

DISTRICT DIALOGUE - MID SEPTEMBER 2026

Northeast Kansas Lions District 17A



Important Dates:

Fall Rally - McPherson
October 23-24, 2026

2nd District Cabinet Meeting -
Tonganoxie Methodist Church
1 pm - 3 pm
November 7, 2026

3rd District Cabinet Meeting - Zoom
10 am - 12:00 pm
Date: February 13, 2027

4th District Cabinet Meeting -
location /Time to be determined
Date: June 19, 2027

State Convention - Topeka
June 4-5, 2027

District Officers:

Roger Yost
District Governor
620-397-3108

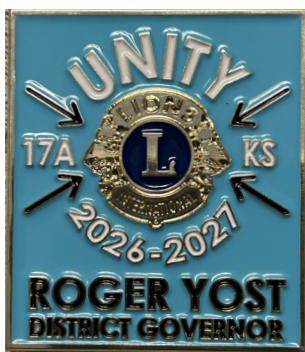
Cheryl Kerns
1st Vice District Governor

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@idesigngs.com



Governor's Message



Honoring our Members

Each year the District Governor receives chevrons for a Lion's dedication and service and service longevity. This year I have 163 to present. How many years of service is that? Here is the list:

10-Year Carter Monarch Chevron (CMC 10yr 2010) - 3
10-Year Monarch Chevron (MC 10yr 2210) - 38
15-Year Carter Monarch Chevron (CMC 15yr 2015) - 2
15-Year Monarch Chevron (MC 15yr 2215) - 24
20-Year Monarch Chevron (MC 20yr 2220) - 31
25-Year Monarch Chevron (MC 25yr 2225) - 16
30-Year Carter Monarch Chevron (CMC 30yr 2030) - 1
30-Year Monarch Chevron (MC 30yr 2230) - 11
35-Year Carter Monarch Chevron (CMC 35yr 2035) - 1
35-Year Monarch Chevron (MC 35yr 2235) - 13
40-Year Monarch Chevron (MC 40yr 2240) - 6
45-Year Monarch Chevron (MC 45yr 2245) - 4
50-Year Carter Monarch Chevron (CMC 50yr 2050) - 1
50-Year Monarch Chevron (MC 50yr 2250) - 4
55-Year Monarch Chevron (MC 55yr 2255) - 3
60-Year Monarch Chevron (MC 60yr 2260) - 3
65-Year Monarch Chevron (MC 65yr 2265) - 1
70-Year Monarch Chevron (MC 70yr 2270) - 1

I have always expressed that we as Lions need to celebrate our clubs and members. Make a special club meeting by inviting members who haven't attended for awhile and celebrate their service. Remind them they do make a difference.

Leonard the Lion left home last year to visit all the clubs. I'm afraid he has gotten lost again! I'm sure he has been busy entertaining many kids and other Lions. The last time he wrote home he was on the western slopes of our District. If you happen to see him, could you remind him we miss his travels?

Club Superstars – The clubs in our District as well as all of Multiple District 17 are encouraged to select a member (Superstar) for recognition at our District Convention. From these 3 entries from each K, A, N, will be selected by a drawing to get a special thanks at our State Convention. (See attached notice). Let's do this!

"The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why." - Mark Twain

Roger Yost,
DG 17A, yostfarms@hotmail.com



First Vice-District Governor Cheryl Kerns

My first August visit was to the Tescott Lions Club. They hosted a massive dinner for all employees of the local schools. They also provide scholarships to high school seniors. They raise money with a pancake feed (1 st Saturday in February) and a Chicken & Noodles dinner Memorial Day Weekend. Their meeting space wall is covered in Melvin Jones Fellowship plaques!

Solomon Lions graciously created a meeting for my visit! They do vision screenings, send students to band camp, support KSDS, and contribute to the Solomon Festival.

