DISTRICT DIALOGUE - MID NOVEMBER 2026

Northeast Kansas Lions District 17A

Important Dates:

3rd District Cabinet Meeting - Zoom
Time to be determined
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

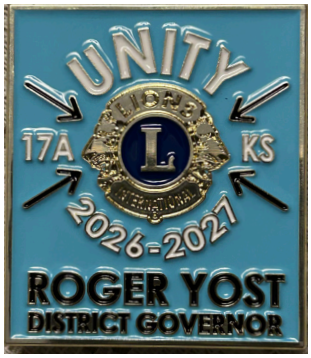
Vacancy
2nd Vice District Governor

Stephanie Heisler
District Secretary
StephanieRHeisler@hotmail.com

Ron Nichols
District Treasurer
coachronnichols@gmail.com

Rick Dodson
District Administrator
dodsonr23@gmail.com

Irene Haws
Immediate Past District Governor
irene@idesignngs.com





Governor's Message

Gratitude Day

How do you define Thanksgiving? If you google the word, you will get several definitions. My favorite is Gratitude Day. Expand on this and you can use it 365 days a year. As a Lion, how do we express gratitude? Working with other Lions, clubs and organizations. Be grateful. We should be grateful for our service and the ability to help those in need and others who ask for help.

At the time of this writing, our 17A Lions will be privileged to welcome Lion Cameron Thurner from the Concordia Lions Club. She has accepted taking on the roll as 2VDG. Let's all show her and give her our undivided support as she starts this journey.

I know it's risky
I know it's scary
I know it could fall apart
But what if it all falls together.
- Steve Vance

Before you now it, the next week of Impact will be February 13-21, 2027 (Youth). Start planning now for a service or project to show our communities what Lions do.

December is a time to reflect, give without question, and receive with gratitude no matter how small.

Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth.
- Muhammod Ali

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

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

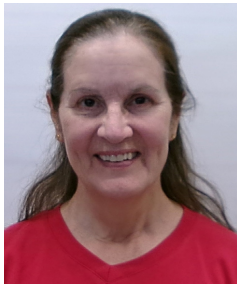
District 17A Global Action Team
Chair, DG Roger Yost

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@idesignngs.com



First Vice-District Governor
Cheryl Kerns

October included three more club visits:

Pancakes with Louisburg Lions, funnel cakes with Baldwin City, and the Fall Rally in McPherson. Great sessions, great fellowship, and a successful band auction.

I've included six more of the fifteen clubs I visited in September…

Marysville, Waterville, and Barnes agreed to meet together to save me the mileage!
Marysville Lions sell pecans as their fundraiser. They collect glasses, send a student to band camp, and sponsor a park.

Barnes Lions have a pancake feed and a pork chop dinner as their fundraisers. They provide scholarships, sponsor the Easter egg hunt (real eggs!), and replaced the letters on the town sign.

Waterville raises funds through two pancake feeds and a chili feed (not together)! They send 2 kids to band camp, sponsor an entry for the Peace Poster contest, provide scholarships, and sponsor Kite Day.

Belleville is extremely active. They sponsor their own track meet, feed everyone for back to school, host a pancake feed, vision screenings, send a kid to band camp, and MORE! Their fundraiser is selling ads for the local sports programs.

Assaria has the most unique fundraiser I've ever heard of: they count U-Haul trucks! They also host a pancake feed. They provide scholarships, support a community garden, support a community festival, and provide Christmas baskets.

Scandia wins the prize for the furthest club from me! They are very busy and very recognized in their community for the work they do. They have built the shelter house, concession stand, and the press box! They prep the fields for baseball and football, repaired the sidewalk at the baseball field, clean the park, and provide scholarships. Their pancake feed will be on December 5th!

Special thanks to Waterville, Belleville, Assaria, and Scandia for donating to KLF and LCIF!
What did your club do for Vision Week? We trained more of our members on how to use the vision screener!
Have you asked your newest members what they would like to do?

