



THE SECOND TIME AROUND

Kansas Lions District 17A Newsletter



DISTRICT GOVERNOR MARGY SUNDSTROM

September 2024

As the Lions year zooms by, September is already upon us, and we're picking up the pace to make this one of our most successful years yet! To supercharge our Mission 1.5 project, we're thrilled to announce a brand-new membership contest that's sure to get everyone involved and excited.

Here's the deal: The first 10 new members who join our ranks starting from August 17th will have their \$35 entrance fee reimbursed—either to the club or directly to the member! It's our way of giving a warm welcome and making it even easier to become part of our vibrant community.

To claim the reimbursement, just send a quick email to our treasurer, Ron Nichols, at coachronnichols@gmail.com and to me at margaret1226@gmail.com with proof of enrollment. All you need is a copy of the signed application showing the new member has been officially enrolled with LCI (LI).

Got questions about the membership drive? Don't hesitate to reach out—I'm here to help.



Let's wrap up September with a bang and end the month on a high note with a membership boost! We're aiming for a positive number, and with your energy and enthusiasm, we can make it happen. Go Lions!

MAKE YOUR MARK IN SERVICE,

DG Margy Sundstrom
940-390-7430

Margaret1226@gmail.com

Council Meetings:

- August 10
- October 19
- Mid Winter Rally
Jan 17-19, 2025
- State Convention
May 29-31, 2025

Mark Your Calendar

Cabinet Meetings

- August 17, 2024
- October 26, 2024
- January 25, 2025
- June 7, 2025



FIRST VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR IRENE HAWS

September and we are off to a great start in District 17A. As we look to “Make our mark” this year, I am excited about visiting the clubs. As I write this article it is the eve of my visit to the Overland Park Host Club and the Manhattan Lions Club on the 3rd of September. The very next day I leave with two fellow members of the Topeka Lions Club to drive to Louisville, KY for the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum.

This past year I have been taking the Lions University courses. I will graduate from the masters’ program at the Forum. Lion Donna Doel has been busy taking the courses for the Bachelor program from Lions University and will graduate from the Bachelor program. Lions University has a number of courses that you can take for free to help prepare you for a leadership role in your club or district. The knowledge is very helpful. To Graduate you must attend the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum. Utilizing these free classes on the Lions University website or taking training from the LEARNING CENTER on the Lions International website will help you to be a better leader for your club and community. I am very inspired by the knowledge these courses provide, and they are on demand so I can take them when I want.

As part of **Mission 1.5 and the District Membership Growth Goal**, our district governor has provided an incentive. For the first 10 new lions in the district, your club can apply for the \$35 application fee to be reimbursed. This is on a first come basis. Contact District Governor Margy Sundstrom if you have any questions.

Finally, many zone chairs will be setting up zone meeting throughout the year. Each club president and club secretary are members of the Governors Advisory Committee. Club representatives are encouraged to attend the meetings of their Zone. Learning from each other and what others clubs have found to be successful for service and membership growth and working together as clubs for a zone service project is a great way Serve.

Yours in Service,
Irene Haws



SECOND VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR ROGER YOST

Service: To perform service for, to repair or provide maintenance for. (Websters 7th N.C. Dictionary)

Lions Clubs International motto is We Serve, which means selfless service to others in need in our local communities. The word WE is inclusive, which includes transparency relative to genders, religions, ethnicities, politics or nationalities. We as Lions hold dear to our hearts the want to serve. Sometimes providing service we catch ourselves being judgmental. It doesn’t matter what side of the political line you are, when it comes down to it, everyone wants to help each other. No one knows what someone is going through and asking for help may not be easy.

REMEMBER, WE SERVE.

The smallest deed is better than the greatest intention. ~John Burroughs

Roger Yost 2nd VDG 17A
Yostfarms@hotmail.com
620-397-3108 (leave msg I will return the call)

LIONS HEALTH PROGRAM

October is Vision Awareness Month and October 6-12 is Sight Week with October 10th being Worldwide Sight Day. As LCI's President Fabricio Oliveira slogan says "Make your Mark". Your Lions Club could "Make its Mark" by doing a project of saving sight, by vision screening small children or purchasing an eye examination and glasses for someone.