Minneapolis Evening club is a lot of energy and laughter...and they do a LOT of projects! Their lemonade stand at the fairground is a huge fundraiser for them. Funds are used to give scholarships, support the local 4H chapter, the fair committee, and more! Both of these clubs donated to KLF and LCIF.

Morganville Lions joined me while visiting the Clay Center Lions. Clay Center provides scholarships, do vision screenings, and support the summer rec program. Their main fundraiser is a BBQ in the spring, but they are also doing "Match Day" in September.

Morganville Lions just completed "Party in the Ville" and they are also participating in Match Day. They support Trunk or Treat, flower barrels, donate smoke alarms, scholarships, and more. Morganville donated to KLF and LCIF.

The Concordia Lions provide suppers for their community, serving up to 400 people per month! They plant trees, usher at the theatre, and help with a toy run. To fund these Endeavors, they deliver flowers for special occasions and they also sell ads for Radio Days. Donations were made to KLF and LCIF!

Reminder to mark your calendars for the Fall Rally in McPherson, Kansas October 23-24. Learning, new ideas, band auction, and great fellowship...you won't want to miss it!

Cheryl Kerns

First Vice-District Governor



-----Rooted in Service-----

District 17A Global Action Team

Al Kimmi, GLT

Global Leadership Team Coordinator
aikimmi@rainbowtel.net

Rich Webster, GMT

Global Membership Team Coordinator
spechter16@gmail.com

Camey Thurner, GST

Global Service Team Coordinator
thurnerc@hotmail.com

Irene Haws, GET

Global Extention 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).

Global Membership Team Coordinator, Al Kimmi

WANT TO BE AN OUTSTANDING LEADER?

ATTENTION:

Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers and Zone Chairs, enter the Lions Portal and click on the “Learn” button, then select the appropriate training module for your position.

Even if you have held your position for a long time, there is always something new to learn or to be reminded of something forgotten.

There are also Learning Modules for Presidents, Secretaries and Treasures on the Kansas Lions MD 17 website which is “kansaslions.org”.

SPECIAL NOTE FOR TREASURERS: The MD 17 Treasurer’s training has instructs for filing the IRS 990N form which is due by November 15.

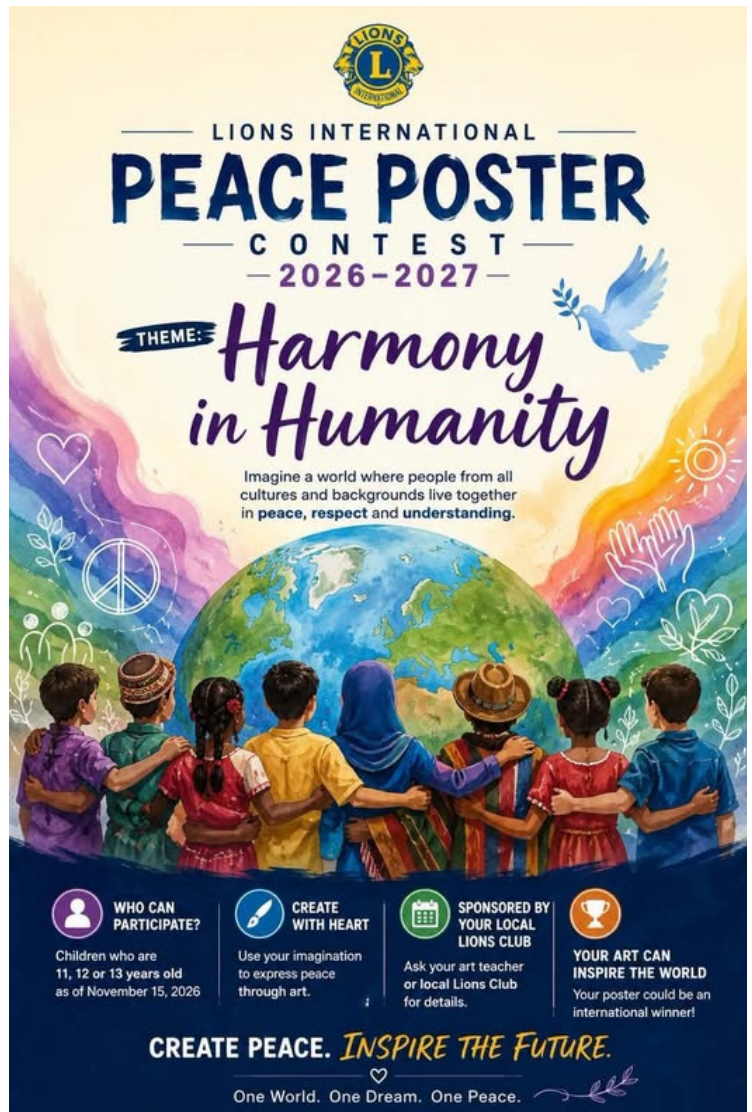
If you take the MD 17 training, please let me know so you will get credit. Training on the Lions portal and/or on MD17, will help with your Club Excellence Award.

