

# The IOWA LION



November 2025

[iowalions.org](http://iowalions.org)

## Leader Dog to Retire After Traumatic Experience

By Dawn Thompson  
Boone Lions Club

Some of you may know, and some may not, what happened this past July 4th near our home. Just a block away, neighbors were hosting a block party to celebrate the holiday. Everything was fine until after dark when the fireworks began.

A few small fireworks are usually manageable, but then came the very loud whistling ones with big booms. My husband Jeremy quickly told me to leash my trained service dog, Millie, and take her outside before the next one went off. Unfortunately, as soon as she had her head and front paws out the door, another firework exploded. It startled her so badly that she bolted back inside, trembling.

That moment left her traumatized. Millie refused to go near the kitchen door, and for over 13 hours, she wouldn't go outside at all. I reached out to my instructor in a panic, explaining what happened. Together, we brainstormed ideas, but we knew some of them might not fully align with the organization's guidelines. My instructor later arranged for a field representative to come work with us, with the hope of helping Millie rebuild her confidence.

Unfortunately, despite weeks of working together, there hasn't been any progress. After many difficult conversations with my instructor, we made the heartbreak decision to retire Millie from guide work. I am now in the process of starting over—completing a 15-page application, recording three required videos, and attending medical appointments—so that I can get back on the list for another Leader Dog. The waiting period

could be 12 to 18 months.

What hurts the most is that this all happened just days before our two-year anniversary as a team on July 12. Millie and I had worked so hard since our training in August 2023 to build trust and independence together.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



**FORCIBLY RETIRED.** Leader Dog Millie is no longer able to serve as a guide dog because of a traumatic experience with loud fireworks on the Fourth of July.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>November</b>	Diabetes Awareness Month Eye Donation Month
<b>Nov. 1</b>	9EC Fall Rally, Bettendorf
<b>Nov. 14</b>	World Diabetes Day
<b>Nov. 15</b>	9NC/9NE Joint Convention, Cedar Falls
<b>Dec. 5</b>	International Leo Day
<b>Dec. 9</b>	West Branch Lions 75th Anniversary Celebration
<b>Dec. 12-14</b>	Cedar County Christmas Festival
<b>Dec. 13</b>	Leighton Lions Soup Supper
<b>Jan. 3-11</b>	Lions Hunger Week of Service
<b>Jan. 10</b>	MD9 Council of Governors, Zoom
<b>Jan. 13</b>	Melvin Jones' Birthday
<b>February</b>	Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
<b>Feb. 15</b>	Int'l Childhood Cancer Day
<b>Mar. 7</b>	9MC Convention
<b>Mar. 13-14</b>	9NW/9SW Joint Convention, Carroll
<b>Mar. 20</b>	Lions Day with the U.N., New York
<b>Mar. 20-21</b>	9EC/9SE Joint Convention, Camp Tanager, Mount Vernon
<b>Mar. 28</b>	MD9 Council of Governors, Grimes
<b>April</b>	Environmental Awareness Month Lions Family & Friends Month Leo Club Awareness Month
<b>Apr. 18-20</b>	Lions Week of Service for the Environment

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

I want to be clear—I'm not against celebrating the 4th of July. It's a wonderful tradition. But I ask that people please be mindful. Fireworks can deeply affect veterans and others with PTSD, as well as trained service dogs who are critical to their handlers' independence and safety.

Because of this, I've been considering posting a sign near my home that says:

“Trained Service Dog in Area”

A little awareness can make a big difference—for people and for service animals who give us our independence every day.

Leader Dogs for the Blind received my videos and application for a Leader Dog and all my medical paperwork is filled out and signed by the doctors. It could take 4-6 weeks before they look at it and call me to tell me I'm approved for a Leader Dog, and another 12-18 months until I will be matched and go into training.

Even though I don't have a Leader Dog right now, I will still be doing Leader Dog Presentations.

## THE IOWA LION

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# HELP WANTED – STATE TREASURER

## JOB DUTIES

### GENERAL

A. The State Treasurer serves both the Lions Club of Iowa MD9 and the Iowa Lions Foundation, and reports to the Council Chair and President, respectively.

### DUTIES

A. The State Treasurer is responsible for recording and depositing all incoming checks from clubs, districts, etc.

B. The State Treasurer is responsible for recording and cutting checks for all outgoing payments to vendors, programs, and so on. This includes obtaining and documenting the appropriate approvals on all payments.

C. The State Treasurer is responsible for monitoring and reporting on special programs, such as the Power of 300 and Warren Coleman Awards. This includes sending the reports for Warren Coleman donations and awards to the IT Chair for uploading to the Lions website.

D. The State Treasurer is responsible for reconciling all bank accounts on a monthly basis.

E. The State Treasurer is responsible for providing all financial reports as required by the Iowa Lions Foundation President and the Lions Club of Iowa MD9 Council Chair, as needed for conventions, conferences and so on.

### COMPENSATION

The State Treasurer is a 1099 contractor, reimbursed for work time at \$20/hour and 50 cents/mile for travel. Travel is considered to be to the state office and any other location as may be required by the treasurer duties.

### REIMBURSEMENT

The State Treasurer shall be reimbursed for other expenses directly related to Lions business, according to the Rules of Audit.

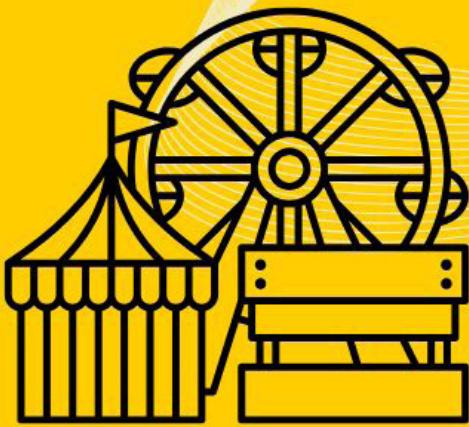
### ATTENDANCE

The State Treasurer is not required to attend conventions or conferences, but will make a best effort if requested to do so.

If interested to please email Council Chair Phillip Larabee at [phillip.larabee@gmail.com](mailto:phillip.larabee@gmail.com).

## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

# 18th Annual Iowa State Fair Screenings



SCREENED  
**231**  
INDIVIDUALS



REPRESENTED  
**91**  
IOWA TOWNS



JOINED BY MEMBERS FROM  
**22**  
LIONS CLUBS



SUPPORTED BY  
**34**  
VOLUNTEERS



**22**  
CHILDREN  
REFERRED



# The Early Times (or Before Zirm) Part 1

By PDG Bill Shutters

## Give Sight, Give Love Chair

Many of you remember watching “The Six Million Dollar Man” or “The Bionic Woman” TV shows back in the late 1970s, where Steve Austin is totally rebuilt at a cost of \$6 million after his spacecraft crashes and Jamie Summers almost died while skydiving but was rebuilt for an undisclosed price.

Or “Star Wars: Episode V – The Empire Strikes Back” where Luke Skywalker loses his hand in a light saber duel with Darth Vader. Medical droid 2-1B provides him with a new bionic hand, which functions like his former hand. We readily accepted without question replacing human body parts. This represented a change in paradigm and an advancement in technology.

From the dawn of time, humans have suffered the loss of the function of a limb or organ through accident, violence or disease. Their options were limited: do nothing, amputation or a crude prosthetic.

As people developed their cultural myths and legends, the monsters created were often an amalgamation of parts of other animals which threatened their lives, such as a lion’s head, a goat’s body and a serpent’s tail. The Greeks developed these creatures in Homer’s *Iliad* and called them chimera. In their environment there may have been animals which looked like they were made by assembling parts of different animals, such as a wildebeest or an okapi (looks like it was made from a giraffe, a zebra and a solid color bovine). The idea of a transplant was a logical progression. This has led to mixing of fact, fiction and vision to arrive where we are today.

The first written record of a transplant was a skin graft for treatment of a severe burn in the Ebers Papyrus (circa 1550 BC), an Egyptian medical papyrus. In 600 BC, the Indian surgeon Sushruta, known as the “father of surgery,” is credited with performing the first plastic surgery using full thickness skin grafts. (The skin being the largest organ, this could be viewed as the first organ transplant.)

Fourth century BC Chinese texts claim the eminent Chinese surgeon, Tsin Yue-Jin, exchanged the hearts of two soldiers, one endowed with a strong will but weak in spirit and the other conversely affected.

Stories of the methods of the Egyptian and Indian procedures of skin grafting made their way back to Greece and Italy by way of students and traveling physicians and surgeons.

In the ancient world, slicing off one’s nose was a common punishment for adultery, treason and a few

other offenses. This caused the person to become a social outcast and unfit to hold a public office. The injured person and their family often desired for social reasons to have the nose or any facial injury repaired. Greek surgeons performed many rhinoplasties using the Egyptian and Indian procedures. Greek and Roman physicians and surgeons had a battery of surgical instruments to perform a wide variety of surgeries.

In the 1st century AD Aurelius Cornelius Celsus wrote *De Medicina*, which described a number of procedures and skin flaps to repair ears, noses and lips. In the 2nd century the Roman surgeon Claudius Galen described a number of procedures for repair of facial injuries with local tissue flaps. His work formed the basis of the Galen Doctrine, which guided medical education and practice until the Middle Ages. Roman and Greek surgeons performed cataract surgery. Galen proposed the original concept of “abrasio cornae” (cornea transplantation) as a treatment to restore corneal transparency. He left no record of attempting the procedure.

