



District Dialogue

May 2022

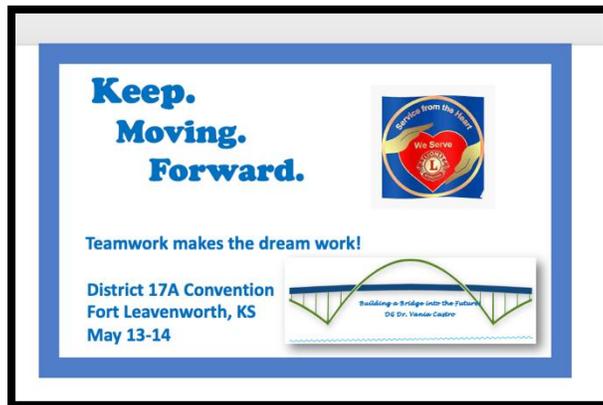
District Governor Dr. Vania Castro • Editor Michele Reese

Our Amazing Annual Convention Is Just Around The Corner!



Are you ready for great music, good food and service, special speakers, and fun & fellowship with Lions you haven't seen since before the pandemic? If so, District 17-A's convention is for you! It will be held at Fort Leavenworth on May 13 and 14. A special thank you to Past District Governor (PDG) Rick Dodson, to the District Convention team and the District Governor team who are organizing a memorable conference for you and your family. At the convention, you'll learn about the latest news in Lions membership, leadership, and service. Also, for the District Convention Service Project, Lions will be helping to restock the very low supply of personal care products in one of the Alert trailers (e.g., shampoo, conditioner, soap, deodorant, wash cloths, toothpaste and toothbrushes, lotion, razors, and shaving cream). If you have items to donate, let PDG Carleen know by signing up on "Sign Up Genius" or contacting her (liconcarleen@gmail.com). PDG Bernard Lee will be attending this event and he'll collect all your club's eyeglasses for recycling during our convention. Also, please bring your club banner to decorate the Frontier Conference Room throughout this event.

Meanwhile, I am so grateful for all our district leaders and members who are working extremely hard to ensure we finish this Lion year stronger than at the beginning. This is indicated by our current results: (1) I was delighted to induct five new members to our fourth new Junction City Club branch in Junction City last April 26; (2) 158 members were added (as of 4/19/2022) into our existing clubs with a net growth of +58; (3) More service projects touched the lives of others who need it the most (150,593 people served; 626 service activities; 13,450 volunteer hours); (4) 71% of clubs reported their service projects to MyLion (50% more than last year), and 95% of clubs reported membership in MyLCI; (5) We completed all our leadership training (with about 195+ Lions attending all these trainings); (6) This year's initiative to have 100% of our clubs make a donation to LCI is almost accomplished! Stay tuned! Bravo, Roar Lions! It's been years since we achieved results like these. Now is the time to stay focused and finish strong this wonderful year.



Again, I want to thank everyone that helped our 17-A district in any way during this remarkable Lion year. We have amazing leaders and members and as always "Teamwork makes a dream work."

Service and Kindness Matter! We can't wait to celebrate this successful Lion year with all of you at our convention. It'll be an honor to see you all there.

In Lionism & Service from the Heart!
DG Dr. Vania Castro



DIABETES



ENVIRONMENT



HUNGER



VISION



CHILDHOOD CANCER

Long Range Planning – 1st Vice District Governor Richard Webster



We are coming down the homestretch of another Lions Year! Thanks to the fantastic job our District Governor Dr. Vania Castro has done, District 17-A is shining brightly. I am humbled by her attention to detail and organizational skills. DG Vania has set an example for all of us to witness that hard work and personal dedication will make a difference! I know she has traveled over 7,000 miles this year and made many extra visits to clubs all over our District. Congratulations DG Dr. Vania Castro on meeting and surpassing the goals expected for this year and setting a standard for future administrations to follow.

