

The IOWA LION



June 2025

iowalions.org

Lions Embody Knights of the Blind 100 Years After Helen Keller's Challenge

*By Quentin Morrow
Leighton Lions Club Secretary*

Nearly 100 years after Helen Keller's challenge to Lions to be knights of the blind, Leighton Lions Club offered aid to a man fighting to save his sight.

On Saturday, April 5th, the community



HELPING HAND. Leighton Lions Club President Gary Van Den Berg (left) presents a check for \$4,300 to Leighton resident Dave Whatling (middle) and his wife Darla. The funds are intended to offset out-of-pocket expenses the Whatlings incurred traveling back and forth to the University of Iowa Hospitals and the Iowa Lions Eye Bank while fighting a bacterial infection.



SCRAMBLED. Leighton Lions Club Secretary Quintin Morrow (foreground) dishes up eggs during the club's Spring Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser while other volunteers wait in the background to help.

surrounding Leighton, a small town between Pella and Oskaloosa, came out to attend a pancake breakfast as a fundraising benefit hosted by the Leighton Lions Club. The proceeds of the annual Spring Pancake Breakfast were earmarked for local resident and automotive repair business owner, David Whatling.

Whatling had spent nearly five months recovering from a serious viral and bacterial eye infection that threatened the vision in his remaining eye. Dave has been blind in his right eye for most of his life.

Leighton Lions donated \$4,300 to Dave and

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his wife Darla in an effort to reduce the financial burden of out-of-pocket expenses they incurred with medical treatments that Dave received at the University of Iowa Hospitals in Iowa City.

The Whatlings made numerous trips to Iowa City over many weeks for treatments to fight the infection. The treatments have been modestly successful as Dave's vision has been pulled from the brink of total blindness, but not to total recovery yet. The infection seriously damaged the cornea and required intense care from eye specialists in Iowa City, including the use of a special contact lens.

The Whatlings are very grateful to Lions and the Leighton community for the thoughtful care and support. They also expressed their gratitude for the doctors and staff at the University of Iowa Hospitals in conjunction with the Iowa Lions Eye Bank.

This event is a prime example of how Lions'

quest to protect vision and prevent eye disease is achieving success.



SMOKIE GOODNESS. Lion Joan Vande Weerdhof dishes up Lil' Smokies sausages at the Leighton Lions Spring Pancake Breakfast at the Leighton Christian Reformed Church.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jun 6-8	Iowa Lions State Convention, Des Moines
Jun 20	Virdi Eye Golf Classic Long Grove
Jun 21	9NE Beat Cancer Night with the Waterloo Bucks
Jun 27-29	Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute, Baldwin City, Kansas
July 13-17	Lions International Convention, Orlando, Florida
July 28	Swing for Sight with Tim Dwight Finkbine Golf Course, Iowa City
Sep 18-20	USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum, Atlantic City, New Jersey
Nov. 1	9EC Fall Rally, Bettendorf
Nov. 15	9NC/9NE Joint Convention, Cedar Falls

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Farewell to PID Dave Stoufer

An Iowa Lion icon has passed from this earth. Past International Director Dave “Santa” Stoufer died May 16 following several years of declining health.

Many Lions were present at PID Dave’s celebration of life service on May 22 at Jones-Eden Funeral Home in Washington. Memorials may be designated to the Iowa Lions Foundation or Washington Library Foundation.

Dave was the son of Clarence Earl and Muriel (Strain) Stoufer, and was raised in Fort Dodge, where he graduated from Fort Dodge High School in 1959. He attended Buena Vista College and later did coursework at both Iowa Western Community College in Clarinda and St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, Kansas.

Dave married Marlene Dodds in Bettendorf in 1964 and they had two children, Tamara Ann and David Todd. The couple later divorced.

Dave was a man of many facets, having worked in Illinois and Iowa as a minister, a shoe store manager, a Kentucky Fried Chicken franchise manager, a radio disc jockey and in other careers as well.

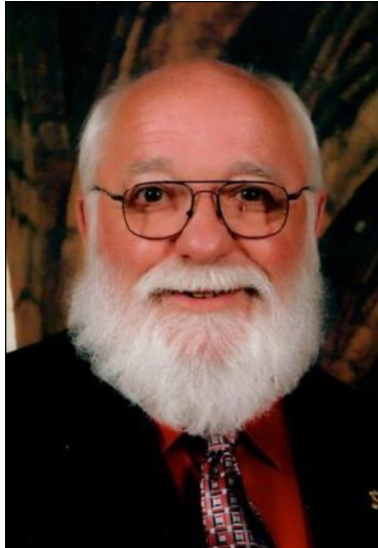
He moved to Washington in 1979 to work at KCII Radio, where he met Rachel Nicola. They married in 1982. Following radio work in Mason City and Iowa City, Dave started a rubber stamp and marking products business, Rubber Stamps R Us. He expanded it to include trophies and engraved signs.

Dave started a video and audio recording business, which he named F Troop Studios in recognition of its location in a former Iowa National Guard cavalry unit’s office building.

Following Dave’s retirement, Dave and his friend Mike Worley oversaw the transformation of the building into a museum dedicated to armed service memorabilia, primarily from southeast Iowa veterans. Thanks to a small group of volunteers, the nonprofit corporation now named Washington County Military Museum maintains the museum to the present time.

He returned to his earlier calling to the ministry, as minister to the Cotter Presbyterian and Salem Welsh Presbyterian churches from 2001-2006.

In the 1990s through the early 2000s, Dave



also returned to his love of radio broadcasting, providing a single-station syndicated show titled “Simply Sunday” for KCII’s Sunday mornings, playing an eclectic blend of music and adding local interviews and observations.

From his college days through the 1990s in Washington, Dave was active in community theater as an actor and director. Dave was announcer for numerous Relay for Life ceremonies. He served on the boards of Lending Hands adult daycare and Art Domestique gallery.

He joined the Washington Lions Club in 1991 and his skills as a public speaker

took him to leadership roles, first in the local club, then the Lions of Iowa and later at the international level. He was elected as an international director of Lions Clubs International for the 2006-2008 term, which resulted in two years of travel to over 35 states and eight foreign countries. Dave continued to respond to requests to speak to Lions gatherings for several years thereafter. He was awarded one of the organization’s highest honors, the Lions Ambassador of Goodwill award.

Not long after his college days Dave began another role which lasted for fifty years, acting as Santa Claus to thousands of children - in southeastern Iowa and wherever a small child would spot the white-bearded jolly old gentleman and know that he or she had seen the real thing. Dave had very strong feelings about performing as Santa: that the children and their feelings came first and that each little visitor would let him know how long to take and what needed to be said. His thoughts took shape as a book, “Are You the Real Santa?” This book, self-published in 2013, led Dave to write and self-publish four more books, a series of novels based on the life of the fictional Rev. J.C. Wesley as he discovers the trials and satisfactions of life as a minister of the gospel.

In addition to all these activities, Dave was a dedicated hobbyist. He built model rockets, raised tropical fish, built ship models, raced and announced races for remote control vehicles, and always, he “played with trains.” For many years he was active in the Washington Model Railroad Club. His greatest accomplishment was a layout of over 300 square feet in the basement of his home.

International Report

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Happy Father's Day!

Take Your Voter Certification Card to International Convention In Orlando

Your club secretary MUST go on the Lion Portal to enter you as a voting delegate at international convention. You MUST have your certification card with you when you enter the voting area. You won't be allowed to vote without it! Remember, sitting district governors get an automatic vote. DGEs do not. **EVERY VOTER MUST BE ENTERED IN THE PORTAL.**

2025 USA/Canada Forum Sept.18-20 in Atlantic City

The 2025 USA/Canada Forum is on the famous "Boardwalk" at Harrah's Hotel in Atlantic City, New Jersey, where the 49th annual Forum theme is "Learn, Grow, Lead." The convention center and hotel are ALL UNDER ONE ROOF this year. You never have to leave the building during the Forum (except for the Strides Walk)!