In the early 3rd century AD, twin brothers Cosmas and Damian were born in Arabia and practiced medicine and surgery in Syria without charging a fee. Their charity and healing converted many to Christianity. This brought them fame and to the attention of Diocletian (circa 287) who had a campaign of persecuting Christians. He arrested Cosmos and Damian and their three brothers, subjecting them to severe tortures which they survived. He then beheaded them. They are the patron saints of clinical medicine, surgery and pharmacy.

But the story doesn’t end here. In 348 AD, Jacobus da Varagine wrote a text *Legenda Aurea* (Golden Legend) that contained a story “The Miracle of the Black Leg.” The story states that in Rome a verger (a layman who helps with church services) had a leg with a cancer that was consuming it. One night he had a dream that Cosmos and Damian appeared, amputated his diseased leg and transplanted the leg of an Ethiopian Moor who had been recently buried in the churchyard.

The man recounted the story when he awoke and an Ethiopian man was discovered to be missing a leg. This “cure” has been portrayed by many artists. Many of the paintings show a lack of anatomical knowledge. In one painting, the artist painted the transplanted leg white. After the artist’s death, another artist noted the defect and conspired with the original artist’s son and widow to paint the leg black. The brothers are now included in the litany of saints in the Catholic Eucharistic Prayer 1 and credited with performing the first human leg transplant.



It would be reasonable to doubt that many of these surgeries occurred or were successful. Many were performed in the absence of sterile conditions, since the discoveries of Joseph Lister and Louis Pasteur were unknown. In many cases, unless the donor tissue came from the patient or an identical twin, the operation failed because of what the 16th century Italian physician and plastic surgeon Gasparo Tagliacozzi called transplant rejection.

Corneal transplantation, on the other hand, did not have the problem of transplant rejection from unrelated donors.

In 1590 Hans and Zacharias Janssen invented a microscope. In the mid 17th century the Dutch microbiologist Antonie van Leeuwenhoek developed an improved microscope and observed the cornea.

In 1789 the French surgeon Guillaume Pellier de Quengsy published the first paper on ophthalmology during the French Revolution. It contained the first description of a keratoprosthesis. In his work he suggested that transparent material could be used to replace a clouded cornea and restore vision.

English physician Erasmus Darwin (grandfather of Charles Darwin) devised in 1776 the first trephine, a hole saw used in surgery to remove a circular piece of tissue, but he did not patent his inventions. He suggested that a small piece of cornea could be cut with a trephine and be replaced by a healthy piece of cornea tissue which would heal with a transparent scar.

During the Napoleonic Wars, French and British soldiers fighting Egypt contracted Egyptian ophthalmia (trachoma), a chronic bacterial eye infection caused by the chlamydia trachomatis bacterium. Repeated infections of trachoma leads to scarring of the eyelids, causing them to turn inward and rub against the cornea causing vision loss or blindness. When the soldiers returned from Egypt, the disease became widespread in Europe, since it can be

transmitted by an infected person or flies.

Today the treatment for trachoma is antibiotics or surgery. At that time surgery was the only option to cure blindness. This resulted in ophthalmology becoming a surgical subspeciality.

German ophthalmologist Karl Gustav Himley and his student Frantz Reisinger investigated in 1813 using donor corneas from animals to transplant in other animals. They suggested the use of donor corneas from animals for transplant in humans. All of their experiments resulted in failure. They did coin the term keratoplasty, which means surgery to the cornea. If the entire cornea is replaced, it is called penetrating keratoplasty and partial replacement of some of the layers of the cornea is lamellar keratoplasty.

Prussian physician and surgeon Johann Fredrich Dieffenbach was a plastic and reconstructive surgeon who established the modern techniques for rhinoplasty and maxillofacial surgery. In 1839, he also performed surgery on patients with strabismus, a condition where the eyes do not properly align with each other. He was also interested in blood transfusion. In the process, he investigated penetrating keratoplasty in a variety of animal species. After repeated failures, he described corneal transplantation as “one of the most audacious fantasies” and stated it “would be the highest reward of surgery if this operation succeeded.”

In 1835, Irish surgeon Samuel Bigger was traveling near Cairo, Egypt when a war erupted. He was abducted and held for ransom. He had his medical bag with instruments with him when captured. Someone’s pet gazelle was suffering from blindness caused by corneal scarring. While being held captive, he performed the first reported successful keratoplasty allograft (a transplant between two non-identical members of the same species) on the pet gazelle. The donor was another gazelle near death. The operation was successful with the gazelle regaining its vision and the upper portion of the transplanted cornea remaining transparent.

In 1838 American ophthalmologist Richard Kissam, a member of the New York aristocracy, performed the first recorded corneal xenograft (a transplant of tissue from one species to another species) on a young Irish lad. The donor was a 6-month old pig. The surgery was unsuccessful. The 19th century ended with ophthalmologists debating allografts versus xenografts.

This brings us to 1905, with an Austrian ophthalmologists practicing in Olmutz, Czechoslovakia. He operated on a farm laborer blinded by quicklime while cleaning a chicken coop and a young boy whose eyes had been pierced by steel shards.

The story continues in Part 2 in a later issue.

## International Report

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### Last Call - 990N IRS Filing

All Lions clubs and districts that have annual gross receipts less than \$50,000 per year must file the [990N e-postcard](#). It takes less than five minutes to complete online. If you don't file it each year, your club can be charged a hefty fine from the Internal Revenue Service.

### Veteran's Day is November 11

Please remember to thank every veteran for our freedom. Pray for the men and women currently serving our country. Military families also deserve our thanks for their support and sacrifices. Post a thank you on your Facebook page.

### Happy Thanksgiving

This month, remember to say thanks to your personal family and fellow Lions: in your club, district, and MD9. Your fellow Lions are your family. We work hard all year long side-by-side to serve others. Celebrate life together.

Thank you to each of you for your personal dedication of time, talent, and treasure in your work as a Lion. YOU are the hands of hope to people in need in your community and around the world.

Be sure to thank your community for supporting your work all year, too.

### November is Diabetes Awareness Month

November is a perfect time for your club to have a diabetes service project. Nov. 14 is World Diabetes Day. One easy project is to organize a Strides Walk for Diabetes Awareness in your community.

Put on your winter coats and scarves and walk together outdoors in your city park or downtown area.

Publicize it in the local newspaper and town Facebook page.

### November is Eye Donation Month

The Iowa Lions Eye Bank completes dozens of cornea transplants each year. They need donations

throughout the year.

Be sure to register as an organ donor when you get your drivers license. YOU can give the gift of sight. Thank you!



### Preparations for USA/Canada Lions Forum in Memphis, Tennessee

Just four weeks after the completion of the 2025 Forum in Atlantic City, New Jersey, the 2026 Forum Planning Committee met at the Renasant Convention Center in Memphis, Tennessee for our only onsite inspection of all the facilities for 2026.

We will be celebrating the Forum's 50-year anniversary. Get ready for LOTS of great music and reminiscing! We completed ALL the work for the seminar sessions, including the seminar topics, facilitators, moderators, and room assignments. We also determined room locations for the General Sessions, Forum Store, Exhibitors, Peace Poster and Pin Trader exhibits, as well as smaller meetings like the Midwest Breakfast.

All the events (meals, seminars, store, and service project) will be in the convention center. The headquarters hotel is in the Sheraton, just across the street from the convention center, connected by a skywalk.

Online 2026 [Forum registration is available NOW](#). You can also [volunteer ONLINE](#) to help at the 2026 Forum. Follow the link and fill out the form as to the days and areas where you'd like to help. If you are unable to click on the links in this paragraph, look in the red navigation bar at LionsForum.org for both.

Four Iowans are serving on the 2026 Planning Committee: Ardie Klemish is General Chair, Debbie Doty is Marketing Chair, Chris Waring is Strides/Service Project Chair, and Ken Klemish is on the transportation team.

## A View from the Chair

Council Chair  
Phillip Larabee

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Congratulations Lions, MD9 Iowa Lions' membership is continuing to grow. Tonight when I looked, the Multiple District 9 membership is +70 and every district has positive growth. One district brought back a club and another district has a new club. Lions lets continue to grow our state membership.

There has been a change with the state treasurer. In September, I accepted the resignation of our state treasurer. I was quite fortunate to find a new temporary treasurer within 45 minutes of the state office. PDG Doug Welton is serving as interim treasurer while we search for a new state treasurer. Doug has worked hard to get all of the bills paid, deposits made, grant application paperwork completed and bookwork up-to-date within about seven days.

Please note there is a help wanted ad for the state treasurer in this magazine. The plan is to interview candidates in December with the Council of Governors approving a candidate at the January 2026 Council of Governors meeting.

I want to thank all Lions for their patience while waiting for bills and expense requests to be paid.

