

## Chart Your Course



### Save the Dates:

4TH DIST. CABINET MEETING  
Jun 13 – Salvation Army  
Worship Center, Olathe

**District 17A Convention**  
April 10 - 11  
DoubleTree Inn & Suites  
Manhattan, KS

**Certified Guiding Lions Training**  
April 10 & 11 at the from 3-5 pm  
District Convention

**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



### Governor's Message

I am excited to share our mid-morning speaker at the District Convention will be John Cook with the Riley County Extension Office, and master Gardener. His home was featured in the Riley Garden Home Tour in 2025. He will

have some excellent information on gardening with native plants to help support pollinators in Northeast Kansas.

Please join me in celebrating an amazing year for Lions in Northeast Kansas by attending the District Convention at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Manhattan. Book your hotel by the 27th of March before the discount rate expires.

Plan to join us Saturday Night for the Awards Banquet featuring our Keynote Speaker Past International Director Bruce Beck and his wife Erin Beck from Minnesota. Also, Certified Guiding Lions Training is available April 10 and 11 from 3 - 5 pm (no additional cost for training but you need to register so we have enough workbooks). Tickets for a 2027 Vacation in Branson, are available to purchase online at [www.kslionsdistrict17a.org](http://www.kslionsdistrict17a.org) also see the flyer in this newsletter. Winner gets to pick the dates for 4 day/3 night vacation lodging at Stormy Point Village.

### The District Wide River Clean up registration is open:

**Saturday, April 18, 2026 – 9 am to 11 am, 12th Annual Kansas Riverbank Cleanup in Lawrence, 2nd and Locust Street.** Celebrate Earth Day on the banks of the Kansas River! Learn more and **RSVP at** [www.bit.ly/2026LawrenceCleanup](http://www.bit.ly/2026LawrenceCleanup). (Lion Eric Tweedy, coordinator, [erictweedy@icloud.com](mailto:erictweedy@icloud.com))

**Saturday, April 25, 2026 – 9 am to 1 pm, 3rd Annual Little Apple Cleanup in Manhattan.** Join us to cleanup trash and litter along the Big Blue River Boat Ramp in Manhattan. Learn more and **RSVP at** [www.bit.ly/LittleAppleCleanup2026](http://www.bit.ly/LittleAppleCleanup2026). (Lion Irene Haws, coordinator, [irene@idesignGS.com](mailto:irene@idesignGS.com))  
Learn more about the River at [KansasRiverkeeper.org](http://KansasRiverkeeper.org).

*DG Irene Haws*  
[irene@idesignGS.com](mailto:irene@idesignGS.com)

**Learn About LionsUSA at the District Convention!**



Growing Lions in the USA - Join a Lions club near you  
<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/start-our-approach/club-locator>





## 1st Vice-District Gover-

Hello from the warm days of March. Having just received our winter issue of the Lions magazine one headline caught my eye. The science of service. Volunteering is good for the body and mind by Jenny Maxse. It's a good read with many different topics this month to think about.

Lions State Band applications are due **March 15, 2026**, no student is turned away. Late applications may be considered depending on availability of the facilities. The camp is **May 26-30, 2026**.

**April 18-26** is the next week of service to support the environment. We have a river cleanup scheduled. March is also a month for clubs to increase their membership by 2! Yes, it is possible.

Let's spring into action and get our service boots on. I know it can be done, do what we joined the worlds largest service organization to do. Remember, we Serve.

**Roger Yost 1st VDG 17A**  
**Yostfarms@hotmail.com**  
Roger Yost  
1st VDG 17A



### **Lions International Peace Poster Contest** **2026-2027 Contest Materials are available now.**

For nearly four decades, the Lions International Peace Poster Contest has given children ages 11-13 the opportunity to share what peace means to them through art. Each year, Lions clubs around the world sponsor the contest in schools and organized youth groups, giving young people the opportunity to be recognized at local and international levels — and awarded a grand prize of US \$5,000 — for their creativity in sharing their vision of the current year's theme. **2026-2027 Theme: Harmony in Humanity**



### **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

### **Kansas Lions Directory is online**

The Kansas Lions Directory is online - visit [KansasLions.org](https://www.kansaslions.org). This is password protected. Your President/Secretary & Zone Chair have the password (listed in the hardcopy directory). Any changes to club meeting dates/times/locations can be updated on the digital version of the Directory when emailed to [kansaslions@gmail.com](mailto:kansaslions@gmail.com)

Be sure to update club details in the *Edit Club Details* section on the Lions Portal too! Thank you for keeping your club details current.