November:
7 – District Cabinet meeting in Tonganoxie
7 – Onaga pancake feed
14 – Randolph Soup Supper

Cheryl Kerns
First Vice-District Governor

Kansas Lions Directory is online

The Kansas Lions Directory is online - visit 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 Leadership Team Coordinator, Al Kimmi

5 LEVELS OF LEADERSHIP

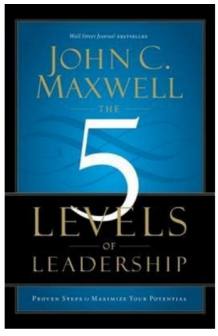
Well know Leadership Training Expert, John Maxwell, lists 5 levels of leadership Understanding these steps in development will help as we strive to develop our Lion's leaders.

Level 1: Position, Title-based—people follow you because of your role.
Level 2: Permission, Relationship-based—people follow you because of your influence and their trust in you.
Level 3: Production, Results-based—people follow you because you get things done.
Level 4: People Development, Empowerment-based-people follow you because you've invested in them and helped them become leaders themselves.
Level 5: Pinnacle, Legacy-Based Leadership—combines everything you've learned, the skills you've honed, and your natural leadership ability to bring growth and success to an organization.

Maxwell writes that pinnacle leadership is about making a lasting impact, developing Level 4 leaders so that your organization continues to thrive even after you've left. It's about leaving a Legacy.

For a greater understanding check out John's Maxell's book, "The Five Levels of Leadership".

Whether you are a zone chairperson, president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer or a committee chair, the Lions portal contains the learning and tools to help you achieve your Leadership Legacy.



What better feeling could you have than knowing you developed your fellow Lions to lead your club, your district and the Lions organization into a fantastic future.

Questions or assistance can be directed to:

PDG Al Kimmi, GLT Coordinator
785-548-5744 or
Email: aikimmi@rainbowtel.net

Kansas Lions Health Program Lion Vern Failor

In the approaching Holliday Season the time for being Thankful is fast approaching and the time for giving is just days away. Think about those families that have youth with Diabetes. How are they approaching this Season. It can cost a family upwards of $2000.00 a month to treat a youth with Diabetes. Think about giving a gift of money to the District 17-A Diabetes fund to help fund a scholarship for a youth to go to a Diabetes Camp. What a Gift that would be. To donate write a check to District 17-A and write on the memo line (diabetes camp). Send the check to the Lions Health Program Chairman Lion Vern Failor at 5201 Sw 27th St, Topeka, Kansas 66614.
Any amount is good just help District 17-A give the Gift of a Diabetes Camp Scholarship to a family.
Thank You for your donation.

District A Health Programs Co-Chairs
Lion Vern Failor
Lion Bert Hettenbach

Global Extention Team Coordinator Irene Haws

New club growth challenge.

District 17A started a club branch last year with five new members: The Pride and Purpose Cyber Club Branch of the Eurdora Lions.

They are looking to become more of an in-person branch now with hopes of growing the branch into a club of 20 members. We know this takes time and lots of great ideas and supportive lions reaching out and inviting others to join. The District willing to give support as needed to help grow this into a new club.

The Topeka Club is looking to start a branch called the Topeka Dancing Lions. They have invited interested Lions and potential members to Line Dancing Lessons on Thursday Nights at 7 pm at the VFW Post 1650, near Huntoon and Oakley Streets in Topeka KS. Other styles of dance will be coming soon as the opportunites align.

Irene Haws, Global Extention Team Chair
(Certified Guiding Lion) 785-249-1913
Email: irene@idesignGS.com



lionsforum.org



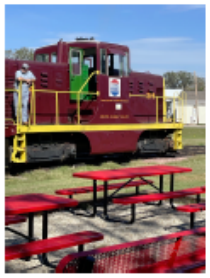
OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP RESULTS

Thank you for working so hard and being an inspiration to all of us who struggle to increase our membership. I appreciate each and everyone of you! If you are not receiving the GMT Gazette please let me know. I will be glad to include you in our mailings.



On October 11th Lions gathered for a membership Train ride on the Smoky Valley Railroad. We had a wonderful turn out with members and guests. I enjoyed seeing you and swinging Lions songs to the riders!





District 17A

Still working to grow the Abilene Lions Club.