Registration is \$350 per person plus \$175 hotel deposit until July 31, then increases. Online registration is available at lionsforum.org. Plan to fly into Philadelphia, then take the LIONS BUS (with a Lions wrap around the bus) to Atlantic City. It's about a 90 minute ride. For \$90 ROUND TRIP ticket, the bus will pick you up at the airport in Philly, and drop you off at the front door of Harrah's. The bus driver will load your luggage onto the bus at the airport and unload it at Harrah's. It's so simple.

PLEASE NOTE: the bus is **only available** on Wednesday from Philly and only available on Sunday from Atlantic City back to Philly. If you're traveling any other days, you will need to rent a car, Uber, or use the train. The Philly train station is NOT near the airport, and you'll need to change trains to get to Atlantic City from Philly. Also note that the Atlantic City train station is not near Harrah's hotel, so you'll need to get a cab/Uber from the train station to Harrah's once you arrive in Atlantic City.

Do you need a scooter during the Forum? Book

it NOW online at the [Forum website](#). Click on Transportation on the navigation menu, then Mobility rentals. Cost is \$55 per day. The scooter rental counter is very close to the registration desk.

Come to the Forum to select from over 90 seminars, four dynamic keynote speakers at general meal sessions, see all the new Lions items in the Forum Store, and find new resources/treasures to take home to your club members in the Exhibitor Hall. Join us to make new friends, have fun, and learn new skills!

Want to volunteer to help in Atlantic City? Fill out the [volunteer form](#) on the Forum website. Click on the "Volunteer for the Forum" button in red at the top of the page. Remember, you must be registered for the Forum for most volunteer jobs.

Last Chance for LCIF Special 2024-2025 Presidential Pin Recognitions

International President Fabricio Oliveira has designed special recognition pins for LCIF donors this year. Your personal one-time donation to LCIF of \$50-\$99 qualifies you for a bronze pin; a donation of \$100-\$199 for a silver pin; and \$200 or more for a gold pin.

These are prestigious pins and are only designed for this 2024-2025 Lions year. The final date to qualify for this very special pin is **June 25 for online donations**. You need your member number and club number to donate online. Please contact your LCIF district coordinator with questions.

Has your club/district donated? All final donations by check must be **mailed by June 5** to ensure they're processed by June 25. Mail donations to Lions Clubs International Foundation, Department 4547, Carol Stream, IL 60122-4547. Be sure to put your member number and club number on your check.

NOTE: LCIF donations are NOT mailed to our international headquarters but rather to our processing center to speed the transaction.

Training for 2024-2025 Lions Club Officers

It is imperative that EVERY Lions club officer for 2025-26 in Iowa receives training this year so they can learn how to use the NEW Lion Portal.

PLEASE plan to attend the training in your district this summer! You should receive information on date, time, and place from your District Global Leadership Team Coordinator. If you don't receive information, call your GLT coordinator or district governor for the information.

Communication, collaboration, and accountability = a strong TEAM !

A View from the Chair

Council Chair
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As the Lions fiscal year draws to a close, so does my time serving as council chair. I want to sincerely thank each and every one of you for your incredible dedication and collaboration throughout this past year. You've done an outstanding job and I couldn't be prouder to serve alongside you.

As Lions, it's time to look ahead. What do you want to accomplish in the coming year? Will you take on a new project? Bring in two new members? I've learned that setting a clear goal – and sharing it with someone – keeps me accountable and driven.

For the coming year, my personal goal is simple: lead through service. Whether that means mentoring, volunteering, or educating, I'm ready to step up. Now, it's your turn to decide: What will your goal be this year?

Challenge for Next Year: Club Excellence Award

I'm challenging every club to pursue the Club Excellence Award. To qualify, clubs must meet the following criteria:

Membership: Achieve a net growth of two members or charter a new Lions or Leo Club or branch.

Service: Contribute to LCIF, start a new service project, and submit at least three service reports via the Lions Portal.

Leadership: Be in good standing with LCI regarding international dues.

Social Media: Promote your club's impact—share how you're helping your community and the world.

Club Excellence Award applications for 2024-2025 are due to Lions International by Aug. 31, 2025. Your district governor must sign off on the form before you send it in, so don't delay.

State Convention

The Lions State Convention is quickly approaching! I strongly encourage you to register and attend. It's a fantastic opportunity to connect with fellow Lions, hear from inspiring speakers, and meet Second Vice President Mark Lyon. Don't miss out!

International Dues Reminder

Please ensure that international dues are being mailed to the correct address. Processing times have increased, so sending dues to the proper location will help ensure timely handling.

The Intl. Assn. Of Lions Clubs
35842 Eagle Way
Chicago IL 60678-1358

Your club number should be on the check. Your club treasurer can also pay them online through the Portal.

Remember that international dues increase to \$50 per regular member on July 1, 2025. This is the last of the 3-year bump up in dues.

Wrapping Up

As I close out this year, I want to extend heartfelt thanks to the state cabinet and everyone who made this year a success. Special thanks to the State Convention Planning Committee for their great work organizing the Fall Learning Conference and the Lions State Convention.

I encourage everyone to attend their district conventions. They're truly valuable experiences and I'd hate for you to miss out.

A huge thank you to our state secretary, PCC Nancy Love, who will be retiring soon. We are grateful for her years of service and dedication. Also, much appreciation to our state treasurer, Lion Jenn Gravert, who will also be stepping down. Her contributions to the state office have been invaluable.

Finally, please join me in congratulating District Governor Phil Larabee, who will be stepping into the role of council chair July 1. I know he will bring great energy and leadership to Iowa Lions.

There is no better place to be a Lion than right here in Iowa. Thank you for the honor of serving as your council chair.

LCIF Year End Wrap-Up

*By PDG Jim Bixler
MD9 LCIF Coordinator*

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) would like to thank all who participated this year in providing funds to further the humanitarian service which Lions do through LCIF. These funds are used in all our communities.

Currently all districts are eligible of District and

Community Grant (DCG) money. That is 15% of unrestricted donations. Several clubs have also qualified.

We have lost members and clubs this year but have still met the goal set for Multiple District 9! Both club and individual participation has gone down, but there is time to turn this around.

Congratulations to those who have stepped up.

	Members 6/30/2024	Members 5/12/2025	Member Loss or Gain	Clubs 6/30/2024	Clubs 5/12/2025	Club Loss or Gain	Funds	Goal	Goal%
9EC	1116	1062	-54	42	42	0	\$106,130.40	\$33,141.00	320%
9MC	823	795	-28	40	38	-2	\$13,873.00	\$25,848.00	54%
9NC	846	781	-65	35	33	-2	\$10,311.00	\$24,901.00	41%
9NE	1109	1075	-34	41	40	-1	\$28,442.00	\$32,988.00	86%
9NW	602	603	1	30	30	0	\$11,389.00	\$18,218.00	63%
9SE	795	762	-33	38	38	0	\$28,786.69	\$23,254.00	124%
9SW	1179	1162	-17	45	44	-1	\$34,125.00	\$35,826.00	95%
MD9	6470	6240	-230	271	265	-6	\$233,057.09	\$194,176.00	120%