In October plan an activity where you and your community can observe this month by doing one of the above projects. 2.2 Billion people+ globally live with a vision impairment, some of these live in your community. Children will learn better if they can see. Have you tried to find these children in your community? There is Vision Screening equipment available for any Club to use just ask. Is your Lions Club looking for them? Once your project is complete remember to go to the Lions Portal and make an Activity Report.

For more information go the LCI web site and search vision or contact Lion Vern Failor about Lions Health Program for Kansas.

Any of these projects would fit the Kindness Matters Award that your club can get by doing a worthy project in October. 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? I have never heard of one. Wouldn't it be nice to see some of these awards in District 17.

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

Lion Vern Failor

Kansas Lions Health Program little bit of body text

8/11/24

Dear Eric,
Thank you for giving me the chance to go to diabetes camp. I really appreciate it. I never thought I would be able to go to one. It was one of the best things i've ever experienced. It was amazing. I really loved how much activities there were . It was a really amazing week.
Thank you so much
Blakely

8/11/24
Dear, Eric
Thank you for giving me the chance to go to diabetes camp. I really appreciate it. I never thought I would be able to go to one. It was one of the best things i've ever experienced. It was amazing. I really loved how at the camp you were always busy, I loved to how much activities there were, it was really amazing thank you so much

♥ Blakely

District Governor Margy Sundstrom
Margaret1226@gmail.com
940-390-7430

1st Vice District Governor Irene Haws
irene@idesigns.com/785-249-1913

2nd Vice District Governor
Roger Yost

Yostfarms@hotmail.com
620-397-3108 (leave msg)

**2024-2025
DISTRICT
LEADERSHIP**

District Secretary, Rick Dodson
dodsonr23@gmail.com
District Treasurer, Ron Nichols
coachronnichols@gmail.com

Global Membership Team
Eric Strimple
estrimp81@msn.com



Past International Director Lion
Debra Weaverling
dweaverling@gmail.com

KANSAS LIONS SIGHT FOUNDATION NEWS

Hello Lions of Kansas! I am proud to share with you that I am the new President of the Kansas Lions Sight Foundation as of July 1, 2024. Prior to my new role, PID Gene Vogel, Lawrence Noon Lions Club, was the President for many years. I have huge shoes to fill and a huge responsibility as I take over the foundation; learning, understanding, and putting many issues into action. I look forward to working with the 18 Directors (6 from each District), Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. We have much work to do as we move forward starting with our eyeglass collection program. Lion Michael Sundstrom of the Tonganoxie Lions Club is the eyeglass program chairperson. We are beginning work on eyeglass storage, eyeglass sorting, eyeglass reading, and eyeglass deliveries to organizations who can use our glasses for missions. This is a huge undertaking but together we will work to focus on taking care of all eyeglasses we have on hand. We could use your help with sorting your glasses prior to giving them to our foundation or at least making sure we don't get broken glasses or pieces of glasses that we are not able to use. If you have good lenses please don't throw these away. The Lawrence Lions Club refurbishes these lenses and makes magnets, keychains, and more. We will take the good lenses, please pack these in a bag or an appropriate box so we can deliver to Lion Beth McKenzie. We currently have a storage unit in Topeka and a storage area at the Kansas Lions State Office in Wichita. We recently gave PDG Randy St. Aubyn boxes of sorted glasses to take to a prison for reading. Once the glasses are read by prisoners, they are boxed and then given to organizations for use. My goal is not to hoard the many boxes of glasses but to get rid of them as we get them. This will help to alleviate the costs associated with a storage unit and eliminates the storage space being used at the State Office.

Another unknown fact is the Claude M. Devorss Fellowship. The Kansas Lions Sight Foundation is responsible for promoting this fellowship and insuring all of our Lions in our State know who and what the Claude Devorss Fellowship is about. Below is information for you to share with your Lions in your clubs. A donation of \$1000 to the Kansas Lions Sight Foundation provides a Claude Devorss Fellowship to your Lion or your club. Lions can donate increments of \$100 towards a Claude Devorss Fellowship and once the necessary amount is reached the foundation will make sure you/your club receives this very prestigious recognition. Please contact me if you/your club is interested in recognizing a Lion in your club. A plaque with all names of past recipients hangs in the Claude Devorss room at the State Office.