The District Governor’s goals are that
50% of Zone Chairs and
50% of Club Presidents,
50% of Club Secretaries and
50% of Club Treasures will take the training.

Let’s show we can do better.

Questions or assistance can be directed to
PDG Al Kimmi, GLT Coordinator,
785-548-5744 or
Email: aikimmi@rainbowtel.net.

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



“Give the gift of sight to your local community through the Concordia Lions Club!

Your donation could be the first pair of glasses for a child, adult or elderly individual, all of which utilize the critical services of the Lions Club. If you are looking to donate, find and contact a Concordia Lions Club member through the Facebook page or online and bring those old pairs to them. That’s all! Your donation could change the lives of many in an instant with the gift of sight. The Concordia Lions Club Facebook page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064753716629>.”

**Global Service Team
Coordinator,
Camey Thurner**



Bringing the world into focus one pair of glasses at a time; preparing for Vision Week of Service

Vision Week of Service is right around the corner beginning on Oct. 8 and ending on Oct. 18, and with some recent upgrades powered by our members, you can bring easy screening to your community.

Our district now has three spot screeners that are available for Lions Club members to check out and use at screening events.

To get started, contact Lion Vern Failor
Email: vlfailor@gmail.com. The care and upkeep of these screeners are critical for our mission, so training is important to continue bringing vision to our communities. After chatting with Lion Vern, be sure to find some time to train your skills with these spot screeners - consider having a vision sreeener training during your next Zone Meeting, the more Lions who know how to operate the Spot Screener the more people that can be screened and catch visual concerns.

Thank you to all of the clubs reporting your service and please continue to do so!

If you find using the Lions Club International portal challenging to report your service time, be sure to attend the Fall Rally Oct. 23-24 in McPherson for the chance at a refresher course and expert inquiries.

ATCHISON LIONS CLUB
WATERMELON FEED
Community Awareness Event

September 25
3:30 - 6:00 pm
Atchison Library

Join us for watermelon and learn more about what the Atchison Lions Club is doing in our community.

We will also have our vision screener on site. Children's vision screenings will be available at the event.

CHILDREN'S VISION SCREENINGS
Vision screener available at the library.

Service • Community • Vision
Come meet the Atchison Lions Club
A STRONGER ATCHISON TOGETHER

Come to the party
TOPEKA SUNFLOWER LIONS CLUB

Annual Steak Fry
Thursday, October 1, 2026

COST
\$17.00 per person

SCHEDULE
Social time 6:00 pm • Dinner 6:30 pm

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

8 oz steak, baked potato, and all the fixings
PLEASE BRING TABLE SERVICE & A STEAK KNIFE

RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 28, 2026
Call or text PCC Bobby Duvall — 785-608-1311
Email — terrybodb@aol.com

Global Membership Team Coordinator, Richard Webster

Do you know that a spouse can join and pay half dues as a family unit?