	Member Participation	Club Participation	Individual Donations	Non-Individual Donations	Restricted Donations	Unrestricted Donations
9EC	7.80%	73.80%	\$73,040.40	\$33,090.00	\$13,285.00	\$92,845.40
9MC	1.10%	57.90%	\$2,573.00	\$11,300.00	\$2,070.00	\$11,803.00
9NC	1.20%	45.50%	\$1,635.00	\$8,676.00	\$300.00	\$10,011.00
9NE	5.10%	85.00%	\$7,886.00	\$20,556.00	\$5,065.00	\$23,377.00
9NW	3.60%	60.00%	\$2,619.00	\$8,770.00	\$821.00	\$10,568.00
9SE	3.80%	78.90%	\$9,961.69	\$18,825.00	\$3,860.00	\$24,926.69
9SW	2.90%	79.50%	\$10,025.00	\$24,100.00	\$2,945.00	\$31,180.00
MD9	3.90%	69.80%	\$107,740.09	\$125,317.00	\$28,346.00	\$204,711.09

	Member Participation		Loss or Gain	Club Participation		Loss or Gain
	7/2023-6/2024	7/2024-5/2025		7/2023-6/2024	7/2024-5/2025	
9EC	8.10%	7.80%	-0.30%	78.6%	73.80%	-4.80%
9MC	1.60%	1.10%	-0.50%	73.7%	57.90%	-15.80%
9NC	1.30%	1.20%	-0.10%	60.6%	45.50%	-15.10%
9NE	2.10%	5.10%	3.00%	90.0%	85.00%	-5.00%
9NW	3.00%	3.60%	0.60%	66.7%	60.00%	-6.70%
9SE	8.90%	3.80%	-5.10%	76.3%	78.90%	2.60%
9SW	3.60%	2.90%	-0.70%	100.0%	79.50%	-20.50%
MD9	4.10%	3.90%	-0.20%	79.3%	69.80%	-9.50%

Lori Short Honored with Award

*By Chelle Lehman
Iowa KidSight Program Manager*

The Iowa KidSight team was honored to surprise former Iowa KidSight Program Manager Lori Short as the recipient of the William E. Scott, M.D. Distinguished Legacy Award today — a meaningful recognition made even more special as we celebrate 25 years of Iowa KidSight.

Lori is a Lion with the North Liberty Lions Club and has been a champion for Iowa KidSight and children’s

vision for years. This award was created by Iowa KidSight staff to honor Dr. Scott’s leadership, financial support, volunteer efforts, and, foremost, his passion for the Iowa KidSight mission of enhancing the early detection and treatment of vision problems in young children.

Nominees can be anyone who, individually or together, has demonstrated the traits exhibited by Dr. Scott and for which the award was created—and Lori is a shining example of that legacy.



DISTINGUISHED LEGACY. Iowa KidSight staff present former Iowa KidSight Program Manager and North Liberty Lion Lori Short with the William E. Scott M.D. Distinguished Legacy Award. Pictured (L-R) are current Iowa KidSight Program Manager Chelle Lehman, Dr. Scott, Lion Lori, and Iowa KidSight Operations Specialist Wendy Cadena.

District 9NE

District Governor
Chris Waring

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WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Club	Member	Sponsor
Cedar Falls	David Mahncke	Darrin Gillett
Cedar Falls	Clark Doyle	Michael Reifsteck
Dubuque Noon	Melissa Steines	Amy Hickey
Hudson	John A. Charley	Berton Strayer

Hey Lions! Can you believe we're almost at the end of another Lions year? It's been an amazing ride, and I've got a few final reminders to help your club finish strong.

1. Get Those Officers in the Portal!

If your 2025–2026 officers aren't entered by June 30, your club will be locked out of the Lions Portal. Even if your officers are staying the same, they need to be re-entered for the new year. Don't get stuck—if you need help, just reach out. I've got your back!

2. Still Time to Grow!

It's not too late to recruit one more member and finish the year in the plus. New members bring new energy, new ideas, and help us serve even more people. Let's have fun with it—challenge your club to be a +1 Club before June 30!

3. Officer Training—It's a Game Changer!

Whether it's your first time as an officer or you've done it before, a little training goes a long way. You'll learn:

- What your role actually involves
- How to use tools like the Lion Portal
- Tips for tracking service and reporting
- How to strengthen your club from the inside out

Hop online and check out the Lions Learning Center. Trust me—it's worth it. Strong leaders = strong clubs.

As I wrap up my term as DG, I just want to say THANK YOU. Serving District 9NE has been one of the greatest honors of my life. We've got a district full of amazing Lions doing amazing things, and I'm proud to be a part of it.

Keep the momentum going. Keep growing. Keep serving. You're doing great things—and I can't wait to see what's next!



It's Not Too Late to Join Us for 9NE Lions Beat Cancer Night!

There's still time to be part of the fun! Come cheer on the Waterloo Bucks and help us strike out childhood cancer at Lions Beat Cancer Night on **June 21, 2025**, at Riverfront Stadium!

Enjoy a fun evening of baseball, fireworks, and community spirit—all for a great cause.

Discounted Tickets On Sale Now!

Online: use promo code LIONS
waterloo-bucks.nwltickets.com

By phone: (319) 232-5633

In-Person: Riverfront Stadium

Deadline to order is June 20

**Don't miss this exciting night
of fun and purpose!**

Making Your Mark

BELLE PLAINE LEOS participated in the Belle Plaine High School Service Learning Cleanup Day with their efforts helping improve the town's environment and appearance.

CEDAR FALLS bagged potatoes and onions at the Northeast Iowa Food Bank; helped prepare and staff the Camp Courageous garage sale.



GARNAVILLO sorted 2,232 cans and bottles for redemption (pictured above); sorted 3,656 cans and bottles for Scenic Acres, a residential care facility for county residents.

HOPKINTON held a monthly bingo night with a jackpot payout of \$364 to one lucky winner, 27 regular games with a \$5 payout each, three blackout games at \$15 payout each; picked up trash in roadside ditches along a three-mile stretch of Highway 38 southeast of town.

INDEPENDENCE did a KidSight screening.

JANESVILLE power washed the exterior of the Janesville United Methodist Church building and sidewalks; strung a new rope and installed a new flag on the flagpole outside the church.

OELWEIN called bingo for the local senior center; conducted eyeglass screening, collection, and recycling.

WAUKON hosted the annual Senior Honors Banquet, recognizing the top 15% academic students of the Waukon Senior High class. The evening included a meal, an inspirational speaker, and the awarding of certificates and medallions.



WEST UNION conducted its annual ditch cleanup (pictured above) on Highway 18 east of West Union; cleared the downtown gardens of trash and weeds, and placed new mulch.

WESTERN DUBUQUE held a Service Day at Farley Elementary (pictured right), where 1st and 4th grade students joined Lions members Sue Schneider and Joey Hoover to assemble items for the Ronald McDonald House.



<i>Deceased Members</i>		
Club	Member	Years a Lion
Independence	Ron Wegner	54 years
New Hall	Russell Dean Werning	43 years



SPECIAL DELIVERY. Western Dubuque Lions Doug and Cindy Recker deliver donations for families using Ronald McDonald House: 34 tie blankets, 120 water bottles, and 100 snack bags.

District 9NW

District Governor
Mike Mulroney

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Spring is here and summer is rapidly approaching. My time as district governor will soon be over. Our district held the first 2024-2025 district convention in Iowa. It focused on the future in that we had identified vice district governor candidates in Fort Dodge Noon Lion Steve Rehmann and Akron Lion Julie Ford. At the convention, we approved the 9NW District Constitution and Bylaws for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. Many people worked to have a successful convention. Thank you for your contributions - many hands makes light(er) work.

Lion Jeremy Thompson, formerly Badger Lions and transferring to Boone Lions is looking to become district governor after Lion Julie Ford.

Lions Serve

During my club visits, I was constantly amazed by the service projects of the clubs. Lions are counted on to provide service to our towns. In Peterson, the day after my visit, the Lions were going to the city park to cut down and remove the trees damaged by a windstorm.

In Akron, the Lions administered an LCIF Emergency Grant after flooding damaged Akron and Hawarden.

At most of my visits I get boxes of collected eyeglasses that I pass on to the Iowa Lions Foundation for recycling and redistribution.

