

DISTRICT DIALOGUE - MID AUGUST 2026

Northeast Kansas Lions District 17A



Important Dates:

USA/Canada Forum - Memphis
September 2-6, 2026

Fall Rally - McPherson
October 23-24, 2026

2nd District Cabinet Meeting - TBD
November 7, 2026

3rd District Cabinet Meeting - Zoom
Date: TBD

4th District Cabinet Meeting - Zoom
Date: TBD

State Convention - Topeka
June 4-5, 2027

District Officers:

Roger Yost
District Governor
620-397-3108

Cheryl Kerns
1st Vice District Governor

Stephanie Heisler
District Secretary
StephanieRHeisler@hotmail.com

Ron Nichols
District Treasurer
coachronnichols@gmail.com

Rick Dodson
District Administrator
dodsonr23@gmail.com

Irene Haws
Immediate Past District Governor
irene@idesigns.com

Governor's Message



I want to share a statement from our International President Mark S. Lyon.

Service is the foundation of our organization. It's at the very root of what we do and who we are as Lions. Meaningful service fuels growth, increases our impact and strengthens our communities and our world. It's why people join us – and why they stay.

That's why my presidential theme this year is Rooted in Service. I encourage all of us to reconnect with our Lion's roots and focus on what matters most. Get creative with your service. Have fun, look for new ways to meet the needs of our communities and remember no act of service is too small. Every effort makes a difference.

I look forward to serving alongside you as your International President. Thank you for all the ways you already serve and I can't wait to see what we accomplish together.

In Friendship and Service

Mark S. Lyon, International President

At our International Convention we were asked: When did you become a Lion? Not just the day you joined, but when did you really become a Lion? Does that moment, that day, that instant, still stand out? Do you still believe it to drive you today or are you just along for the ride?

The year is young; it will be a year of challenges for our District and for myself as your District Governor. This is the last year for Mission 1.5, its not just about gaining new members, but also retention of our current members. Celebrate all the Lions for what they do as well as their past service. I encourage each of you to attend as many club, district, and multi-district activities as possible. Let's start this year off strong and end it on a positive.

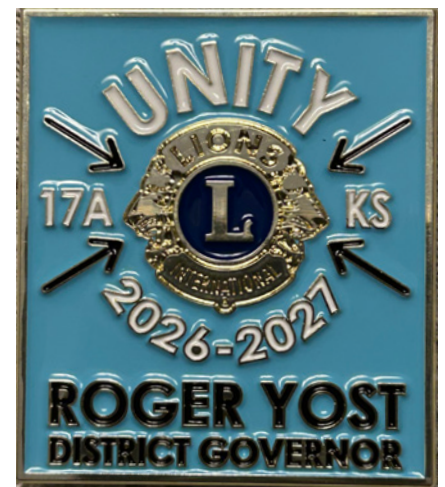
Vision

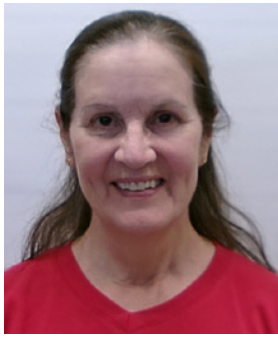
We Serve to prevent avoidable blindness and improve quality of life for people who are blind and visually impaired.

Diabetes

We Serve to reduce the prevalence of diabetes and improve quality of life for those diagnosed.

Continued on page 3





First Vice-District Governor Cheryl Kerns

And so it begins! By the time you are reading this, I will have visited four clubs! Thank you for the honor of visiting your club and learning more about you.

I kicked off the club visits with the Washington Lions...small, but mighty! They collect eyeglasses, provide two \$500 scholarships, and donate often to their community. For fundraising, they sell pecans in the fall and have their annual pancake feed the first weekend in December. Mark your calendars! I was also given a tour of the KSDS guide/support dog facility...what a marvelous organization. Manhattan Lions honored Mary "Mickey" Keithley with a Melvin Jones Fellowship. What

a vibrant club! Lions do vision screenings, plastic collection, eyeglasses collection, support industries for the blind, give \$500 scholarships, support Lions Band Camp, ... and the list goes on! Pancake feed is on Saturday, Oct 3rd!