Claude M. DeVorss Fellowship
September 3, 1914 to January 13, 2009
Born in Jamesport, MO
Member of the Wichita Downtown Lions Club
58th Mayor of Wichita from 1954-1955
Lions Clubs International President 1964-65

Claude and Bernice traveled to 98 countries when he was International President.

Interesting Factoid: PIP Devorss hand wrote note cards to all Lions/individuals he met on his journey as a Lion.

A donation of \$1000 to the Kansas Lions Sight Foundation provides a plaque, pin, and a brass nameplate to go on the Claude M. Devorss plaque that hangs in the Claude M. Devorss room at the State Office building.

NEWS FROM GLOBAL SERVICE CHAIR DIANE HENTGES

Hello Lions. We are 2 months into the Lions year. Most clubs are well into planning service activities for the year. Some of us take it slow and others plan out all 12 months at one time. That's ok, remember it's your club, your way. However, for those who have not completed their service calendar or are open for new ideas I want to share the Lions Club Service Calendar for September through November.

September is a time to reach out to a local school or youth group to involve them in the Peace Poster/Peace Essay Contest. It is a neat way to encourage children to think about peace and to put their thoughts into pictures or words. Check with your District Peace Poster Chair for more information.

October 10 is World Sight Day. What sight day projects can your club do for your community? Do you screen students in schools or at a community event? You can do a major outreach event to collect used eyeglasses to be used in countries where vision resources are limited. Our club reached out to local churches several years ago to put an eyeglass collection box in the entry of the church for one month. We have some of the churches that have adopted this collection project year round. I recently picked up 75 pairs from one of these congregations.

November 14 is World Diabetes Day. What can your club do? Invite a healthcare professional to speak about diabetes at a club meeting. Organize a "Strides Walk: Lions for Diabetes Awareness" event in your community. Maybe commit to identifying and sending a child to Diabetes Camp.

Lions International's website has more information and ideas. Check out www.lionsclub.org. There is a page on vision and one on diabetes and information on the Peace Poster/Peace essay.

Contact me, Diane Hentges GST, at dkhentges0503@gmail.com or 913-708-5323 with any questions or to share information on your successful service projects. Don't forget to report your service projects to Lions Clubs International! Make sure they know how Lions in Kansas serve their communities.

Environmental Project Contest

It is time to begin thinking of that new and exciting environmental project for 2024-25. The winners in the contest last year were Concordia Lions Club and Eudora Lions Club. Congratulations to them. I look forward to having many more participants in the contest this year.

The environmental project contest will be per club:

SUBMIT A 1-2 PAGE DESCRIPTION OR WRITE-UP OF ALL THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS THAT YOUR CLUB DOES FOR YOUR COMMUNITY. HIGHLIGHT ANY NEW EFFORTS. PICTURES OF EACH ARE ENCOURAGED, NOT REQUIRED.

ON YOUR SUBMISSION, INCLUDE THE NAME OF YOUR LIONS CLUB; CITY; PROJECT OR PROJECTS WITH A BRIEF, CONCISE DESCRIPTION OF EACH; NAME OF SUBMITTER WITH CONTACT INFORMATION.

SUBMIT TO ME - LION JOE PORTER, 17-A ENVIRONMENT CHAIR, AT porterc058@gmail.com or Mail to Ron Weaverling, 15101 Josh Street, Basehor, KS 66007 not later than February 22, 2025.

THE TOP TWO SUBMISSIONS WILL BE RECOGNIZED AT THE 17-A DISTRICT CONVENTION MARCH 7-8, 2025. ALL MAY BE DISPLAYED, SPACE ALLOWING. AWARDS OF \$100.00 FOR FIRST PLACE AND \$50.00 FOR SECOND WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE TWO WINNING CLUBS.

SUBMISSIONS MAY ALSO BE DISPLAYED AT THE MD-17 CONVENTION.

I hope your club will participate in the Environmental adventure. Most of the clubs are already doing this without any special recognition. Let me know if you have any further questions.

Joe Porter
District 17A Environmental Chair
PORTERC058@GMAIL.COM



Dr. Beverly Zane Watkins Nichols, 88, Overland Park, Kansas, died at Advent Hospital (Merriam) on August 21, 2024 surrounded by loving family members.

Beverly was born September 2, 1935, in Silver City, New Mexico to James and Effie (Richburg) Watkins. She was preceded in death by her parents, sister Jimmie Jean Watkins Jacks, and grandson Rob Lee Nichols.

