

DISTRICT DIALOGUE - October 2025

Northeast Kansas Lions District 17A

Chart Your Course



We Serve

Save the Dates:

Cabinet Meetings 10 am to 12:30 pm

Nov 1 – Liquid Art Winery
Manhattan (in-person & Zoom)

Feb 7 – Zoom only

Jun 13 – Salvation Army
Worship Center, Olathe

District 17A Convention
April 10 - 11 (NEW DATE)
Manhattan

Multiple District Events
Oct 25 – Fall Rally
Lindsborg, KS

State Convention
May 30- 31, 2026
Hutchinson, KS

Zone Meetings:

Scheduled by the Zone Chairs for the clubs in each zone attended by club presidents & club secretaries. club vice-presidents are welcome

District Officers:

Irene Haws
District Governor

Roger Yost
1st Vice District Governor

Cheryl Kerns
2nd Vice District Governor

Stephanie Heisler
District Secretary
StephanieRHeisler@hotmail.com

Ron Nichols
District Treasurer
coachronnichols@gmail.com

Rick Dodson
District Administrator
dodsonr23@gmail.com



September was a very busy time not only for clubs and communities but also the district leadership.

We started off in late August with Portal Training at the Leawood Library for club officers, zone chairs and district leaders. Thank you to PDG Vania Castro for organizing this.

Several clubs had Labor Day activities in their local communities and I want to give a big shout out to the Community of Chapman. Their Chapman Labor Day Parade is one to remember. Plan to come next year if you are able.

We also had a number of Lions attend the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum. Vice District Governors Roger Yost and Cheryl Kerns both graduated from the Bachelor program of Lions University. This training is free to take at LionsUniversity.org and to walk the stage and receive your certificate you need to attend the Forum. The next Forum is in Memphis, TN, next September. Leadership development is a powerful tool to help our Lions Leaders be the best they can be.

We now start the 2nd quarter of the Lions Year. How are you coming along with your club goals? New members? Service Successes! The people in communities with Lions are very lucky. Many communities and towns are missing a Lions Club. Maybe we can do something to help. Our Extension Team Chair is Eric Tweety and our Membership Team Chair is Eric Strimple, please reach out to them if you have questions or want ideas on how to grow your club or charter a club in a neighboring community. (See page 2)

October was the first time Lions focused on Mental Health & Well Being. What did your club do? Share your stories on Facebook. Please remember to report service on the Portal. **Reminder - Bring items for the Band Auction this Weekend at the Fall Rally!**

DG Irene Haws

The MD17 Kansas Lions Directory is online,

Visit KansasLions.org. This is password protected. Your Zone Chair has the password. Any changes to club meeting dates/times/locations will be updated on the digital version of the Directory when emailed to kansaslions@gmail.com - Be sure to update club details in the Edit Club Details section on the Lions Portal too!

*Email news articles and upcoming events to 17Anews@gmail.com
Deadline is the first of the month for publication at mid-month.
View the District Website here: <https://kslionsdistrict17A.org>*





Roger Yost 1st Vice-District Governor

We and Me

Some of you may have read or at least seen articles on this subject before. It has caught my attention because it relates to us as Lions. **We** do service, **we** work on committees, and **we** love what we do! The **me** relates to how much I put into my membership, my participation, my willingness to accept new ideas. The more we-s we have the better our service will be.

Committees are comprised of me-s that become we-s. One person, me, shouldn't be relied upon to complete a service project they usually are short lived or fail from the start. Small clubs may not have enough we-s to make up a special committee so the entire club is responsible the only me might be the chairperson of the project or service.

By partnering with other Lions clubs our service will be seemly more and appreciated. Work with other organizations to help bring a large audience. Not only can we partner with Lions, we can partner with other groups, youth at church, scout groups, retirement facilities, schools, don't be afraid to think outside the box!

Helping other groups with their projects is still service.

Remember, We Serve.

You are never to old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.

~Unknown

Roger Yost 1st VDG 17A
Yostfarms@hotmail.com
620-397-3108 (leave msg I will return the call)

Lead to Serve. Serve to Lead.



District 17A Global Action Team

Vania Castro
Global Leadership Team Coordinator
drvaniacastro@gmail.com

Rick Dodson
Global Service Team Coordinator
dodsonr23@gmail.com

Eric Strimple
Global Membership Team Coordinator
estrimp81@msn.com

Eric Tweedy
Global Extention Team Coordinator
erictweedy@icloud.com

The GAT is a vast network of dedicated Lions — at all levels — who are focused on helping districts achieve their MISSION 1.5 targets.