Membership is always a difficult task for every Lion but in the words of International Director Ken Ibarra “there is no substitute for one-on-one invitations. Just keep asking!” I know there are many resources for recruiting ideas and I have received several this year. However the most successful approach has never changed. Ask someone to join us. Use the grant monies available to host events where new prospects can see the infectious nature of Lions at work and in service.

District 17-A has achieved success in membership growth, Model club formation, Service reporting and LCIF contributions. Our

District has in-place training videos and on-line resources not seen elsewhere. Great job Lions! District 17-A has excelled in recognizing change in the world around us. We are using Zoom, creating watch parties, establishing drive thru and on-line fundraising events and are promoting diversity and harmony! We have a rich history of service to our communities through vision screening, collection of used eye wear, supporting local food banks, improving park facilities, planting trees and many other annual projects. Tell our story and make sure your friends know we need them to provide more hands and service hours. Together we can do so much!

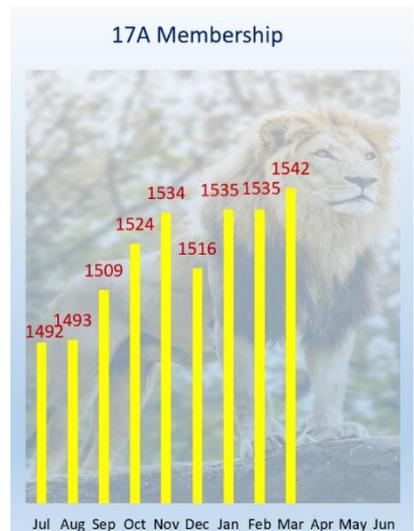
The District Convention is May 13th, 14th and 15th at Ft. Leavenworth. This will be a great opportunity to acknowledge the fantastic job our District has done this year. What a great way to say thank you and to fellowship with our leadership and lions who are making a difference from clubs all over our district! I hope to see each of you so we can reflect on another great year of service. Please join us for a fun and productive convention at historic Fort Leavenworth.

Thank you, DG Dr. Vania Castro, and thank you for all you do!

Closing in on District 17-A’s June Goal of 160 New Members – PCC Beverly Greenwood, GMT



Thank you to all the new members and sponsors we’ve been adding to our numbers. Since District 17-A has reached 150 new members, District Governor Vania Castro is now challenging us to grow to 160 new members by the end of June! We can do it! Keep up the enthusiasm and excitement for adding new members.



New Lion

Elizabeth Berg
Derek Nutter
Barbara Coleman
James Sutton
Connie Harzman
Bryan Berglund
Diahnca Quigley
John Lavender
Frank Catalo
Judy Davis
Andrea Hutchins
Robert & Lois Arter
Thomas Fyffe
Jeffrey Pittman
Tim & Elaine Navickas
Kaitlyn Urwin
Courtney Lavender
Donna Doel
Robin Bonsall

Lions Club

Chapman
Concordia
Gardner
Gardner
Hope
Junction City Sundowners Club Branch
Lansing
Leavenworth
Leavenworth
Leavenworth
Leavenworth
Leawood
Miami Co Traveling
Milford
Topeka
Topeka

Sponsor

Lance Tilton
Bruce Nutter
Ray Hess
Ray Hess
Dale Davidson
Beverly Greenwood
Beverly Greenwood
Beverly Greenwood
Beverly Greenwood
Ricky Dodson
Jennifer Tobey

Jack Walker
Hollister Pittman
Douglas Westerhaus
Cheryl Kerns

Irene Haws
Irene Haws

District Lions are Answering the Call to Service – PDG Carleen Rajala, GST 17-A Chair



As of April 15th, 74 more service projects have touched the lives of an additional 12,709 Kansans according to MyLion submissions. Our year activities total 626 serving 150,593 people with accumulation of 13,450 volunteer hours. Wow! This brings our clubs reporting percent to 71 percent. Fifty-two (52) of our 73 clubs in the district have reported their activities through MyLion.

