

The IOWA LION



March 2026

iowalions.org

Leader Dog Expands Orientation & Mobility Instruction in 2026

*By Melissa L. Weisse
President and CEO, Leader Dogs for the Blind*

We are excited to share that Leader Dogs for the Blind will be expanding our Orientation and Mobility (O&M) program in 2026! This growth reflects our continued commitment to helping people who are blind or have low vision travel with confidence and independence.

One of the greatest strengths — and challenges — of O&M instruction is its highly individualized nature. Each client begins by setting personal goals, and instruction evolves throughout the training weeks to meet those goals in real-world settings. Lessons span indoor, outdoor and unfamiliar environments, from campus pathways to busy city streets. Each setting requires thoughtful, tailored strategies to ensure clients are prepared for safe, independent travel wherever life takes them.

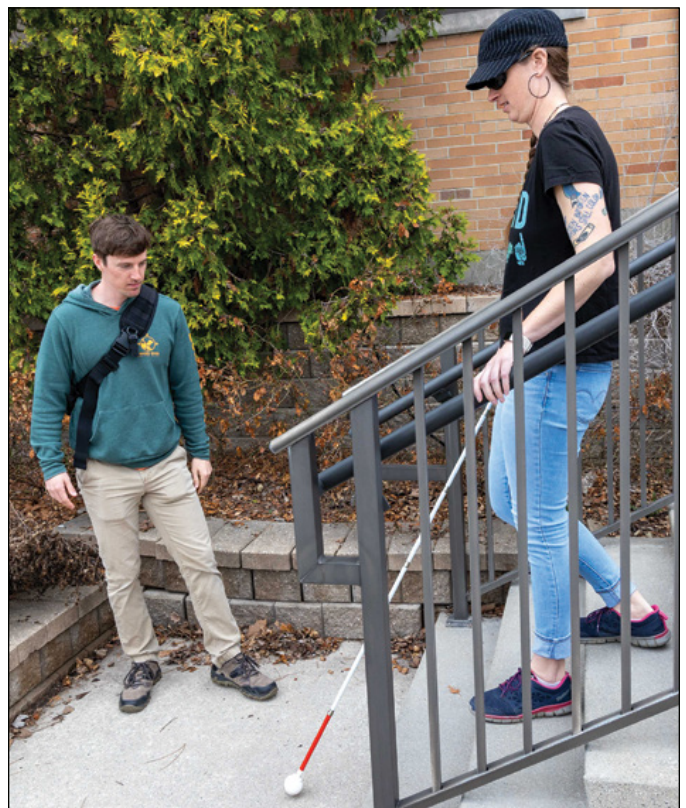
Technology is also becoming an increasingly important part of mobility training. Clients learn to use GPS apps and emerging AI-enhanced tools alongside foundational skills such as interpreting sensory cues and applying white cane techniques that are customized to their needs.

Leader Dog's O&M program supports



people at all stages of travel independence, including specialized programs for teens. This expanded approach allows us to reach more individuals and empower them earlier in their journeys.

As we look ahead to 2026, Leader Dog's expanded O&M program will continue to address a vital national need. Your support helps make this life-changing instruction possible — thank you for being part of our mission.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mar. 7** 9MC Convention, Marshalltown
- Mar. 8** International Women's Day
- 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. 18-19** Iowa VDG/DGE Training
West Des Moines
- 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
- Jun. 1** Tell-A-Thon 5.0
- Jun. 5-7** Iowa Lions State Convention
Des Moines
- Jun. 27** Helen Keller's Birthday
- Jul. 3-7** Lions International Convention
Hong Kong, China
- Jul. 16-19** Midwest Faculty Development
Institute, Baldwin City, Kansas
- Jul. 17-19** Great Plains Lions Leadership
Institute, Baldwin City, Kansas
- Sep. 3-5** USA/Canada Lions Leadership
Forum, Memphis, Tennessee

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Dear Mom: We're Growing

*By Phillip Larabee
MD9 Council Chair*

Dear Mom,

I know it has been some time since I wrote you a letter. I want to let you know the Lions Clubs International members of Iowa are growing! As of Jan. 3, MD9/Iowa Lions were the 11th fastest growing multiple district in the United States after 49 years of membership decline. California, Louisiana, Alabama, Texas and New Hampshire were the five fastest growing multiple districts/states.

So, what does this mean Mom? The Iowa Lions really understand and are motivated to grow our membership.

What does this mean? Well Mom, this means the Lions of Iowa can do more service in Iowa. Here is a list of service the Lions of Iowa do:

1. Iowa KidSight is starting to purchase new cameras to properly assess eyesight for children aged 6 months through kindergarten.
2. The Iowa Lions Eye Bank – The multiple district applied for and received a matching grant to replace some needed equipment used for corneal transplantation and research.
3. The Cochlear Implant Center – The Iowa Lions Foundation found money to help purchase some

needed equipment.

4. The Lions of Iowa started a loan program to help Lions make purchases to help their fundraisers.
5. Starting this fiscal year, the Lions of Iowa are starting an Alert Program to help people in towns where a natural disaster occurs.

Mom, the Lions of Iowa have started one new club so far in this fiscal year. We have an additional five more clubs in some phase of starting. New clubs are the way we can continue to grow.

Leadership training is in process for the district governors elect, first and second vice district governors.

Mom, I want to thank you and Dad for teaching me that service to your community is needed to make your community stronger and better. Just before your passing you asked for one last donation to the local community hospital. Your three sons ensured your request was completed. This year, I wrote donation checks to the local hospital, church, Camp Courageous of Iowa, Iowa Lions Foundation and Lions Clubs International Foundation. This did not include all of the checks my wife wrote for the Sierra Club, Wildlife Foundation and Iowa Natural Heritage, to name a few.