Students may also join for reduced rates!

We have a lot of room for spouses. Currently we have 467 women and 22 students in our district! Is your club utilizing these memberships?

Forming a club branch can stimulate your communities! A Club branch can specialize in activities that are specific to the passions of members. Perhaps there is a smaller town nearby which has a park that needs attention, Painting or landscaping work or general clean up might be the glue that brings them together.

Are there smaller towns where a Club Branch could sponsor activities which need insurance? We need to support each other. Smaller clubs could use the support and efforts of Lions volunteers from other clubs to help with activities when they may not have the manpower. I like to call this the

Pride team. Does your club have one? We can help smaller clubs stay open by lending a hand.

Volunteering is a great way to recruit new members! Do you know people who would like to help in our activities? Invite them to participate. Partner with other associations to serve. It can become a recruiting moment when people see and feel the happiness of giving.

When an older member decides that he/she is too old or unable to continue his service do we encourage them to continue supporting Lions by maintaining membership? Perhaps one way would be to ask if he would sponsor a new member? There are people who need a little help with the dues so Associate Members or former members could help by contributing funds for new members.

Does your club have a scholarship fund to help with membership dues? This might be a way for former and retiring members to continue serving your community.



District 17A A BIG HELLO TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!



LINDA L UNDERWOOD
Sponsor: JOHN BENSLEY
CLAY CENTER LIONS CLUB

ROSE N PALMER
Sponsor: HERB STRAIN
LEAWOOD LIONS CLUB

GINA D BELL
SOLOMON LIONS CLUB

AMY HAMPTON
Sponsor: RON NICHOLS
TONGANOXI LIONS CLUB

AMY HAMPTON
Sponsor: RON NICHOLS
TONGANOXI LIONS CLUB

JESSE MEDINA
Sponsor: ROD CHRISTIE
WATERVILLE LIONS CLUB



PDG RICH WEBSTER, CGL (Certified Guiding Lion)
District 17A Global Membership Team Coordinator

... AUGUST 2026 ...

Global Extention Team Coordinator Irene Haws

New club growth is the job of the Global Extention Team.

As your GET chairperson I would be interested to know if there is a community near your town that does not have a Lions Club. Send me your recommendations of where you think we should start of new club. Or if your club would be interested in having a branch of your club in a nearby community. Club branch members of part of your clubs membership roster, just separated as members of the club's branch.

"It takes as little as five members to begin a branch of your club"

A club branch can specialize in a particular service or specialty, or they can meet at a time that allows for membership growth in your club because of a more convenient time. I recommend at periodical social with the parent club and the club's branch so the members get to know one another.

Is there a nearby town that often requests eyeglasses from your club? Maybe that is a good place to start a branch of your club. I am open to new ideas.

One new idea, in Topeka KS: I am looking to form the Topeka Dancing Lions Branch of the Topeka Lions Club. Many people are interested in Dance and would like to learn hoe to dance without having to drive to Kansas City to attend dance events that cost not only a fee but the cost of gasoline to drive that distance. This is just one example of a specialty club branch.

You may have people with a specialize interest in outdoors activities or shooting sports, bike riding or working with children with special needs. Lions Clubs International Foundation also has grants that could be helpful as part of a specialty project by a new club or club branch. Reach out to me with your ideas.

Yours in Service,
Irene Haws, (Certified Guiding Lion)
785-249-1913 irene@idesignGS.com

Helping Clubs who do not have 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!