The "Give Sight Give Love" grant application for equipment needs at the Iowa Lions Eye Bank was submitted to LCIF at the end of September 2025. I



**YIP-YO.** The amazing Servant Hero facilitators at the MD9 Yip-Yo Palooza in Audubon: (L-R) Past International Director Bruce Beck, PID Lee Vrieze, Past Council Chair Jay Norby, Past Council Chair Denise Laudenbach and Past International President Brian Sheehan.

want to thank all of the Lions who worked to raise the money for the matching grant. It was a pleasure to sign the application for MD9.

I made the trip to Audubon, Iowa, for the Yip-Yo Palooza event. Thanks to Past District Governor Allen Zobel and his crew for getting this event set-up and providing the food for this free event.

I had the pleasure of walking between the speakers taking pictures. After the event, I asked numerous Lions what they thought of it. All I heard was great responses about the speakers and the event. There were even Nebraska Lions who made the trip to attend. They, too, thought highly of the event.

At this time PDG Chris Waring, MD9 LCIF Coordinator Bernadette Lane and I are working to try to set-up one of these events on the eastern side of the state. Watch future issues of *The Iowa Lion* magazine for the date and location of Yip-Yo Palooza on the eastern side of the state.

Talking about upcoming events, have you signed up for the 50th Lions Clubs International USA/Canada Forum in Memphis, Tennessee yet? My paperwork to sign-up to attend this event is filled out and will go out this weekend. Memphis, Tennessee, is an easy drive for us Lions from Iowa. I hope to see many of the Iowa Lions at this event in September 2026.

Upcoming events that I am scheduled to attend include the District EC Fall Rally Nov. 1; District NE and NC Convention in Cedar Falls Nov. 15; the 75th Anniversary of the West Branch Lions Club in December, plus the date-to-be announced for the newly-chartered Lions club in LeClaire.

Another upcoming event is the Peace Poster Contest. I hope to start receiving the District Peace Poster winners very soon. Once I have them, I will have the State Peace Poster Contest winner selected and forwarded on to LCI for the next level of competition.

Also coming up Nov. 15, 2025 is the due date for the Club 990 Tax Returns being completed. I recently checked with our State Treasurer Doug Welton and he informed me the Lions of Iowa tax return is completed and submitted. The Iowa Lions Foundation tax return is currently being completed and filed soon there after. Please make sure you get your club's or district's 990 tax return is filed before the Nov. 15 deadline.

Please continue the good work on growing our membership here in Iowa!

## District 9NW

**District Governor**  
**Steve Rehmann**

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Whew... What a road trip! We are just back from the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum in Atlantic City. This was my first Forum and it will not be my last. An exciting time spent networking with fellow Lions, learning new things, socializing, and just having a fun time. So many interesting seminars to choose from over the course of the Forum. The speakers at the two evening banquets were amazing.

Former professional baseball player Warren Morris spoke at our Friday luncheon. He is widely recognized for delivering the decisive walk-off home run in the ninth inning, securing victory for Louisiana State University in the 1996 College World Series. A graduate of LSU, Morris went on to play professional baseball for the Pittsburgh Pirates, Minnesota Twins, and Detroit Tigers before retiring with a .267 career batting average. After baseball, he returned to his hometown of Alexandria, Louisiana, where he entered the banking industry. Today, he draws on stories from sports, family, and work to inspire audiences with lessons on perseverance, leadership, and resilience. Since my daughter, son-in-law, and grandsons live and breathe baseball, the imagery and talk resonated with me and I suspect the rest of the audience.

Lion BJ Blahnik spoke at our Saturday evening banquet. Diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa as a child, BJ has spent his life adapting to progressive vision loss. In 2006, he was matched with his first Leader Dog, an experience that gave him renewed independence and vision for the future. Today, through his organization Reach Forward, BJ supports individuals with special needs, encouraging them to pursue



courage, adaptation, and growth despite challenges. Joined at the Forum by his Leader Dog Jackson, BJ shared a message of empowerment, resilience, and the transformative impact of Lions' work with Leader Dogs for the Blind. Honestly, I cannot recall the last time I heard such a moving, forceful, dynamic speaker.

Having now had the opportunity to hear our International President A. P. Singh speak several times, I expected an inspirational and forceful message. I was not disappointed. A. P. Singh has been a Lion since 1984 and is a member of the Calcutta Vikas Lions Club in India. As International President, Singh is focused on strengthening membership growth, expanding Lions' humanitarian impact, and championing service that restores sight and improves lives worldwide. Listening carefully, we may also have picked up a few tips on working the casino tables.

Through social media, YouTube, or any other outlet, if you have an opportunity to listen to these presenters, I strongly encourage you to do so. You will not be disappointed.

I had completed the Lions University Bachelors program, so this was the perfect opportunity to attend my first Forum, attend the university's graduation and vacation at the same time. Over 300 Lions were at graduation this year. Are you familiar with Lions University?



Lions University, launched by the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum in 2015, is a leadership and education program designed to cultivate the next generation of Lions leaders. Its goal is to provide comprehensive learning opportunities that equip members with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to lead at all levels of Lionism — from club service projects to international leadership roles.

The program offers a tiered curriculum modeled after traditional university degrees: Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctorate levels, each focusing on leadership development, organizational skills, service planning, and global Lions initiatives. Participants engage in interactive workshops, leadership labs, and seminars delivered by experienced Lions and professional educators.

Graduates of Lions University emerge not only with practical leadership experience but also a deeper understanding of the Lions' mission: to empower communities, serve those in need, and create sustainable impact worldwide. Annual graduation ceremonies, held

at the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum, celebrate the dedication and achievement of Lions who have committed to this advanced learning path.

Have you thought about advancing within Lions? Assuming various leadership positions? Or just gaining a better understanding of Lionism. Lions University is a wonderful place to start your leadership journey. Signing up is easy at [www.lionsuniversity.org](http://www.lionsuniversity.org).

Courses are completed on your schedule, online, with each course averaging 45-60 minutes in length followed by completing a 10-15 question multiple choice quiz. I have started the Master's program and will have it finished for Memphis. Check it out. Take it for a test drive.

From the personal side, when I say, "road trip," I mean road trip. This was a two-week 3,000 mile trip. I wanted to relive childhood vacation memories and show Kathy things we did on the New Jersey shore in the 1950s and 1960s, and connect with my brother, who was only 75 miles north of Atlantic City. I enjoy history, so our stops included the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Flight 93 Memorial, Valley Forge, Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell, Antietam, and Gettysburg Civil War sites. Seeing other parts of the country always reinforces to me how blessed we are in the Midwest. I'm glad to be home.

### NEW MEMBERS

Club	Member	Sponsor
Orange City	Barry Brandt	David Mulder
Orange City	Earl Woudstra	David Mulder
Royal	Scott Briedinger	Mark Fahnlander



**SCARY ON.** Akron Lions Connie Blake (left) and Gloria Thorson (right) man the booth at the Akron Scarecrow Festival. A great Fall activity for the community and an opportunity to sell omelet breakfast tickets.

## News From Our Clubs

***Before we look at what is new with our clubs I need to ask again: please try to enter your service activities in the Portal. It is so important to 9NW's success.***

**AKRON** collected shoes for Soles for Souls; KidSight team working in Akron, Hawarden, Ireton, and Sioux Center; participated in the Homecoming parade; selling tickets for our annual Omelet Breakfast; participated in Akron's Scarecrow Festival.

**BOONE:** KidSight screened 43 children at two locations; transported tissue for the Iowa Lions Eye Bank.

**CHURDAN** delivered Meals on Wheels every week; donated \$500 to Iowa Lions Eye Bank.

**FORT DODGE** recycled eyeglasses from Fort Dodge and Wolfe Eye Clinics in Fort Dodge and Webster City; KidSight screened 205 kids to date at three locations; District Governor Steve discussed KidSight with the Fort Dodge Rotarians.

**GRAND JUNCTION** hosted pancake breakfast fundraisers on Memorial Day and Labor Day; hosted its annual car show during the Summerfest celebration; planted sixteen trees on city property and parks.

**HARTLEY** collaborated with other clubs and organizations for RAGBRAI earlier this summer; prepared and served the Friday night meal for summer celebration; collected over 1,000 eyeglasses from local drop boxes.

**LOHRVILLE** finished their Sunday summer breakfast series; assisted Lohrville Visions and the Lohrville community with RVTB when it came to town on Sept. 3.

**ORANGE CITY** visited daycares to conduct vision tests; conducted ditch walking/clean up.

**ROYAL** started Royal's 125th Celebration with a \$10,000 donation; sponsored a watermelon feed at a Summer Social; hosted a horseshoe tournament, sponsored a trip to the Kansas City Royals Baseball game; donated to the Iowa Great Lakes Fishing Club for kids fishing clinics; donated to the Royal Public Library for summer children's programming; helped with improvements to the dug outs at the ball field; aided the American Legion setting out flags around the football field for Memorial Day and Royal Fun Day; hosted the Lion's Trailer at the Clay County Fair, TRAWL in Okoboji and the IGL Fall Festival.

A final thought. Thank you to the clubs that emailed your activities in the community. It is an immense help. Remember to get them into the portal, along with your meetings.

***"Service is sacrifice. Pride is knowing why you do it." Seems appropriate to close with that.***

## District 9NC

District Governor  
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## USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum

Tony and I have just returned from the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Wow, what an amazing leadership conference! I want to start off with a quote from the Forum, “You do not need a title, a badge, or a hat to be a leader. Lead by example and let your actions inspire others in the community to WANT to follow that example. THAT is true Lions’ leadership!” Anyone in your club can be a leader. It just takes the will, spirit, and initiative to start!