Salina Lions are a lively group! They know how to have fun...oh, and they are active in their community as well! I was reminded that my Uncle Gus (August Zemke) was one of their Past Presidents! Made me feel at home! They update a handbook every year for their membership that can also be handed out to prospective new members. Manhattan Sunflower Lions honored Scott McClain with a Melvin Jones Fellowship. That brings their club total to twelve Melvin Jones Fellows and two Progressive Melvin Jones Fellows! That is awesome. They are an active club with many projects and several fundraisers. They will be partnering with the Manhattan Lions for the pancake feed mentioned above on Oct. 3rd. All four of these clubs met my challenge and made donations to KLF and LCIF.

Five more club visits scheduled for August. State Council meeting is August 8th in Wichita and the District Cabinet meeting is August 15th in Topeka. Presidents and secretaries are encouraged to attend, but all Lions are welcome!

The USA/Canada Forum will be in Memphis this year, September 3-5. September 11th is the start of the State Fair in Hutchinson. Contact Vern Failor if you can help! Finally, Fall Rally will be in McPherson this year on October 24th. Plenty of time to plan to attend!

Meeting new people and discovering their passion for service is invigorating! I come away from each visit with renewed purpose and a new spark of joy for service. Thank you for sharing your stories and your purpose.

Cheryl Kerns
First Vice-District Governor



Rooted in Service District 17A Global Action Team

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Irene Haws, GET
Global Extension Team Coordinator
irene@idesigngs.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 kansaslionsoffice@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
Deadline is the last day of the month for publication the following months 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).

District Governor's message Continued. . .

I am again reaching out to Lions in Zones 7 – 8 – 10.

Zone 7: Abeline, Chapman, Hope, Milford, Navaree, Soloman, Wakefield and Woodbine

Zone 8: Assaria, Bennington, Minneapolis, Minneapolis Evening, Salina Downtown and Tescott

Zone 10: Barnes, Belleville, Marysville, Scandia, Washington and Waterville

These three zones do not have the Zone Chair position filled for the 2026-2027 Lions year. This position is a very important part of the Governor's Team. It's not hard and doesn't require a lot of time. Please give this some thought. Remember Lions Serve!

Weeks of Service from IP Mark Lyon:

Vision: October 8-18, 2026

Youth: February 13-21, 2027

Environment: May 29-June 6, 2027

Roger Yost, DG 17A

Yostfarms@hotmail.com

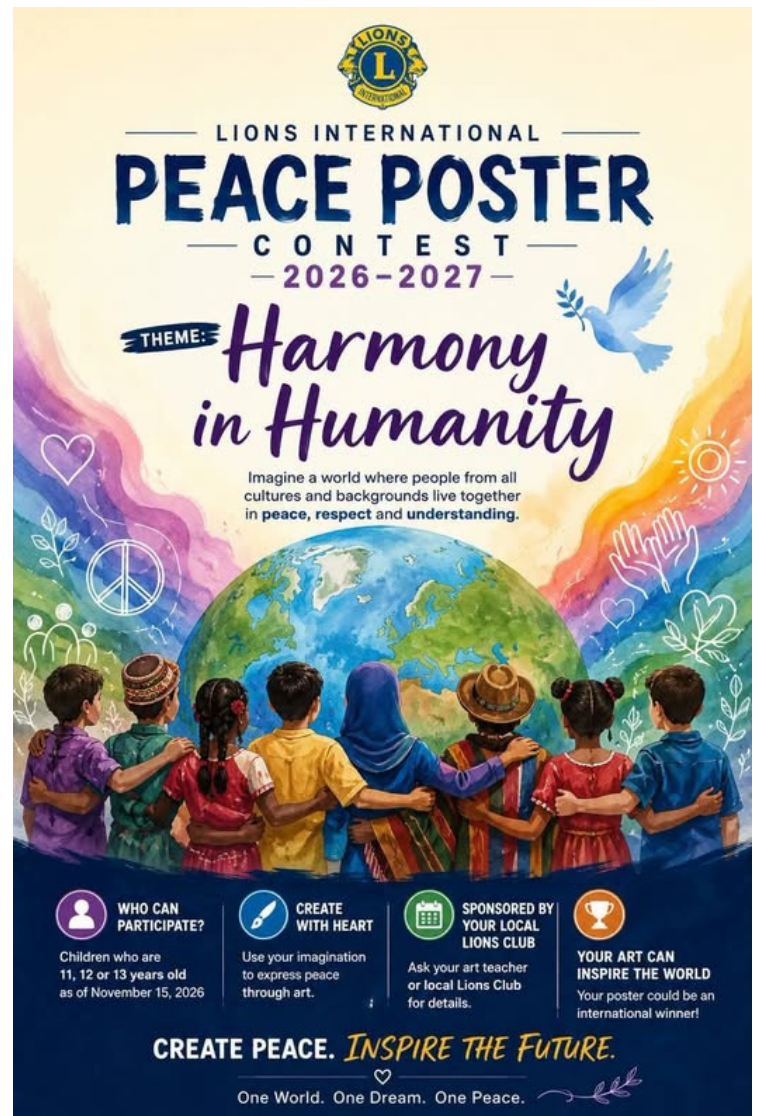
620-397-3108 (leave msg I will return the call)