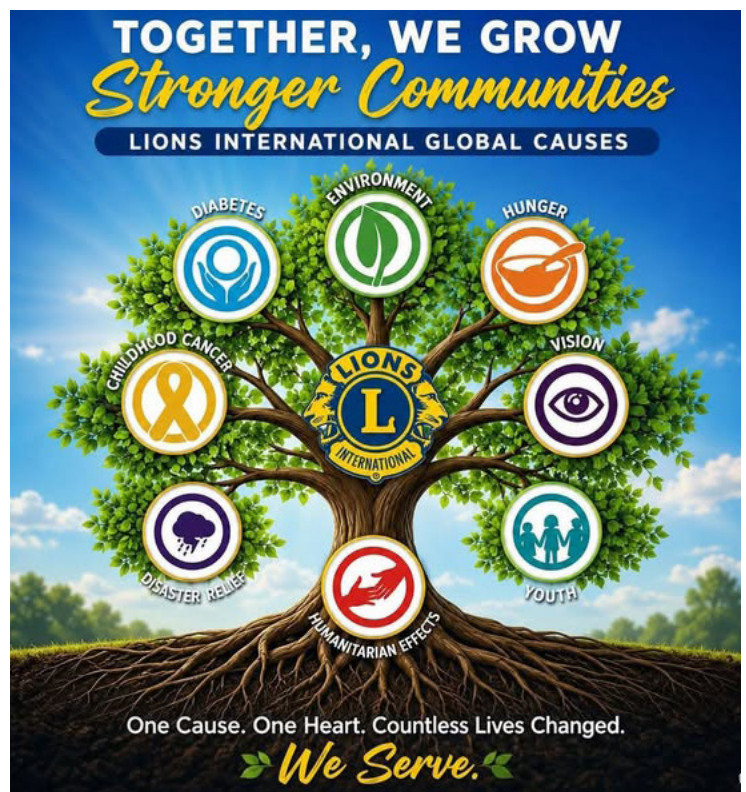
KLF is a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation and can establish a Club Project Account for your Lions Club. For a one-time \$5 service fee, your club can use this account to receive donations for a designated project.

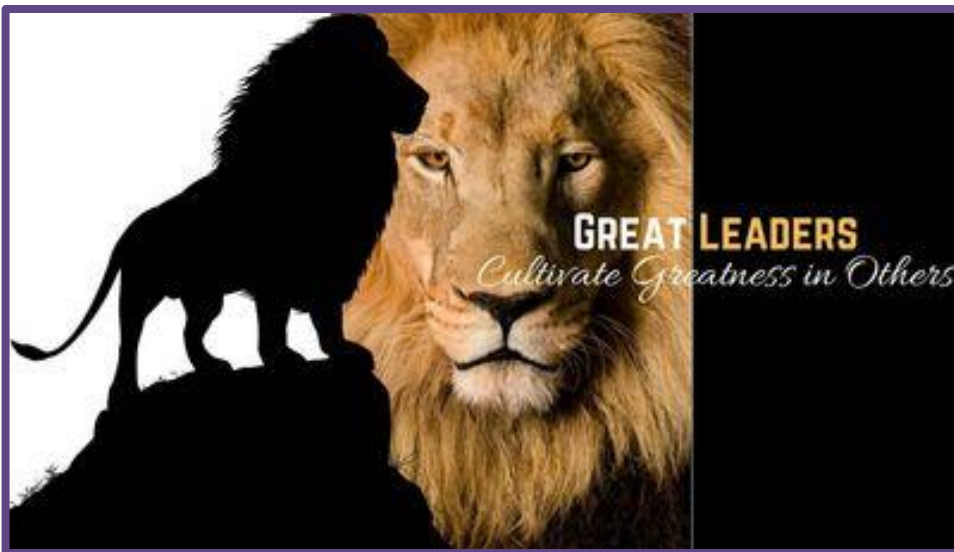
Want to Learn More?

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





KS MULTIPLE DISTRICT 17

Inspired by International President Mark Lyon's theme "**Rooted in Service**", MD17 will celebrate "Club Superstars." The initiative is designed to recognize a club member or community partner who impacts the Kansas community during 2026-2027 Lions year. Community service, consistent participation, support of club activities, leadership, membership development, initiative, fundraising efforts, community/club/member impact and Lions Spirit are contributions to be considered when identifying a "SUPERSTAR."