Another favorite quote, “If your not having fun, you are doing it wrong!” I say to my employees that if you are having fun, you will never work a day in your life! Let us enjoy what we do, and the rest will follow.

One of my favorite things to do at any Lions event is to meet new Lions and reminisce with my Lion friends. During our time at the Forum, we caught up with BJ Blahnik and his wife Victoria. Tony and I first met BJ when we visited the Leader Dogs for the Blind campus in Rochester Hills, Michigan. BJ touched both of our hearts with his personal success story. I had asked him to come to Iowa to inspire other Lions and share his story at our 9NC District Convention. Well, that sparked an invitation from the USA/Canada Forum committee to speak at the Forum. Did you know his dream was to speak at a USA/Canada Forum? Well, we certainly did not. You never know when you might help someone achieve their greatness. We are truly proud of BJ and his family for sharing their story to help others. BJ profoundly changed our perspective of what it was like to be blind!

Another thing I enjoy at the Forum is to visit the vendor booths. Tony was interested in the new vision screening cameras. As you know, Iowa is leading the nation with the Iowa Lions Eye Bank and Iowa KidSight screenings. Unfortunately, our equipment has become old and technologically obsolete. We were extremely excited to evaluate the latest technology for vision screening. This new equipment is simple, fast, and easy to use.

Let us talk about the seminars. We thought it would

be helpful if we received technical training. Tony and I went to a video marketing session where we learned about the Stack Team App, a free app which allows organizations to improve communications by creating their own smartphone app. We also learned about different social media platforms and how to market our clubs using them. One great tip is to go to [lionsvirtual.org](http://lionsvirtual.org) and use the Lions Market 2 Grow tool to convert club service reports into shareable media stories.

Lastly, coming soon to our clubs: A Ball for All. What is the goal? We would like to raise money to purchase these unique balls made specifically for children who are blind or visually impaired. This ball is different from all the rest because it is a patented ball that rattles when it moves. There are an estimated one million children in the USA and Canada who are visually impaired or blind. Wouldn’t it be great to contribute and help reach A Ball for All’s goal for each kid to have one? Please contact me for information if your club is interested in this project.

## Soles4Souls Update

*From Eagle Grove Lions*

To date, the Eagle Grove Lions have collected 1,397 pairs of shoes. This diverts 1,746 pounds of shoes from going into local landfills. Eagle Grove’s donation can create \$12,643 of economic opportunity for families and communities around the world, such as in Haiti and Honduras. Eagle Grove Lions will continue taking shoe donations until May 1, 2026.



**NEW TECH.** Parkersburg Lion Tony Finch is examining new KidSight camera technology at the USA/Canada Forum.

## 9NC CLUB ACTIVITIES

**CLEAR LAKE EVENING** members and guests enjoyed the club's annual golf and cookout picnic at Oak Hills Golf Course. The event was hosted by the Sherman family.

**EAGLE GROVE** shipped 181 pairs of shoes to Soles4Souls; volunteered at a local food pantry; and held a hotdog fundraiser (pictured below) to assist with the purchase of a new camera for Iowa KidSight screenings.



**MASON CITY** screened the eyes of 109 preschool children for Iowa KidSight and collected 1,638 pairs of eyeglasses.

**NEW HARTFORD** held a joint omelet breakfast fundraiser (pictured below) with the New Hartford Fire Department. The net proceeds will be donated to the Fire Department to assist with equipment purchases.



**NORTHWOOD** held a pancake, sausage, and egg breakfast as a fundraiser and volunteered at the Northwood Theatre selling tickets and operating the concessions stand.

**OSAGE** donated \$500 to the Osage Police Department for child safety and cleaned a two-mile stretch of highway ditches for the second time this year.

**ROWAN** held its annual Chicken BBQ fundraiser with proceeds going to Iowa KidSight, college scholarships, and other community programs.



### WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Club	Member	Sponsor
Floyd	Brandon J Gates	Cindy Gates
Kensett	Angela M Sanchez	Mark Walker



**NEWEST MELVIN JONES FELLOW.** Clear Lake Evening President Jason Bradshaw (left) presents a Melvin Jones Fellowship award to Chris Wagler (right). Wagler joined the Clear Lake Evening Lions in December of 2013. He helps with the club's tent team, popcorn sales at the Surf Ballroom, ditch cleaning on Earth Day, and the annual Hamburger and Sweet Corn Feed fundraising. He has served as a club director, first vice president, president, and LCIF coordinator.

### In Memoriam

Club	Member	Years a Lion
Clear Lake	Kenneth Chizek	35
Floyd	Duane F. Tresch	44
Lake Mills	Bruce Burdick	29

## District 9NE

District Governor  
Dale E. Schrad

2922 Minnetonka Drive  
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613  
319-242-1988  
daleschrad@gmail.com



September was a busy month! With over 900 miles on my little red pickup, I visited clubs in Nashua, Cascade, La Porte City, Denver, and wrapped up with a great stop in Decorah. Every visit reminded me how proud I am of our district—9NE Lions are doing amazing service!

To keep that spirit strong, we need more helping hands. My goal is to increase membership by 20 new Lions this year. Remember, new members rarely just show up—they join because someone JUST ASKS them! Invite friends, family, or coworkers to help with a service project or fundraiser and show them what Lions do for our communities and beyond.

October is already filling up with club visits, and 1st VDG Craig Spilde is joining me to connect with more clubs. I also attended the MD9 Council Meeting in Grimes and enjoyed the YIP-YO Palooza in Audubon—plans are underway for another one in eastern Iowa next spring.

Lions of 9NE—We Serve and we shine!

## Joint Convention

Saturday, Nov. 15 is *the day you'll want to be there!* Our **District 9NE Convention** is teaming up with **District 9NC** for one incredible celebration of Lionism!

We're thrilled to welcome **Past International President Brian Sheehan** — a true ball of energy and inspiration! Brian has a way of lighting up the room and reminding every Lion why we do what we do. I've had the privilege of hearing him speak four times, and each time he's reignited my passion for being a Lion.

So mark your calendars, grab your fellow Lions, and plan to join us for a day filled with fellowship, fun, and fiery enthusiasm for service.

**You won't want to miss this one!**

## WELCOME 9NE NEW MEMBERS

Club	Member	Sponsor
Dubuque Noon	Sondra Stock	Darrell Kiefer
LaPorte City	Zachary Pothast	Wayne Gaston
LaPorte City	Scott Schroeder	Wayne Gaston
Urbana	Brenda Tjaden	Gwendolyn Schaeffer
Urbana	Mark Tjaden	Gwendolyn Schaeffer
Vinton	Justin McBride	Tanner Davis
Vinton	Randy Nash	Tanner Davis
Vinton	Scott Wirth	Amy Stourac



**OH THE PLACES.** West Union Lions Linda Gibson and Deb Lutjen pose in front of the club's Homecoming Parade float. The West Union Lions participated in the NFV Homecoming parade. This year's theme "Oh, The Places You'll Go!"



**CASTING SHADE.** (L-R) Cedar Falls Lions District Governor Dale Schrad, Juneo Oelberg, Rich Congdon, Tom Strub and a friend of the garden build a pergola for Prairie Parkway Diabetes Garden.

# 9NE CLUB ACTIVITIES

**DENVER LEOS** picked up trash along a section of highway (pictured right).



**GARNAVILLO** sorted 15,484 redeemable cans and bottles.

**HAWKEYE** donated \$100 to Leader Dog and \$250 to Ronald McDonald House Charities for Childhood Cancer; bought \$320 worth of materials for repairs to be done on the wooden playground equipment at the Hauth Park.

**INDEPENDENCE** boxed up 174 pairs of shoes to be shipped to Soles4Souls; collected 41 pairs of shoes to send to Souls4Soles.

**JANESVILLE** picked up trash along Wildcat Way, a street running parallel to and visible from Highway 27/218; cleaned up downed trees at a cemetery following a storm; conducted KidSight vision screenings on 100 preschool and Kindergarten children at the Janesville Consolidated Schools and three in-home daycare centers; prepared Sloppy Joes and hot dogs with chips, Rice Krispie bars and water served to the public for a free-will donation during the two days of fall city-wide garage sales.

**OELWEIN** collected and recycled eyeglasses; distributed food from local food pantry; called Bingo for a local senior center; provided transportation for community members to medical appointments; held a White Cane Fundraiser at local businesses.

**SHELLSBURG** sponsored a community blood drive.

**VAN HORNE** gathered pop cans/bottles, sorted, bagged, loaded on a trailer and transported to the can redemption facility in Cedar Rapids.