The Club Charter for the Jackson County Lions now hangs on the wall at the Senior Center in Holton, KS

Our Newest Club in District 17A
Northeast Kansas

**VISION WEEK OF SERVICE
START PLANNING NOW
October 8–18, 2026**



Immediate Past District Governor Irene Haws will be attending the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum and can pick up Peace Poster Kits while there to save on shipping. If you want a physical kit contact Irene@idesignGS.com



District Officers at the Cabinet meeting August 15
L-R: Stephanie Heisler District Secretary, Roger Yost, District Governor, Cheryl Kerns, 1st Vice-District Governor and Ron Nichols, District Treasurer.



Rooted In Service

Dear Lion,

Service is the foundation of our organization and at the heart of who we are as Lions. Every day, in communities around the world, we bring kindness, compassion and support to those who need it most. Our shared commitment connects us, strengthens our clubs and reminds us why we serve.

My presidential message, “Rooted in Service,” is a reminder to stay grounded in the values that have guided Lions and Leos for generations. Our service creates lasting change and gives us a sense of purpose — but it should also bring us joy. That joy is what keeps us engaged year after year. Through serving together, we build friendships, create lasting memories and make a real difference in our communities and in our own lives.

This year, I encourage you to explore new ways to serve, invite others to join you and take time to enjoy the friendships and connections that make being a Lion or a Leo so rewarding. The enthusiasm we bring to our work can inspire more people to get involved and help our clubs grow even stronger.

Strong clubs are built through active service, welcoming fellowship and a commitment to meeting the needs of our communities. When people see Lions and Leos in action, they see both the impact we make and the purpose that unites us as a global organization.

Thank you for your commitment and all you do. I look forward with great anticipation to the year ahead and everything we will accomplish together as we remain rooted in service.

In friendship and service,

Mark S. Lyon
International President

August is Childhood Cancer Service Project month

“Your child has cancer” what a terrible comment for a parent to hear. August is Childhood Cancer Service Project month. We hope that you get involved at the club or district level. The average is 1 in every 285 children in the United States will have that diagnosis and the parents will hear the statement from a doctor your child has Cancer. Maybe that doesn’t sound like a lot. Think of it as the Average 4A school, four kids will hear that. That adds up to 11,050 cases per year in the US and 1 in 10 of those kids die, that also equates to a 90% cure rate. With our help maybe we can raise that cure rate to 95 or 100%.

What can we do as Lions, raise funds and donate to this cause by directly sending money to LCIF marked for childhood cancer, locate a family dealing with this issue and help them apply for grants from LCIF. Or find some need in this field and work on a matching grant from LCIF. If none of those fit your style, then donate directly to a family or help them or set up and run a fund raiser for them. Something I have done in the past is donate to St Judes they are the leader in Childhood cancer care and research.

Remember a family never receive a bill from St. Judes for treatment. This project is something that has hit close to home for me. We had good friends that received the diagnosis that their 2-year-old had a tumor at the base of her skull. In the end it was not malignant. All in all, it was very scary as a two-year-old to have brain surgery. After she had to learn to walk again and deal with many other issues. She is now 26. Please get involved this August and do a club project that works with the August Service project on Childhood Cancer. Remember one child lost to cancer is too many. Nation wide we lose around 1,1050 per year so let’s see if Kansas Lions can help reduce that number.

Thank you!

Lion Bart Hettenbach

Global Membership Team Coordinator Richard Webster

Report for July of 2026

Greetings Lions of 17A! This is GMT Rich Webster. I am thrilled to be reporting and serving as the Global Membership Team Coordinator for the Lions year:

7-1-2026 through 6-30-27.