For the Third District Service Project, Lions are asked to help re-stock the very LOW supply of personal care products in one of the ALERT trailers. Bring shampoo,

conditioner, soap, deoderant, wash cloths, tooth paste and tooth brushes, lotion, razors and shaving cream to the 17-A Convention. THEN, help pack the kits between 3 and 4 Saturday afternoon, May 14th.

It would help to know what items are coming and what to purchase. If you have items to donate, let PDG Carleen know by signing up on “Sign-Up Genius” or contacting her. (Clubs should have received a flyer with more info.)

Additional items will be purchased with the proceeds from the Theme Baskets. So

donate a basket or purchase one at Convention.

Celebrate School Nurse’s Day on Wednesday, May 11th. School nurses provide a wealth of services to students and, even parents, throughout the school year. This is a good time to recognize their contributions to our communities. What service can your Lions club do to recognize your communities school nurses. There are many ways in which to do it.

If you need any service project ideas, reach out to me at lioncarleen@gmail.com or call 913-481-7328. I’ll see you at Convention!

Info on LCIF Tell-A-Thon and Matching Donations – PDG Rick Dodson, MD17 LCIF Coordinator



On April 11, 2021, LCIF Campaign 100 and LionsVirtual.org hosted an old fashioned four-hour Tell-A-Thon with a goal of raising \$200,000. The event featured entertainment and inspirational stories of LCIF’s impact around the world.

Tell-A-Thon 2.0 hosted by 1VP Brian Sheehan is scheduled at 10:00 am, for June 5th to close our Campaign 100. The goal for this Tell-A-Thon is \$2 million.

Two Lions have stepped up to match some of your donations during the Tell-A-Thon: one donor will match \$100 of the first ten donations of \$100 or more. A second donor will match \$100 of the next ten donations of \$100 or more. If any of these ten donors are first time club donors this year, the match will be doubled. Since many of us will be at the State Convention in Pittsburg during the Tell-A-Thon, you can start donating now at the following link. If you donate, send me the receipt of your donation. If you or your club are one of the first to meet the match challenge, I’ll notify

you. Here is the link https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/donate?utm_source=fundraising&utm_medium=link&utm_campaign=give-today

In addition to providing this early notification of the Tell-A-Thon, I am also soliciting other Lions who will provide matching donations. The matching donations can be any number and amount.

Thank you for your support.

It’s District Convention Time – PDG Rick Dodson, Conference Chairperson



Convention time is very close. By the time you receive this newsletter, the various deadlines for most activities will have passed.

By now, you should have submitted information to get a temporary gate pass to get onto Fort Leavenworth unless you have a military-issued ID. Hotel reservations should have already been made. Your registration form and payment should also have been completed and mailed. If you have any last minute troubles with reservations, please call me ASAP at 913-240-5302. Friday night, May 13th, is going to be “KC Sports Night” and you are encouraged to wear fan gear representing your

favorite team. Also, bring your dancing shoes for the eclectic Friday night music of a duet and the Big Band style music on Saturday night, May 14th. There will also be Barbershop singing during the Saturday night banquet.

See you on historic Fort Leavenworth, the longest continuously occupied fort west of the Mississippi River.



Frontier Conference Center

VSP Vision Certificates for Clubs – Vern Failor, Lions Health Programs Chair



The District 17-A Health Program Kid-Sight committee has VSP certificates available to provide eyeglasses for children. These are for any Lions Club in District 17-A only. If you want a certificate please contact Lion Vern (email below) with the following information. 1. Name and age of recipient, 2. Postal Code of the recipient, 3. Name of the Lion making the request and address of that Lion. 4. The type of certificate you want. There are 2 different Certificates. 1.

Eyes of Hope for Students (19 yrs. and younger) (***covers exams, frames, and lenses***) 2. Eyes of Hope materials only (***covers frames and lenses for anyone***)

The Lions Club will need to explain the process for using the certificate to their client and will receive a list of Vision Service Companies where the certificate can be redeemed.

The certificates cannot be emailed as each has a different serial number and cannot be copied.

These certificates must be used by December 14, 2022 so please ask for them.

At this time we **DO NOT** have certificates for adult examinations just frames and lenses.