This important team is positioned to help foster club membership growth, build strong, innovative leaders and increase Lions' visibility in the community through impactful service.

GAT leaders play a larger part in ensuring districts are held accountable in reaching MISSION 1.5 targets.

By leading by example and providing the guidance necessary to navigate challenges and celebrate success, only then can Lions be successful.

Source: <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/resources-for-members/resource-center/global-action-team>



Cheryl Kerns
2nd Vice-District Governor

My last three club visits in August were to the Topeka Sunflower, Valley Falls, and University of Kansas Eye Center Lions Clubs. Topeka Sunflower has just put in their 9th bench with the TREX project! Very active and engaged club...Bobby Duvall will gladly sell you a chance on a pig to support the Lions Band Foundation! Valley Falls Lions are making a difference in their community. They recently helped to establish an Arts Council. KU Eye Center donates two surgeries each month. Seeking ways to engage new members and also fundraise. All three clubs donated to KLF and LCIF!

In September, I met with nine more clubs! Overland Park Host Lions have set a goal to double their membership! I'm excited for them! Overland Park supports all of the foundations annually. Their Fall Festival fundraiser is September 27th. Lancaster Lions are seeking opportunities to help in their community and ways to gain members. They are planning to meet with the city board for both objectives.

Gardner Lions gave away \$7000 in scholarships last year! Currently working on more fundraisers to repeat this for 2025. Contact them to get your \$10 chance on a beef bundle (worth over \$350). Lenexa Lions are gearing up for their many vision screenings and fall activities—both service and fundraising. Had the pleasure of inducting a new member when visiting the Leawood Lions Club. Leawood Lions have two big fundraisers in October...selling turkey legs at the Renaissance Festival and their annual pancake feed on October 17th and 18th (7a – 2p)...come support their efforts! Gardner, Lenexa, and Leawood clubs donated to KLF and LCIF.

Robinson Lions Cub promised to do better about using the portal! They are choosing the script for their spring fundraiser..you won't want to miss it...first and second weekend in March. Baldwin City Lions had two new lions turn in their paperwork at their meeting! They give scholarships, help the local food pantry and clean up the highway. They are starting the TREX challenge! Sabetha Lions are sponsoring a new club branch...hoping to spin off to a new club soon! They sent two students to band camp and provided funding for a community member to have cataract surgery. Effingham Lions work to feed approximately 400 children in their area! In their spare time they clean up the highway, host a gun show, and have their annual pancake feed (weekend after Easter). All of these clubs jumped on the KLF/LCIF donation wagon!

I had the pleasure of attending the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum. This was my 8th forum...I am never disappointed! I'll share more details next month. Mark your calendars to next year's forum in September 2026 in Memphis! Thank you, again, for sharing your stories and your purpose.

Reminder to mark your calendars for the Fall Rally (replacing Mid-Winter Rally) in Lindsborg Kansas October 24-25. Learning, walking, dancing, eating, and great fellowship...you won't want to miss it! The next District Cabinet meeting is on Saturday, November 1st in Manhattan...club presidents, club secretaries, and ALL members are encouraged to attend. Come share ideas and enjoy Lions fellowship.

Chery Kerns, 2nd Vice-District Governor



USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum in Atlantic City, NJ

PCC Beverly Nichols
Reading Action Program
has a new Chairperson

A 50/50 cost share Reading
Action Program.

If your club purchases \$100.00 worth of books, the District will purchase \$100.00 worth of books for your club (or any dollar amount). That doubles the number of books for your club to provide. The books are through the Scholastic Book Program.

Former Committee Chair, IPDG Margy and Mike Sundstrom are buying a home in Illinois and will be moving in the near future.

The New Chair for the Reading Action Program is:
Bonnie Orzechowski (Michael)
Overland Park Host Lions Club
14107 W 139th Terrace, Olathe, KS 66062
Ph: 913-850-8873 Email: bcoorzo@gmail.com



Lead to Serve. Serve to Lead.

Zone Chairs are the field leaders for Clubs in our district. They serve club leaders by communicating information about services and support from the district and multiple district (State) to clubs. Zone Chairs also let the District Governor know of any needs where the District can provide support or serve as a resource. (Training, Guiding Lions, Answers and help with service reporting).

Zone Chairpersons are charged with visiting clubs in their zone and scheduling a zone meeting with their clubs following the District Cabinet meetings. Clubs gain valuable information and share ideas with other club presidents, secretaries, vice presidents and their Lions members. Often these club stories of services performed and fundraising projects are the most impactful benefit of attending the Zone Meetings. Plus stay up to date on important dates, news about band camp, peace poster contest, learning opportunities and leadership development. Plus enjoy getting to know fellow leaders.