Let's look at the current membership in our District.

Number of Clubs	New members	Reinstated members	Transferred Members	Dropped Members	Net Change	Total
70	151	10	2	235	-72	1,304

We began the previous year with 1,376 members.

**Welcome new Lion
Linda Underwood
New member of the Clay Center Lions Club
Joined 7-7-26
Sponsor Lion John Bensley**

District 17A is comprised of 36% Female members and 64% Male members.

Is your club utilizing the family membership option?

Dues are reduced for spouses and additional family members. in the same household.

Let's work on increasing the female membership to 40% and overall membership.

**Richard Webster
Global Membership Team Coordinator
Email: spechter16@gmail.com**

Global Service Team Coordinator Camy Thurner



Sock it to ya! Sock drive was held at the District Cabinet meeting. 234 pairs of socks and \$50 was collected and delivered to the YWCA - Center for Safety and Empowerment in Topeka.

Thank you to all the Lions and Lions Club who participated!

Camy Thurner



L-R: Irene Haws, Immediate Past District Governor & Council Chair, Camy Thurner, Global Extension Team Coordinator and Roger Yost, District Governor

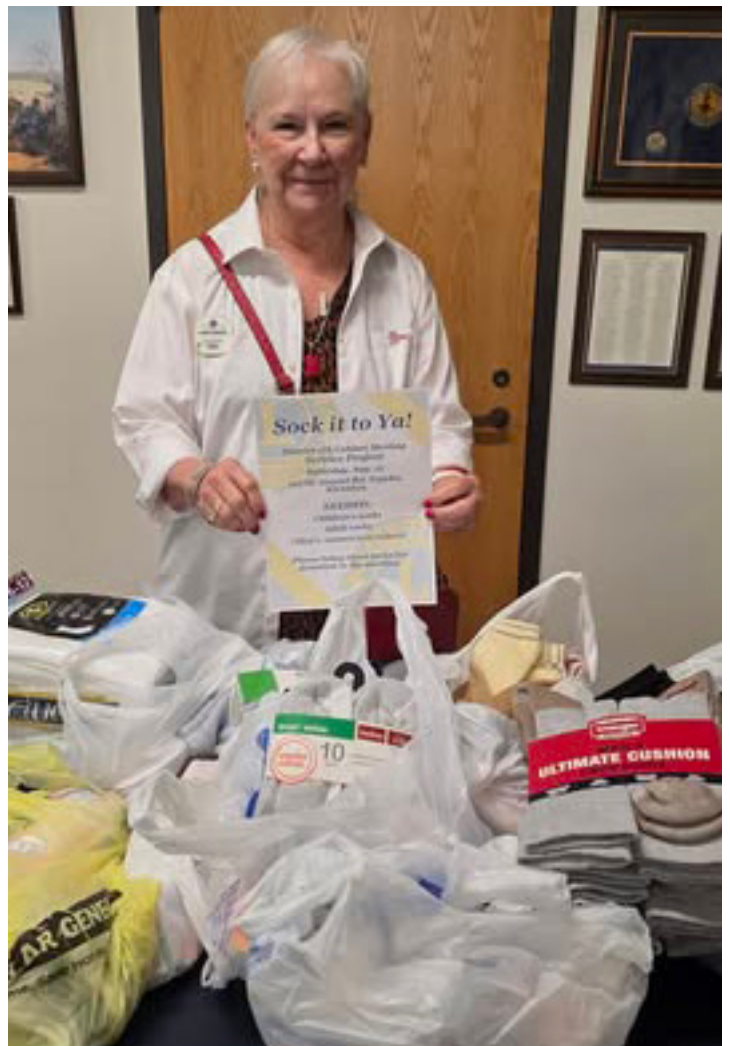
District Governor, Roger Yost has a goal to start new clubs in our district this year. One way to do this is to build on the Pride and Purpose Club Branch, adding additional members until they reach 20 and can become a new club.

Does your club receive requests for service or eyeglass assistance from a town without a Lions Club?