If you need more information please contact Lion Vern, he is the only one in District 17-A with the information. His contact information is (H) 785-272-6102, (C) 785-231-3960 or vfailor@gmail.com.

Reading Action Program...in Action! – PCC Beverly Nichols, Chairperson

Since 2013 Lions in Kansas have been participating in the Reading Action program initiated by Past International President Wayne Madden, in partnership with Scholastic Publishing Company. Participation in our district was supported initially by a grant from Lions Clubs International Foundation, but most recently has been supported by cost sharing between clubs and our district's project fund.



How are books used? The most common use of books has been to give them to each child who comes for a vision screening, often at a preschool. Other books have gone to local libraries to give to children who come to Story Hour, to children attending a Mayor's Christmas Tree event, to local Head Start organizations for their students or to families attending Kindergarten Roundup. Individual clubs know where the need is, and books can be ordered for any age from very young preschool through middle school.

Any club in our district is eligible to order books from Scholastic at a very reasonable

price, with the "best deal" being the dollar books. The mechanics are simple. A representative of the club contacts me (Beverly Nichols) with a request for books. Together we determine how many books you want to order and what the titles might be, both of which generally depend on how much your budget allows and what the need is where you want to distribute books. Whatever the total price is for the books you decide to order, your club sends a check for half that amount to our district treasurer and your funds are matched by monies in the district's project account designated for the Reading Action program. When your check is received the

books are ordered and shipped directly to the person in your club who orders the books. You notify me when the books are received and I notify our district treasurer that the Scholastic invoice should be paid.

It's as simple as 1-2-3, well maybe 4 as well.

1. Identify an event where you want to distribute books.
2. Work with Beverly to place an order with Scholastic.
3. Send your club's check for half the amount of the order to our district treasurer, Tom Shearer.
4. Distribute the books when they arrive and revel in the enjoyment that you bring to the children receiving the books.

Let me know if you have questions.
Lion Beverly Nichols, District 17-A Reading Action Chairperson
913-642-7520, taximath@aol.com



A Lions Life well Served: A Tribute to PDG Bill Beamgard – PID Gene Vogel



I'm not sure exactly when I first met PDG Bill, probably in the mid 1980's when I became more involved in the State Lions Organization. He was serving as a director and treasurer of the Kansas Lions Sight Foundation at that time. I remember Bill as friendly and humorous person. I think many referred to him as "Wild Bill" for his continuous humor he displayed. When the Lions had a parade at the State Convention one year Bill rode in a bathtub with a shower head showering him as he went along the parade route. At another State Convention, Bill came with his hair a little longer than the others thought he should have, so he received a haircut by Deb Koon in the parking lot of the motel.

Bill's humor was with him even in his serious side. I got to know Bill better when we served together on the Kansas Lions Sight Foundation. He was very serious about his responsibilities as a director and treasurer. The foundation was conducting a campaign to fund a fellowship at the KU Eye Center. When that campaign was finished, Bill became the Chair of a Campaign to purchase a Mobile Screening Unit for the Kansas Lions. Within a couple of years Bill had raised about \$300,000.00. He then purchased the first MSU. A Thomasville bus and the equipment which included sight, hearing, diabetes, and blood pressure screen-

ing. The MSU was dedicated into service at the 1996 State Convention in Wichita.

PDG Bill passed away November 23, 2021. Here is a link to his obituary: [Billy Beamgard Obituary - Atwood, KS | Baalman Mortuary](#)

Here are comments from others.

PDG Bill Beamgard. Lion Bill was a good friend and a longtime friend. Bill's folks lived across the street from Margaret's family. Lion Bill introduced me to Margaret when I moved to Atwood. Besides Lions activities, a Dune Buggy was built by our (team)!!!! Lion Bill was always very active in the Atwood Lions Club. He always had many, many ideas for activities, assistance and enjoyment and pranks! The Mobile Screening Unit was very dear to his heart. He was always working for more donations for the new unit. PDG Bill kept the enthusiasm of our bus trip to Montreal, CA for the International Convention with 50 Lions (including non-Lion spouses) Many of the spouses later became Lions. It was a great trip and Bill helped make it great. I am sure that anyone that knew Bill will miss him dearly.

