. I hope you got to see the float if you watched the Rose Bowl Parade, we were sitting in the grandstands as the float went by. It was a great feeling knowing that we, Ron and I, had a small part of decorating the float for all to see.

My travels in 2022 will begin the third week of January and go through the end of May. I will travel to Minnesota then, North Carolina in January. February: Oregon, Tennessee, Wisconsin, and Massachusetts. March: 75th Anniversary Celebration in Augusta KS, Alabama, Missouri, and



Ohio. April: Washington, Iowa, 100th Anniversary Celebration in Independence KS, and LCI Board Meeting in Kona, HI. May: Illinois, Texas and California, The first weekend of June is our Kansas State Convention in Pittsburg, Kansas. Our guest speaker will be International President Douglas X. Alexander. Ron and I will be his host for the weekend. I hope all Lions of Kansas will make an effort to attend the State Convention, we would like to see a huge crowd for our International President.

The end of June is the 104th Lions Clubs International Convention in Montreal, Canada. This is another opportunity for Lions to learn, meet new Lions and see Lions you already know, and have fun. I hope many Lions of Kansas will attend. Having a huge

delegation from Kansas there with us would be awesome.

The month of July is not as busy, but I am ready to do what is necessary for Kansas Lions as the need arises. Ron and I are blessed to represent all of you as we travel across our great country. We love what we do and always the best part is meeting new Lions that we can add to our Lions Family. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve on the Lions Clubs International Board of Directors on your behalf.

Please keep up the great community service that you do as Lions, I am sure your community is very thankful for you and your fellow LIONS! Never forget, “Where there is a need, there is a LION!” Serve from your heart with kindness because it does matter.



A Perspective on Recruiting New Members – Lion Beth McKenzie, Lawrence Noon Club



The Lawrence club has seen significant growth over the past year and a half, retaining nine new members despite our city having pretty conservative restrictions for COVID. We've implemented a few new strategies, and one that will work for most clubs is to utilize Pictures and Social Media:

Taking pictures and posting to social media is a must, not a maybe! If you want to recruit new members, taking pictures and sharing them on social media needs to be a priority. Social media may not be important to you personally, but it's one of the most effective ways to recruit.

Assign a photographer at every meeting, event, fundraiser, project, etc. It can be one person whose ongoing role is "Club

Photographer," or it can be a different person each time but start making it an assigned role (otherwise we'll forget to do it).

Take time during your meetings and events to get good pictures; no one wants to look at a picture of the backs of peoples' heads, or of someone with their mouth hanging open as they're eating. Always make time to take pictures; consider it an essential task rather than an interruption to essential tasks.

Assign someone to share those photos on social media. You might not personally be drawn to social media, but it's an essential part of recruiting younger members, and clubs should post regularly.

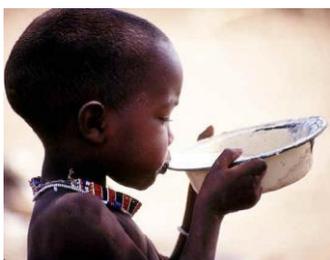
We need to make taking and sharing good photos part of our culture, so instead of feeling like a rude interruption, it will feel like an essential part of recruiting new Lions and celebrating Lionism.



The Lawrence Noon Lions Club (left) adopted 17 children with cancer and their siblings through local charity Baby Jay's Legacy of Hope. One of our members is a board member at Baby Jay's, and this is our second year helping several families with childhood cancer by providing gifts, wrapping supplies, gift cards for gas and groceries, and spreading holiday cheer through service and Lionism.

Submitted by Lion Beth McKenzie, President

Lions Health Program "World Hunger" – Vern Failor, Lions Health Programs Chair



President Alexander's saying "Service from the Heart" fits the Lions Clubs International LCI initiative for the month of January "Hunger Awareness." What does this mean to you as a Lion? Well most of us do not know, as we may have never been in a situation

where we did not know from where our next meal was coming. This hunger situation is not new for a large part of the world. I was on a Webinar a few weeks ago where I was in a chat room with other Lions from around the world and World Hunger was the topic. There were Lions from South Africa, England, Australia and, of course, the USA. I soon realized that hunger was worldwide. Sometimes I believe we Lions just think about our little part of the world and tend to forget the rest of the world.

