

The IOWA LION

Dec. 2025/Jan. 2026



iowalions.org

A Clearer Future: Iowa KidSight to Launch Next- Generation Screening Device

By Chelle Lehman
Iowa KidSight Program Director

As Iowa Lions continue to lead the nation in childhood vision screening, exciting developments are on the horizon for Iowa KidSight—a joint collaboration between the Lions Clubs of Iowa and the University of Iowa Department of Ophthalmology, ranked 6th in the nation.

Over the past year, Iowa KidSight conducted a thorough evaluation of competitive vision screening devices. A committee composed of the Iowa Lions KidSight Steering Committee, the Iowa KidSight Medical Advisory Board, and Iowa KidSight staff invited vendors from across the country to present their latest technologies. The committee prioritized reliable detection of amblyogenic risk factors in children ages 6 months through kindergarten, while also considering ease of use, compatibility with

our existing database, and feedback from Lion volunteers.

Dr. Bill Scott, Iowa KidSight Medical Director, explained the decision. “We knew that the present iScreen technology was evolving into a new device,” he said. “Before committing, we invited competitors to present their devices. After careful consideration by Lions, Iowa KidSight staff, and Medical Advisory Board members, the group determined that the best path forward was with the new iScreen device.”

Introducing the iScreen G5 Vision Screener

The iScreen G5 Vision Screener will be available in the first quarter of 2026, accompanied by a trade-in program for current iScreen G3 devices.

Thanks to input from our Lion vision screeners, the G5 delivers key improvements:

- Live child alignment with crosshairs for accurate positioning (no more lining up circles)
- Wireless or ethernet image transmission
- Dual image capture without re-entering patient data
- User-replaceable battery for easier maintenance
- Smaller, ergonomic design with handles



NEXT GENERATION. The front and back of the updated model of the iScreen camera.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 2	Giving Tuesday
Dec. 5	International Leo Day
Dec. 9	West Branch Lions 75th Anniversary Celebration
Dec. 12-14	Cedar County Christmas Festival
Dec. 13	Leighton Lions Soup Supper
Jan. 3-11	Lions Week of Service for Hunger
Jan. 10	MD9 Council of Governors, Zoom
Jan. 13	Melvin Jones' Birthday
February	Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
Feb. 15	Int'l Childhood Cancer Day
Mar. 7	9MC Convention
Mar. 13-14	9NW/9SW Joint Convention, Carroll
Mar. 20	Lions Day with the U.N., New York
Mar. 20-21	9EC/9SE Joint Convention, Camp Tanager, Mount Vernon
Mar. 28	MD9 Council of Governors, Grimes
April	Environmental Awareness Month Lions Family & Friends Month Leo Club Awareness Month
Apr. 18-20	Lions Week of Service for the Environment
Apr. 22	Earth Day
Apr. 25	Lions Worldwide Induction Day
May	Strengthen Membership Month
May 27	Memorial Day

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The Iowa Lion Editor
Debbie Doty
PO Box 251
University Park IA 52595

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Holiday Gift Giving with Life-Changing Impact

By Bernadette Lane
MD9 LCIF Coordinator

Last summer in a small Iowa town devastated by floods, a Lion volunteer handed a hot breakfast meal to a sleep-deprived, stressed and overworked couple. It was the first hot meal and real food they had in days.

That simple act, powered by an LCIF emergency grant, brought hope to this couple who had lost everything.

As I write this on the first cold and blustery day of the season, I am reminded of this powerful act of Lions support and kindness. How quickly we can go from heat to cold and one life's moment to the next. This also means that the holidays are right around the corner and with holidays usually comes the giving of gifts. Some of us may have a short gift giving list, and others, a long one. The list may consist of immediate family, extended family, fellow Lions, other good friends, service providers, work colleagues. We might know exactly the right gift to give, or we may not have a clue.

A Meaningful Gift with Lasting Impact

Regardless of the situation you find yourself in, I have a perfect gift giving option for your consideration. It is a gift to LCIF, in honor of the recipient. Before you say, "that is not a gift", allow me to explain.

We belong to the greatest humanitarian service organization on the planet. We give sight to the sightless, enabling the little boy to see his mother's face for the first time. We give comfort and provisions in times of natural disasters, letting people know they are loved and not forgotten. We give food to the hungry to ease their suffering. We help children gain the skills and tools they need to combat bullies and become thriving young adults. We help individuals and communities become healthier so they may be stronger and able to care for their loved ones. We provide vaccines and save lives. Lions, we do all this and so much more across the globe.

How can we do all this and on a scale that is beyond belief? Through OUR foundation, Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF).



A Gift That Reflects the Spirit of the Season

The holidays are a time for gratitude, generosity, and hope. Donating to LCIF in honor of someone you care about is a thoughtful way to express these values. Instead of traditional presents, consider giving a gift that inspires change and helps others overcome challenges. LCIF will recognize your tribute, and you can share with your honoree that their name is associated with positive action and compassion.

How to Give in Honor or Memory

1. Scan the QR code or go to lcif.org/donate.
2. Choose the fund you wish to give to, either Empowering Service, which supports all our global cause areas, or Disaster Relief if you wish your gift to be restricted to natural disasters.
3. Select the donation amount.
4. Under item 4, "recognition requested," select either special occasion or memorial and provide the details, such as "this gift is made in honor of..."
5. LCIF will send a thank you to your honoree, letting them know about your thoughtful gift.



100% of Your Donation Goes to Support Projects and Programs

Spread Joy and Hope—Make Your Gift Today

This holiday season, let your generosity shine by supporting LCIF, a gift to someone that has a deeper meaning, to help Lions impact millions of lives. Doing so also means your recipient is now a proud participant in impacting lives and making our world a better place through Lions.

To donate or learn more, visit [LCIF's donation page](https://lcif.org/donate) or contact your LCIF district coordinator (listed on Page 25 in the digital section).

Wishing you and your loved ones peace, joy and hope this holiday season.

Fun at the 2025 USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum



Past International Director Ardie Klemish opens one of the meal sessions.



Past District Governor Chris Waring (right) walks along the Strides Walk with International President A.P. Singh.



Past District Governor Debbie Doty cuts up at the 2026 Memphis Forum booth in the exhibit hall.



9NW District Governor Steve Rehmann and Past Council Chair Nancy Oehler Love during Speed Learning.



MD9 LCIF Coordinator Bernadette Lane (left) visits with her friend Past International President Justice Brian Stevenson of Canada during the LCIF Reception at the Atlantic City Forum.



Past District Governor Nancy Slack (left) and Lion Susan Mikesell during Speed Learning.



(L-R) International 1st Vice President Mark Lyon, International LCIF Chairperson Fabrício Oliveira, Past District Governor Jim Bixler, and International President A.P. Singh during the LCIF Recognition Luncheon. PDG Jim was recognized as an LCIF Ambassador of Goodwill.

Read about 9SW 1st Vice District Governor Chris Wilkins' experience at the 2025 USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum on Page 18.

Great Plains to Offer Midwest Faculty Development Institute

The board of Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute is once again offering a Midwest Faculty Development Institute during the same weekend as the Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute, July 16-19, 2026.

Attendance is limited to 20 applicants, and each of the participating multiple districts will be allowed four attendees each. Multiple districts in the Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute group are Iowa (MD9), Oklahoma (MD3), Missouri (MD26), Kansas (MD17) and Nebraska (MD38).

As mentioned, Midwest Faculty Development Institute will be held in conjunction with Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute at Baker University in Baldwin City, Kansas, about one hour southwest of Kansas City.

As a train-the-trainer focused institute, the primary purpose of Faculty Development Institute is to enhance training delivery skills and training techniques that will increase the quality of training and overall effectiveness of Lions leadership development programs.

Given the limited FDI slots, acceptance into the institute is not guaranteed. Each applicant will be vetted prior to final selection to attend the training. Accepted applicants will be notified by the curriculum coordinator/registrar. Applicants not selected will have their course fees returned.

Faculty Development Institute qualifications include:

- Current active member of a club within the constitutional area.
- Not attended an FDI within the last five (5) years. (International or local)
- Have an interest in improving training delivery skills.
- In-depth knowledge of Lions' culture, Lions leadership experience, and comfort using PowerPoint is preferred.

Upon acceptance to Faculty Development Institute, participants are obligated to the following conditions.

- Attend all sessions of the 3-day institute.
- Arrange personal travel to and from the institute.
- Complete all pre-assignments prior to arrival.
- Arrange to be observed and evaluated conducting a local training event within 6 months of attending the

FDI. The evaluation will be certified by the Multiple District GLT Coordinator and Council Chair.

- Upon "certification", assist in facilitating leadership training at the district, multiple district, and area levels.

FDI applications can be downloaded from the [Iowa Lions website](#).