**District Dialogue Publication Details:** *Email news articles and upcoming events to [17Anews@gmail.com](mailto:17Anews@gmail.com)*

Deadline is the first of the month for publication at mid-month.

Visit and Join the District 17A Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/kansaslionsdistrict17a> Share your club's posts to this group too! District Website: <https://kslionsdistrict17a.org> (past issues of the District Dialogue are saved here).



## 2nd Vice-District Governor

Spring is in the air! Spring is my favorite season...I love the sense of rebirth and new beginnings! I love the smell of flowers and a sense of hope that comes with spring. New members can bring that to our clubs...new ideas, new energy, more service!

Two lessons learned last month

First lesson: While I was visiting Arizona, I had planned to visit a local Lions Club. It is always great to see how another club operates. It is truly "your club, your way", but what a blessing to see other ideas. When is the last time you visited another club? Maybe it would give you ideas for new/different projects. Maybe it just reinforces that you prefer your club's style. Neither outcome is wrong and you still benefit from the fellowship with other lions!

Second lesson: When was the last time you updated your meeting information (location, day of the week, week of the month, time of the meeting)? After all my good intentions in Arizona, I went to the location/time/day listed in the Lions portal and I was the only lion there! It was very frustrating. Who is trying to find you/your club?

Reminder: Our District Convention will be held in Manhattan, April 10-11. Have you sent in your reservation? Mark your calendars...invite another member to go with you...invite a prospective member as well!

*Cheryl Kerns*  
*2nd Vice-District Governor*

## Lions Health Program

Diabetes Camp Scholarship SCAM

I had a Diabetes Camp Scholarship SCAM happen to me yesterday, here is what happened. I had a Lions Club email me using my email address saying "Thanks for the Diabetes Camp Scholarship my club will pay the rest for this family. Just tell us where to send the check"

Club President Before I had time to respond. This email was sent: it was in blue just like the sample

*To: The club's email*

*From: My email*

*Thanks for paying the rest of the Diabetes Camp Scholarship. Please send the check to:  
an address (that does not exist)*

*PO Box (that was fake)*

*Topeka, Kansas 66601*

*Vern*



This was a fake email sent using correct email addresses for both TO and FROM but the company name and address did not exist.

So be careful where you send your Diabetes Camp money. The best thing to do is contact me by phone to let me know what your intentions are and I will ok the transaction. I am not publishing my phone number or email address as all of you know how to find them.

District 17-A Lions Health Program  
Lion Vern Failor

## Nominations and Elections

The current roster of candidates running for office in the Elections for MD 17A, April 11th, are as follows:

### **Director Kansas Lions Foundation – Vote for one Candidate**

Open (nominations accepted from the floor at convention)

### **Director Kansas Lions Sight Foundation – Vote for two Candidates**

Deb Weaverling and Spencer Smith

### **Directory Kansas Lions Band Foundation – Vote for two Candidates**

Daniel Martinez and Roger Yost

### **2nd Vice District Governor – Vote for one Candidate**

Open (nominations accepted from the floor at convention)

### **1st Vice-District Governor – Vote for one Candidate**

Cheryl Kerns

### **District Governor – Vote for one Candidate**

Roger Yost

*Pursuant to By-Laws Article XI—Amendments, Sections 1 and 2—Amending Procedure and Notice, the District Constitution and By-Laws (C&BL) Committee will submit the following Resolution to the 2026 District Convention to be held in Manhattan, Kansas on April 11, 2026:*

### **Proposed Amendment – Vote Yes or No**

Be it Resolved that Article IV—District Committees, Section 12—District Cabinet Committees, Paragraph B be amended by adding Beverly Nichols Reading Action and placing it between “ALERT” and “Campus Clubs Extension” in the list of committees.

#### **EXPLANATION**

*Paragraph A of Article IV, Section 12 gives the District Governor authority to appoint committees and name their chairpersons.*

*Paragraph B of said Section reads, in part: District Cabinet Committees may include but are not limited to . . . This is followed by over 20 named committees, none of which is Reading Action. Committees are listed in alphabetical order in Paragraph B. The word “Committee” following the name, although not included, is assumed.*

*In January, 2025, under the provision of Paragraph A, then-District Governor Margy Sundstrom appointed a Reading Action Program Committee. She asked the District Cabinet to approve renaming it to “Beverly Nichols Reading Action Program.” To provide consistency of format, the C&BL Committee recommends dropping “Program” from the committee name, leaving the name Beverly Nichols Reading Action, with “Committee” assumed to follow, as with all other committees in the list.*

**LCIF News!**  
**Congratulations Lions of District 17A!!**

I have exciting news to share with you. As of February, 2026 our amazing Lions of our District has once again “gone over and above” the call of excellence. We are at 166.08% over our goal set by LCIF this Lion’s year. The goal for our District was \$46,430 and a stretch goal of \$72,000 was lofty but we did it. Congratulations, \$77,115! Your generous donations, small or large, are greatly, superbly appreciated. PCC Bobby Duvall, District LCIF Coordinator and I want to thank you for amazing generosity. Your donations will help those in need of help all over the world.