**WEST UNION** manned a booth at a preschool fair.

**WESTERN DUBUQUE** did Adopt a Highway cleanup on Highway 20, between mile markers 306-308.



**FAIR FOOD.** Belle Plaine Lions sell funnel cakes at the Cider Stroll on Main Street in Belle Plaine. They sold around 60 cakes. Pictured (L-R) are Lions Jacob Ehlen, Zac Slaymaker, Dan Blanchard

## 9NE and 9NC Joint District Convention Registration Form Nov. 15, 2025

First United Methodist Church  
718 Clay St., Cedar Falls, Iowa

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

District: \_\_\_\_\_ Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Ph. #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please note any Dietary  
needs: \_\_\_\_\_

I need a display table for: \_\_\_\_\_

**Enjoy the fun with fellow Lions and listen to  
our speaker, Past International President Lion  
Brian Sheehan from Bird Island, Minnesota.**

**\$30\* includes Sat. Lunch & Registration**

**Registrations Due by Nov. 8**

Make checks payable to: **Lions District 9NE** and mail to

PDG Ed Ottesen  
1941 W. 6th St.  
Waterloo, IA 50702

## In Memoriam

Member	Club	Years a Lion
Otto Claassen	Van Horne	45 years
Cheryl Winter	Strawberry Point	25 years

## District 9SE

District Governor

Paul Hain

111 Ryan St

Lone Tree, Iowa 52755

319-330-5920

paulhain@windstream.net



Fall weather is finally upon us and harvest is really moving along fast. Talking about a fast harvest, two 12-row combines pulled into the field beside our house around 10:30 this morning and before the afternoon is over, 120 acres of corn will have been combined. Wow, way different than the two row picker that I ran as a kid.

Club visits are well under way and it has been a pleasure reconnecting with the clubs and their members again. As I was going over my visits for this week, I noticed that two of the clubs have been providing service within their communities for 104 years. What a legacy they have within their communities. Another club I'm visiting this week is on their 8th year of service and are laying down the groundwork for a lasting legacy in just the short time they have been Lions.

But we can't just rest on our past laurels, we need to be pressing forward in this ever changing world. Many needs have been met in the past but there are many more needs today and in the future. We need to take Mission 1.5 very seriously and increase our membership so we can meet these new needs and challenges.

As we look forward to more service, there are many opportunities coming through our Lions service. World Diabetes Day is Nov. 14, Jan. 3-11 is Lions World of Service Hunger Week and Feb. 15 is International Childhood Cancer Day. How can you and your club make a difference during these service days?

Save the dates of March 20-21 for the 9SE-9EC Combined District Convention at Camp Tanager in Mount Vernon. International Director Melissa Washburn from Carlsbad, New Mexico, will be our guest for the weekend. Come and have a great time with Lions from both districts. The registration form for this can be found on the next page.

## WELCOME 9SE NEW MEMBERS

Club	Member	Sponsor
Clear Creek	Steve R. Hammes	Kevin Swanson
Fort Madison	Jerry D. Sparrow	Mark Bousselot
Fort Madison	John P. Umthun	Charles Zeiger

## In Memoriam

### Club

Birmingham

### Member

Gene Stine

### Years a Lion

55



**RAISING AWARENESS.** Oskaloosa Cyber Lions members Tim Wilson (center) and Jeremy Empie (right) speak to students and faculty at William Penn University's Community Fair. The pair shared what Lions Club does and gathered contact information for people who might be interested in helping the club serve the community.



**PAST PRESIDENT'S RECOGNITION.** Past District Governor Debbie Doty presents outgoing Fairfield Lions President Erica Voreis with a Past President's pin during the Fairfield Lions Club's District Governor Night in September.

## SERVANT HEROES IN ACTION

**FAIRFIELD** held a Teacher Appreciation Event and donated \$300 worth of crayon markers as a free handout to teachers from four different school districts (pictured right).



**FORT MADISON** held its annual Tri-State Rodeo Lions Pancake Breakfast serving the community, campers and fly-ins.

**IOWA CITY** donated \$500 to Leader Dogs for the Blind, screened 367 children at three KidSight screenings.

**LEIGHTON** planned marketing activities to promote USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum.

**LONE TREE** donated \$1,000 to the Iowa Lions Foundation for the "Give Sight-Give Love" Iowa Lions Eye Bank special fundraiser.

**NORTH LIBERTY** put up flags in the community in honor of Labor Day; transported cornea tissue for the Iowa Lions Eye Bank.

**VICTOR** collected 137 pairs of used eye glasses for recycling.



**FIRE SUPPORT.** Lone Tree Lions present a \$1,100 check to the Lone Tree Fire and Rescue for equipment purchases. Pictured (L-R) are Fireman Jerry Ford, Lori Alberhasky, Lone Tree Lions 2nd Vice President Jimmy Alberhasky, Club President Ruby Dickey and Club Treasurer Jeff Lihs.

## DISTRICT 9EC / 9SE JOINT CONVENTION SERVICE IS THE KEY

March 20-21, 2026

**March 20:** Comfort Inn & Suites Eastern Iowa Airport, 710 America Dr SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

**March 21:** Camp Tanager, 1614 W Mount Vernon Rd, Mount Vernon, IA 52314

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Lion? Y / N OFFICE HELD: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Lion? Y / N OFFICE HELD: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

CLUB: \_\_\_\_\_ DISTRICT: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please note any special dietary needs.*

I need a display table for: \_\_\_\_\_

Friday Night Pizza & Music Bingo @ 6:00 PM  
*Pizza & Pop, Meet & Greet with ID Melissa Washburn, and Music Bingo with prizes*

No. \_\_\_\_ x \$10 = \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Convention  
*(includes light breakfast & catered Czech lunch)*

No. \_\_\_\_ x \$35 = \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Convention No Meals

No. \_\_\_\_ x \$15 = \_\_\_\_\_

Late Fee (*registrations postmarked AFTER Feb. 21, 2026*)

No. \_\_\_\_ x \$ 5 = \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed = \_\_\_\_\_

[Pay online through the 9SE Square site](#)

OR send check payable to **Lions District 9SE**  
and mail to PDG Debbie Doty  
PO Box 251  
University Park IA 52595

### HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Comfort Inn & Suites Eastern Iowa Airport, 710 America Dr SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, \$89.60/night. Block rate good until March 5, 2026. Use group code Iowa Lions or follow [this link for hotel reservations](#).

## District 9MC

District Governor  
Jimmy Bacon

7002 Indianola Ave. Lot 159  
Des Moines, Iowa 50320

515-491-3340

baconjim.55@gmail.com



Hello 9MC Lions. I hope you all are in good health going into the fall season. I have been staying busy with Lions and my pest control business.

Since I have been district governor, I have had the pleasure of being invited to three clubs: Prairie City, Nevada, and Traer. It was my pleasure to attend a meeting with them and have a fun time at all three clubs. I got a kick out of President Lion Bruce at Traer. His thought was to have me there now with good weather rather than wait until it is cold and snowy. He claims the snow drifts a lot there and it would be bad driving, but I was thinking he was thinking let's get this guy here now so if he did come later when the weather is snowy, that I might get snowed in there and he would have to put up with me. Ha-ha.

I do hope more clubs do invite me to their clubs for a visit. Really, I don't try to tell you what to do, I just listen. Well, I might comment on some things. The main things I like to see in a club meeting is that everyone is having fun. I know sometimes it does make the meeting run longer but the end result is much more rewarding.

Since this newsletter is late again, I can report on the 9MC cabinet meeting that was held on Oct. 11. I have been asking clubs to get someone to this meeting if the president or secretary could not be there. We did have a few clubs attend, and I thank them for this. The cabinet meeting is mainly to make sure 9MC is running smoothly. On the other hand, this is where clubs can get answers to their questions and suggest ideas for our district to become better. The Lions that are on the cabinet have been Lions

## In Memoriam

Member  
Guy Harris

Club  
East Des Moines

Years a Lion  
60

for years and that means there is a lot of knowledge there to be had. Yes, I know that we are not living in the past on knowledge but use it as a foundation, then take your new ideas and build on their foundation. This is what we do. This is called GETTING IN STEP.

I have been asking clubs to start visiting other clubs at one of their meetings or inviting a club to your club meeting. I haven't heard of any of this going on yet, so I don't think it is happening, but wished it would. We talked about this at the cabinet meeting some. I think we could break it down to the zones in our district and make it some type of competition between zones, but I need ideas for this. We can get this going now and then report how it is going at the district convention on March 6-7, then judge at the last cabinet meeting of 2025-2026 year. Let's have some fun with this. Email me some ideas.

I am going to ask for anyone to help me with clubs that have closed to get a new club going in that area again, or help with ones that are having issues. This will take some time and some travel but we need this to happen. We have one club now that will close, but I think it could be kept going with some recruitment. I can hear you as your reading this asking, "Why should I work at another club out on recruiting members when my club needs members?" And you are right, then you might be one of those clubs that needs some outside help. Just remember working together makes a strong district. Oh yes, I think it is also called GETTING IN STEP.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Member	Club	Sponsor
Heather Maki	Kellogg	Katherine Allen-Kelly
Andy Gammom	Nevada	Michael Miller
Amber Miller	Nevada	Michael Miller
Dane Nealson	Nevada	Michael Miller
Brenda Smith	Nevada	Michael Miller
Danielle Hall	Nevada	Mari Bishop
Ralph Jones	Nevada	Mari Bishop
Nick Valline	Nevada	Jim Fenn
Eric Owens	Prairie City	Jason Wahlert
Paul Rosonke	Prairie City	Jason Wahlert
Adam Attleson	Urbandale	Larry Grund
Gayle Feldotto	Urbandale	Larry Grund
Corrie Feldotto	Urbandale	Dale Christians
Tony Ward	Urbandale	Jeff Harrison

## 9MC CLUB ACTIVITIES

**AMES** donated \$1,500 worth of health products to Ames Celebrate Community to be distributed to Ames schools; collected 227 pairs of eyeglasses; KidSight screened 30 children at Little Tigers preschool in Gilbert.