All Lions Leaders Can Benefit from Training at Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute

Also offered that same weekend at Baker University will be the annual Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute, which is geared towards Lions ready to pursue leadership roles within their Lions communities. Club leaders would benefit from attending. GPLLI is training to prepare Lions for leadership positions throughout the organization.

Dynamic facilitators from across the Great Plains states mentioned above will provide emerging Lion leaders with modules on diversity; goal setting; Lions fundamentals; local issues; mission statement; motivation; public speaking; time management; and working in teams.

Students of both FDI and GPLLI will share dorm rooms and meal times.

GPLLI applications can be downloaded from the [Iowa Lions website](#).

Cost to participate in either institute is \$220 for applications received by April 30, 2026, and increases to \$240 for apps received on May 1, 2026 or later. All applications **MUST** be received by June 1, 2026

The cost of either institute covers single-occupancy room, meals during the institute, and cost of training materials.

Send applications to:

Curriculum Coordinator/Registrar
PID Hans Neidhardt
2744 E Ironstone St,
Park City, KS 67219

Every district in Iowa has training scholarships of some kind. Contact your district governor or district GLT coordinator for more information on scholarships.

International Report

Past International Director
Ardie Klemish
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Anita, Iowa 50020
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ardieklemish@gmail.com



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year Iowa Lions and LEOs

Thanks to each of you for your dedicated time and service as Lions. Remember to appreciate your family and friends during this special season. **YOU MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT EVERY DAY!** "Lead to Serve, Serve to Lead!"

Leader Dogs for the Blind

Please consider making a personal and/or club donation to Leader Dogs for the Blind BEFORE Dec. 31. If your donation reaches Leader Dog BEFORE year end, it will be matched by the Woods Charitable Trust. Make sure your club and district numbers are on the check so that your club/district gets credit. Learn more on the [Leader Dog website](#).

2026 1st Vice District Governor Training

All first vice district governors began their online learning classes and group webinars in September. Their special district governors elect registration form for the Lions International Convention in Hong Kong, China was emailed to them in October. **FVDGs do NOT use the general Lions convention registration form.**

In December, they'll receive an email registration invitation from Limitless Leadership to register for their virtual Zoom seminar sessions: two sessions each week for four weeks. Two additional mandatory webinars will be in April and June. If the 1VDG does not participate in all the virtual sessions, as well as live events in Hong Kong, their expenses for Hong Kong will **NOT** be reimbursed.

Each 1VDG is allowed to bring their spouse or one adult companion to Hong Kong to share their hotel room. LCI pays for air travel for the 1VDG for one economy roundtrip ticket. Reimbursement for one economy roundtrip ticket for one adult companion will be **\$500 maximum**, reimbursement available after the international convention with a correctly completed expense form with receipts. The final phase of online assignments will be April-June.

April 30, 2026, is the final due date for submission of

district goals. 1VDGs will participate in webinars hosted by their group leaders in May. **SPECIAL NOTE:** LCIF goals for every district around the world are now assigned by LCIF leadership in Oak Brook, not set by the district leaders.

2026 2nd Vice District Governor Training

2VDGs received registration and access to their virtual platform and curriculum in July 2025, with six mandatory online classes required to be completed in August 2025. Their mandatory live virtual seminars were held in November 2025. All In-person MD9 Iowa 2VDG classes are to be completed by March 2026. Also in March 2026, they should be supporting their district team in developing their 2026-2027 district goals and action plans.

Dec.-Jan.-Feb. Dates to Remember

Dec. 2: Giving Tuesday – Make a personal LCIF donation.

Jan. 7-12: LCIF Board of Trustees Virtual Meeting.

Jan. 13: Melvin Jones' birthday – Make a personal donation to LCIF in his honor!

Jan. 15: 2026-27 Peace Poster Kits available.

Jan. 30: Last day for early discount on 2026 International Convention registration for Hong Kong, China. Early registration fee \$190 and increases to \$265 Jan. 31-June 30. This is convention registration only and does NOT include hotel deposit or tickets for Melvin Jones Luncheon.

Feb. 1-28: District Governor Elect Virtual Seminar.

Feb. 2-5: Joint LCI/LCIF Boards virtual meetings.

Feb. 23-24: Mission 1.5 Worldwide Report Days.

Register NOW for 2026 USA/Canada Lions Forum in Memphis, Tennessee

The 50th anniversary of the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum will be Sept. 3-5, 2026, in Memphis, Tennessee. Register NOW while the fees are lower, and there are still rooms available in the the headquarters hotel that connects directly to the Renasant Convention Center across the street by skywalk.

To celebrate 50 years of the Forum, there will be live music on Thursday and Saturday nights, over 80 seminars from which to choose, a beautiful Strides Walk, service project, and fellowship with 2,000 Lions.

Register online at [LionsForum.org](#). Fees increase on April 1, 2026.

Memphis is also an easy day's drive from nearly everywhere in Iowa.

A View from the Chair

Council Chair
Phillip Larabee

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Monticello, Iowa 52310
319-465-5006
phillip.larabee@gmail.com



It is hard to believe I am almost through half of my year as your council chair. During these first six months, I have witnessed a rejuvenation in new Lions Clubs in the state. This rejuvenation has not occurred for a very long time.

Membership

The Lions of Iowa has not seen a positive growth in membership for 20-30 years. As of today, the Lions of Iowa are up in membership by 68. Each district remains positive in membership growth. What a great start for the 2025-2026 fiscal year!

Extension

The Lions of Iowa currently has one new club and two clubs brought back after being canceled. I am excitedly watching numerous new clubs in the early process of being started. One Lions Club is centered on KidSight. The second Lions Club in the works is centered on the ALERT Program. A third one in the works is a Pediatric Cancer specialty club. I still am anxiously awaiting news on additional clubs in the works across the state.

Leadership

I am working on some new leadership ideas. The first in the works is starting a mentoring program for zone chairs across the state. This new mentoring program will hopefully help districts start the process of building new leaders to accept the path to becoming a district governor. The second new idea is building our training program for 1st vice district governors and district governors elect.

Service

At the end of the first quarter of the fiscal year, the average percentage of clubs across the state reporting a service project was 33%. I challenged the district governors to get their districts reporting service to 50% by the end of December 2025, 70% by the end March 2026 and 90% by the end of June 2026. Club secretaries, please help report service projects and meet our service project reporting goals.

Peace Poster Contest

As of today, I have received my first district Peace Poster Contest winner. As the remaining district Peace Posters come in, my judge will determine who will be the state winner.

District EC Fall Rally

On Nov, 1, I attended the District 9EC Fall Rally in Bettendorf. One of the first speakers of the day was District 9EC Diabetes Chair Tony White. Tony is a nutritionist who works for a hospital in the Quad Cities. For the first time in life, I heard diabetes explained on the most simple basis, thanks to Tony.

Tony is working to host a series of Zoom meetings on diabetes for District 9EC. I will be sending these Zoom meeting links across the state to the current district governors. Tony is planning to explain all of the new drugs and equipment used today to help keep diabetes under control.

District 9NE and 9NC Joint Convention

Nov, 15, I was in Cedar Falls for the District 9NE and 9NC Joint Convention. The special guest speaker was Past International President Brian Sheehan.

Also during the morning, 9NW DG Steve Rehmann and I put on a presentation on the Lions Clubs International Liability Insurance. I am a licensed Iowa Insurance Agent and Steve is a retired insurance adjuster. The last time we teamed up together to put on this insurance presentation, we were asked to come back to a series of seminars at district conventions.

Veterans Day

As I write this article on Veterans Day, thanks to the Lions who served this great nation in the military. While researching my family history, I have found relatives that have served this nation starting with the Revolutionary War through present day. My family came to the British colony of Connecticut in 1637, only 17 years after the Pilgrims arrived in Plymouth, Massachusetts. In this group are many amazing servicemen including a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, a President of the United States or Commander in Chief of the Union Army during the Civil War and a National Commander of the American Legion.

Christmas Greetings

I want to wish all of you a Merry Christmas. This will be the last Christmas for my wife and I with just our two daughters and son-in-law. Why? Our daughter and son-in-law recently announced that they are going to have a baby in May 2026. So Laura and I will have a new title of grandparents in 2026.

District 9EC

District Governor
Greg Andresen

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



Seasons greetings to all members of District 9EC. I hope everyone had wonderful celebrations with their friends and families for Thanksgiving. Now that the month of December is upon us, we can enjoy the holiday season with the inside and outside display of our Christmas decorations. Enjoy this time with friends and families for Christmas parties, dinners and opening gifts on Christmas Day. After Christmas, we will celebrate by bringing in the New Year, so may the New Year be successful for everybody.

When you read the November issue of *The Iowa Lion*, you noticed a list of charter members for the new Lions Club in the city of Le Claire. In having this new club in LeClaire, they can reach out to their community on what service they can provide. You also noticed that other clubs are bringing new members, as well, so clubs of our district keep signing up new members to keep us growing.