I hope you are attending DG Irene’s convention on April 11th in Manhattan. We are planning an exciting contest, and you decide who the winner (s) are by your vote. It’s going to be FUN! Have you kissed a FISH? Well, this contest is so much better than that.

See you in Manhattan KS

Deb Weaverling  
District LCIF Coordinator



**Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute - Baldwin City  
(GPLLI) is July 17-19, 2026**

**Faculty Development Institute - Baldwin City  
July 16-19, 2026**

General information and application forms can be downloaded from  
<https://kansaslions.org/gplli-and-fdi>

**APPLICATION & PAYMENT DEADLINE:** June 1, 2026.

*A limited number of \$200 Scholarship Reimbursements are available from the District based on first to request. Reimbursement for after completing the course and submitting a copy of your certificate. Contact District Leadership Development Team Secretary, Rick Dodson. [dodsonr23@gmail.com](mailto:dodsonr23@gmail.com)*



*Take me to the River*

**Distict Wide Environmental Project**

**Serving 800,000 people who get their drinking water  
from the Kansas River**

*Save the Dates*

April 18 in Lawrence, 9 am (Eric Tweedy Coordinator)  
& April 25 in Manhattan, 9 am (Irene Haws Coordinator)

**We would like to see many clubs represented at one or both.  
A group photo will be taken at each event date.**

**SEE DETAILS TO REGISTER IN THE GOVERNOR’S MESSAGE PAGE 1**

# DISTRICT 17A MEMBERSHIP GROWTH CHALLENGE!

GROW YOUR CLUB  
BY **10%**  
BY JUNE 30, 2026!

GET **\$35**  
NEW MEMBER FEE  
REIMBURSED!

JOIN JAN 15 - MARCH 30, 2026!  
CONTACT DISTRICT TREASURER RON NICHOLS!



## Global Service Team Coordinator

Reminder that the week of April is the International week of service focusing on the Environment. All of you are encouraged during that time (or a week on either side of the period) to do something in your community to enhance your environment. A project may involve environment cleanup & restoration, tree planting & tree care, recycling & waste management, clean water & sanitation, environment advocacy and education, or anything else you can think of. It's a little late in the year, but you can talk to your local extension agent on how to plant a pollinator garden.

## Lions International Environment Week of Service coincides with Earth Day, April 22nd

In addition to or instead of a local project, Lions can participate in the district-wide Kaw River cleanup dates on April 18 in Lawrence and/or April 25 in Manhattan, Kansas. DG Irene will provide more information on the meetup locations for the river cleanup, but each one begins at 9 o'clock and will go until about noon. Please consider joining your fellow Lions from throughout the district at one of these events.

## Status of our service efforts

**As of March 16th, 48 clubs (70%) have inputted service projects in the Lion Portal. 478 activities. 105,100 people served. 9, 86 volunteer hours reported.**

Take pictures of your service project and post them on your Facebook page. Send info to Lion Eric Strimple to post on the District Facebook page.

## Plan your service. Promote your service. Celebrate your service.

Rick Dodson  
District 17-A GST Coordinator  
(913) 240-5302  
dodsonr23@gmail.com

## Jackson County Lions Club Charter Night Celebration!

### SOCIAL & COMMUNITY NEWS

FEB. 25, 2026

2A



Members of the Jackson County Lions Club held their Charter Night celebration last Saturday at the Jackson County Senior Center in Holton. The club currently has 23 members. Those who attended the celebration are shown above and include (front row, from left) Rhett Murphy, Janet Trainor, Bill Brown, Deb Brown, Wanda Weldin, Becca Johnson, Virginia Clark, June Dewey, Louise Wall, (back row, from left) Gregg Moser, Terry Weldin, Virgil Wilhelm, Jerry Brownlee and Jonathan Goering. Not pictured are Crystal McQueen, Dan Williamson, Josh Hilewitz, Stacy Looney, Jayme Malsom, Jim Howard, Gwyn Hinman, Rob Wilson and Marcy Weldin.

Members have already been demonstrating the Lions International motto "We Serve" by offering free vision screenings throughout the county. Club members also recycle soft plastic films as a service project. Charter memberships are still being accepted until the end of March. For more information, call President Terry Weldin at 620-490-1461.