Zone meeting are typically hosted by a club in the zone (an opportunity to provide food that can be a fundraiser for the club). Meetings of the Clubs in the Zone can be hosted by a local club or held in public meeting place as space allows or restaurant.

When a zone chair seeks to visit your club please make them feel welcome as they are essential to the governor team. Learning the needs that communities have that Lions can address. Examples: District and Club Community Impact Grant, District or multiple district membership incentive programs, and use of the Spot Screeners or other resources shared by clubs in the District, or how to accept donations using the 501 c,3 status of the Kansas Lions Foundation.

New Zone Chairs: Please welcome Daniel Martinez for Zone 4 and Caroline Arter for Zone 2. A special thank you to the service provided by the Zone Chairs in District 17A - Thank You!

**District Governor,
Irene Haws**

2025-2026 Special Service Weeks

Service Focus Weeks, designed to amplify Lions International's global impact by uniting efforts around specific causes.

Coming up . . .

HUNGER: January 3-11, 2026
ENVIRONMENT: April 18-26, 2026
(Aligns with Earth Day on April 22)

Current Zone Chairs

Zone 1 - Sunshine Letsinger, Robinson Lions Club,
Ph: 209-988-3093 sunletz@gmail.com
Clubs: Effingham, Everest, Highland, Hiawatha, Horton, Lancaster, Robinson, Troy, Sabetha

Zone 2 - Caroline Arter, Leavenworth Lions Club
Ph: 515-554-1453 caroline.arter23@gmail.com
Clubs: Atchison, Basehor, Easton, KC Downtown, Lansing, Leavenworth, Oskaloosa, Tonganoxie

Zone 3 - Robert Jones, Overland Park Host Club
Ph: 940-390-3644 talk2robertj@gmail.com
Clubs: Leawood, Lenexa, Louisburg, Miami County Traveling, Overland Park Host, Shawnee, University of KS Eye Center

Zone 4 - Daniel Martinez, Topeka Sunflower Lions Club
Ph: 785-491-8555 danielkane05@yahoo.com
Clubs: Auburn, Lawrence, Silver Lake, Topeka, Topeka Sunflower, Valley Falls

Zone 5 - Erik Bailey, Baldwin City Lions Club
Ph: 785-615-1801, ebailey@usd348.com
Clubs: Baldwin City, Eudora, Gardner, Linwood, Olathe Noon, Olathe

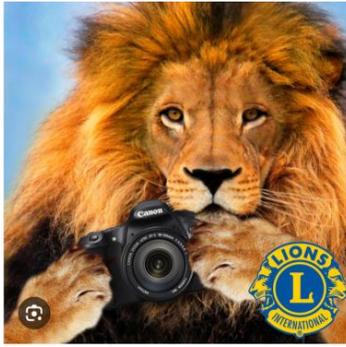
Zone 6 - PDG Richard Webster, Keats Lions Club
Ph: 325-669-0406 spechter16@gmail.com
Clubs: Keats, Leonardville, Manhattan, Manhattan Sunflower, Onaga, Randolph

Zone 7 - Bart Hettenbach, Woodbine Lions Club
Ph: 785-479-1261 bannerfence@gmail.com
Clubs: Abilene, Chapman, Hope, Navarre, Solomon, Wakefield, Woodbine

Zone 8 - Daryl McFarland, Assaria Lions Club
Ph: 785-577-2863; darmcf79@gmail.com
Clubs: Assaria, Bennington, Gypsum, Minneapolis, Minneapolis Evening, Salina Downtown, Tescott

Zone 9 - Camey Thurner, Concordia Lions Club
Ph: 785-614-0148; thurnerc@hotmail.com
Clubs: Clay Center, Concordia, Delphos, Longford, Miltonvale, Morganville

Zone 10 - Fred Arnold, Belleville Lions Club
Ph: 402-300-0360; fred@mcbattascompanies.com
Clubs: Barnes, Belleville, Marysville, Scandia, Washington, Waterville



MD-17 KANSAS LION OR LEO 2025-2026 ENVIRONMENTAL PHOTO CONTEST ENTRY FORM

LION/LEO NAME: _____

CLUB: _____

EMAIL: _____

DISTRICT: _____

PLEASE SPECIFY PHOTO CATEGORY:

____ ANIMAL LIFE _____ PLANT LIFE _____ WEATHER PHENOMENON

____ URBAN OR NATURAL LANDSCAPE (No people can be shown in picture)

____ ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE PROJECT (People/Lions/Leos can be in photo)

1. All photos must be taken in Kansas and be your original work, i.e. taken by you.
2. Please submit this form with each category entry.
3. All submitted contest photos become the property of Kansas Lions.
4. MD 17 Kansas Lions reserve the right to disqualify entries that do not meet the contest criteria or that may be considered inappropriate.