The 9EC Fall Rally held in Bettendorf on Nov. 1 was well attended. It had good speakers, great fellowship and a wonderful meal provided by the staff of Tangle Wood Hills.

Global Leadership Team Coordinator

Our district has a vacancy on the cabinet: the Global Leadership Team Coordinator. The duties of this position include training club officers and zone chairs within the district, and attending Global Action Team meetings. You will also be working with the district governor team and Global Action team, as well. If you are interested in taking this position, please contact me.

In Memoriam

Member	Club	Years a Lion
Mike Boyle	Tipton	21 years
Ken Ewoldt	Delmar	25 years
Gerald Farrell	Delmar	43 years
Charles Newcomb	West Liberty	45 years
Dennis Shaffer	Alburnett	27 years

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO 9EC

CLUB	MEMBER	SPONSOR
Bettendorf	Troy Larkin	Pat Larson
Bettendorf	Carrie D. Reese	Pat Laeson
Eldridge	Deb A. Jurisic	Tracy Harris
Eldridge	Terry J. Jurisic	Tracy Harris
Eldridge	Hollie Matthys	Tracy Harris
Eldridge	Rita S. Pacha	Beth Schwager
Tipton	David A. Crock	Judy Archer
Walcott	Bernard R. Brus	Loren Claussen



CLUB EXCELLENCE. Council Chair Phil Larabee presents a 2024-2025 Club Excellence Award to Carmen Whitney from the Center Point Lions Club at the 9EC Fall Rally.



NEWEST FELLOW. Past District Governor Jim Bixler presents a Melvin Jones Fellowship to Clinton Lion Rhonda Lange at the 9EC Fall Rally Nov. 1.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

ALBURNETT KidSight screened 113 children and helped park cars for high school football games..

ANAMOSA did KidSight Screenings; raised \$2,800 from the annual golf tournament; put up and took down flags for Labor Day and Patriot Day.

ANDOVER did roadside clean up along Hwy. 67 in September.

BELLEVUE AREA attended zone meeting in Clinton; attended the Fall Rally; donated \$500 to Leader Dogs and \$5,000 to Give Sight-Give Love; collected eyeglasses and hearing aids.

BETTENDORF collected donations for various club activities and raised \$2,117.

BLUE GRASS collected trash and recyclable material from the Blue Grass Community.

CEDAR RAPIDS NOON KidSight screened children from local schools and community daycare centers; collected 4,670 eyeglasses; donated \$1,000 to Iowa Lions Foundation, \$100 to Camp Hertko Hollow, \$100 to Care & Share, and \$100 to Iowa Lions Youth Exchange.

CENTER POINT did roadside clean up; collected 725 eyeglasses; participated in Fall Harvest and Trunk or Treat.

CLINTON conducted KidSight screenings; distributed candy at a local grocery store raising \$774

DEWITT NOON participated in the Walk for Alzheimer's; collected eyeglasses; participated in hospital trivia to support mission activities for Mercy One Genesis.

ELDRIDGE held KidSight screenings in the month of October; helped with a library book sale; assisted with Grand Haven Bingo; raised \$420 at a Culver's Dinner for Dollars fundraiser.

LOWDEN helped with KidSight screenings in the Cedar Prairie Schools; collected 131 pairs of glasses; donated \$200 to Leader Dog, \$300 to KidSight, \$400 to Care & Share, \$700 to LCIF, \$300 to Camp Courageous, \$300 to Diabetes Awareness, and \$700 to Iowa Lions Foundation; collected four hearing aids.

MARION NOON collected \$242 for food for My Starving Children.

MILES collected 12 pairs of eyeglasses; had a community blood drive.

MUSCATINE distributed hand-written note cards with stickers to a local nursing home for the Mental Health & Well Being project; had a Halloween Trunk or Treat for the youth; raised \$3,833 at the annual soup supper; donated \$500 to LCIF and \$200 to Care & Share.

OTTER CREEK designed a new brochure box for the pavilion; picked up garbage; placed mole traps; delivered Meals on Wheels; did prep work for Cheese Sales & Tenderloin Fry.

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
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515-491-3340

baconjim.55@gmail.com



So, some of us got a taste of winter again here in Des Moines. It was not bad but north of here seems they got the most. Well, it is that time of year we all love. If any of you are planning to attend another club's meeting, you might think about it soon as the weather is so unpredictable. I do hope this is in clubs' plans to make this happen.

I am going to be handing out wooden boxes with just a small cut in the top so money can be inserted. I will be giving it to zone chairpersons to take to a zone meeting then it is up to the receiving club to get it to another club. At the district convention March 6-7, we will open them and the zone with the most money will be recognized as the best zone in 9MC. This sounds like a fun activity. Oh yes, each club needs to decorate the outside of the box leaving space for other clubs to do the same.

It is nice to see some clubs taking time to go through the Lion Portal and learn how to report on it. It really is so easy to do but at the same time comes off being scary. Remember you can't hurt anything if you make a mistake.

I have been telling clubs to make sure their members are getting their years of service chevrons. Most clubs say that they get them for International and then they hand them out. I don't like this plan. I like everyone to get their new chevron by Christmas, and if you have a Christmas party do it then. One other way is for the incoming president to hand them out at the first meeting or two. It's a good way to introduce yourself as president.

Speaking of presidents, clubs that have a president for more than two years in a row need to start looking for a replacement. By holding that position for a long time, you're taking the stepping stone away from others that may want to step into the district level. Just because you're not the president doesn't mean you can't teach the new president the ropes. One thing I hear is no one wants the position, so the current president stays. One of the reasons no one wants the position is no one has prepared them for that position. So, it is easy to say nothing and they will do nothing. In time, you will lose that member. Think about it and GET IN STEP with your club.



DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY. Dysart Lions celebrate their club's 75th anniversary with special guests.

Dysart Lions Celebrate 75th Anniversary

The Dysart Lions Club celebrated their 75th anniversary on Nov. 16, with an evening of fun, good memories and thankful hearts. Lions District 9MC Governor Jimmy Bacon attended, as well as District 9EC Past District Governor Jim Bixler, 9MC Global Service Team Coordinator Judy Stone, Iowa Lions Foundation Trustee PDG Zane Vokes, firefighter Brian Sparks, City Council Member Mary Wankowicz, Chamber of Commerce President Nicole Taylor and EMS team member Jackie Obrosk. The keynote speaker was Don Lyons, who has been an enthusiastic and faithful Dysart Lions Club member for 63 years.

In his speech, Lion Lyons highlighted some of the history and the many service projects the Dysart Lions Club has done over the years. Chartered in 1950 with the Belle Plaine Lions Club as its sponsor, the Dysart Lions have been responsible for the funding of the 1959 Dysart swimming pool, the building of the park tennis court, baseball diamond, and most recently, they donated signs for the new pickleball court.

The Dysart Lions Club provided funds for the Lions Concession Stand, the open and closed shelters in the Dysart Park, and most recently, the 40-foot storage building to store equipment for the Little League baseball teams and the football team.

Dysart Lions also fund and organize the 4th of July parade, Lions KidSight vision screenings, scholarships for special needs kids to attend Camp Courageous, annual scholarships for five graduating seniors. They fund and distribute yearly Christmas Cheer Boxes as well as send donations to disaster relief.

The Dysart Lions are active in serving at the concession stand in the park, helping supply eyeglasses to students at the local elementary and middle school

and hearing aids to those in need, as well as numerous other community services.

Funding for community projects comes from the generosity of the community as they support the fundraisers; two fish fries and two "World Famous Tenderloin" suppers during the year.

At the end of his speech, Lion Lyons invited Past Council Chair Judy Stone from Marshalltown to join him so she could receive the new Dysart Lions Club lapel pins.

Three awards were presented this evening. The Membership Key Award was presented to Sherry Lyons. A Warren Coleman award went to Sheila Kotouc and a Melvin Jones Fellowship award went to Ken Tanner.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Member	Club	Sponsor
Josh Johnson	Clive	Bradley Brown
Rob Edwards	Nevada	Nick Valline

Save the Date for the 9MC District Convention

Save March 6-7, 2025 for the 9MC District Convention at Grace Lutheran Church in Marshalltown. We don't have it all planned out yet, but we will have a Meet & Greet with our International guest, as well as supper and entertainment on Friday night. Saturday we will have coffee and pastries to start off, then on to a few speakers, lunch and at the same time a silent auction of baskets, and some other fun things.

For now, you need to mark off on your calendar these dates. We will be setting up rooms for the overnight stay. This convention will be all about fun so plan ahead. All starts at 5 p.m. on Friday, March 6.

The cost for this will be coming later, as will the agenda for Friday evening and Saturday. Just remember that these conventions are one, and sometimes the only, way a district can make some money to put these on.