*Submitted photo*

# Jackson County Lions Club to receive charter

By Brian Sanders

In the summer of 2024, Holton resident Terry Weldin announced the formation of a new Lions Club that would serve Jackson County, six years after the Holton Lions Club disbanded, the new club getting some assistance from Lions in Sabetha.

On Saturday, Feb. 21, the new Jackson County Lions Club will be chartered as a stand-alone entity at a special ceremony to be held at the Jackson County Senior Center, and anyone who would like to be a part of the special event is encouraged to contact Weldin and make a reservation by this Friday, Feb. 13.

"We don't want to come up short of food," said Weldin, who noted that a dinner will be served as part of the Feb. 21 chartering ceremony.

It's the culmination of a group effort to get a new Lions Club started to serve all of Jackson County after members of Holton's club announced in



the spring of 2018 that the club would disband later that year after 80 years of existence due to a decline in membership.

"This is not the first Lions Club I've chartered," said Weldin, who helped establish a club in his former hometown of Burlington back in 1995 and who noted that the new Jackson County club plans to expand its services to the county beyond free vision screenings for children and recycling of "soft plastic" items.

Continued to Page 14



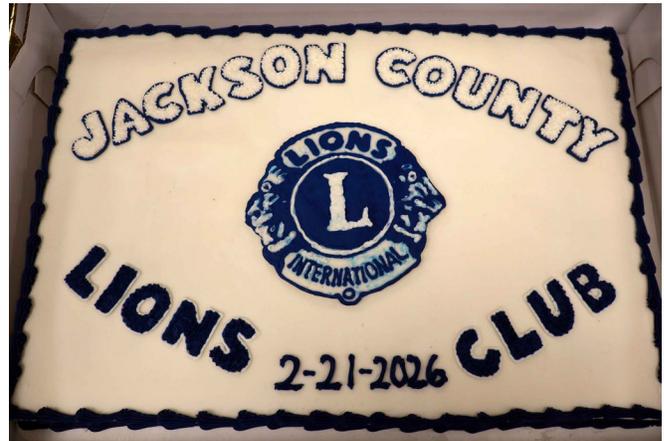
Jackson County Lion Bill Brown and PID Bill Phillipi of Marysville Lions Club

Article continue on the next page of this Newsletter.



Lion Terri Yost and Council Chair Shari Neidhart at Jackson County Lions Charter Night!

Below: PID Gene Vogel and Jackson County Lion Jonathan Goering and Patricia Hodison



Photos from Charter Night



Jackson County Lions: Bill Brown and Deb Brown

# ■ Lions Club...

Continued from Page 1

The new Jackson County Lions Club was first announced in September of 2024 as a branch of the Sabetha Lions Club, with members of the Sabetha club joining efforts with former Holton Lions to form the new club. At present, Weldin said there are 22 members of the Jackson County club, and monthly club meetings are being conducted online.

"The Jackson County club is now separate from the Sabetha club, and we thank them for supporting this effort to grow a complete Lions Club in Jackson County," Weldin said. "We did joint projects with the Sabetha club by doing free Lions vision screenings in Nemaha County, as well as other Sabetha club activities."

Jackson County's club went from being a branch of the Sabetha club to becoming its own club at the recommendation of Topeka-based District Governor Irene Haws.

"She was very important in helping us complete the conversion from the branch club to the full club," Weldin said of Haws. "We could not have done it without District Gov-

ernor Irene... She knows what she's doing."

In addition to continuing free vision screenings and "soft plastic" recycling, Weldin said the club wants to work closer with the county's three school districts, with one particular project involving getting high school musicians to participate in the annual Kansas Lions State Band Camp.

"We have sent one student from Holton already, but that's something we aspire to do with all the schools," he said. "We're hoping to get more than just a few from each school to go. It would be a good start to get one student from each school."

For younger students, ages 11 through 13, the club is also sponsoring participation in the Lions Club International Peace Poster Contest, which Weldin said had also been a project of the Holton Lions Club.

"They weren't doing it at a county-wide level," he said. "So we've reached out to Holton Middle School, and we'll be reaching out to Jackson Heights and Royal Valley as well to see if they'd be in-

terested in participating."

To make reservations for the Feb. 21 chartering ceremony, or for more information on the Jackson County Lions Club and its activities, call Weldin at (620) 490-1461.