How do we Lions look at hunger locally and in the world? What is your Lions club doing to help fight Hunger locally and in the world? Has your Lions Club given to LCIF? Is your Lions Club working with local programs in your community to fight hunger? The answer to these questions will vary from community to community. Here

are some examples where a Lions Club can help: work with a food distribution group such as Harvesters, collect food for a local food pantry, provide meals for the homeless, provide food for local distribution such as the Blessing Boxes found all over Topeka or maybe construct some of these boxes and place in your community then, supply them with food and get other organizations to help you. LCI has many ideas also, just go to the LCI website and search "hunger" and be surprised at what you will find.

We hope this will help your Lions Club fight hunger in your community and the world. If you need help please email or call Lion Vern Failor.



2022 Marks 35 Years of Women in Lions – Lions Clubs International (website)

In July 1987, at the Lions Clubs International Convention, delegates voted to open the association's membership to women around the world.

While some early Lions clubs had women members, in 1918 the Lions Constitution was changed to limit membership to men. It would be almost 70 years before women would be once again welcomed into Lions Clubs International as members. In the meantime, many women volunteered alongside their husbands, friends and family members who were Lions. Some women formed Lioness clubs, the first of which was founded in 1920 in Quincy, Illinois, to support the activities of Lions clubs.

Lions began to take steps to open Lions membership to women in the 1980s at the same time as several lawsuits in the United States were challenging the right of private clubs to have men-only membership. A motion to include women was narrowly

voted down at the Lions Clubs International Convention in 1986.

When the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in May 1987 that a California law prohibiting sex discrimination by any "business establish-



ment" applied to Rotary Club, LCI opened membership to women in the United States. Women around the globe were welcomed into membership shortly after at the international convention.

Just two months after the vote, 3,500 women had joined the organization,

bringing fresh perspectives and additional hands for service. Within five years, Lions had 55,000 women members.

In the last 30 years, the proportion of women in Lions Clubs has grown significantly. In 2004, Lions began a task force to discover and plan community projects that are of interest to women, identify new members and promote and charter new clubs. By 2015, women accounted for 27 percent of Lions membership worldwide, and 38 percent of new members are women. In some parts of the world the numbers are even higher. Women make up 43.5 percent of Lions in the constitutional area spanning South America, Central America, the Caribbean and Mexico.

Lions' strong service model is attractive to women who want to invest their time and energy into helping their communities. With their efforts and enthusiasm, Lions Clubs is a more thriving, global organization, ready for another century of service.

Remembering PDG Bill Beamgard – State Council Chair Diana Baumann



I hope you all had a wonderful Holiday Season! My heart goes out to all who had to go through this year end missing a loved one. You are all in my thoughts for a wonderful new year ahead.

I would like to dedicate this article to a very special man. I knew that I enjoyed him as a Lion and appreciated his support. But as I learned more about PDG Bill Beamgard the man, the more I respected and admired him.

PDG Bill is from a small town in Northwest Kansas. He did not say no to service. He was a Lions District Governor and chaired the Sight Foundation. In addition to his service to Lions, PDG Bill was a member of the American Legion, VFW, Masons, Shriners Club, ODD Fellows, Atwood Flying Club, Silver Haired Legislature, School Board member, various teachers organizations and was an Eagle Scout and Eagle Scout Advisor. Wow! It makes me think twice about saying "I don't have time."

PDG Bill made time. His Motto was "Service to Others First and Self Later." He lived this way. I listened to many stories about him bringing people home for a meal. Giving them all the money in his wallet and doing whatever he could to help someone in need. I

could tell by all the organizations he participated in that he had the passion to help others and to do wonderful things for his community as well.

Unfortunately, I listened to these stories at his funeral last month. We lost another great Lion and person in District 17-K. His service touched my heart, and I could feel the pride and love in the room. It made me think of the dash. People know a person's birth date and the date they leave this world but how many people know about the dash in that person's life between those two dates? PDG Bill's dash is long and wide. It contains many, many times

"Service to Others First and Self Later"

when he made the difference in the life of another person. Service widens that dash. I am

so glad I have my family and my Lions to help lengthen my dash. The dash is what is important in our life and important in other's lives for years to come.

Thank you PDG Bill for all you did to make this a better world. I will try to live by your Motto "Service to Others First and Self Later" and hope more and more people will do the same.

Thank you, Lions, for all you do. I am very proud of all of you. Have a wonderful 2022!