There will also be the Avenue of Club Banners on display. So, from the time you read this until March 6, you should make sure your club banner is looking good. Let's say your club banner doesn't make it there, but at least two people from your club do, it will probably cost your club about \$100.

One thing if you have forgotten what you read so far, this convention is all about FUN.

So, GET IN STEP with me and District 9MC!

9MC CLUB ACTIVITIES



AMES held its annual Turkey Dinner Oct. 24 (pictured above), serving 425 carryout meals with a profit of \$5,500; collected 445 pairs of eyeglasses and four sets of hearing aids from area collection centers.

DYSART KidSight screened 52 children; participated in the annual Dysart PTO Trunk or Treat event passing out lion tattoos and candy; celebrated its 75th anniversary

MARSHALLTOWN EVENING – KidSight is wrapping up except for doing a few retakes. The team screened a whopping 1,004 kids! CANDY IS ALMOST GONE! The club's annual signature fundraiser is expected to be sold out by the end of November. The club selected the Iowa River Hospice House in Marshalltown as this year's project. In conjunction with Hospice House's current plans to update the interior, the club is stepping up to provide funds to purchase comfortable, quality bedside chairs with medical grade upholstery for consoling loved ones who are already dealing with difficult life-changing times. In addition, the club's fundraising efforts will also allow for the purchase of new stackable chairs for overflow seating. The total cost for all this is estimated at \$4,000- \$5,000. Marshalltown Evening Lions extends a special thanks to all the retailers that allowed them to place candy/nuts in their stores and to all the people who purchased candy/nuts in support of Iowa River Hospice House.

SOUTH DES MOINES made placemats for the pancake breakfasts, a fundraiser that brings in \$1,500-\$1,800 per year; delivered Meals on Wheels; conducted KidSight screenings; provided personal assistance for the elderly; gathered and delivered 1,700 pairs of eyeglasses; participated in the Walk to End Alzheimers; cleaned a section at Laura Hill Cemetery.

District 9NW

District Governor

Steve Rehmann

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A brisk Saturday morning awaits. As I sit here looking out the window, the first snow flurries of the year are upon us. It's not that uncommon for early November, but still a reminder of the winter to come – 35 degrees now with a high of 36 expected.

At first, I was not sure what we needed to “talk” about this month but realized there are so many topics. Let us dive into our Vision Grant, holidays, health, service weeks and service reporting.

VISION GRANT: We did it! We have reached our first goal in this year-long grant project. Our submission to LCIF requesting support for a matching grant was submitted by the Oct. deadline.

To recap, we are trying to secure two specialized lenses for the NICU unit of UnityPoint St. Luke's, Sioux City. These lenses cost \$18,000 each. Our goal is to fund one lens through 9NW support and a second lens through a matching grant. The LCIF trustees meet in January to consider grant requests. We needed to secure at least \$9,000 in matching funds by Dec. 1 to move forward, and we have.

We collected pledged funds in November through the foundation at St. Luke's. Thanks to the generosity of Sioux City, Fort Dodge, Fort Dodge Evening, Akron, Boone, Carroll, Orange City, Rolfe, and Royal Lions clubs, we are well on our way to the goal.

I want to challenge all our 9NW clubs to join with us in reaching our goal. Donations from individual Lions are also welcome. Lion Tom Salvatore of Fort Dodge donated \$100, Lions Stefan and Kay Sandberg of the Akron club did the same. As your district governor, I am donating \$100 in November and an additional \$100 during the first quarter of 2026. Please consider joining our vision journey. I am available for questions, directions on payment or general information at any time.

HOLIDAY SEASON: By the time you read this, Thanksgiving will have come and gone, and the Christmas season will be upon us. I hope you were able to take a breather and enjoy time with family and

friends. This year, we hosted Thanksgiving at our home, and Christmas will be at our daughter's in Omaha — here's hoping for good travel weather!

This is always a hectic time, but also one that reminds us how fortunate we are — as parents, spouses, friends, and, of course, as Lions. Wishing all 9NW Lions a blessed and peaceful holiday season. Peace be with you.

HEALTH: An update on the personal front. Some are aware I recently had surgery for removal of scar tissue from my left eye. According to the surgeon, this was not uncommon and a result of “aging.” Well, thank you for that information. Coupled with cataract surgery at the beginning of the year, the vision is quite a bit better than last year, but still has room for improvement. Right eye vision was corrected to between 20/20 and 20/40 which at 75 is okay with me. The left eye, however, was something like 20/120 before my last surgery. It has improved to 20/60 and will improve further as the retina heals.

I have always been a strong proponent of our vision programs and KidSight, but this year has really driven it home.

SERVICE WEEKS: International President A.P. Singh's directives for the year have included three specific service weeks. Mental Health Awareness was Oct. 4-11. If your club did specific projects related to mental health during that week, please let me know, or better yet, make sure it is entered into the Lion Portal.

Up next will be a Week of Service for Hunger Jan. 3-11. Food insecurity affects families more than we realize, even in towns like ours. Clubs can organize food drives, support backpack programs for kids, or serve community meals. Sometimes one good partnership with a local grocery or food pantry can multiply what we are able to do tenfold. Think about how your club can create a service project in line with this week. Especially now, food insecurity is a real threat to so many.

SERVICE AND CLUB VISITS: Clubs are going full speed with their service activities. Thank you for your efforts. Please take the time to enter your efforts into the Portal.

At the October Council of Governors meeting, 9NW was the only district to have all clubs paid for their LCI dues, but we were at the bottom of the list when entering information into the Portal. We need to do better. When I last looked at the Portal, the only clubs with recent entries were Akron, Boone, Carroll, Churdan, Fort Dodge and Peterson. Several continue to email information to me, which is very much appreciated, but we need to work on Portal information entry. LCI is working diligently to improve the portal experience.

Please work with it or let us know how we can help.

I have visited the Boone Lions Club and enjoyed their turkey dinner. I also visited Akron early in the month and returned for their Omelet Breakfast. I had November visits scheduled for Fort Dodge, Sioux City, Marcus, and Badger this month along with the 9NC/9NE convention. Rolfe is scheduled for January. Carroll and Madrid have requested spring visits.

Some other activities are tentative now. Have DG pin, will travel! Let me know what you are doing and when to visit.

News From Our Clubs

AKRON made donations to the Iowa Lions Foundation and locally to the FFA; continues to collect shoes for Soles4Souls; collected 120 pairs of eyeglasses; KidSight screened 216 children; held its 30th annual Omelet Breakfast (pictured right), raising approximately \$2,803; donated \$500 to the 9NW Vision Grant Project.



BADGER held its annual Fall Pancake Breakfast (pictured below).



BOONE held 12 KidSight screenings with 338 children screened; held its annual Turkey Dinner fundraiser; contributed \$250 to the 9NW Vision Grant Project.

CARROLL conducted several screening sessions and served approximately 125 local children in the KidSight program; held a "Grocery Grab," raising \$3,000 to support local food pantries; served over 800 people for the annual Soup Day, netting \$8,000; donated \$200 to the Vision Grant project.

CHURDAN continues to deliver Meals on Wheels weekly; donated \$200 to the Greene County Adopt a Family for Christmas; served a pancake breakfast for the Greene County High School football team and cheerleaders; KidSight screened 27 local children.



FORT DODGE NOON continues its KidSight screening program with over 700 children screened so far. The club screens approximately twenty-six locations in Webster, Hamilton, and Calhoun counties; collected shoes for Soles4Souls; donated \$500 to the Lord's Cupboard Food Pantry (pictured above); donated \$1,400 to the 9NW Vision Grant Project.

EVERLY hosted a Burger Bar during the annual Everly Days.

SIOUX CITY spearheaded the 9NW Vision Grant Project as the premier "charter member" with a \$5,000 donation.

ORANGE CITY

contributed \$1,075 towards the 9NW Vision Grant Project; cleaned up ditches (pictured right).

ROLFE contributed \$1,000 towards the 9NW Vision Grant Project.

ROYAL contributed \$350 to the 9NW Vision Grant Project.



NEW MEMBERS

Club	Member	Sponsor
Akron	Richard Hummel	Connie Blake
Akron	Joseph Small	Julie Ford
Boone	Amy Crouthamel	Jim Carlson
Royal	Curt Steiner	Colton Meyer
Sioux City	Jim Braunschweig	Bernadette Lane
Sioux City	Frank Schiro	Brian Owens

In Memoriam

Club	Member	Years a Lion
Madrid	Don Cook	5 years

District 9NE

District Governor

Dale E. Schrad

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We're halfway through our Lions year and I want to thank every one of you for your time, dedication, and heart for service. Together, we're making a real difference across Northeast Iowa!