**District 17A  
Newest Lions Club  
Jackson County  
Lions Cyber Club  
Holton, KS**



Holton High Jazz Ensemble members and DG Irene Haws



PID Hans Neidhardt and 1st VDG Rogert Roger Yost



Jackson County Lion Jerry Brownlee and Libby Brownlee



Sabetha Club members Lion Shawn Weldin and Nick Aberle with PID Deb Weaving



PDG Al Kimmi of Everest Lions Club, Lion Spencer Smith of Topeka Lions Club and PID Gene Vogel of Lawrence Lions Club



Holton High School Jazz Band - 21 Feb 26 - Lions Club Charter

# 2026 Kansas Lions Band Camp

*Hutchinson Community College*

*May 26 – 30, 2026*

## **Band Directors, Lions Members, and Students,**

We are so very excited to share information regarding this upcoming camp, which will be hosted at Hutchinson Community College, in Hutchinson, Kansas! Professor Eric Stambaugh and his musical staff are elated to share in a musically rewarding camp for each and all. During the week, the students will participate in sectionals, chamber ensembles, and a very well staffed concert band! This camp proudly showcases the efforts of musicians across the state, from a myriad of schools, and playing abilities.

There is a place for everyone at our camp and we focus on cultivating a positive environment where students will cultivate meaningful friendships through music. Every attending student will audition for concert chair placement, and those seeking participation in the jazz band will audition separately for an invitation into the ensemble.

Families, community members, and statewide Lions Members are encouraged to attend two performances. The Friday evening will feature performances by each section, followed by the famed KS Lions Jazz Band! Saturday's performance will feature the entire KS Lions Band Camp in a concert setting! In previous years, this performance has exceeded more than 185 student musicians. This will no doubt be a performance to remember!

As always, our students that participated in previous years are our best advertisement to get fellow classmates interested in participating next summer. Should you have these students in your band, please ask them to share their experiences with the class! Your help is absolutely imperative to our success. Interested students should contact their local Lions Club to help cover the financial cost.

The Kansas Lions Band Camp is the most cost effective camp across our state! \$300 covers the entire camp experience, but for students seeking financial assistance, your local Lions Club is a phenomenal starting place. In many situations, these gracious clubs are often willing to help cover/offset the camp fees. This is a conversation between the applicant and the local lions club. In recent years, 92% of the students that participated this year were sponsored financially by various Kansas Lions Clubs or Lions members.

Be sure to reach out to your local lions club personally to discuss the possibility of a sponsorship. If you are in need of a local lions club, please utilize this website to find a club near you! <https://www.kansaslions.club/>

We are consistently working on updates, so stay tuned and visit our website for the necessary applications and other documentation. <https://kansaslions.org/kansas-lions-band/>! (QR Code found below)

Every student that applies within the application window (Jan. 15th thru March 15th) is accepted, regardless of their years of experience or playing ability. (Late applications will be considered based on availability of facilities.) I am happy to help as necessary so if you have any questions, please reach out to me at [gwhismanklb@gmail.com](mailto:gwhismanklb@gmail.com).

Respectfully,

*Galen Whisman*

Kansas Lions Band Foundation - Chair  
Shawnee Mission North - Band Director  
[gwhismanklb@gmail.com](mailto:gwhismanklb@gmail.com)

(785) 737-3183



# Chart Your Course



## Call for Convention

DISTRICT 17A

APRIL 10-11, 2026

Manhattan KS, Double Tree by Hilton



Join Lions from around Kansas as we welcome **Past International Director Bruce Beck and his wife Lion Erin Beck** to the District 17A Convention! This convention will be a fun time to connect with your friends, meet new Lions, and even learn how to use a Spot Screener and become a Certified Guiding Lion led by **Past International Director Bob Block**.

**Conventions mean elections!** We'll elect our District Leadership Team and Board members for the Kansas Lions Foundation, Kansas Lions Sight Foundation and the Kansas Lions Band Foundation. Club delegates, be ready to cast your vote representing your club.

The fun starts with a Friday night social, after dinner on your own, join us at the Hotel for light snacks, some fun games and a little music. Saturday events feature a presentation on LIONS USA, Peace Poster Winners, educational information, Lion's Portal Help session, vision screener demos, raffles and an awards and recognition banquet on Saturday Night (non-formal).