She met the love of her life Neal Kenneth Nichols in September 1952. As she often recalled, “It was on the volleyball court of First Baptist Church in Tempe”—a welcoming event at the church for new and returning students at Arizona State College at Tempe (now Arizona State University). They were married on October 15, 1955 in Tempe. Over the next 14 years they adopted four children—two daughters, two sons—and raised all of them from infancy.

Dr. Nichols earned bachelor's and master's degrees in education at ASU (1956, '57; Education Specialist degree at Emporia State University (1974); and Ph.D. at University of Missouri-Kansas City (1982).

Beverly's life-long career as a mathematics teacher and school administrator began in her hometown Morenci, Arizona. She and Neal moved to Overland Park, Kansas in 1969. Beverly taught for 18 years at Shawnee Mission East and Shawnee Mission Northwest High Schools. She retired in 2000 after another 10 years as district mathematics coordinator and director of testing and assessment. After retirement, she was an independent curriculum consultant for 14 years, serving school districts in 22 states.

Beverly was a faithful Christian wife and mother. She was a member of Legacy Christian Church in Overland Park for over 40 years. She served in several areas of ministry, especially among women's groups.

Beverly also was an active Lions Club member. She lived by the organization's motto: “We Serve.” She was a District Governor in 2012-13 and was chairperson of Kansas Lions State Council of Governors in 2013-14.

For her service and devotion to education and Lions Clubs, she received numerous honors and awards. High among these was the 1984 Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching of Mathematics.

She is survived by her husband of almost 69 years, Neal K. Nichols; and children Jeannine (Rob) Ridgway, Fargo, ND; Bruce (Jeanne) Nichols, Parker, CO; Judy Nichols, Sacramento, CA; and Brian (Christine) Nichols, Overland Park; six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

The family suggests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to any of the following:

Show-Me Christian Youth Homes, P. O. Box 6, LaMonte, MO 65337

Love 146, 1800 Camden Road, Suite 107-273, Charlotte, NC 28203

Lions Clubs International Foundation, 300 West 22nd Street, Oak Brook, IL 60523

SEPT.
14TH

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!!
7-9PM

 **America's Got Talent Joseph Hall**

ELVIS

REFLECTIONS OF THE KING
Tribute Show

CONCORDIA, KS.

BROWN GRAND THEATRE

WWW.BROWNGRAND.ORG



CONCORDIA LIONS

LIONS IN THE NEWS



Eric Tweedy, a member of the Eudora Lions Club, has co-founded the Lions of Pride & Purpose. The nonprofit hopes to focus on the needs of LGBTQIA+ people in Kansas.



District 17A Global Extension Team Coordinator Eric Tweedy shows off his Lions Club International badge. Tweedy points to the District 17 pin, which was designed by Tweedy's husband, Eric Strimple.

reprinted from The Lawrence Times August 27, 2024 written by Lane Rozin

When Eric Tweedy saw that Kansas does not have a Lions Club that focuses on LGBTQIA+ people, he knew he had to do something about it. Tweedy co-founded Lions of Pride & Purpose alongside his husband, Eric Strimple. The couple have been members of the Eudora Lions Club for roughly six years.

The two created a Facebook page for the Lions of Pride & Purpose on Aug. 8. The nonprofit is working to form a Lions Club that supports the needs of the LGBTQIA+ community. "We need to serve our LGBTQIA+ community, and as a member of the community, I feel many needs are not being met," District 17A Global Extension Team Coordinator Tweedy said.

A Lions Club is a volunteer service organization that works to improve the health and well-being of its community, according to Lions Club International. There are 49,000 clubs around the world, and Lions can apply for grants through the Lions Club International Foundation.

Lawrence is recognized as its own chapter, known as Lawrence Noon Lions Club. Lions for Pride & Purpose will be a cyber club that plans to focus primarily on LGBTQIA+ needs within Lawrence, Douglas County and Kansas. Virtual meetings are also open to anyone from anywhere. In order to be recognized as a branch, Lions for Pride & Purpose needs five members to join and be sponsored by an existing club to begin hosting meetings. The Eudora Lions Club is on board to sponsor them.