As of Nov. 8, District 9NE has 1,065 members – a net gain of +4 since July 1! This is our first positive growth in years. Way to go, Lions! We currently have 40 clubs and plan to form a new club in Manchester after the first of the year to bring Lionism back to that community.

Only 38% of clubs are reporting service at this time, so please log your activities in the Lion Portal. If you need help, contact Past District Governor Chris Waring, our district administrator.

I look forward to more club visits. It's inspiring to see the amazing service happening across our district!

As we celebrate the Christmas season and look ahead to a new year, I wish you all joy, peace, and continued passion for serving others. May 2026 bring new opportunities to grow, lead, and make a difference – together!



HALLOWEEN HAPPINESS. Cedar Falls Leos share Halloween candy and happiness notes with seniors at the Western Home. Leos pictured (standing L-R) Andrew Goetsch, Logan Backes, Gabriel Garcia, Peter Chen and Matthew Haht.

News from Your LCIF District Coordinator

By PDG Chris Waring, District 9NE LCIF Coordinator

Lions of District 9NE, we're off to a great start! Our LCIF goal is \$35,890, and we've already raised \$5,600. Thank you for your generosity! My goals are for every club to give at least \$100, for each president to make a personal gift, and to welcome at least one new Legacy Donor.

Your donations change lives. Bringing disaster relief, restoring sight, fighting hunger, and supporting projects right here in Iowa, including disaster grants, the Cedar Falls Sensory Garden, and the Iowa Lions Eye Bank.

As we enter the season of giving, remember Giving Tuesday on Dec. 2 and Melvin Jones' birthday on Jan. 13. Both are perfect times to make a gift to LCIF and honor the spirit of our founder.

Together, we serve – and together, we shine!



BOX AWAY.
Independence Lions (L-R) Past District Governor Harold Freeman, Tim Reed, Tammy Rassmussen and Past District Governor Marilyn Freeman pack shoes for Soles4Souls.

WELCOME 9NE NEW MEMBERS

Member	Club	Sponsor
Scott Wirth	Vinton	Amy Starak
Drew Stensland	Cedar Falls	Bob Kessig
Kara Shugar-Davis	Cedar Falls	Fred Abraham
Hannah Slominski	Decorah	Jim Uhlarik
Chad Christopher	Hudson	Trent Wiles
Nile Studer	Vinton	Tanner Davis

9NE CLUB ACTIVITIES

BELLE PLAINE made a profit of \$498 dollars selling funnel cakes at the Cider Stroll.

CEDAR FALLS sorted donated food at the food bank.

GARRISON hosted a zone meeting in Garrison at the historic Farmers Mercantile Hall on Main Street; hosted a Trunk or Treat, providing hot dogs and snacks for a free will offering.

HAWKEYE organized and held a Halloween coloring contest, inviting kids in the community to color a picture and have some refreshments and treats.

INDEPENDENCE packaged and shipped another 40 boxes of shoes totaling 513 pairs for the Soles4Souls project; hosted a Suicide Awareness program featuring guest speaker Ryan Nesbit of Jesup, who shared his personal journey and information about available mental health resources; held a scrap metal drive; took part in the city's Trunk or Treat event.

JANESVILLE received donations of various scrap metals; cleaned up a local cemetery, including four trees downed by storm damage.

LAWLER served a drive thru pork dinner.

OELWEIN cleaned up ditches; sold pies and soups; called Bingo at the senior center; collected, screened, and recycled eyeglasses (now totaling more than 225,000 pairs screened); provided a safe place for children to play and trick-or-treat; provided rides for medical appointments; and prepared and served meals for meetings; distributed food at the local pantry; worked with the local auxiliary.

VAN HORNE collected, sorted; counted; and bagged cans and bottles to take to the Cedar Rapids Can Shed Redemption Center; served hot dogs, chips, cookies, and drinks to area children before they went trick-or-treating.

WAUKON donated \$500 to the Milk Fund at Allamakee Community Schools to help younger children buy milk during the school day.

WEST UNION assisted with decorating at the local recreation center for the community's drive-thru holiday light show; painted the shelter house and installed a new sign at Lions Park; collected 22 pairs of eyeglasses.

WESTERN DUBUQUE did advertising on the WDHS Facebook; received over 600 individual servings for this year's food drive and an additional \$679 in cash.



CRACKIN' GOOD. Though not Lions members themselves, Krista Kelck (in the black tee) and Bev Kelck, respectively daughter and wife of Lion Lynn Kelck, were a huge help at the West Union French Toast Breakfast! Owners of the Barrel Drive-In, Krista and Bev are no strangers to cooking. They brought their culinary skills and energy to help make the breakfast a success.



WHAT A HOOT! Oelwein Lions host the annual Oelwein Hoot for Halloween. Approximately 250 children participated in games and gathering goodies. The Lions had help from family, friends and teens from the local high school.

District 9NC

District Governor
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Mental Health Added as a Special Initiative of Lions International

Are you aware Lions International has recognized Mental Health & Well-being as a special initiative this Lions year? Lions International's core global causes remain: Vision, Diabetes, Hunger, Environment, Childhood Cancer, Humanitarian Efforts, Youth, and Disaster Relief.

However, Mental health & Well-being is a significant and growing focus area for Lions and Leos worldwide. Lions are actively promoting the importance of mental health and well-being, raising awareness, educating and supporting their communities, and advocating for positive change. This was reflected through the Mental Health & Well-Being Week of Service in October and various service resources available to clubs.

Lions International is encouraging clubs, districts, and multiple districts to dedicate a week of service focused on mental health and well-being. With Oct. 10 as World Mental Health Day and May being recognized as Mental Health Awareness Month, there is still time to set a future goal for clubs, District 9NC, and Multiple District 9 to conduct a Mental Health & Well-being service project.

Here are a few mental health and well-being service ideas:

- Promote mental health education, awareness, and advocacy resources.
- Promote mental health and well-being stigma-reduction resources.
- Advocate for increased mental health funding and expanded services.

In Memoriam

Club	Member	Years a Lion
Charles City	Dale Bond	11 years
Iowa Falls	D.C. Fejfar	67 years

- Explore ways to increase access to vital mental health screening services in your community.
- Promote the local suicide prevention and crisis hotline phone number in your area.
- Create a World Mental Health Day social media campaign.
- Donate food and toiletries to local transitional living homes serving disabled individuals and/or those living with various mental health conditions in your community.
- Coordinate an event with a local mental health organization to raise mental health awareness.
- Highlight World Suicide Prevention Day in your community.
- Provide financial assistance to mental health agencies by hosting fundraisers.



WILLIAMS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS. District Governor Tasha Finch swears in new Lions Monika and Jeremy Arends on her official club visit. Pictured (L-R) are Past District Governor Stan Johnson, new members Monika and Jeremy Arends, sponsors Mike and Charlene Burton, and DG Tasha.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Club	Member	Sponsor
Clear Lake	Lisa Asbe	Kirk Mueller
Clear Lake	Brody Covillo	Louis Covillo
Clear Lake	Kathy Covillo	Louis Covillo
Clear Lake	Ian Dye	Kirk Mueller
Clear Lake	Scott Hand	Gary Peterson
Clear Lake	Britney Hutchinson	Louis Covillo
Clear Lake	Gail Robinson	Michael Callanan
Clear Lake	Ashley Weiss	Michael Callanan
Forest City	Joseph Peters	Kenneth Korth
Rowan	Luanne K. Krabbe	Rhonda Benton
Sheffield	William J. Ehlinger	Darwin Meyer

9NC CLUB ACTIVITIES

ALGONA took orders for their "Pies for Eyes" fundraiser through Nov. 19.

CHARLES CITY conducted its 65th annual book sale fundraiser.

CLARION purchased an eyeglasses frame for a student; assisted the local FFA chapter with travel costs to Junik, Kosovo to share agricultural best practices.

CLEAR LAKE NOON assisted Clear Lake Evening with a blood drive.

CLEAR LAKE EVENING conducted a blood drive yielding 29 units of blood; served as a reading buddy assisting 3rd graders in developing reading skills.

DOWS conducted a blood drive.

EAGLE GROVE volunteered in a local food pantry; donated 126 pairs of shoes to Soles 4 Souls; screened 113 children for Iowa KidSight; provided a mental health awareness lecture.

HAMPTON made donations to Leader Dog for the Blind, Camp Courageous, Iowa Youth Camp, Lions Clubs International Foundation, Lions Clubs of Iowa Foundation, Hampton Senior Citizens Center, and Iowa KidSight.

HUMBOLDT sponsored a Pumpkin Run race for youth in the community designed to encourage physical activity. Participants received a pumpkin after completing their race.

IOWA FALLS participated in Iowa Falls' Trick or Treat Stroll; distributed 587 pairs of glasses to children who strolled by the Lions table.

MASON CITY hosted its annual Chili (and Cinnamon Roll) Supper as a fundraiser.