I have found out that our Lions are not big on looking for credit for all they do. They just quietly serve. At this point, I encourage all clubs to report their service in the Lion Portal. The process to report service, fundraising, new members, award recognition, new officers, etc. is much easier than when the Portal first rolled out. The help line is answered and tech support is friendly and competent.

Soles4Souls Service

Is your club looking to increase its service projects? Please look at joining Soles4Souls, a world-wide program that aligns with Lions' values. Their mission creates opportunities for people through shoes and clothing. The four program divisions include:

4Opportunity: Soles4Souls sells and distributes shoes and clothing through international partners to help people build small businesses.

4EveryKid: Soles4Souls partners with schools to get new athletic shoes to children who are experiencing homelessness, eliminating a barrier to educational and extracurricular opportunities.

4Relief: Soles4Souls helps get new shoes and clothing to people in crisis situations, freeing up financial resources they can use toward other needs.

4ThePlanet: Soles4Souls cares for our planet and people by extending the life of shoes and clothing that might've otherwise been prematurely discarded.

Soles4Souls partners with individuals, brands, and corporations to donate new and used shoes, clothing and accessories for people in need all over the world.

2024 Impact by the Numbers: 5.8 MILLION Pairs of shoes, 4 MILLION Pieces of clothing, 9.2 MILLION Pounds diverted from landfills, 147,500 Volunteer hours, \$69,549,921 Economic Impact, which is the money that stays in the pockets of the people and communities we serve when they receive shoes, clothing and other goods.

Soles4Souls is looking for helping hands to collect shoes like we collect eyeglasses and hearing aids. They are not looking for money donations. And the shipping costs of shoes and clothes is free, covered by a shipping label you print off from their website.

Please consider adding Soles4Souls to your club projects.

In Memoriam

Club	Member	Years a Lion
Madrid	Larry Shepard	57 years



30 YEARS OF SERVICE. 9NW District Governor Mike Mulrone presents Lions International Monarch Chevron Awards for 30 years of service to Madrid Lions Marcus Badgley (left photo) and Janet Neumann (right photo).



KIDSIGHT SUPPORT. Akron Lion Dee Watson (left) presents a check to Iowa KidSight Program Manager Chelle Lehman.



LION OF THE YEAR. Akron Lion of the Year Gina West (left) receives her award from Club President Tom Schroeder.

District 9MC

District Governor
Bill Pollard

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Here we are at the end of another Lions year. Some things are changing, while most things stay the same.

Lions are amazing human beings willing to help at the drop of a hat. What I have seen more this past year, compared with other years, is that some are thinking they should be rewarded for what they are doing. If that's the case, they need to rethink their idea of service. Their ideas are misaligning themselves and our organization. We as leaders are put where we are to be stewards of our organization with your, the grass roots Lions', best interests at the forefront. Clubs are closing, Lions are losing interest, while a few are spending time tooting their own horns.

This is an amazing group that does some great things for our children, the less fortunate and disaster assistance. We have a long history of good deeds and willingness to help. I personally have witnessed this with KidSight, donations to our food bank, supporting our police department. Most recently supporting our high school seniors during their environmental cleanup.

What are some of the changes that can happen? Training needs to be more online and simplified. We need fewer layers of officials. Do we really need zone chairs? Do we need so many committees? Do we really need extensive qualifications for district governor? A lot of the training can be done online with final training in person like it is now.

Conventions need to be minimized. The ones we do have need to be celebrations, not learning events. Align ourselves with other organizations that have true celebrations. The old ways aren't working, and we need to stop spending Lions monies the way we are!

I want to thank all of you for the hard work you have been doing. You have been representing

WELCOME NEW LIONS

Member	Club	Sponsor
Alisha Unick	Ames Campus	Cayden Kubesh
John Erthein	Beaman	Don Linnenbrink
April Bruene	Gladbrook	Trudi Scott
Phil Arendt	Grinnell	Thomas Latimer
Patrica Peden	Marshalltown Evening	Bill Peden

us above and beyond. New Members are signing up, awards are being given, Glasses are being provided and used glasses are coming in en masse. Fellowship is something, as Lions, we don't take lightly; we support each other as we spread our success.

Keep up the good work and I know I will see you along the way.

“AS WE CONTINUE TO SERVE”

In Memoriam

Michael Hotchkin – Grinnell

Gene Vande Lune – Prairie City



SHRED DAY. West Des Moines Lions pose in front of the paper shredder truck during the club's annual Shred Day. They shredded over 8,000 pounds of paper and received \$2,700 in free will donations. They also collected 100 pairs of used eyeglasses and a number of pairs of hearing aids during the event.

WE SERVE

AMES donated \$1,500 to Camp Hertko Hollow and \$1,000 to KidSight; collected 200 pairs of used eyeglasses; provided an individual with new eyeglasses; collected food on a weekly basis for Food at First which provides free meals and a food pantry for those in need.

BEAMAN KidSight screened 21 children at Beaman Elementary School and Day Care Center; collected and stocked the Beaman Free Food Pantry with food; assisted with the spring cleaning of the Discovery Garden in Beaman; sponsored Bingo every Monday night in Beaman.

BONDURANT is processing scholarship applications from Bondurant Farrar graduating seniors for a May awards program.

DES MOINES SOUTH held a pancake breakfast for Meals from the Heartland; delivered 132 meals for Meals on Wheels; picked up trash at Laurel Hill Cemetery; provided two individuals with new eyeglasses; delivered 800 pairs of used eyeglasses to Altoona.

GARWIN held a fish fry with the proceeds donated to LCIF and Boy Scout Troop 394.

JOHNSTON held its annual Book Sale; served a pancake breakfast at the Johnston Middle School.

MARSHALLTOWN EVENING delivered Meals on Wheels; provided funds to pay the airfare for a Marshalltown High School student's mother to accompany him and his teacher to the National History Bee competition in Arlington, Virginia (he finished in 18th place); was the only service club sponsor of the new Veterans Memorial that was installed on the grounds of the Marshall County Courthouse; and popped popcorn at Hy-Vee every Saturday as the club's signature fundraiser.

MONTEZUMA KidSight screened 34 preschool and day care children at North Mahaska Early Learning Center in New Sharon and Montezuma's Zuma Zoo Daycare; donated \$1,600 to the Iowa Lions Foundation, \$1,000 to LCIF, \$200 to Camp Hertko Hollow, \$100 to

Camp Courageous, \$200 to Leader Dogs for the Blind, \$600 to Montezuma Food Pantry, \$500 to Montezuma Friends of the Public Library, \$200 to Montezuma Shooting Sports Program, \$300 to After Prom; and selected two recipients of \$300 scholarships.

REINBECK held Bingo in April with the proceeds going to the Reinbeck Library; served pancakes and assisted in the local daycare breakfast fundraiser.

STORY CITY collected and sorted used eyeglasses; volunteered at the food bank; restocked the Lions mints displays in town and collected the funds; volunteered at the golf course.

URBANDALE served 75 people at a pancake breakfast at St. James Church in Johnston; KidSight screened children at Tiny Treasures preschool, awarded the George Tremmel and Wendell Dickey scholarships to Urbandale High School graduating seniors; delivered 1,200 pairs of used eyeglasses to the state office; transported cornea tissue for the Iowa Lions Eye Bank; served pancakes to 20 and helped at the UCAN spring cleanup; collected two truckloads of bikes for the Des Moines Bike Collective.



BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS. The Marshalltown Evening Lions collect 198.9 pounds of food for the Emergency Food Box for families in need. One hundred twenty six pounds of it was cereal.

District 9SW

District Governor
Gary Glockhoff

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This is my final article for *The Iowa Lion* magazine as governor of the Southwest district. When you are looking back in time, the period always seems shorter than it was. I do have fond memories of the many chances I had to meet new Lions and want to congratulate my fellow MD9 governors in their efforts to promote the cause of Lionism in Iowa. They have all been a joy to work with and I think our council chair has done a great job listening to our ideas and helping to facilitate some positive changes for the state.