**BONDURANT** held its annual Cow Pasture Golf tournament raised \$8,500 for the Bondurant-Farrar Senior Scholarship fund; supported the Bondurant Fire Department with meals at their grand opening; along with Fareway Foods, donated \$2,000 to help strapped parents for holiday season.



**DYSART** hosted a Labor Day Blood Drive (pictured above) collecting 21 units of blood; planned for its 75th anniversary celebration, passed out wrist bands (pictured right) at the Independence Day parade, created two lapel pins and sold t-shirts to commemorate the event (see order form on Page 27).



**KELLOGG** served 79 meals at the monthly Pancake Breakfast.

**MARSHALLTOWN EVENING** – KidSight is in full swing and we should be done with most of the kids by the end of October. By the time we are done, we expect to have screened approximately 1,000 kids!

For Lions Mental Health & Well-Being Week Oct. 4-12 the club is holding a “Food & Hygiene Drive” in support of YSS at our local Hy-Vee store with a cart available to place donations in during the week of Oct. 4-12.

Marshalltown Evening's annual signature candy sales fundraiser kicked off Oct. 1. The club bagged approximately 1,900 pounds of nuts & chocolates in five days and hopes to be sold out by Thanksgiving.



**MOTHER-DAUGHTER SERVICE.** Marshalltown Evening Lion Stephanie Bowers introduces popcorn popping to her 12-year-old daughter, Phoebe. The pair had a great couple of hours of mother-daughter bonding while working the Lions popcorn sales at the Marshalltown Hy-Vee.

**MONTEZUMA** helped a resident obtain hearing aids through the Iowa Lions Hearing Aid Bank and paid \$300 for the fitting; served 750 people at a Chicken Barbecue Dinner.

**NEVADA** presented two Nevada Seniors scholarships; made a float for the Lincoln Highway Days parade; sold popcorn, had face painting and a balloon artist; had a successful Colorado peach sales fundraiser; did KidSight screening at Nevada HeadStart.

**URBANDALE** had its 85th year celebration with a birthday cake; hosted a traditional pancake dinner at Urbandale High School Homecoming; handed out sno-cones and popcorn at the Easter Seals Annual Fall Festival.

**WEST DES MOINES** hosted its annual Shred Day (pictured below) raising \$2,200 in freewill donations and shredding 7,000 pounds; collected 50 pairs of eyeglasses.



## District 9SW

District Governor

Beverly Fletcher

103 Chad Circle

Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503

712-355-3529

bafcbia@gmail.com



**Net Gain Awards:** I received in the mail from Immediate Past International President Fabricio Oliveira the Net Gain Award certificates to present to the immediate past club presidents from five clubs in 9SW: Dennis Cheers from Afton Lions, Ryan England from Diagonal Lions, Brad Binning from Grand River Lions, Chris Kuhn from Greenfield Lions, and Christine Petersen from Harlan Lions. This award is for maintaining a club with 20 or more members while retaining all current members in 2024-2025.

The zone chairs are in the process of planning their fall zone meetings. Please watch for the upcoming dates in Constant Contact.

**Recruiting New Members:** The word membership begins with ME. All members should be recruiting members for your Lions club. The following steps can help you start the conversation with potential new members.

**Step 1: Just ask:** A personal invitation is one of the most effective ways to bring in new members. Identify friends, family, colleagues, or neighbors you feel comfortable inviting. You know who would make great Lions — so just ask!

**Step 2: Advocate for your club:** Share personal stories about the difference your club makes in the community. Enthusiasm is contagious!

**Step 3: Meaningful conversations about Lions:** It is important to have a meaningful conversation about how they can make a difference by joining Lions. Listen to their interests and connect them with service projects that align with their passions.

**Step 4: Promote service on social media:** Share your club's activities on social media and post photos from service projects. Encourage club members to share posts.

**Marketing is essential:** Marketing your club and the service it does is a great way to let your community know what you're all about and garner interest in your club. Another way is to develop a brochure about your club to share with potential members.

## 9SW New Servant Heroes

Member	Sponsor	Club
Raymond Starnes	Thomas Waltz	Adel
Alex M. Hepler	Jon Johnson	Atlantic
Kelli M. Jensen	Juanita Reynard	Audubon
Rod L. Jensen	Juanita Reynard	Audubon
Sara Kerkhoff	Juanita Reynard	Audubon
Grace A. Ritter	Linda Keller	Audubon
Callen Weispfennig	Kandi Tague	Audubon
Aaron Hurt	Tom Charlton	Indianola
Michaela Johns	Nicola Endriss	Indianola
Douglas P. Weddle	Julia Williams	Villisca
Marie A. Weddle	Julia Williams	Villisca

# 9SW SERVANT HEROES IN ACTION

## ZONE 1

**COUNCIL BLUFFS** collected 46 plastic bags; KidSight screened 326 children at 13 different sites; processed two applications and four payments for reconditioned hearing aids.

**GLENWOOD** collected and shipped 551 shoes for Soles4Souls; helped with the food truck at Mills County Storehouse.

**NEOLA** helped 4th graders dig potatoes at the 1880 Carstens Farm; Tri-Center girls basketball team volunteered to help the club sort and bag cans and bottles for recycling.

**VILLISCA** refreshed KidSight skills; picked up and delivered donated food to several locations; assisted Community Betterment with walking trail renovations; collected/redeemed cans/bottles for the city; purchased/prepared/delivered food for Feed the Pack program; assisted city workers to care for community areas; gave \$200 to Villisca elementary and middle schools to use to meet student needs; raised \$240 with a biscuits and gravy breakfast fundraiser.

## ZONE 2

**ATLANTIC** assisted at the local food pantry; picked apples at a local orchard and donated them to the food pantry; KidSight screened at Atlantic

Head Start pre-school; watered new fruit trees at a community garden; performed maintenance activities and gleaned produce for the food pantry at a local church produce donation garden; supported an afternoon of Bingo for special needs individuals; served as a member of the Cass County Fair Board; participated in planning committee for annual Festival of Trees fundraiser to benefit the American Cancer Society; approved funding for an eye exam and glasses; had a board meeting with the Cass County Emergency Management director as special speaker.

**AUDUBON** attended and completed action plans at the Yip-Yo Growth Palooza event.

**EXIRA** helped host the daylong Yip-Yo Growth Palooza event in Audubon; collected shoes for Soles4Souls.

## ZONE 4

**ADEL** put up 2,865 American flags for Labor Day; donated \$5,000 to the new ADM School Victory bell; funded \$70,000 for new pickleball courts in Adel; donated \$500 and provided pick-ups to help the FFA conduct a bi-annual highway cleanup.

**PERRY** contributed to the following activities: St. Pat's Church, Perry Community School, highway cleanup, water testing, Dallas County Conservation, elderly care, KidsSight, toys for children, pet rescue, Vet Association, food pantry, Elks, Amos, toy drive, spouse appreciation dinner, set up 278 Flags over Perry with the Optimist Club, loaned 30 American flags to the high school for a program honoring Perry's veterans; attended the Yip-Yo event.

**WAUKEE** attended the USA/Canada Forum; attended the Yip-Yo Growth event; put out 52 U.S. flags for Labor Day; collected 236 pairs of eyeglasses; budgeted \$150 to assist a student with eyeglasses; processed applications for hearing aids with funds from district Care and Share; cleaned up Alice Nizzi Park; assisted with several miscellaneous community events.

## ZONE 5

**INDIANOLA NOON** volunteered at the Helping Hand Food Pantry; attended the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum in Atlantic City; attended the MD9 Yip-Yo Growth Palooza.

## ZONE 6

**ADAIR** provided music therapy at multiple locations; gave \$650 personal LCIF donation; assisted at Adair Food Pantry; attended and worked at USA/Canada Lions Forum; attended a Mission 1.5 event for four states; sent cards to 37 shut-ins; gave a Lions presentation to the local Chamber of Commerce.

**WINTERSET** held a White Cane Days fundraiser with donations going to Iowa KidSight and Leader Dogs for the Blind.

## ZONE 7

**LORIMAR** held its annual fall festival that raised \$6,200 for the club to give back to the community, other communities, service projects and Lions International throughout the year.

**MURRAY** held an annual music festival bringing small communities together with music, food and laughs; met with local businesses to accrue \$600 in funds for the Yip-Yo Membership Growth event.

### *Servant Heroes In Memoriam*

Member	Club	Years a Lion
Julie M. Powell	Council Bluffs	4 years



**A BUNCH OF NEW MEMBERS.** The Audubon Lions Club inducted five new members into their club Sept. 23. Pictured (L-R) are sponsor Linda Keller, new members Grace Ritter, Sara Kerkhoff, Kelli Jensen, Rod Jensen, Callen Weispfennig, sponsor Juanita Reynard, and sponsor Kandi Tague.