Global Membership Team Coordinator, Richard Webster

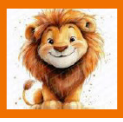
“Our Pride is Growing!”

Welcome to District 17A Lions!

We’re so glad to have you as part of our community.”

Thank you to our sponsoring members.

Total New members! October -15
Wow!





Registration is open for the next USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum

District 17A
A BIG HELLO TO OUR
NEW MEMBERS!

BELLEVILLE LIONS:
DUSTIN N ZENGER Joined: 10/01/2026
Sponsor: CHRIS ZACH

BENNINGTON LIONS:
CANDICE LEACH Joined: 09/21/2026
Sponsor: TIMOTHY HART

KANSAS CITY DOWNTOWN LIONS:
KATE BLAGG Joined: 10/01/2026
Sponsor: BEN BLAGG

LAWRENCE LIONS:
JAMES ROTHFELDER Joined: 10/01/2026
Sponsor: BETH MCKENZIE

LEAWOOD LIONS:
ADDISON K BAKER Joined: 10/16/2026
Sponsor: HERB STRAIN

SALINA DOWNTOWN:
VASSANA BENNETT Joined: 09/30/2026
Sponsor: KEN EBERT

TESCOTT LIONS:
LUCAS DECKERTJoined: 10/12/2026
Sponsor: RICKY BREMERMAN

TONGANOXIE LIONS:
CHRISTY DEARINGER Joined: 10/01/2026
Sponsor: CATHERINE NICHOLS

ERIC GRUNERT Joined: 10/01/2026
Sponsor: DI ANNA LITTLE

ROBERT DEARINGER Joined: 10/01/2026
Sponsor: CATHERINE NICHOLS

MARY GRUNERT Joined: 10/01/2026
Sponsor: DI ANNA LITTLE

LEAVENWORTH LIONS:
JACKIE NELSON Joined: 10/14/2026
Sponsor: KIMBERLY TAYLOR

ERIC R OLSON Joined: 10/14/2026
Sponsor: DEBRA WEAVERLING

RANDOLPH W. PONDER Joined: 10/14/2026
Sponsor: JOHN SUWALSKY

BRUCE J DORFMAN Joined: 10/14/2026
Sponsor: BOB EULER

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

2026-2027 KANSAS LIONS OR LEO
ENVIRONMENTAL DIGITAL PHOTO CONTEST ENTRY FORM



Lion/Leo: _____

Club: _____

Email: _____

District: ◯ K ◯ A ◯ N

Please specify category

◯ Animal Life ◯ Urban or Natural Landscape
◯ Plant Life ◯ Weather Phenomenon

Special Theme:

◯ Environmental Service Projects

Service Projects may have people in the photo

Please submit one entry form with each category entry.
All photos must be taken by you in Kansas after January 1, 2026.
All submitted contest photos become the property of the Kansas Lions.
MD 17 Kansas Lions reserve the right to disqualify entries that do not meet the contest criteria or that may be considered inappropriate.

CONTEST RULES

- Submit/email the digital photos and entry form to your respective district environmental chairperson before February 1, 2027. District K: Louise Greenberg, gberg@ruraltel.net, District A: PDG Terry Weldin, terryweldin@gmail.com, or District N: Kathy Southworth, katie4southworth@gmail.com
- Each district will select their contest winners in each category and then submit them to the MD 17 Environmental Chair by April 20, 2027.
- MD 17 Lions will vote to select the final winners
- To increase participation, a Lion may only win in one category.
- Don't forget to enter photos of Lions doing service in the community.
- Winners will be recognized and awarded at the MD 17 State Convention June 4-5, 2027. By submitting photos, the photographer gives the Kansas Lion MD 17 permission to use the photos in any publications, social media, websites, displays and other places without payment or other consideration. Additionally, by submitting a photo that includes human subjects, the photographer is indicating that they have obtained full permission from those subjects for the photograph to be used in department medium as well.
- We ask that all photo submissions are not digitally manipulated or enhanced. Photos that have been altered will be disqualified. Photos that have been edited using Instagram filters will not be accepted. Normal cropping, color correction, etc. are acceptable.