I have tried hard to resurrect the zones in 9SW and in May we had meetings for the first time in many years for several of the zones. I'm proposing that every October and April be zone meeting months. All Lions are welcome and I encourage every member to attend their zone meeting. Back in Cedar Rapids, new members were issued a red badge and the only way they could get a standard color badge was to attend a club board meeting or a zone meeting. It was part of the initiation process and it helped new Lions understand how Lions is organized. Please make time to attend and participate in your zone meetings.

We have some new leaders getting involved at the district level and I want to encourage them to continue to learn and lead in the coming years. 9SW still has some overworked leaders and there is a real need for more young members to step up and get their feet wet in the leadership pool. I know there are leaders out there, but it's impossible to identify budding leaders by sight. You really have to voice your interest. There are a lot of jobs that need to be filled in order to build a cabinet. Take a look at the committees listed in the Who's Who. There might be one of the eight international causes that really trips your trigger.

For the first time, district leadership is able to make use of the Constant Contact program to make direct

MAKE YOUR MARK...WITH NEW MEMBERS

Member	Sponsor	Club
Mike Sweerin	Larry Griffin	Grand River
Matt Pearey	Michael Underwood	Guthrie Center

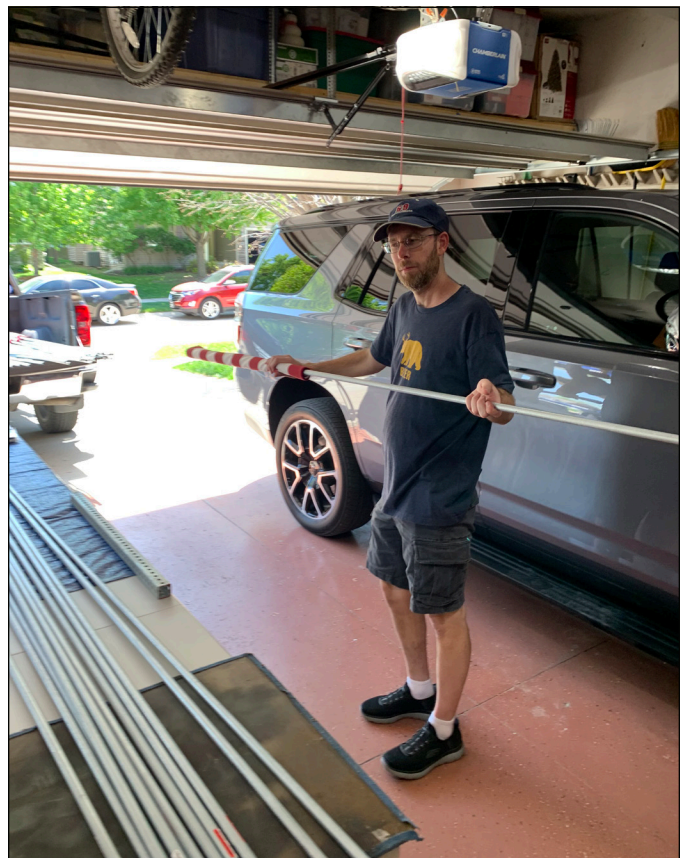
email contact with all of the members of the multiple district, the district, the zone, and the club. If you did not get a zone meeting announcement, you might want to check with your club secretary and make sure that your email is correct in the Portal. This will be a very important tool for the leadership team next year as we still have no candidate for district governor.

Club secretaries should take some time to check two things in the Lion Portal:

(1) Verify your club meeting details are correct in the Lion Portal and correct them, if necessary. (Lion Portal > My Club > Club Details to verify place/day/time; and Lion Portal > My Club > Club Actions > Edit Club Details to make corrections); AND,

(2) Check with your club members to verify their email addresses, mail addresses, and phone numbers are correct in the Lion Portal. If you have changes, let Nancy Love know your updates. The basic building block for district communication is getting the "garbage in" right so that we have as complete a system as possible. If you are still having problems changing information on the Portal, let Juanita Reynard know. Email her at kahluafawn@yahoo.com. She can help you get the changes made.

Thanks for all you do, 9SW Lions. You're the best!



PROJECT PREPARATION. Matthew Hollen prepares flags for the Waukee Lions Club's U.S. flag project.

9SW CLUBS MAKE OUR MARK ...THROUGH SERVICE

ZONE 1

COUNCIL BLUFFS processed two hearing aid applications for Boys Town; collected 32.8 lbs of plastic to recycle.

GLENWOOD donated \$1,500 to Relay for Life, \$75 to Mills County Fair; helped at Mills County Storehouse; sorted food donations from the Boy Scouts' food drive; screened 36 kids for KidSight; presented a Melvin Jones Fellowship to Diane Bruce in memory of her late husband's 45 years of Lions service.

MISSOURI VALLEY sponsored an annual Easter egg hunt with the Easter Bunny.

VILLISCA mowed the lawn at the community center; held a hot beef dinner fundraiser; delivered Hy-Vee to Good Sam low-rent housing, Feed the Pack, early childhood center and individuals; painted a new city welcome sign; distributed food boxes to 27 families, served free meals to Villisca East Apartments community; volunteered as a reader for state testing in Stanton and Villisca.

ZONE 2

ATLANTIC collected 38 pairs of eyeglasses.

AUDUBON supplied a grill and workers for a French Toast Breakfast for Congregate Meals and Meals on Wheels; assisted a student in need of glasses (\$175); contributed \$100 for T-Bone Fireworks; supplied a book to each first grader in Audubon Elementary; assisted a local couple in purchasing eyeglasses (\$400).



EARTH DAY CLEAN-UP. Perry Lions Dr. Trisha Smith, left, and Pat Graney work the ditches along a portion of Highway 141 during the club's roadside cleanup in April.

EXIRA helped unload vehicles for the Exira city-wide cleanup; collected 103 shoes for Soles4Souls; selected three seniors to receive Lions scholarships.

ZONE 4

ADEL provided \$300 to ADM After Prom Party; participated in annual Hazardous Household Waste collection for Adel residents; screened 85 children for KidSight plus kindergarten round-up at ADM Elementary School.

PERRY did roadside cleanup; worked at Pet Rescue Animal Shelter; worked at St. Patrick's Lenten fish fry; helped care for ill family member; managed Perry Food Pantry; served as a church deacon; served as director of the Toys for Tots program; conducted a KidSight vision screening; organized community resources to help people in need; gave rides to an elderly man to coffee group and shopping.

REDFIELD worked at the Can Shack.

WAUKEE did quarterly park clean-up at Alice Nizzi Park; did daily cleaning/organization at St. Mark Community Fridge for a week; volunteered at Drake Relays; held annual spring garage & bake sale, making \$875.

ZONE 5

INDIANOLA NOON had a KidSight presentation from Iowa KidSight Program Manager Chelle Lehman; attended the Iowa KidSight 25-year Celebration; built 20 beds for Warren County children at Sleep in Heavenly Peace project; planted trees at Wilder Elementary School; donated \$500 to Tori's Angels; volunteered with the school band program and the Greater Des Moines Community Band.

ZONE 6

ADAIR helped with Adair Food Pantry; provided music at several care and assisted living centers; drove a shut-in to medical appointments; attended the 9SE district convention and multiple Lions planning meetings; made individual donations to LCIF (\$50) and Iowa KidSight (\$500); sent Easter cards to 39 shut-ins and veterans; donated \$500 to Iowa Lions Foundation; completed 23 Iowa KidSight vision screenings in Adair and Stuart.

ZONE 7

AFTON held its annual Easter Egg Hunt.