District Peace Poster Contest

Ship winning club peace posters to the District Governor to arrive by Nov. 15. District Judging will take place and the winning entry will be forwarded to the Multiple District. District Contest Winners: 1st, 2nd and 3rd place will be awarded cash prizes and recognized at the District Convention.

DG Irene Haws, 1740 SW Amhurst Road, Topeka KS 66604
Questions: Call Irene Haws, 785-249-1913 or irene@idesigngs.com

2nd Cabinet Meeting Service Project

Collections for the Bread Basket Food Pantry in Manhattan, KS

They Need:
Canned meat
Canned fruit
Canned Soup
5-lb size flour and sugar

For personal hygiene items:
They need shampoo, body wash, and shaving crème

**Nov. 1 District Cabinet meeting at Liquid Art Winery
1745 Wildcat Creek Rd, Manhattan, KS 66503**

Meeting will be in-person and on Zoom from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm
District officers, Zone Chairs, GAT Team & Committee Chairs. Interested Lions welcome!
Lunch after the meeting will feature Craft Pizza and Charcuterie Board Buffet - Cost \$12.00
Bring Cash or Check payable to District 17A Lions/Venmo available
Make reservations in advance by contacting or responding to the District Secretary
StephanieRHeisler@hotmail.com

17A Environmental Report

We are collecting used cell phones to be put to use in serving others in need. Encourage members of your communities to put them in the eyeglasses recycling boxes, collect them and give them to your Zone Chair or bring them to the next District Cabinet meeting.

The Environmental Photo Contest for 2025 2026 is underway. Take those photos of our beautiful plants, animals, weather phenomenon, landscape or cityscape for submission.

Keep doing your local environmental projects and take photos of Lions serving while doing those projects.

PDG Terry Weldin
17A - Environmental Chair



Rita Johnson and Rick Johnson at the Assaria Lions Club Community Garden

District 17A

A BIG HELLO TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!



Tori Tipton, Eudora
Sponsor: Eric Strimple

Joe Buis, Leavenworth
Sponsor: Staci Vega

Curt Gilfert, Leavenworth
Sponsor: Darrin Depriest

Scotty Roberts, Leavenworth
Sponsor: Todd Mefford

Nolan Stefka, Minneapolis Evening
Sponsor: Robert Thompson

Douglas Rees, Tescott
Sponsor: Ralph Meyer

Dennis Thompson, Tescott
Sponsor: Ralph Meyer

••• August 2025 •••



**3 Clubs Achieve
Club Excellence for
2024-2025**

**The following clubs have
earned the club
excellence award**

**Delphos Lions Club
Lansing Lions Club
Topeka Lions Club**



DISTRICT GOVERNOR IRENE HAWS WITH PAST INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT PATTI HILL - STRIDES WALK AT THE USA/CANADA LIONS LEADERSHIP FORUM



FIRST VICE-DISTRICT GOVERNOR ROGER YOST BACHELOR PROGRAM GRADUATE LIONS UNIVERSITY GRADUATION



SECOND VICE-DISTRICT GOVERNOR CHERYL KERNS, BACHELOR PROGRAM GRADUATE LIONS UNIVERSITY



**WE CAN ALL BE
SERVANT HEROS
IN LIONS**



1VDG ROGER YOST, TERRI YOST, DG IRENE HAWS, 2VDG FROM DISTRICT 17N BARB SCHATTAK & GARY SCHATAK AT THE TOPEKA SUNFLOWER LIONS STEAK FRY



Kansas Lions Band Foundation

**LIONS ARE ENCOURAGED TO BRING OR SEND
ITEMS FOR THE BAND AUCTION**

**BASKETS, HAND MADE ITEMS, AND NEW OR GENTLY USED ITEMS
For the Kansas Lion Band Foundation Auction
KANSAS FALL RALLY October 24th and 25th.**




CHAPMAN LIONS ENTRY IN THE CHAPMAN LABOR DAY PARADE



WELCOME VIRGINIA CLAR KNEWLY INDUCTED MEMBER OF THE JACKSON COUNTY BRANCH OF THE SABETHA LIONS CLUB. WITH BRANCH PRESIDENT TERRY WELDIN



MAYETTA DAYS CELEBRATION, PDG TERRY WELDIN WITH PRAIRIE BAND POTAWATOMI KING TOM WABNUM



BASHOR LIONS CLUB VISIT WITH DG IRENE HAWS