Friday –	April 10th	DoubleTree by Hilton Convention Center, Manhattan KS
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM	<i>Certified Guiding Lions Training</i>	<i>Regency B (Pre-registered only)</i>
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM	Social: light refreshments, fun and musical entertainment	Regency A
Saturday –	April 11th	DoubleTree by Hilton Convention Center, Manhattan KS
8:00 AM – 8:45 AM	Registration and Delegate check- in	Convention lobby area
8:00 AM – 11:15 AM and 1:30 PM – 4 PM	Hospitality Room <u>open</u>	Conference Room V
9:00 AM – 4 pm	Silent Auction Baskets	Regency A
9:00 AM – 4 pm	Table Top Displays	Convention Lobby area
9:00 AM – 9:40 AM	Welcome Session/Introductions and New Voices Nominee recognition/LCIF	Regency B
9:45 AM – 10:15 AM	<b>PID Bruce Beck &amp; Lion Erin Beck Lions USA</b>	Regency B
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM	<b>Guest Speaker (To Be Announced)</b>	Regency B
11:05 AM	Elections (by ballot)	Regency B
11:30 AM	Seating for Lunch	Regency A
11:45 AM – 12:45 PM	<b>Lunch Served/Election Results &amp; Acceptance/Peace Poster Recognition</b>	Regency A
12:45 PM – 1:00 PM	<b>Remarks by PID Bob Block-Certified Guiding Lions facilitator</b>	Regency A
1:00 PM – 1:30 PM	Necrology Service	Regency A
1:45 PM – 2:45 PM	<b>Past District Governor Pound Auction</b>	Regency B
2:50 PM – 3:00 PM	Branson Getaway Drawing/Basket Auction Closes – Pay at Registration	Regency B
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM	<i>Day 2 – Certified Guiding Lions Training</i>	<i>Regency B (Pre-registered only)</i>
3:30 PM – 4:30 PM	Eyeglass sorting/Spot Screener Demo Lensometer Demo/Lions Portal Help	Regency A or Conference Room IV
5:45 PM	Seating for Dinner	Regency A
6:00 PM -7:45 PM	<b>Buffet Dinner/Keynote address PID Bruce Beck/Awards and Recognition</b>	Regency A

*Silent Auction Basket proceeds benefit the 17A Diabetes Camp Fund*

[Click here to book hotel](#)

# Chart Your Course

## Staying in Manhattan?

**We have blocked a certain number of hotel rooms at the special rate of \$109.00**

(Double Queen room or a King Bed Room) – *Last day to book at the special rate is Friday, March 27, 2026 Buffet Breakfast is included for Registered Hotel Room Guests*

*Not staying at the hotel? – breakfast is available at the restaurant to pay out of pocket*

Hotel Booking Link:

[https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/rooms/?](https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/rooms/?ctyhocn=MHKRDDT&arrivalDate=2026-04-10&departureDate=2026-04-12&groupCode=kld&room1NumAdults=1)

[ctyhocn=MHKRDDT&arrivalDate=2026-04-10&departureDate=2026-04-12&groupCode=kld&room1NumAdults=1](https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/rooms/?ctyhocn=MHKRDDT&arrivalDate=2026-04-10&departureDate=2026-04-12&groupCode=kld&room1NumAdults=1)

**Or Call the hotel and ask for the KS Lions 17A Convention Rate: 785-539-5311**

There are other nearby Hotels also available in Manhattan, KS

### DISTRICT 17A CONVENTION, APRIL 10-11, 2026 REGISTRATION

#### REGISTRATION FORM

**All Convention reservations must be received by Monday, March 23 (No Exceptions)**

Registration (Leos Free) \_\_\_\_\_ tickets @ \$10.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Friday evening Social # attending: \_\_\_\_\_ FREE = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 0.00

*Assorted Cookies and water station with select flavorings you can add.*

Saturday Luncheon Plate Served: \_\_\_\_\_ tickets @ \$15.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Deli Sandwich (specify meat) Mayo & mustard packets, Potato Salad, Brownie, coffee, tea and water*

\_\_\_ Ham \_\_\_ Turkey \_\_\_ Beef

Dietary options: \_\_\_ Gluten free \_\_\_ Vegan

**Specify choice of meat for the sandwich at lunch**

Saturday Night Buffet: \_\_\_\_\_ tickets @ \$30.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Non-formal attire**

*Herb Roasted Chicken, Pot Roast, Green Beans Almondine, Au Gratin Potatoes, Rolls, Butter, Coffee, Tea and water*

Dietary Options: \_\_\_ Gluten Free \_\_\_ Vegan **Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Name(s) of Lion/Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment information: Send Registration form**

With check payable to: **District 17A Special**

Mail to: PDG Rick Dodson,  
306 Bambi Court, Lansing, KS 66043

[ ] I am paying by Venmo

**Scan the QR Code To pay Total amount electronically**



**Or email the registration form to [rickdodson23@gmail.com](mailto:rickdodson23@gmail.com) and pay Rick Dodson by Venmo**