LORIMOR held a spring scholarship dinner to give a \$300 scholarship to a high school senior; held Bingo night; held cleanup day.

MURRAY held its annual Easter Egg Hunt.

District 9NC

District Governor
Mike Ravera

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GIVE SIGHT, GIVE LOVE

Celebrating 70 Years

using a combination of LCIF grant dollars (\$105,000) and MD9-raised funds of \$105,000. The trustees of the Iowa Lions Foundation have already made a lead donation of \$40,000 to the campaign. This leaves a need of raising \$65,000 by the MD by June 30, 2026.

Why do we need to raise such a large amount for this campaign? Well, here's the deal; while the bank is a technologically cutting-edge facility, some of their equipment is aged and in need of replacement and the "stuff ain't cheap"! Here's a short list of needed replacement equipment/supplies and their cost:

- OCT microscope (uses light waves to create detailed, digital cross-sectional images of the corneas) – \$60,500.
- 1 year in-situ cornea recovery kits – \$35,000 for 800 kits.
- High speed centrifuge – \$5000.00.
- 1 year of enucleation instruments – \$11,000 for 300 test kits.
- Miscellaneous lab supplies and small instruments – \$36,000.

Like I said, the above is an abbreviated list that shows how expensive medical-grade equipment is, but needed to keep our world-class eye bank operating at its best!

Please have the discussion with your club members about contributing to the project! To donate, send checks to: Iowa Lions Foundation, PO Box 1, Monticello, IA 52310 and be sure to write "Give Sight, Give Love" on the memo line of the check.



IOWA LIONS
EYE BANK
OUR VISION IS YOUR VISION

First, a little history: Did you know that one of the first corneal transplants in Iowa was in 1954? The procedure was done by Dr. Alson E. Braley, who was the chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Iowa. Dr. Braley saw the need for an eye bank located in the Midwest. So, at the 1954 Iowa Lions State Convention, he approached the Lions with the idea of the eye bank. The Lions accepted the challenge and over the next year the needed legislation was passed and the Iowa Lions Eye Bank was established at the University of Iowa Hospitals.

Our Iowa Lions Eye Bank is a non-profit service organization (sound familiar?). It is dedicated to the restoration and preservation of sight through the recovery, processing and distribution of human ocular tissue for transplantation and research, primarily in Iowa but also throughout the world. The eye bank remains the only one in Iowa and provides corneas for over 800 transplants each year. The bank is a leader in cornea transplant research using cutting edge technology, amazing facilities and a world-renowned research team.

This year is the 70th anniversary of the Iowa Lions Eye Bank and the Lions of MD9 have established a capital project named "Give Sight, Give Love." The goal of the fundraising project is to raise \$210,000

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Club	Member	Sponsor
Belmond	Keith Angell	Jim Spencer
Belmond	Stephanie Angell	Jim Spencer
Charles City	Travis J. Haberkorn	Russell Schwarz
Charles City	Jay J. Jung	Charles Meyer
Parkersburg	Nora Balvanz	Tasha Finch

CLUB ACTIVITIES

CLEAR LAKE EVENING served popcorn at two Surf Ballroom concert events and raised \$486.

EAGLE GROVE donated \$332 for a local resident needing eyeglasses.

NORTHWOOD donated \$250 to local school district lunch funds and \$300 each to Leader Dogs for the Blind, Camp Courageous, Camp Hertko Hollow, Iowa Lions Youth Exchange Camp and Iowa Lions Foundation.



EARTH DAY. Clear Lake Evening Jana Mentzer hauls trash during the club's annual Earth Day ditch cleaning event.

In Memoriam

We fondly remember this deceased member.

Club	Member	Years a Lion
Burt	Duane Habberger	37 years



WARREN COLEMAN RECIPIENTS. Mason City members Kevin Hennessy and Tiffany Nonweiler pose with District Governor Mike Ravera after receiving Warren Coleman awards (note: the feet under the Lions banner belong to club president Mara Linskey-Deegan).



District 9SE

District Governor
Michael D. Renken

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As the Lions year 2024-2025 comes to an end, I want to say it has been a time of fun and excitement. It would not have been as exciting if it were not for the great cabinet I had this past year. Without their help, I would not have been able to do the things that needed to be done. I say let out a great big ROAR! It was a job well done this last year with zone meetings, peace poster contest with a winner going to the national level, many pairs of glasses being recycled, monies sent to Iowa Lions Foundation and LCIF and a successful district convention. Not to mention the many wonderful service projects the clubs did in their communities.

Everywhere you look in 9SE, this year you **Made**

Your Mark in doing your projects. It has warmed this district governor's heart in all that you have done and all that you can do. Please continue to do that for the next district governor, whomever that will be.

Lions International has rejected the past district governors' appointment of Debbie Doty as next year's district governor because she has already served as district governor twice. The LCI Board recently implemented a rule disallowing serving as DG more than twice. The Legal Department told me that there may be a rule coming in the near future disallowing district governor repeats EVER.

What does this mean for District 9SE? It means we will soon need to have another special meeting of the past district governors to appoint a DG that has not yet repeated. It also means that we need Lions willing to step up in the district governor track. If not, we are not going to have any communications from Lions International and we will have no representation on the Iowa Lions Council of Governors.

We will hold a club officer training via Zoom on Sunday, June 29 at 2 p.m. Club officers please attend.



INAUGURAL SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP. Solon Centennial Lions present \$5,000 in scholarships to Solon High School Seniors. Students were asked to write a 500-1000 word essay on how the Solon community service organizations have helped shape them and how they plan to serve the community in college and beyond. In their essays, some of the many community volunteer opportunities these students demonstrated participation in included: Silver Cord projects, coaching Solon Youth Sports Camps, Free Lunch Programs, helping with Community Beef Days, Peer Leaders, Solon Public Library, Solon Firefighters' Breakfast, 4-H Breakfast, Special Olympics projects, Solon Nursing Home Birthday Bulletin Board, Student Council, Veterans Day Celebration, Solon Food Pantry, making blankets and backpacks for homeless veterans, National Honor Society, Empty Bowls, Boy Scouts, Eagle Scouts, American Legion Fish Fry, SRNA splash pad shade project, Lake MacBride Park improvements, SRNA/softball field cleanups, and Breast Cancer Awareness Night organization and setup. Pictured (L-R) are Solon Centennial President Jason Spengler, students Adelyn Miller, Jayden Merrick, Rose McAtee, Michael DeValk, Caleb Bock, and Solon Centennial Club Secretary Marti Hendricks.

9SE CLUB ACTIVITIES

GRANDVIEW-LETTS bought \$200 worth of books to be passed out at Easter Egg Hunt; donated \$500 to the FCCLA program at L-M School to help pay for a trip, \$400 to Camp Hertko Hollow, and \$250 to the Grandview Community Club

IOWA CITY provided eyeglasses for eight individuals; screened 195 kids for KidSight.

LONE TREE donated \$1,500 to Iowa Lions Foundation, \$750 to the Lions Club International Foundation, \$500 to Leader Dogs for the Blind, \$500 to the Lions Visually Impaired Camp at Camp Courageous, and \$350 to the Iowa Lions Youth Exchange Camp.

OSKALOOSA collected and delivered 400 pairs of used eyeglasses to the 9SE District Convention; collected and delivered 18 hearing aids to the Iowa Lions Hearing Aid Bank.

OTTUMWA NOON completed youth vision screenings for preschoolers at Pickwick Early Childhood Center.

SIGOURNEY KidSight screened 29 children at the Sigourney Schools Preschool.

WILLIAMSBURG vision screened 70 pre-K students.



LEO SERVICE. 9SE LEO clubs do many service projects per school year. (Above photo) Notre Dame High School LEOs KidSight screened 3- and 4-year-old preschoolers. (Right photo) Burlington High School LEOs made and delivered May Day baskets. Both clubs are sponsored by the Burlington Noon Lions Club.



WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Club	Member	Sponsor
Winfield	Rodney D Kolkman	Larry Montross
Winfield	Lori Paisley	Donna Montross
Winfield	Robert Paisley	Larry Montross

In Memoriam

Club	Member	Years a Lion
Washington	PID Dave Stoufer	34 years
West Chester	Donald Traman	50 years



PRESIDENTIAL HONORS. District Governor Mike Renken presents Past District Governor DeEtta Rasmussen with the 2023-2024 Lions International President's Medal, the 2nd highest award offered in Lionism.

District 9EC

District Governor

Phillip Larabee

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Monticello, Iowa 52310

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My year as your district governor is quickly coming to an end. I want to thank you for your support this past year. As my vice district governors and I finish up our yearly visits to the clubs, I want to thank each club and every member for their support. What a year this has been!

My year started off with KidSight celebrating the 750,000th child being screened. Then the Iowa Lions State Office moved to Camp Courageous of Iowa. Now the year will end with the state secretary and state treasurer ending their terms. If you are interested in these positions, please let Council Chair Dawn Goodsell know.

At the end of June 2025, your District Extension Chair Rick Baughman, District Membership Chair and District Governor-Elect Greg Andresen and I will travel to Las Vegas for the MISSION 1.5 Summit. The session starts on Saturday, June 28, and ends on Sunday, June 29, shortly after lunch. This summit will include all of the districts in Constitutional Area 1 discussing and building plans for new clubs in their districts.

Lions Clubs International Convention

July 13-17, 2025, Laura and I will travel to Orlando, Florida, to attend the Lions Clubs International Convention. During the trip, Laura and I have been asked to help Wisconsin Lion Tammy Rockenbach, who is running for international director. Laura and I have never been involved with a Lion who is running for an international director. We both saw people working to get Lions voted in for international director positions in Melbourne, Australia. Now, we will learn what these people are experiencing to get international directors elected.

USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum

The USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum this year is in Atlantic City, New Jersey, Sept. 18-20, 2025. For those who have never been to a USA/Canada Forum, this is one of the best Lions education opportunities I have ever attended. Please consider taking time to attend this wonderful event.

Iowa Nice

“Iowa Nice” refers to helpfulness and a willingness to assist friends and strangers when they need help. I personally have heard this called “Southern hospitality” and even “Nebraska Nice.” I was raised to treat all with respect. My parents always told me “to gain respect you have to give respect”.

When I was a student at the University of Nebraska, I always heard about how the people who attended the UN football games would clap for the away team for a great game. But the best stories were about Nebraska fans buying the meals/drinks/etc. for away guests coming to the Nebraska football games. I, too, made sure a couple of University of Oklahoma fans did not get themselves in trouble with the law my senior year in college. I remember telling the two OU fans that the University of Nebraska was a dry campus and the last thing I wanted was for them to have a bad experience at the game by being ticketed for drinking on campus. They thanked us profusely.

Lions, I want all of us to remember to treat all of your Lions members with respect. Remember, you must give respect to earn respect. This makes meetings, fundraising projects and service projects go much easier when all treat others “Iowa Nice.”



PARK CLEAN-UP. Bettendorf Lions clean up a park as part of the club's Earth Day project.

In Memoriam

Member – Club

Kenneth Fuhrman – Bettendorf

Alan Noyce – Davenport Village

David Kayser – Walker

CLUB ACTIVITIES

ALBURNETT – Trivia Night fundraiser; Easter food baskets; road clean-up; parking at track meet; blood drive.

ANDOVER – Road clean-up, candy Easter eggs, Easter egg hunt.

BETTENDORF – Earth Day clean-up.

CENTER POINT – donation to Legion Hall.

DAVENPORT BREAKFAST – KidSight screening.

DEWITT NOON – Travelogue; Trivia Night; butterfly garden; donation to Viridi Golf Tournament.

ELDRIDGE – KidSight screening; eye tissue relay; eyeglasses collection; food pantry donations; park maintenance; scholarship; delivery to veterans outreach center; dance marathon volunteers; Bingo night; library book sale set-up.

LOW MOOR – KidSight screening.

MARION NOON – Presentation of Melvin Jones Fellowships.

OTTER CREEK – Pancake Breakfast; Soles4Souls; park maintenance; Meals on Wheels.

PRESTON – Roadside clean-up; scholarship; Easter egg hunt.

WEST BRANCH – Pickle Ball open gym; assist Tipton Lions with parking; eye tissue transport; Easter egg hunt; Trivia Night; Sweets for Success fundraiser; roadside clean-up; fun day at I Cubs game.

WELCOME NEW LIONS TO 9EC		
Member	Sponsor	Club
David Adams	Christen Hansen	Bettendorf
Jerrin Turner	David Chambers	Bettendorf
Nancy Springer	Timothy Clark	Clinton
Hannha Borman	Marica Borman	Preston
Lisa Fleming	Donald Drager	Tipton



SWEET SUCCESS. Lion Jim Russell and Dave Barajas of Dave's Coffee Cakes show off the display at Hy-Vee for the Cedar Rapids Noon Lions' cake fundraiser.

Former EyeNet Ham Radio Operator Reminisces About His Work

George Carsner Has Positive Memories of Working with Ted Hunter and Dr. Alson E. Braley

In 2025, Iowa Lions Eye Bank will celebrate its 70th anniversary. To celebrate, ILEB is sharing occasional features about people who have either had an impact on, or been impacted by, the eye bank over the years.

George Carsner grew up in Marion, Iowa, received his first ham radio license in 1949, and by the time the 1960s rolled around, was at the top of the amateur radio license scale.

By then, Carsner was living with his wife and two children in Iowa City, where he became acquainted with fellow amateur ham radio operators Ted Hunter and Dr. Alson Braley, founder and first medical director of Iowa Lions Eye Bank.

In 1962, Hunter and Braley created the Eye Bank Network, utilizing ham radio operators to coordinate the exchange of donor eye tissue between eye banks in the United States. The two recruited Carsner to participate.

“When they were busy, or Dr. Braley was out of town, they would have me call the Eye Bank Net for that day,” Carsner says. “So, I was sort of a backup operator for the network.”

Carsner says he and most of the other amateur radio operators built their own ham radio transmitters and receivers; he had a 1,000-watt amplifier that would reach “quite a way” but it only went so far. However, an amateur radio operator named Wayne “Chubby” Walters, whose call sign was W9DOG, was able to receive messages from the east and west coast and acted as “net control” from his home in Indianapolis.

By 1966, there were more than 100 amateur radio operators taking part in the operations of the Eye Bank Network, twice a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year.

Carsner has fond memories of being part of the



George Carsner with his wife Virginia in the 1970s.

Eye Bank Network.

“It was a lot of fun, and there was pride in that we could do something to save somebody’s sight, by providing information and getting the eyes to where they were needed,” Carsner says.

Carsner also has positive memories of working with Hunter and Braley.

“Al Braley was a doctor, and he was very skillful at surgery, and he was always a jolly fellow,” Carsner says. “Every year we would have an Eye Bank Net get-together some place, either in Iowa City or Kansas City or Chicago, or some place like that, and instead of just hearing each other’s voices, we could see each other.

“And Ted Hunter was a brilliant radio engineer, who worked for Collins Radio, designing equipment. Those guys were well known around the country, so they had their friends all get on the network.”

The Eye Bank Network was on the air until 1992, after modern computing methods made it obsolete. By that time, 11,000 corneas had been distributed by the network.

Today, at age 94, Carsner continues to occasionally dabble in ham radio.

“There’s a contest of some kind every day of the week and every day of the month, but I only participate in about six contests during the year,” he says.