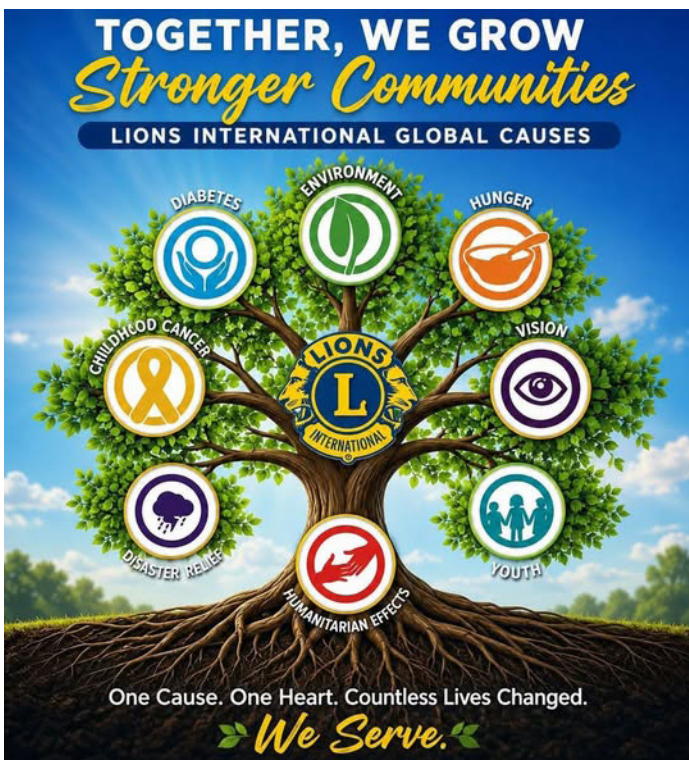
Yours in Service,
Irene Haws



1st Vice District Governor Cheryl Kerns visits the Concordia Lions Club



Sock it to ya!, Diane Hentges, Past Council Chair and Past District Governor, with more socks!



www.lionsclubs.org

KANSAS LIONS FOUNDATION FOCUS

August 2026

DID YOU KNOW?

The Kansas Lions Foundation can help your club raise more money!

This year, the Kansas Lions Foundation (KLF) will periodically share information through our District and State newsletters about what KLF does and how it can help Lions throughout our great state. Let's start with something that could be especially helpful to your club!

Helping Clubs Without a 501(c)(3)

Every Lion in Kansas MD17 is a member of the Kansas Lions Foundation. That gives your club access to a valuable resource when you are looking for donations to support your local Lions projects. Many businesses and individuals would love to support a Lions project, but they may require the organization receiving their donation to be a 501(c)(3) charitable organization so they can receive a tax deduction.

The Kansas Lions Foundation can help! KLF is a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation and can establish a Club Project Account for your Lions Club. For a one-time \$5 service fee, your club can use this account to receive donations for a designated project.

So, How Does It Work?

- **Set up your Club Project Account. Do this with KLF before accepting any donations.**
- **Tell KLF about your project. Explain the project and how you would like the funds handled.**
- **Ask local businesses and individuals to help. Invite them to support your project.**
- **Have checks made payable to KLF. All checks must be made payable to the Kansas Lions Foundation.**
- **Put the funds to work. KLF receives the donations and credits them to your club's designated project account.**

ONE IMPORTANT REMINDER: The Club Project Account must be established before a donation is accepted, and all checks must be made payable to the Kansas Lions Foundation.

Don't Give Up on That Potential Donation!

So, the next time a local business tells you, "We'd love to help, but we can only donate to a 501(c)(3)," don't give up! The Kansas Lions Foundation may be able to help you turn that "maybe" into a donation.

More donations can mean more service—and more lives impacted by Lions!

Want to Learn More?

We encourage your club to take advantage of this valuable resource. Visit the Kansas Lions Foundation website for more information and the Club Project Account application:

www.kansaslionsfoundation.org/support

**Yours in Service,
PDG Steve Langley
President, Kansas Lions Foundation**



Pictured: Lion Eric Strimple, Zone Chair Carol Shaffer, and Lion Gary Scott

Eudora Lions Club

95 YEARS OF SERVICE — ONE AMAZING COMMITMENT TO EUDORA!

It was a special evening for the Eudora Lions Club as Zone Chair Carol Shaffer presented chevrons recognizing four Lions for their incredible years of service during the 2026–2027 Lion year.

Lion Stan Byrne — 55 years

Lion Gary Scott — 15 years

Lion David Barhart — 15 years

Lion Eric Strimple — 10 years

Together, these four Lions represent an incredible 95 YEARS of combined service to the Eudora community!