For: 17A Convention

**venmo**



# BRANSON GETAWAY

## 4 day/3 nights - Pick the Dates in 2027

Anyone can buy a ticket  
Help support the 17A Dist. Convention

2 BR/2 BATH sleeps 6 / Stormy Point Village - 132 Cape Cod Dr., Branson, MO 65616  
**\$20 PER TICKET – multiple tickets may be purchased. \$1200-1800 Value**  
*Have a valid credit card and driver's license for check-in at the resort. Winner: Reserve your dates by Dec. 1, 2026*



### Convenient Location near Branson's Entertainment District

**Stormy Point Village** is located just minutes from Branson's famous entertainment district, making it easy to take in all the shows and attractions the city has to offer. The resort is also close to Table Rock Lake, so you can enjoy boating, fishing, and other water sports.

### Amenities Everyone in the Family will enjoy

In addition to the unique cottage setting, **Stormy Point Village** features a variety of amenities for guests of all ages, including swimming pools (one indoor and two outdoor), a kiddie pool, water park and hot tub, outdoor playground, fitness center, restaurant with bar, and swim dock at Table Rock Lake.



*Vacation donated by Lion Irene Haws*



**Winner will be announced at the Kansas Lions District 17A Convention  
April 11, 2026 in Manhattan KS**

*Need not be present to win*

One winning ticket will be drawn from all raffle tickets purchased whether it be a paper ticket or an online ticket. Purchase online using the QR Code here or the Link below:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/branson-getaway-pick-a-date-in--2027>

See members District 17A Governor Team or Zone Chairs to purchase a physical ticket.

**To order by check:** Mail a check, *Postmarked by 4/1/26*

**Payable to: District 17-A Special** Write your phone number and e-mail address on the check.

**On memo line write:** Branson Getaway

**Mail to:** Rick Dodson, 306 Bambi Ct, Lansing, 66043

You will get confirmation of your **ticket number(s)** via email

Online orders: you will receive an **email confirming your ticket purchase.**



*Winner will be notified by email and phone.*

# Chart Your Course



**DISTRICT 17A CONVENTION**  
**APRIL 10-11, 2026**  
**Manhattan KS, Double Tree by Hilton**  
*(FORMERLY THE FOUR SEASONS)*



## Information Table Reservation

There are **8 tables available** for information booths at the District Convention.

*Please make your reservation asap if you would like to have a table reserved.*

There is no cost. Please provide your own tablecloth, if needed.

**Table topic:** \_\_\_\_\_

Electrical outlet (limited availability) [  ] **Yes, I need electricity**

Name of person making the reservation: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

For quicker reservation e-mail this reservation form to:  
Rick Dodson, rickdodson23@gmail.com

or Mail a hard copy to:  
Rick Dodson  
306 Bambi Court  
Lansing, KS 66043

**Table reservations are available on a first come basis.**

**Silent Auction Baskets**  
**wanted for the District 17A Convention**  
**Proceeds to benefit the Diabetes Camp Fund for District 17A**

*Some suggested themes for baskets might be:*

Sports Memorabilia (K-State, KU, Chiefs, Royals)

Game Night – Board Games, Card Games, Dice Game, etc.

Jar Candles & Home Décor items ‘celebrate the seasons’

Picnic basket (all you need to go on a picnic except for the food and ants)

Pamper me: Lotions, Bubble Bath and sachets – how about a little wine too!

Wine plus Cheese & Cracker selections - favorite combos

BBQ theme (Rubs, Sauces and Cutting Board, Apron)

Made with Love – quilted items, Embroidered items, hand towels, table runner, etc.

Tea and Me (selections of teas & cookies, tea towels or fabric napkins)

Spice it up (selection of Himalayan salt, Peppercorns, Cinnamon sticks)

Pies (any kind – Cherry, Apple, Blueberry, Blackberry, peach, strawberry rhubarb, etc.)

Cakes (Any kind – Coconut, German Chocolate, Strawberry, Devil’s Food, Spice)

All about Cookies (variety of cookies on a tray)

Baked Cinnamon Rolls or homemade bread.

Hand crafted wood items, shadow boxes, carrying case, cutting boards, etc.

Chocolate lovers basket

Coffee and Bagels basket

Homemade pizza kit (crust mix, pizza sauce, Pizza Pan, Visa Gift Card worth \$25 used to meat and toppings of your choice and Cheese) Add a six pack of cola or lemon-lime soda

Hanging Flower basket (any variety)

Paintings and / or drawings or a certificate for a custom painting or drawing

Gone Fishin’ a basket with handy items for the fisherman

Garden basket (gloves, name tags, flower see, knee pads, sprinkler head, etc.)