Key Details & Program Guidelines

- **Selectin:** Each club selects their ultimate "Superstar"
- **Submission Deadline:** March 15th – Information to be included: Superstar's name, associated club, and a narrative outlining the reason(s) the Superstar was selected.
- **District Recognition:** Superstars will receive a special embroidered patch and be recognized at their respective District Convention in April.



- **State Convention:** Three Superstars from each Kansas sub-district will be drawn for a special recognition by 2nd Vice President Tony Benhow at the State Convention Friday, June 4th in Topeka KS

**Each Club selects
their ultimate
"Superstar"**

**Each Club Superstar
will be recognized at
District Convention**

**Three Superstars
from each District
will be recognized at
State Convention
Friday Night**

**Submission Deadline
March 15, 2027**

CLUB SUPERSTAR

C/O Peggy Jacobson
6521 W. 78th Ter, Overland
Park, KS 66204
Cell 913-548-8402
or email to:

Pegjacob70@gmail.com

Due: March 15, 2026

News From Lions Health Program

Remember the IP slogan “Rooted in Service” as you consider how you will promote October as Vision awareness month and the week of service October 8 – 18. There is a world of helps in the LCI website. To help you with ideas go the LCI website search Weeks of Service, select Vision, then select Vision Service projects. Here you will find a page of projects that will help you in finding a project to pursue. One of those is International White Cane Day October 15th. My Lions Club has participated in this day in the past and it was very educational for the public plus it got your Lions Club into the public with a meaningful project. Here is a quote for the “Vision Service Project Ideas page” at LCI.

VISION SCREENING

Eighty percent of all visual impairment can be prevented or cured. The first step to prevention is awareness. The second is early detection through vision screening. Around the world, Lions partner with medical professionals and community leaders to screen young children, primary school students and adults to identify those at risk for vision loss.

DG Roger has indicated that he wants to promote October 8 – 18 Vision Screening week so when you do Vision Screening in October the Spot Vision Screeners will have a poster to display and stickers for the children that says “A Lion Checked My Eyes Today” please use them and if you can please provide some funds to replace the stickers. These can be ordered from KidSight USA. They cost \$29 for the 500 count role plus shipping. I would order more if I had the funds so let me know if you would like to order them and I will get the order placed ASAP.

Lion Vern Failor
vlfailor@gmail.com



Images from Beale Street, Memphis, TN
Statue of Elvis Presley on Beale Street

Sidewalk (Note) engrave with Johnny Cash on Beale Street

October 11th District 17A Special Membership Event
Lions Club Rate of \$20 for this memorable train ride.
Help support your Lions Clubs and invite your friends and family

Abilene & Smoky Valley Railroad



**100 year old Steam Engine 1919
vintage travels to Enterprise Ks. and
back!**

**Leaves the Abilene Depot 200 SE
5th Street**

**2 pm for an hour of exploring
Kansas history!**



**The Abilene & Smoky Valley is a living
history museum, dedicated to teaching
about the railroad's impact in building
Kansas and the U.S. We run special
Meadowlark Flyer school charters
where kids can learn while they ride
our historic rails!**

**District 17A Membership event! Bring your family and guests!
We will be riding the rails together! We have a special
Lions Rate of \$20 for this event.
Spend an afternoon exploring the history of Abilene.**



Kansas Lions visit Beale Street in Memphis Friday Night of the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum





**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!*

Lunch Provided on
Saturday!

\$25

FOR REGISTRATION
AND LUNCH!

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
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LEARN • INSPIRE • GROW • SERVE

Reserve your hotel now!

Kansas Lions Fall Rally in McPherson, KS.

Look for more information to come in your email

from KansasLionsOffice@gmail.com

* Candlewood does not offer breakfast as part of the room