FOOD PANTRY SERVICE PROJECT. Parkersburg Lions Art and Sue Jaspers, Lori Mason, Nora Blavanz, and Carol Johnson pack food boxes at the Parkersburg Food Pantry.

NEW HARTFORD donated \$250 to the Iowa Lions Foundation for its Give Sight-Give Love campaign; hosted an omelet breakfast.

NORTHWOOD volunteered at the Northwood Theater selling tickets and operating the canteen; delivered Meals on Wheels in the community.

OSAGE counted socks at Fox River Sock Sale; screened 279 children for Iowa KidSight in Osage, St. Ansgar, Riceville, Nora Springs, and Manly.

SHEFFIELD volunteered at the West Fork Food Pantry; volunteered and donated blood at the West Fork High School and Community blood drive; collected eyeglasses; collected and sorted cans to take to the local redemption center; donated \$1,000 to the Iowa Lions Foundation for the Give Sight-Give Love campaign.

STRATFORD operated a food booth (pictured right) serving a biscuits and gravy breakfast to a number of the 700 antique car drivers who passed through Stratford as they participated in the annual Webster City Cruisers event; teamed up with Stratford Mutual Telephone Company to host a free meal consisting of hot dogs, chips, cookies, bars, and drinks on Halloween at the Telephone Company building.

WILLIAMS cleaned 64 upholstered chairs in the Williams Community Center; hosted a hot dog and chili meal at the Williams Fire Station on Halloween serving 135 persons (pictured below); resumed twice-monthly Bingo beginning Nov. 20 in the Williams Community Center.



District 9SW

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Beverly Fletcher

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Go to the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum

By Chris Wilkins
9SW 1st Vice District Governor

I took a gamble and flew to Harrah's Casino in Atlantic City, New Jersey for the 2025 USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum in September and came out a winner! I really had no idea what to expect. I had heard rumors that it tended to be even better pound-for-pound than the International conventions. Now, I'm a believer!

What is the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum?

This is a meeting for all Lions, centered around Constitutional Areas 1 & 2 (the United States, its affiliates, and Canada, respectively). There are over 70 breakaway seminars focusing on things like leadership, membership, service, fundraising, you name it! The Forum has a myriad of opportunities for networking and idea-sharing, which was personally my favorite part.

There were amazing speakers. Our current International President A.P. Singh and our past international presidents and directors give inspiring, often comical, speeches. The event is centered on empowering and motivating our fellow Lions to be the best servant-leaders we can be.

My Experience

Even before our flight landed, I saw a Lions pin on a young lady named Lydia and began chatting. My new friend stayed in contact throughout the entire event! I can't stress this enough, we Lions are a family. For those who aren't big on family, you can also see them as partners in service to something greater than ourselves. Get out. Connect. You'll never regret the relationships you forge.

When we landed in Philadelphia, the Forum staff had chartered busses for us to get to New Jersey. When you get on a bus full of Lions, you feel welcome. You feel that family atmosphere and partnership. So be BOLD! You'll make a new friend. Bring your business cards...

Immediately upon arriving, the casino is bustling with Lions. There are Lions products to buy, stands showcasing

things such as new eye-testing technology, volunteer and educational opportunities, service events happening internationally, and Leader Dogs. My new friends from Leader Dogs for the Blind in Michigan saw me from afar and came up to chat.

One of the first events was a rally led by my new friends Past International President Brian Sheehan and International First Vice President Mark Lyon. If you've met them, you know that PIP Sheehan is a wildly energetic speaker, and 1VP Lyon is a brilliant, down-to-earth, relatable gentleman – a perfect mix to lead a crowd for a LionsUSA pep rally right before a Strides for Diabetes Walk.

Here I also had the honor of meeting Mr. Robert "Zilla" Garcia, the deejay many of our events and a fellow Lion. We had a deep, enlightening conversation and discussed hosting an event in Iowa. I've been just showing up at these events by myself (love my Iowa Lions, but also love meeting new friends!). But it didn't take long until I met up with several of my favorite Iowans like Debbie Doty, Bernadette Lane, and Jim Bixler. Your heart just gets full at these events.

Also not to miss, the banquets. The food was divine. Granted, you may know me to not be picky, but I know excellence when I see it! One thing I want to convince some of you about, whether at Lions events or otherwise, acknowledge your servers. Gratitude is both affordable and priceless. Tell them about the gift to society that is Lionism, too! Realize that I saw NO ONE being rude, but our servers informed me that they had never been given such appreciation at work... let's change that! We are also servants.

Carrying on, I'm glad I listened to our President A.P. Singh speak during his banquet keynote. As a fan of casinos, he made quite an analogous speech relating gambling to risk-and-reward within the Lions Club. What a dynamic character!

The breakaway sessions are the backbone of the Forum. Club presidents had a special invitation for IP Singh to motivate us. He stated that there are only two presidents in LCI: at the club level and international level. We are the frontline and the generals. My only regret is several seminars take place simultaneously, so I had to pick wisely.

My advice? Don't miss signing up early for the NEXT USA/Canada Forum in Memphis, Tennessee. The 50th year of the Forum, hosted by none other than one of my top five favorite people in the entire world, our Iowa-native Past International Director Ardie Klemish!

Let's have a good Iowa showing in 2026, to illustrate "Iowa Nice" to all of North America's Lions AND to strengthen our Multiple District 9 leaders into a new era of Lions Club success. You can register now for Memphis on the [Lions Forum website](#).

9SW SERVANT HEROES IN ACTION

ZONE 1

COUNCIL BLUFFS KidSight screened a total of 240 students at 10 locations; raised \$1138 from Candy Days; donated \$500 to LCIF, \$500 to Iowa Lions Foundation, \$250 to Leader Dog; processed paperwork and donated \$350 toward hearing aids for five clients.

GLENWOOD helped unload food at Mills County Storehouse.

NEOLA sorted and bagged cans and bottles for redemption; donated \$500 to the Alzheimer's Walk; walked in the Alzheimer's Walk to support the foundation.

ZONE 2

AUDUBON mentored a church member; volunteered to teach religious education to youth; provided a free hot dog meal to trick-or-treaters and their families.

ZONE 4

ADEL screened 34 children at three Waukee pre-school locations; sponsored a Cub Scout Pack being dissolved due to lack of members and lack of adults willing to lead the troop.

PERRY assisted with local events including the Iowa Veterans Medical Association advisory group, St. Pat's fall dinner, Mt Olivet Church bed program, elderly transportation, the annual holiday meal; gathered Toys for Tots; worked at Alano Club, Elks Lodge, and Optimists Club; conducted a Peace Poster contest in the schools; donated \$250 to a local Perry art project mural; organized and promoted the Perry Cruise Car Show which raised \$900 for the Raccoon Valley Pet Rescue Animal Shelter.

WAUKEE set up and manned a booth at the Waukee Fleet Farm Fall Family Event to promote awareness of the Lions Club by collecting eyeglasses, shoes for Soles 4 Souls, and providing games and candy bags with a Lion stress ball for the kids.

ZONE 5

INDIANOLA NOON held its annual Meat Raffle; collected hearing aids; served hot dogs at Public Safety Night and raised \$532 in free-will donations for the Indianola Fire Department; KidSight screened seven children; donated \$500 to WeLIFT and \$500 to Leader Dog to sponsor a puppy; volunteered at the National Balloon Museum with restoration efforts after a fire; gave a presentation for Blindness Awareness Month.

ZONE 6

ADAIR provided music therapy at several locations in multiple communities; transported shut-ins; helped at Adair Food Pantry; attended/participated in several district, state and Lions Forum events; gave a \$50 personal donation to LCIF in memory of deceased member; donated \$30 to Atlantic Lions Club and \$59 to diabetes prevention; sent cards to 33 shut-ins.

WINTERSET donated \$300 to Winterset Husky Voices Boosters and \$600 to Quilts of Valor for brochures; held a Covered Bridge Festival Raffle to raise money for a community shelter with prizes of \$1,000, \$500, and \$250; held Bingo twice, donated \$50 to Winterset High School yearbook; participated in the Covered Bridge Festival Parade.

ZONE 7

MURRAY participated in online collaboration meetings for Lions Quest DHHS; attended 9SW Cabinet meeting; created "What to do when times get tough" bookmarks to pass out to local kids for Mental Health Awareness Day; worked on building the club's social media page.

Servant Heroes In Memoriam

Member	Club	Years a Lion
Edward B. Wright	Guthrie Center	9 years
Elizabeth J. Faris	Mount Ayr	1 year
Richard Hugh Jones	Perry	45 years



FORUM FUN. 9SW 1st Vice District Governor Chris Wilkins visits during a meal session at the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum. See more photos of Iowa Lions at the 2025 Forum in Atlantic City, New Jersey on Page 4.