PDG Wes Moore

I had thoughts of the past years when Bill & Jeanie Beamgard hauled a load of processed glasses to the Texas Lions Eyeglass facility @ Midland. I still have a very clear memory of having a supper meal with Bill & Jean while we were in Halifax, Nova Scotia @ the U S A / Canada Forum. While we were there, Jean mentioned that Atwood Lions had a Major Club Anniversary coming up soon. She asked me if I had planned to attend? I replied Yes. I drove out to Atwood and attended a very nice celebration there. Lion Jeanie those are Most Pleasant memories for me to remember.

In Lionism,

Bernard Lee - PDG 05.

PDG Bill Beamgard was as generous with his laughter, humor, and money as he could be to help Lions Projects. When District S was raising funds to purchase a SPOT Vision Screener, he bought his share of tickets and won the quilt raffle. I will always treasure my memories of the short times I was able to spend with PDG Bill.

WE SERVE,
PDG Terry Weldin.



Additional District 17-A Helpful Information & Web Links

Public Relations Committee: email publicrelations@kslionsdistrict17a.org Chair Eric Tweedy; editing rights are reserved for editors/webmasters of print, broadcast, and/or electronic District 17-A communications

Lions Club District 17-A Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups> (Lions Clubs of Northeast and North Central Kansas)

Webmaster: Co-Chairs Chris Dodson dodson.chris.w@gmail.com and Irene Haws irene@idesigns.com

Newsletter Editor: Michele Reese michelereese.mr@gmail.com; call 785-608-4288

Kansas Lions Websites:

State	www.kansaslions.org
District 17-K	www.kansaslions17k.org
District 17-A	www.kslionsdistrict17a.org
District 17N	www.kslions17n.org



UPCOMING EVENTS:

DISTRICT 17-A	4 th Cabinet Meeting, June 11, 2022, Leawood
DISTRICT CONVENTIONS	17-K March 25-26, 2022 Hays (ID Justin Faber) 17-A May 13-14, 2022, Fort Leavenworth (ID Allen Snider, Canada) 17-N April 8-9, 2022, Emporia (ID Ken Ibarer)
STATE COUNCIL MEETINGS	4 th Council Meeting, June 3-4, 2022, Pittsburg
STATE CONVENTION	June 3-4, 2022, Pittsburg
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS	June 24-28, 2022, Montreal, Canada July 7-11, 2023, Boston, Massachusetts, USA
USA/CANADA FORUMS	September 15-17, 2022, Calgary, Alberta, Canada September 14-15, 2023, Reno, Nevada, USA

Please Review: NEW Lions District 17-A Newsletter District Dialogue Guidelines

- The newsletter is a communication tool designed to inform District Lions about upcoming activities and business needs. It will be produced in MS Word for simplification. To limit the publication size, news items should be concise and written in journalistic style. In paragraphs 1-2, answer the five Ws: who, what, where, when and why; paragraphs that follow may expand upon the five Ws but try to limit all information to five paragraphs. The editor reserves the right to edit for length starting from the end of the article (please don't write an essay!). There will be fewer graphics and photos (jpg format). The plan is for a smaller publication, no more than eight pages, if possible.
- Email is the preferred method in which to submit information with a deadline of the 15th day of the month preceding publication.
- In the email subject line, please use "Lions News" followed by a brief explanation of information submitted.
- Spell and grammar check your submission information (in MSWord under Review tab).
- The document will be formatted in 10 pt. type; if your sight is limited, zoom your view on the computer.
- Club events will only be promoted once, the month prior to the activity or registration deadline; likewise, details regarding a district, state, or national event (dates may be listed more than once). Provide an email and/or phone number for additional information.
- No last minute information unless approved by the editor or district governor five days in advance of publication (that is, the 25th of the month).