## District 9EC

District Governor  
**Greg Andresen**

2150 W 38th St  
Davenport, Iowa 52806  
563-209-7787  
gregandresen412@gmail.com



In the month of September, I attended the MD 9 YIP-YO Growth Palooza. This event was held on Sept. 27 at Audubon High School in Audubon. All Lions in the state were invited to attend this Iowa motivational meeting, which was free to all in attendance. Everyone was treated to coffee, snacks and free lunch. This event featured Lions Servant Heroes. Past International President Brian Sheehan spoke about membership, service and more. Past International Director Bruce Beck shared his thoughts on leadership, retention and adding members to clubs. Constitutional Area 1 Coordinator Jay Norby informed us about building new clubs, including branch clubs. Past International Director Lee Vrieze talked about the Lion Portal and Council Chair Denise Laudenbach talked about Leadership.

The Lions in attendance had the option of choosing which sessions they wanted to attend. In my opinion this was a great success. It was well attended, motivational and had great fellowship as well.

Now that the month of November has arrived, let us take time to remember on Nov. 11 the men and women who served in our military services.

Everybody take time to celebrate and give thanks with your family and friends on Thanksgiving Day. Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO 9EC

CLUB	MEMBER	SPONSOR
Delmar	Randy Budde	Brad Tallaferro
Delmar	Cassie Edwards	Renne Lietz
Delmar	Jane Schmidt	Brian Schmitt
Delmar	George Pickup	Kent Bennis
Delmar	Gerald Farrell	
LeClaire	Brian Bennett	Charter Member
LeClaire	Michael Detmer	Charter Member
LeClaire	Sarah DeDecker	Charter Member
LeClaire	Laura Duncan	Charter Member
LeClaire	Tara Elkins	Charter Member
LeClaire	John Fitzgerald	Charter Member
LeClaire	James Gooch	Charter Member
LeClaire	Jessica Gooch	Charter Member
LeClaire	Michael Hall	Charter Member
LeClaire	Rick D. Heard	Charter Member
LeClaire	Connie Johnson	Charter Member
LeClaire	Lindsey Leanne	Charter Member
LeClaire	Michelle Love	Charter Member
LeClaire	Gloria C. Maldonado	Charter Member
LeClaire	Evan Nix	Charter Member
LeClaire	Lisa Nix	Charter Member
LeClaire	Bob Pluta	Charter Member
LeClaire	Gloria Pluta	Charter Member
LeClaire	Janelle Pluta	Charter Member
LeClaire	Joseph Price	Charter Member
LeClaire	Brad Setchell	Charter Member
LeClaire	Vicki Thole	Charter Member
LeClaire	Natasha Wahlig	Charter Member
LeClaire	Dale Zahn	Charter Member

**9EC/9SE Joint  
District Convention  
March 20-21, 2019  
*SERVICE IS THE KEY*  
See registration form on Page 15  
and flyer on Page 30**

# CLUB ACTIVITIES

**ALBURNETT** picked trash from Burnett Station Road to Highway 13; dropped off shoes for the Soles 4 Souls Project at the Mount Vernon Warehouse; parked cars at the Alburnett High School football game.

**BLUE GRASS** manned the Call Center in Muscatine.

**DELMAR** hosted a Tractorcade meet and parade; raised \$5,000 on a Labor Day Car Show; sponsored a blood drive.

**LOW MOOR** had its food trailer at DeWitt Tunes in the Park, serving 191 people and raising \$972.

**LOWDEN** donated \$100 to the local library and \$500 to the Lowden Production Fund.

**MARION NOON** tested 38 kids through HaCap.

**MILES** had a Burger Stand fundraiser and raised \$773; presented the Yard of the Month to Jordan & Samantha Vandenberg for their Classic Harvest Season decor.

**PRESTON** cleaned up two miles of Highway 64 west of Preston; held a Hall of Fame Banquet to honor Preston graduates, contributing \$100 to sponsor a table and \$100 to sponsor awards given out.

**STANWOOD** KidSight screened 24 kids at Midland Preschool; hosted a blood drive with Impact Life.

**WEST BRANCH** grilled hamburgers, hot dogs and pork burgers for the high school concession stand; held Pickleball events on Sept. 22 and 29; transported eye tissue; delivered eyeglasses to Coralville Wal-Mart for recycling.



**SEAL OF SUPPORT.** Bellevue Area Lions placed 100 American Flags on Riverview Street to welcome and support the Seal Family Legacy Riders as they, once again, rode through Bellevue to support awareness for their cause to aid Seal Families.

## In Memoriam

Member	Club	Years a Lion
PDG Art Matje	Eldridge	47 years



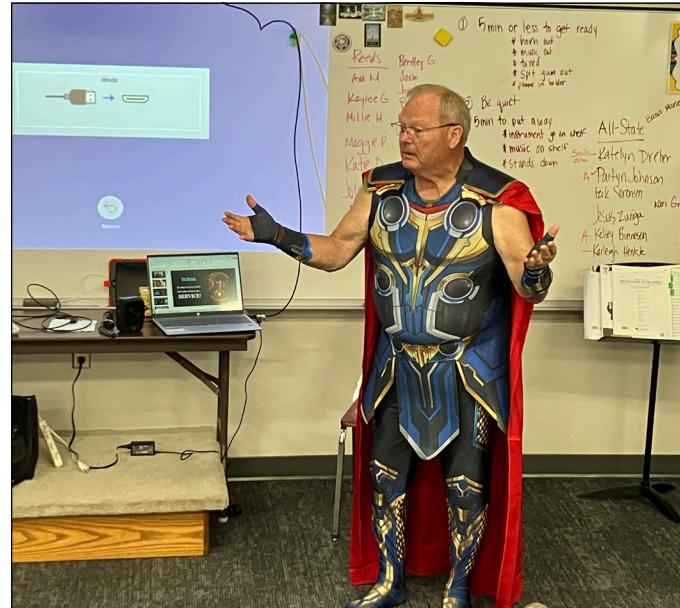
**MONEY TO REBUILD.** The Alburnett Lions Club and the District 9EC Care & Share Program donated \$1,000 to Tom and Ashley Caton and family who sustained a devastating house fire in September. Ashley is the daughter of Gregg Koeppen, who is a member the Alburnett Lions Club.

# District 9SW Hosts MD9 Yip-Yo Growth Palooza

By 9SW DG Beverly Fletcher

On Saturday, Sept. 27, 2025, Lions from around the state of Iowa met the Lion Servant Heroes for the first ever MD9 Yip-Yo Growth Palooza. Past International President Brian Sheehan spoke about membership. Past International Director Bruce Beck shared his thoughts on service and LCIF. Constitutional Area 1 Coordinator Jay Norby informed Lions about building new and specialty clubs. Past International Director Lee Vrieze helped Lions with the Portal. Past Council Chair Denise Laudenbach taught leadership strategies. Lions met these five super heroes and then spent two different sessions in a breakout room learning more about a specific topic of their choice.

This was a first of its kind presentation for 86 Iowa Lions and three Nebraska Lions to provide a



**MEMBERSHIP FLASH.** Past International President Brian Sheehan from Minnesota addresses a breakout room on Lions membership at the MD9 Yip-Yo Growth Palooza.

**PUTTING THE HAMMER ON SERVICE.** Past International Director Bruce Beck from Minnesota talks to Iowa and Nebraska Lions about service and LCIF at the MD9 Yip-Yo Growth Palooza in September.

specialized rally with experienced Lion leaders on a local basis to invigorate our Lions Clubs across America.

Lions were brought together to find ways to stimulate clubs to:

- 1) Make Lions Clubs more interesting and attract new and younger members.
- 2) Activate the spirit within us to culture meaningful and productive service projects and donations to our LCIF.
- 3) Provide a proven path and assistance for creating more clubs within our state to serve the public.
- 4) Assist the secretaries and service chairs to more easily complete the service activities report and manage membership accounts and create special reports within the Lion Portal application.
- 5) Encourage the silent leaders of the clubs to make themselves visible and expand their clubs.

Plans are being made for another rally in August 2026.



## “INCREDIBLE” LEARNING AT THE MD9 YIP-YO GROWTH PALOOZA

(TOP LEFT) Past Council Chair Denise Laudenbach from Minnesota works with Lions on leadership strategies during the MD9 Yip-Yo Growth Palooza in Audubon. (TOP RIGHT) Lions hard at work during one of the breakout sessions at the MD9 Yip-Yo Growth Palooza. (MIDDLE) Past International Director Lee Vrieze from Wisconsin helps Lions with the Lion Portal during a breakout session. (BOTTOM LEFT) Lions from Nebraska and Iowa taking notes during one of the sessions at the MD9 Yip-Yo Growth Palooza. (BOTTOM RIGHT) Constitutional Area 1 Coordinator Jay Nordby discusses starting new clubs as a way to build a community legacy during one of the breakout sessions.





**A DIFFERENT VIEW.** George Rickey bowls the 7th frame of the Iowa Lions Eye Bank's Strikes for Sight event wearing glasses that mimic Fuchs' Dystrophy. ILEB held the fundraising event to celebrate its 70th anniversary.



**THE IOWA LION**

## Iowa Lions Eye Bank Celebrates 70th Anniversary at Strikes for Sight

*By Francie Williamson*  
**Iowa Lions Eye Bank**

In 1955, Iowa Lions Eye Bank was established in a small office at University of Iowa Health Care. For the past 70 years, ILEB staffers have worked tirelessly to restore and preserve sight.