District 9SE

District Governor

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The trees have been especially beautiful this fall and we really didn't have to travel far to see all the beauty. We have a maple tree in our front yard that is always the last one in the neighborhood to turn red, but when it did, it was really brilliant. It is starting to drop its leaves now and in 3 to 4 days they will all be on the ground. Then the work begins.



Speaking of work, all the clubs in the district have been hard at it this summer and fall. Take a look at what clubs in our district have done in October. If you don't see your club listed, it's because your projects have not been reported to the Lion Portal before the 5th of the month. Please report your activities to LCI so we all know what you are doing, and so I can put your activities in *The Iowa Lion* magazine so everyone can see it. If you need help reporting, please give me a call and I will walk you through the process.

We are in the holiday season and there are many needs within our communities. From food insecurity, warm clothing for both children and adults to presents for those who can not afford the extra money to have a Merry Christmas for their children this year. Please look at supporting any of the above needs that are important to those within your communities. Especially during this time of the year, remember our motto, "We Serve."

Sylvia and I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Enjoy this season with family and friends.

WELCOME 9SE NEW MEMBERS

Club	Member	Sponsor
Clear Creek	Craig A. Fenton	Joe Brandt
Fort Madison	Carl E. Rippenkroeger	John Gorham
Fort Madison	Kathleen E. Nelson	John Gorham
Lone Tree	Brittany Puls	Zachery Shalla

9EC/9SE Joint District Convention

March 20-21, 2026

SERVICE IS THE KEY

**See registration form on Page 9
and flyer on Page 30**

In Memoriam

Club	Member	Years a Lion
Fort Madison	Genevieve R. Brown	16 years
North Liberty	Steve Mortimore	16 years



BLUE RIBBON RUN. Oskaloosa and Fremont Lions pass out ribbons to runners at a middle school cross country meet. Pictured (L-R) are Oskaloosa Lions Vice President Javin Sword, Oskaloosa Lions President Jeremy Empie and Fremont Lions Tail Twister Ryan Keep.

SERVANT HEROES IN ACTION

BIRMINGHAM held a tenderloin sandwich meal fundraiser.

COLUMBUS JUNCTION received \$500 donation from Great Discoveries Thrift Store to help fund eye exams and glasses for school children; sponsored local drives for hats, mittens, etc. for local school children; received \$900 memorial donation for the High School Scholarship fund; held Columbus Day Biscuit and Gravy fundraiser; had float in the Columbus Day parade (pictured below); donated 150 pounds of nonperishable and housekeeping items to local HACAP Food Pantry; participated in the local Halloween Trunk or Treat event.



DANVILLE donated \$100 to help a local family with medical expenses.

FAIRFIELD helped fill bags with food for school kids so they have something to eat on the weekends; KidSight screened a total of 163 children at eight different sites.

FORT MADISON purchased and handed out candy to kids trick-or-treating in Old Settlers Park in Fort Madison.

GRANDVIEW-LETTS bought eye glasses for two L&M students, held eye screening at the Wapello Day Care in Wapello, Iowa.

IOWA CITY screened 743 children during October; donated \$100 to Iowa Lions Foundation in honor of the district governor; transported eye tissue to Iowa Lions Eye Bank.

LEIGHTON decorated and manned a Trunk or Treat station at Federated Fellowship in Pella; KidSight screened seven children at an in-home daycare in Pella; held its annual Fall Pancake Breakfast; picked up trash in and around the George Daily Community Garden; collected 117 pairs of eyeglasses for recycling.

LONE TREE handed out Halloween candy to the elementary school students during the Halloween parade; painted 55 fire hydrants that were in Lone Tree so fire fighters could find them more easily.

MELCHER-DALLAS held a Trunk or Treat at the Melcher-Dallas square on Halloween and handed out candy to kids; held its yearly Peace Poster Contest at Melcher-Dallas Elementary School all 6th graders; hosted the Melcher-Dallas High School Football Team for one of their weekly Thursday Night Team Dinners, serving 21 players and coaches.

MILTON put a new roof on a small shed (pictured right) with the Milton Legion; put on a Halloween movie night in the Milton Park serving baked snacks, popcorn, hot cocoa, and cotton candy.



NORTH LIBERTY sponsored a table at the North Liberty Halloween Trail community event handing out treats to 2,000 young trick-or-treaters.

SOLON CENTENNIAL gave a donation to Solon Parks and Recreation for Trunk or Treat, supporting Bouncy House for the littles; donated to Pediatric Rheumatology at University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital for the annual Bone Dash/5K and Monster Mile.

VICTOR purchased coats, hats, gloves, and pants for children in need at HLV school.



PANCAKES FOR A CAUSE. Leighton Lion Greg DeJong serves breakfast items at the club's Fall Pancake Breakfast. In addition to serving pancakes, the club also passed out breast cancer awareness pink ribbons. Proceeds from the breakfast are being donated to a Leighton citizen battling breast cancer.



The LeClaire Lions Club is celebrating their new charter and would like you to join us for an afternoon of fun and fellowship. Business casual.

WHEN: Saturday, January 17, 2026 – Noon Social – 1:00 pm Meal followed by program

WHERE: Riverside Asian Kitchen – 1001 Canal Shore Drive SW, LeClaire, IA

COST: \$35 per person; cash bar (beer, wine, seltzers)

SPECIAL EVENT: Take a tour of the Buffalo Bill Museum before the charter event. Gather at 199 Front St, LeClaire – tour begins promptly at 11:30 and will end in time for you to make it over to Asian Kitchen for a little social time before the meal. Pay at the Museum.

Can't make the event? Donations are encouraged, welcomed, and appreciated!

Mail your reservations (or donations) by January 7 with payment to:

LeClaire Lions Club
Attn: Jess Gooch
PO Box 157
LeClaire, IA 52753

Name(s) _____ #Attending _____

I would like to join the Buffalo Bill Tour Yes / No

Bring your wallet (i.e., money) to help build their admin fund by participating in purchasing the donated items that will be available. Or make a cash donation – any amount will do.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

- Independent control of sound and lights
- Touchscreen keyboard
- Compact USB charging
- Internet-enabled image readability scoring for analyst review
- Plus: LED flash, lithium-ion battery, improved astigmatism detection, and internet-synced time zone settings

Buck Brown, CEO of iScreen Vision, shared his enthusiasm, “iScreen Vision is excited about the upcoming release of our new G5 Vision Screener. We designed it to incorporate many features our customers requested, and Iowa KidSight’s input was invaluable. We are confident the G5 will make it even easier for Iowa Lions and grassroots volunteers to continue identifying childhood vision problems, as they already have for thousands of Iowa children.”

Pricing and Trade-In Options

The device has a retail price of \$9,495, but discounted rates are available through trade-in credits:

Purchase Order Date	Trade-In Credit	Net Price
By 12/31/25	\$1,500	\$7,995
By 2/28/26	\$1,000	\$8,495
By 6/30/26	\$750	\$8,745
By 12/31/26	\$500	\$8,995
By 12/31/27	\$250	\$9,245
After 12/31/27	None	\$9,495

New Device Purchase (No Trade-In)

Purchase Order Date	Discount	Net Price
By 2/28/26	\$500	\$8,995

We extend our deepest gratitude to our Iowa Lion volunteers, whose unwavering dedication continues to safeguard the vision of Iowa’s children. Through your steadfast commitment to Iowa KidSight, you are shaping brighter futures and leaving a lasting legacy of care for generations to come.

For questions regarding the new device, please do not hesitate to reach out to Iowa KidSight Program Manager Chelle Lehman at chelle.lehman@uiowa.edu.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

should be visible on the trailers. You will be a part of figuring out what our purpose will be. We don't want to step on others' toes or just try to supply something that others are already supplying. Some ideas we have so far:

- Electronic device charging stations
- Satellite uplink service for communications
- Portable shelter and chairs for rest
- Tarps for roofing repairs
- Tools and cleanup supplies

Can you think of other things that would be needed in a disaster?

If this sounds like something that you would like to be a part of, let me know by email at g.glockhoff@gmail.com. I am collecting contact information for Lions who want to get in on this valuable service opportunity.

LIONS WORLDWIDE WEEK OF SERVICE HUNGER



JANUARY 3-11, 2026



NEW PURPOSE. One of the trailers acquired for use for disaster response by the Lions Clubs of Iowa's ALERT program. Two trailers have been procured and now need to be fitted for emergency response by Lions volunteers.



THE IOWA LION

Iowa Lions Seek Help to Repurpose Trailers for Emergency Relief Efforts

*By PDG Gary Glockhoff
MD9 ALERT Chair*

Drought, flood, tornado, derecho are the four horsemen of the apocalypse in Iowa. Mother Nature can be a cruel force and if you've lived in Iowa for any time at all, you have experienced or been close to one of these devastations. We are at the mercy of these events and we cannot stop them, but we are smart people, and smart people plan for dealing with the aftermath. The Lions of Iowa have started our plan and I'm hoping that there are a lot of Lions who want to be a part of the MD9 plan for dealing with disasters.