### Keynote Speaker for the Convention:



**BRUCE BECK PAST INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR** Bruce Beck from Palisade, Minnesota, USA, was elected to serve a two-year term as a director of Lions Clubs International at the association's 99th International Convention held in Fukuoka, Japan, June 24 through 28, 2016. Past International Director Beck is a retired law enforcement administrator. A member of the Palisade Area Lions Club since 1989, he has held many offices within the association, including club membership chairperson, district extension chairperson, zone chairperson, district governor, council chairperson, district GLT coordinator, multiple district GLT coordinator and board appointee. He was also a presenter at the 2014 USA/Canada Forum. In recognition of his service to the association, he has received numerous awards, including the Membership Key Award, Leadership Award, Extension Award and many

other awards. He is also a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow. In addition to his Lions activities, Past International Director Beck has been active in numerous professional and community organizations, including Chief of Palisade Fire Department, President of the Minnesota Fraud Investigators Association and Councilman for Palisade City. Past International Director Beck and his wife, Erin, also a Lion and a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, have two daughters.

### Certified Guiding Lion Training Facilitator:



**ROBERT "BOB" BLOCK PAST INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR** Robert "Bob" Block, from MD 1, Illinois, USA was elected to serve as international director of Lions Clubs International at the association's 102nd International Convention, held in Milan, Italy, July 5 through July 9, 2019. Past Director Block has more than 48 years of experience as an architectural and design engineer and project manager. He was encouraged to join by his father and became a Lion in 1974 with the Calumet City Lions Club where he followed in his father's footsteps and became club president in 1980. He has held a number of other offices within the association including multiple district convention chairperson and member of the Centennial Action Committee. He served as Host Committee chairperson for the 2017 Centennial

International Convention in Chicago. Past Director Block also served as volunteer coordinator for the 50th anniversary Special Olympics Unified Cup in 2018 and was a moderator at the 2017 and 2018 USA/Canada Forums. In recognition of his service, Past Director Block has received several International President's Awards. Past Director Block is also a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow. In addition to his Lions activities, Past Director Block has been chairman of the Dyer Summerfest for more than 14 years as well as an active member of the Knights of Columbus. He was elected to the town council twice where he served as council president for two years. Past Director Block and his wife, Brenda, also a Lion and Melvin Jones Fellow, have been married for 45 years and have three children and six grandchildren. R – 6/22



# GUIDING LIONS TRAINING

## IN-PERSON PROGRAM

April 10 & April 11 During the District 17A Convention  
in **Manhattan**



[Register Here](#)

**District 17A Convention**  
**Manhattan**

LIONS CLUB MEMBERS WHO COMPLETE THE TRAINING  
WILL BE CERTIFIED AS **GUIDING LIONS!**



## Seeking Candidates for 2nd Vice District Governor and Foundation Directors

Submit your letter of intent for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor to the nominations committee

**Rich Webster**

325-669-0406

[spechter16@gmail.com](mailto:spechter16@gmail.com)

**Leroy Johnson**

913-837-4179

[bigbearx4@gmail.com](mailto:bigbearx4@gmail.com)

**Al Kimmi**

785-548-7554

[aikimmi@rainbowtel.net](mailto:aikimmi@rainbowtel.net)

**For qualifications and duties review the district bylaws:**

<https://kslionsdistrict17a.org/district-17a-constitution-and-bylaws/>

Submit your name to the nominations committee if you would like to serve on one of the three foundation boards representing District 17A

### **MULTIPLE DISTRICT 17 FOUNDATIONS:**

KANSAS LIONS FOUNDATION  
KANSAS LIONS BAND FOUNDATION  
KANSAS LIONS SIGHT FOUNDATION

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### **DELEGATE CERTIFICATION FORM- 2026 17A DISTRICT CONVENTION**

CLUB NAME \_\_\_\_\_ LION NAME \_\_\_\_\_

This certifies that the above named person is a duly elected ( ) Delegate ( ) Alternate To the 2026 17A Convention at Manhattan, Ks. On April 11th, 2026 and that this Lion is in good standing with their club. The Club President or Secretary attest,

\_\_\_\_\_  
President or Secretary Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Delegate / Alternate Signature

A club must have five members in good standing to qualify for a voting delegate. Clubs are awarded additional delegates for each ten good-standing members. 2 delegates for 20 members, 3 delegates for 30 members, 4 delegates for 40 members, 5 delegates for fifty members and so forth so that one delegate represents ten members in good standing.

17A PDG's have one vote, with identification at the registration desk. This form must be presented upon registration at the April 11th, 2026 Convention.