Once there are 20 members, the organization will be recognized as an official Lions club, according to Tweedy. Tweedy said the club will focus on unemployment, homelessness, hunger, drug and alcohol prevention, mental health, along with anything else that may come up in virtual meetings.

"Where there is a need, there is a Lion," Tweedy said.

Tweedy and Strimple began having conversations on starting a LGBTQIA+ focused Lions Club several months ago. Strimple said working on this project with his spouse has been rewarding. "Seeing this Cyber Club happen has been a dream of ours since we both joined Lions and now that we are both in position to spearhead the project, we are ready to see it happen," District 17A Global Membership Team Coordinator Strimple said.

Tweedy hopes Lions of Pride & Purpose can collaborate with other organizations, such as surrounding Lions Clubs and other LGBTQIA+ focused organizations and nonprofits. "There are so many amazing organizations that are already making a ripple," Tweedy said. "I hope they will open their arms to a new Lions Club that wants to better the community. Strength in numbers. We could turn that ripple into a wave."

Those interested in joining the Lions of Pride & Purpose can contact Tweedy through email at erictweedy@icloud.com.

First Cabinet Meeting

Zones 2, 3 and 5 Meeting in Baldwin City



Wear It Wednesday!

on the 3rd Wednesday of each month let's all wear our Lions vests, shirts, hats, pins or whatever you have, all day!

When you are asked "What's that?" be ready to tell them about all the wonderful things that Lions do for others. email your pictures to erictweedy@icloud.com. All pictures will be posted on the Kansas Lions Facebook Group and some will be submitted to the Lions Magazine



BASEHOR LIONS CLUB



Council Chair Diane Hentges receives her Senior Builder Key for sponsoring 15 members



HIAWATHA LIONS CLUB



We are always thankful to all of our teachers. It was an honor to be able to provide the new teachers each a goodie bag. We hope all of the teachers and students have a great year.

LANSING LIONS CLUB



The Lansing Lions Club was recognized by the city of Lansing for their 70 years of dedication to the citizens and city for their civic services



PDG Rick Dodson accepting the PIP Brian Sheehan bobble head from PID Anne Smarsh (left) and PID Jenny Ware (right). The award was given for District 17-A donating over \$100,000 last year.



PID Deb Weaverling (center) awarded the LCIF Chairperson Medal for District 17-A achieving its donation goal last year. Presenting the award was PID Anne Smarsh (left) and PID Jenny Ware (right).





HEALTH SERVICES DAY

SATURDAY, SEPT. 21
9AM - 12PM

EUDORA FIRE STATION
930 MAIN ST.
EUDORA, KS 66025

JOIN US FOR A
MORNING OF HEALTH
SERVICES OFFERED IN
EUDORA!

HOSTED BY ENGAGE DOUGLAS COUNTY: EUDORA FOCUS GROUP

 66th ANNUAL
Salina Downtown Lions Club
PUBLIC BARBECUE
SALINA, KANSAS 

Bulk Meat
1 Ticket per
1/2 Pound

4-H Building • Kenwood Park
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024
Serving Time 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

— Sponsoring 4-H Activities for 99 Years — Charitable donations of \$367,099 since 1980 —
Advance Price: \$10.00 **Door Price: \$12.00**

Ticket courtesy of Consolidated Printing of Salina, KS

Major Sponsor:

Hassman Termite and Pest Control

Secondary Sponsors:

The Bank of the Plains
BE Wealth

COME TO THE PARTY

TOPEKA SUNFLOWER LIONS

 **ANNUAL STEAKS FRY** 

THURSDAY OCTOBER 3, 2024

COST: \$15.00

SOCIAL TIME 6:00 PM DINNER TIME: 6:30PM

WHERE: Shelter House #6, 3521 SE East Edge Rd
Lake Shawnee, Topeka, KS.

 **(8 oz STEAK, BAKED POTATO, AND ALL THE FIXINGS)** 

{Need to Bring Table Service + Steak Knife}
Tea + water provided

RSVP: by September 30, 2023, by calling or text PCC Bobby Duvall 785-608-1311 or
E-Mail: terrybobd@aol.com

EVERONE IS INVITED TO COME TO HAVE GREAT FOOD, GREAT FUN AND GREAT FELLOWSHIP.

send articles and photos for the newsletter to
17ANewsletter@gmail.com