For nearly a century of collective service, these Lions have given their time, energy, and hearts to making Eudora a better place. Their dedication is a powerful example of what We Serve truly means. Please join us in congratulating Stan, Eric, Gary, and David on these remarkable milestones and thanking them for their many years of service to the Eudora community!

Navarre Lions, thanks to a grant given by the Dickinson County Economic Development Council on Saturday August 8th the Herington VFW held a Flag raising presentation at the

Navarre Community Fest, Sponsored by the Navarre Lions Club, Navarre Boosters 4-H Club and Agri Trails Coop



CHAPMAN LIONS CLUB ANNUAL LABOR DAY GOLF TOURNAMENT 4-PERSON SCRAMBLE

Sunday, September 6th, 2026
Shotgun start at 8:00am



Indian Hill Golf Course
522 Golf Course Rd
Chapman, KS

\$75 per person/\$300 per team

Entry fee includes:

Golf cart (max 2 per team)

Lunch served after the round

****Cash payouts** to top two teams in each flight (number of flights is dependent on number of teams and scores)

****Cash prize** for closest to pin, longest putt, and long drive (men and women)

****Mulligans for Sale** \$10 per mulligan; max of 2 per player per round

FOR RESERVATIONS, CALL CLUBHOUSE AT 785-922-6203

Please specify how many carts are needed when making your reservation





**DISTRICT
MD 17**

Fall Rally

RED, WHITE, & ROAR



Save the Date!



OCTOBER
23RD & 24TH,
2026



McPHERSON,
KS



**UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**
1200 E. Kansas Avenue

**UNITING IN
SERVICE,
BUILDING A
STRONGER
TOMORROW.**

HONORING OUR PAST. SERVING TODAY. BUILDING TOMORROW.



LEARN
Gain Knowledge



INSPIRE
Spark Ideas



GROW
Develop Leaders



SERVE
Make an Impact



KLBF
BAND AUCTION

Help support local music
and our community!



**BRING
BASKET
AUCTION ITEMS**

*Your donations help
make our auctions
a BIG success!*

\$25
FOR REGISTRATION
AND LUNCH!

Lunch Provided on
Saturday!

HOTEL INFORMATION



**Best
Western**

610 N. Main St.
McPherson, KS
(620) 241-2424



**CANDLEWOOD
SUITES**

1408 N. Main St.
McPherson, KS
(620) 242-9292



**Hampton
Inn**

2000 E. First St.
McPherson, KS
(620) 241-1200

Fairfield
BY MARRIOTT

2101 E. First St.
McPherson, KS
(620) 241-1900

LEARN • INSPIRE • GROW • SERVE

Mark you calendar and plan to attend the
 Kansas Lions Fall Rally in McPherson, KS.
 Look for more information to come in your email
 from KansasLionsOffice@gmail.com

PDG Dennis Cooley of Gypsum, KS passed away on Friday, July 17, 2026 at his residence. Dennis served as District Governor of 17 K5. District K5 at that time covered north central Kansas which is now in Districts 17A and 17N.

He was born on July 6, 1943, in McPherson, Kansas, the son of Guy Addison and Maggie Lovina (Yoder) Cooley. He graduated from Gypsum High School. On April 8, 1983, he married Jean Marie (Gagnon) Haines. She survives at the home.

A Memorial Mass at the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Salina will be in August. Inurnment will be in the Mt. Calvary Catholic Cemetery.

Complete obituary and service information will be announced later by the Anderes-Pfeifley Funeral Home in Riley KS.

Member of the former Gypsum Lions Club.



Membership types

Regular

As our most common membership type, members work to strengthen their communities and serve Lions International's global causes — or any other cause important to them.

Student

The ideal membership for students who are enrolled in an educational institution. Members between their country's legal age of majority and under 30 are eligible to receive a discount on international dues.

Family

Family membership allows relatives living in the same house to volunteer together. Families are able to spend quality time together and grow their passion for service — all at a reduced dues rate. Children cannot become members, but can participate in the Cub Program, which gives children the opportunity to build a lifelong dedication to helping others.

Leo

Leo membership is designed for young people ages 12-30 who are interested in serving their communities. This membership type features many benefits for young people, including no membership fee, educational opportunities, networking and much more.