Seeking Lion Volunteers to Work at the Iowa State Fair

Lions Clubs of Iowa is partnering again with Iowa KidSight to have a booth at the Iowa State Fair for 2025. This year, Lions will be needed daily Aug. 7 through Aug. 17 for 4-hour shifts: 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 1-5 p.m. and 5-9 p.m. KidSight screenings will only be offered during the first shift.

Volunteers working the Lions side of the booth will help apply Lions tattoos to children while providing information about the organization to adults. The booth will be fitted with brochures and a notebook to write down contact information of people interested in joining Lions. This collection of information will be

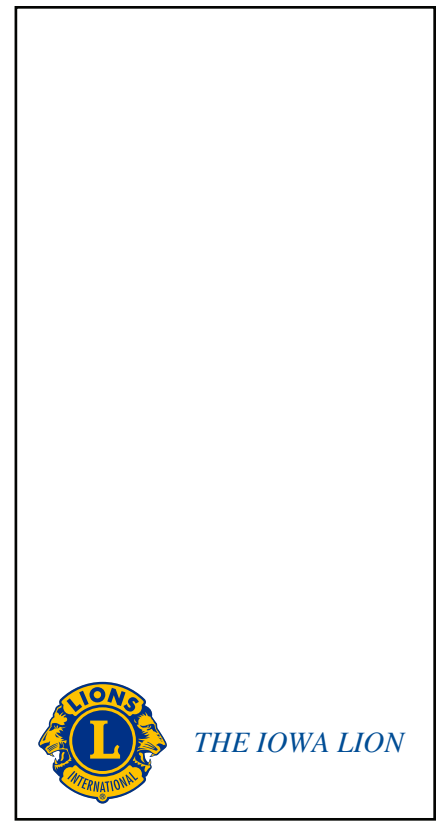
required to meet qualifications of a Lions International Marketing Grant.

Sign up now for your preferred time slots on the [Lions State Fair Signup Genius](#). A link to the Signup Genius is also available on the Iowa Lions Facebook.

One free ticket per volunteer per day will be provided to Lions members in good standing. You will be required to confirm your mailing address and a phone number when signing up this year to make sure tickets are mailed to the correct address. Sign up by July 15 to ensure time for tickets to be delivered by the post office.



The graphic features the text "Fair Sweet Fair" in a large, white, rounded font on a black background. The word "Fair" is at the top, "Sweet" is in the middle, and "Fair" is at the bottom. The background is decorated with colorful stars (yellow, blue, red) and a Ferris wheel with colorful baskets. At the bottom, a red cloud-like shape contains the text "AUG 7-17 2025". To the left of the cloud is the text "iowastatefair.org 800.545.FAIR" and to the right is the "Iowa State Fair" logo with the tagline "NOTHING COMPARES".



Lions International Convention in Orlando, Florida This Summer

The 107th Lions International Convention will be in Orlando, Florida – the theme park capital of the world – July 13-17. Regular registration for the event is \$265 through July 10, then increases to \$340.

This year, the International Parade and the International Show are on Monday. The International Show will be a Latin-themed extravaganza of entertainment. Get moving with a beat-mixing bilingual DJ. Sing and dance your way through an exciting showcase of music and dance styles from around the world, featuring the Latin Ambition Band. From mambo to tango to pop hits and beyond, you'll be carried away with this high-energy interactive celebration.

The International Parade is fun to witness as many Lions from around the world dress in their country's native gear and some even do traditional dances or play music from their home lands. It's a cultural experience to not miss. If you want to walk in the International Parade with the Iowa delegation, please contact Council Chair Dawn Goodsell in advance so she can turn in the numbers. You **MUST** be registered with the convention office in order to walk in the parade. Anyone can sit and

watch the parade.

This year, one of the keynote speakers will be legendary Olympian and mental health advocate Michael Phelps. Widely regarded as one of the greatest athletes of all time, Phelps captured 28 medals, including a record-setting 23 gold medals, and set 39 world records over the course of his distinguished career. He founded The Michael Phelps Foundation—which promotes water safety, healthy living (physical and mental), and the pursuit of dreams—in 2008.

In 2015, Phelps courageously opened up about his own mental health challenges, becoming one of the first and most prominent athlete voices who have helped catapult the important conversation across sports and pop culture. His advocacy efforts in the space have earned wide recognition and acclaim.

You can register online at LionsCon.org, as well as look up any other information about the convention. You can also book a hotel on the site. Booking through Lions International gets you special rates, as well as complimentary shuttle from the hotel to the convention center and the parade.

ADDITIONAL DIGITAL COVERAGE

WOMEN IN LIONS "Empower the Voice Within"

Register now- for the next *Women in Lions* virtual session and meet Lion Jenny Athena Wong! Jenny's story of courage and strength will inspire us to empower the voice within. She will share how we can amplify the quiet voice within our heart, that calls us to serve. Join us to empower yourself and to empower the agency of others!

Special Guest:
Lion Jenny Athena Wong

Lion Jenny is a distinguished Author, Speaker, Mother and Lion Leader.

She shares her own journey; a girl through motherhood and her mission to empower women who will in turn, elevate all!

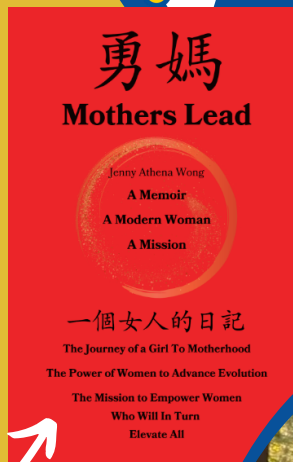
MothersLead.com

[Amazon](https://www.amazon.com)



VIRTUAL EVENT
SUNDAY JUNE 8TH

2-3:15 PM HAWAII
5-6:15 PM PACIFIC
6-7:15 PM MOUNTAIN
7-8:15 PM CENTRAL
8-9:15 PM EASTERN



REGISTER TODAY
CLICK OR SCAN



www.womeninlions.com

Empowering women through mentoring and networking for leadership growth and success!

ADDITIONAL DIGITAL COVERAGE

Margaritaville Night to support Beat Cancer Today presented by Iowa Lions 9NE District & Beat Cancer Today Saturday, June 21, 2025

GATES OPEN @ 6:00 PM - FIRST PITCH @ 6:35 PM

\$10.00 per
ticket for
all Iowa
Lions 9NE
District
members



VS



Ticket
Order
Deadline is
Friday,
June 20

Post-Game
Fireworks
Extravaganza

Bucks will wear special
Margaritaville jerseys which will
be auctioned off during the game
with all auction proceeds going to
Beat Cancer Today



Ticket Order Deadline: Friday, June 20

HOW TO ORDER DISCOUNTED TICKETS

- 1.) Call the Bucks Ticket Line at (319) 232-5633 by Friday, June 20 and mention the promo code "LIONS"
- 2.) Online by Friday, June 20: <https://waterloo-bucks.nwltickets.com/> → Under "Single Game Tickets", click "FIND TICKETS" → Find the **June 21st** game and click on "SELECT SEATS" → Select your seats in the Sections A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, or I → Click "VIEW CART" → Enter the following Promo Code into the "Enter promo code" text box: **LIONS** then click "APPLY" → Click "CONTINUE" to complete the purchasing process.
- 3.) Stop by the Bucks Ticket Office at Riverfront Stadium (850 Park Rd., Waterloo) by **FRIDAY, June 20** and mention the promo code "LIONS"

\$13 Reserved Seat Tickets will be available day of the game

ADDITIONAL DIGITAL COVERAGE



LEIGHTON LIONS CLUB



4TH OF JULY DINNER



FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 2025

5:00-7:00 PM

LEIGHTON CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

**PART OF LEIGHTON'S
4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION**

SERVING

**HAM BALLS, CHEESY POTATOES,
COLESLAW, DESSERT & DRINK**

COME FOR DINNER, STAY FOR THE FIREWORKS