On Saturday, Sept. 13, that legacy was celebrated during the Strikes for Sight fundraiser at Colonial Lanes in Iowa City.

Attendees included a man who gave his late wife's corneas so that others could see, grateful family members of a transplant recipient, a corneal surgeon who's restored vision with his own hands, and Iowa Lions, whose support has spanned generations.

As music from the 1950s, courtesy of Star Entertainment, filled the air, guests bowled, played miniature golf, and enjoyed complimentary food and drinks.

Perhaps the most eye-opening moment came during the seventh frame. That's when participants were handed glasses that resembled 3D spectacles and asked to don them and bowl. Suddenly, everything blurred. The lane became a foggy tunnel, and the pins dissolved into a soft

haze. It was a powerful simulation of Fuchs Dystrophy, a degenerative corneal disorder that leads to corneal blindness.

Over in the mini golf area, when they reached the seventh and 17th hole, attendees again donned the special glasses to attempt golfing with a simulated case of Fuchs Dystrophy.

Iowa Lions Eye Bank is deeply grateful to everyone who attended, shared their stories, and supported the event. Thanks to their generosity, funds raised will help sustain Iowa Lions Eye Bank's vital operations, ensuring that sight-saving work continues for decades to come.

This event was made possible by a dedicated group of sponsors and supporters, including the West Branch Lions, Wolfe Eye Clinic, Yeager Ocular Prosthetics, Riverside Casino, the University of Iowa Center for Advancement, Dr. Mark Greiner, George Rickey, Beth Kirkevold, and ImpactLife. Special thanks to members of the University of Iowa chapter of Student Organ Donation Advocates (SODA) and ILEB staff for helping make this event a success.

See more photos on Page 25 in Digital Only section of this issue.

## ADDITIONAL DIGITAL COVERAGE

### More Photos from Strikes for Sight



**PUT AWAY.** Janet Driscoll (far left) attempts to land the putt during the mini golf games at the Iowa Lions Eye Bank's Strikes for Sight event in Iowa City on Sept. 13.



**AUGMENTED VIEW.** Stephanie Harris bowls the 7th frame of the Iowa Lions Eye Bank's Strikes for Sight event wearing glasses that mimic Fuchs' Dystrophy.



**STRIKING DISTANCE.** Janet Lyness lines up her ball while wearing glasses that mimic Fuchs' Dystrophy. Everyone donned the glasses during the 7th frame of the Iowa Lions Eye Bank's Strikes for Sight day at Colonial Lanes in Iowa City.

## ADDITIONAL DIGITAL COVERAGE

# CEDAR COUNTY CHRISTMAS *Festival*

DECEMBER 12-14<sup>TH</sup>, 2025

AT THE CEDAR COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

### **FAMILY FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES:**

- INDOOR CHRISTMAS TREE FOREST
- LIVE MUSIC & CAROL SINGING
- DRIVE-THRU CHRISTMAS LIGHTS
- SANTA!
- KIDS CRAFTS, COOKIES & MOVIES
- FUN KIDS ACTIVITIES
- CHRISTMAS MARKET
- BAKE SALES & CONCESSIONS

**FREE FAMILY  
FUN**

**FIND US  
ON  
FACEBOOK**



INVITE YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO ENJOY  
A MAGICAL CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE.

HOSTED BY THE TIPTON LIONS CLUB &  
THE CEDAR COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND SEE YOU AT THE FESTIVAL!



## **ADDITIONAL DIGITAL COVERAGE**

# **T-Shirt Order Form**



### **DYSART LIONS CLUB**

(319)721-3424

LION SHEILA

mskotouc@gmail.com

#### **CUSTOMER INFORMATION**

NAME

ADDRESS

EMAIL/PHONE

#### **PAYMENT METHOD**



Cash



Credit Card



Others

FRONT



BACK



#### **SHIRT TYPES AVAILABLE INCLUDE**

**TSHIRT- \$10**

**LONG SLEEVE TEE- \$14**

**CREW NECK SWEATSHIRT- \$20**

**HOODED SWEATSHIRT- \$22**

**ADD AN EXTRA \$3 FOR 2XL**

**AND \$4 FOR 3XL AND 4XL**

**(HOODIE NOT AVAILABLE IN 4XL)**

Adult		Qty	
<input type="radio"/> S			
<input type="radio"/> M			
<input type="radio"/> L			
<input type="radio"/> 1X			
<input type="radio"/> 2X			
<input type="radio"/> 3X			
<input type="radio"/> 4X			

NOTES:

## **ADDITIONAL DIGITAL COVERAGE**



**When:** Tuesday, December 9, 2025, 6:00 pm Social Hour, 7:00pm Meal

**Where:** Little Lights on the Lane

2 Ember Lane, West Branch, IA

**Why:** Please help us celebrate proudly serving West Branch, IA

For 75 years! We promise an evening of good fun, fellowship &

Good \*weather!

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number Attending:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Business Casual or Christmas Attire preferred.**

**Meal Cost is \$30.00 per person. Cash bar.**

**Please mail reservation and check to by November 28th:**

**West Branch Lions Club**

**P.O. Box 63**

**West Branch, IA 52358**

**Questions:** Email Greg Humrichouse at [greghumric@msn.com](mailto:greghumric@msn.com)

**\*Good weather was not officially notarized or witnessed and is subject to interpretation from various legal entities. The West Branch Lions cannot be held responsible for any other weather conditions that may take place on the date in question.**

## **ADDITIONAL DIGITAL COVERAGE**



# **Leighton Lions Club CHRISTMAS SOUP SUPPER**

**SATURDAY, DEC. 13, 2025  
5:00-7:00 PM**

**LEIGHTON CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**

**SERVING VARIOUS SOUPS, GRILLED  
CHEESE SANDWICHES & DESSERTS**

**FREEWILL DONATION • Open to the Public**

Benefiting Mobility Worldwide to raise funds for materials to build special mobility carts to be distributed to people who are unable to use their legs in disaster or war-torn nations.



Please also bring your whole used eyeglasses and hearing aids for recycling/repurposing to people in need.



## ADDITIONAL DIGITAL COVERAGE

# Districts 9EC/9SE Joint Convention

March 20-21, 2026



**Special Guest:** International Director  
Melissa Washburn from New Mexico

**Friday, March 20 • 6:00 PM**

**Comfort Inn & Suites, Eastern Iowa Airport Meeting Room**  
710 America Dr SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

**6:00 - 9:00 PM** Pizza & Pop Meet & Greet with ID Melissa Washburn and her Partner in Service Gemma Ferguson followed by Music Bingo with Prizes

**Saturday, March 21 • 8:00 AM**

**Camp Tanager** 1614 W Mount Vernon Rd, Mount Vernon, IA 52314

**8:00-8:45 AM** Registration and Light Breakfast

**8:45 AM** Welcome and Opening Remarks

**9:00 - 11:20 AM** Seminars (order and topics may change)

- Lions Service on the Global Level by PCC Gemma Ferguson
- Diabetes Camp Tanager
- Servant Leadership According to Bees by DG Paul Hain
- Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) by Lion Bernadette Lane

**11:25 AM** Chuck a Duck for Children's Cancer

**11:45 AM** Memorial Service

**12:15 PM** Awards Luncheon

- Traditional Czech Dinner
- Keynote Address by ID Melissa Washburn
- District and Presidential Awards
- District Elections & Business Meetings
- Parade of Checks
- Pie in the Face for LCIF



You can pay online by scanning the QR code above or going to <https://square.link/u/nWJspzOw> but please scan and email a copy of registration form to lions9SE@hotmail.com. We are still happy to take a check mailed to the address on the form, too.



## DISTRICT 9EC / 9SE JOINT CONVENTION **SERVICE IS THE KEY**

March 20-21, 2026

**March 20:** Comfort Inn & Suites Eastern Iowa Airport,  
710 America Dr SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

**March 21:** Camp Tanager, 1614 W Mount Vernon Rd,  
Mount Vernon, IA 52314

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Lion? Y / N OFFICE HELD: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Lion? Y / N OFFICE HELD: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

CLUB: \_\_\_\_\_

DISTRICT: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please note any special dietary needs.*

I need a display table for: \_\_\_\_\_

**Friday Night Pizza & Music Bingo @ 6:00 PM**  
*Pizza & Pop, Meet & Greet with ID Melissa Washburn, and  
Music Bingo with prizes*

No. \_\_\_\_ x \$10 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday Convention**  
*(includes light breakfast & catered Czech lunch)*

No. \_\_\_\_ x \$35 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday Convention No Meals**

No. \_\_\_\_ x \$15 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Late Fee (registrations postmarked AFTER Feb. 21, 2026)**

No. \_\_\_\_ x \$ 5 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed = \_\_\_\_\_**

[Pay online through the 9SE Square site](#)

OR send check payable to **Lions District 9SE**

and mail to PDG Debbie Doty

PO Box 251

University Park IA 52595

### HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Comfort Inn & Suites Eastern Iowa Airport, 710 America Dr SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, \$89.60/night. Block rate good until March 5, 2026. Use group code Iowa Lions or follow [this link for hotel reservations](#).