What's been done so far? We have acquired two trailers and have two Lions clubs to house and transport these trailers. The Ft. Dodge Noon Lions Club will take care of the trailer for the western side of the state and the Monticello Lions Club will have the trailer for the eastern side of the state. These two clubs did not agree to man the trailers for disaster response.

What do we do next? The best possible next move is to form a new specialty Lions club to serve as the planning and action arm for disaster response in Iowa. A LOT of decisions need to be made concerning how this program is going to work. We need your input! We

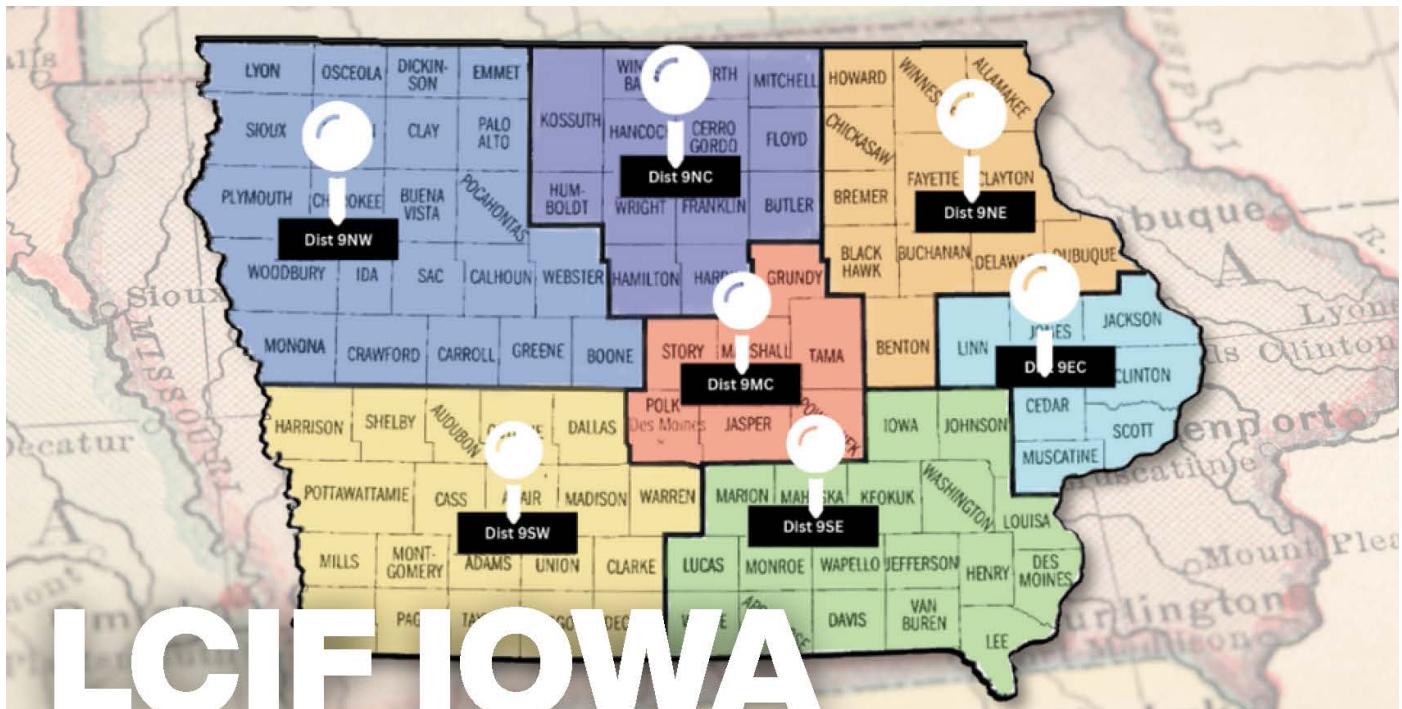
will try our hand at getting county EMS people to join our specialty club, but we need interested Iowa Lions to consider joining as associate members. Being an associate member allows you to belong to more than one club. We don't want you to give up your home club, just add your name to the Alert Lions Club, too. Since it is impossible to predict where a disaster will occur, we need members from all over the state to help facilitate our responses wherever in the state that next event happens.

How will Lions from all over the state meet? Zoom! This specialty club will meet by Zoom, so if you want to be a member you won't even have to leave your house. Some of you may want to be in on the action and volunteer time at disaster sites. Others may never go to a disaster, but if there is one in your area, you would be expected to lend a hand with your knowledge of the local geography and your neighbors and friends who might be affected.

What decisions will you be participating in? – You will probably start with trailer graphics as they have been used for other purposes and Lions MD9 ALERT

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

ADDITIONAL DIGITAL COVERAGE



LCIF IOWA DISTRICT COORDINATORS

KEEPING US CONNECTED.

Your LCIF District Coordinators are here to guide, inspire, and serve alongside you — helping Lions across Iowa turn compassion into action and make a lasting **IMPACT** in their communities and around the world.

You're encouraged to reach out to your LCIF District Coordinator — whether to share ideas about an LCIF Grant your club or district may wish to pursue, ask questions, or explore new ways to support the life-changing work of LCIF. You might also consider inviting your District Coordinator to speak at one of your upcoming club meetings — they'd love to share updates, answer questions, and help inspire your members with stories of Lions' global impact.

You'll find their contact information listed to the right. Each coordinator is dedicated to helping your club stay informed, engaged, and connected to the broader mission we share as Lions.

Together, we're uniting service across Iowa and creating an **IMPACT** that reaches far beyond our own communities.



**Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION**

MAKE A GIFT TO LCIF

With 100% of donations going towards grants and programs, LCIF empowers the compassionate service of Lions and those who need our help.

DONATE NOW

9EC

Lion Bernadette Lane
LCIF District Coordinator, 9EC
blane1220@aol.com
313-670-1220

9MC

DG Lion Jimmy Bacon
District Governor, 9MC
baconjim.55@gmail.com
515-491-3340

9NC

PDG Lion Mike Nissly
LCIF District Coordinator, 9NC
mn@nisslyandnissly.com
515-689-3412

9NE

PDG Lion Chris Waring
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563-920-0857

9NW

Lion Larry Juncker, Sr.
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larry@ajcs.com
515-571-1826

9SE

PCC Lion Nancy Oehler Love
LCIF District Coordinator, 9SE
ncoehler@gmail.com
319-461-1636

9SW

PDG Lion Ken Klemish
LCIF District Coordinator, 9SW
kenklemish@gmail.com
641-740-0843

ADDITIONAL DIGITAL COVERAGE

CEDAR COUNTY CHRISTMAS *Festival*

DECEMBER 12-14TH, 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



NEW MEMBER. Leighton Lions induct new member Nichole Hawkins into the club. Pictured (L-R) are Lion Nichole with her sponsor Lion Kyle Adams and Leighton Lions Club President Gary VanDenBerg.



PANTRY SUPPORT. Columbus Junction Lion Lamoyne Buser (right) delivers food and personal care products collected by the club to the local HACAP food pantry staff member Yolanda Villasenor (left).

A screenshot of a Zoom video conference. The main video frame shows a man in a sheriff's uniform with his hand to his mouth, appearing to be speaking. Below the main frame is a grid of smaller video windows showing other participants: Jodi Burmester, John Doty, Tim Wilson, April Davis, Paul Hain, Susan Doolan, and Lisa Leonard. The interface includes standard Zoom controls for audio, video, participants, chat, react, more, and leave.

MENTAL HEALTH SYMPOSIUM. Oskaloosa Lions Cyber Club hosts an online Mental Health Symposium for the Worldwide Week of Service for Mental Health & Well-being. The event featured insights from Mahaska County Sheriff Russ Van Renterghem and Southern Iowa Mental Health Counselor April Davis.



CANDY WITH A ROAR. Past District Governor Debbie Doty mans an indoor Trunk-or-Treat table during Federated Fellowship Church's annual Trunk-or-Treat event in Pella.

ADDITIONAL DIGITAL COVERAGE



HOMECOMING HOT CAKES. Urbandale Lions fire up the pancake griddles for the annual Urbandale High School Homecoming Pancake Breakfast.

MILK MONEY. Waukon Lions donate \$500 to the Allamakee Community Schools Milk Program. Pictured presenting the check to the Allamakee Community Schools Food Service are (L-R) Food Service staff Kay Gavin and Jessica Keenan and Lions members Carrie Niehaus, Rosie and Tom Phipps and Kim Gates.



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

Proceeds to benefit Mobility Worldwide to raise funds for materials to build special mobility carts to be distributed to people in the country of Haiti who have lost the use of their legs.



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](#).