Love and your son,
Phil

Different Cane Tips

The long white cane is an essential mobility tool that helps people who are blind or visually impaired navigate their surroundings safely. Often considered an extension of the user's body, the cane provides information about the environment as it sweeps back and forth with each step.

Cane tips vary in both shape and material, and each serves a different purpose. Common options include the pencil tip, which works well for touch techniques — where the cane is lifted and tapped once on each side — and rolling tips, such as the marshmallow or ball tip. Rolling tips are ideal for constant contact, allowing the cane tip to glide smoothly over a variety of surfaces. Specialized tips, like ceramic tips, offer enhanced tactile feedback, while options such as the jumbo roller or "Supaball" tip are designed for rough terrain or extended distances.

As Leader Dog expands our Orientation and Mobility (O&M) program in 2026, tools like these will help even more clients travel with safety, confidence and independence.



LeClaire Lions Charter Night



WELCOME WITH A SMILE. LeClaire Lions Jessica Gooch (left) and Janelle Pluta (right) show off their sparkly new district governor pins from 9EC DG Greg Andresen while welcoming guests to the club's charter night.



GUIDING APPRECIATION. Past International Director Bud Wahl (right) presents Lion Pat Larson with an International President's Certificate of Appreciation for serving as a Guiding Lion to the new LeClaire Lions Club.



HAVING A GOOD TIME. Guests enjoy Lions' fellowship at the Riverside Asian Kitchen in LeClaire as they come together to celebrate the charter of the LeClaire Lions Club.



SWEARING IN. Past International Director Bud Wahl of Illinois inducts the LeClaire Lions into membership during the club's charter night..



BANNER GIFT. Council Chair Phil Larabee presents the LeClaire Lions Club with the gift of a club banner.



MEMBER PINNING. 1st Vice District Governor Jama Wahl of Illinois pins a new charter member pin on LeClaire Lions Club President James Gooch.

International Report

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2026 USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum Early Bird Registration Ends March 31

NOW is the time to register for the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum in Memphis, Tennessee, while the lower rate is still available. If you want to be close to the convention center, register now and ask for either the Sheraton Hotel (headquarters, connected by skywalk to the convention center), the Crowne Plaza or Comfort Inn. Each is less than a block from convention center. The next closest hotels are the Moxy (a really cool place), Springhill Suites, Aloft, or Courtyard by Marriott (all are ½ mile from convention center). The Peabody is the closest hotel to the Beale Street action.

In addition to your registration fee, a \$200 room deposit is mandatory for all hotels per the City of Memphis. Come early and/or stay after to experience many things to do in Memphis: Graceland, Sun Studio, National Civil Rights Museum, Memphis Zoo (one of the top 5 in the USA), Beale Street for evening food/beverage/MUSIC, Rock N Soul Museum, Bass Pro Shop (walkable from the convention center), or the March of the Ducks at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the famous Peabody Hotel. Be sure to arrive at least one hour in advance for a seat to watch the ducks! Visit the retail shops in the Peabody and their famous BAKERY!

Pre-order your once-in-a-lifetime 50-year Forum special edition shirt on [Lions Forum website](#). You MUST pick up the shirt in person in Memphis. We don't ship these collectors items. We'll also have 50-year Forum anniversary pins for sale in person in the Forum Store. Be sure to visit the store the first day before they are sold out!

Elect Your 2026-2027 Club Officers in March

It's time to elect your new club officers in March, and report them in Lion Portal no later than May 1. Club secretary/administrators, please review every individual member's data in the Lion Portal to ensure that it's correct: current email address, postal address, and cell phone for every club member. This will help our Iowa Lions Secretary PDG Donna Wood to compile the MD9 Who's Who, as well as your district cabinet secretary to compile their new 2026-27 district directory. Be

sure your club's meeting date/time/place are correct in the Lion Portal, as well. If you need help to enter the data, ask your district GLT coordinator or district administrator for directions. They'll be happy to help.

Make Your Annual Donations to Lions Entities for 2025-2026 Year by May 15

PLEASE send your personal and club donations this year to LCIF, Leader Dogs for the Blind, Iowa Lions Foundation, Iowa KidSight, Iowa Lions Eye Bank, Iowa Lions Youth Exchange, Camp Hertko Hollow, Camp Courageous, Tori's Angels, Beat Cancer Today (Aaron Horn's group), Iowa Lions Youth Exchange Camp, etc. Don't wait until the last minute to donate. Late donations are very difficult to get processed/posted at the busy end of the year season.

Please consider making personal donations to these Lions entities as well! EVERY donation helps, no matter how large or small. Be sure to record all donations in the Lion Portal, too. **Remember how many LCIF grant dollars have come to Iowa this year!!** Those grants are not possible unless we EACH make personal donations every year!! Be sure to include your member number, club number, and your district on your check. This ensures that you, your club, and your district receive credit for the donation.

Plan Now to Attend MD9 Lions of Iowa State Convention June 5-7 in Des Moines

The Des Moines Airport Holiday Inn will be our headquarters for this year's Iowa Lions State Convention. Our special guest speaker will be International Director David Wentworth from Nebraska. David and Valerie are "Just Plain Lions" with small hometown values. Ken and I have served on the USA/Canada Forum Planning Committee with this great couple. The registration form will be in the April issue of *The Iowa Lion*.

GPLLI & Faculty Development Institute Registrations Lowest Rate Closes April 30

The annual Great Plain Lions Leadership Institute AND the final Midwest Faculty Development Institute will be July 17-19, 2026, at Baker University in Baldwin City, Kansas. Cost is \$220 per person if received by April 30. Beginning May 1, the fee increases to \$240 per person (that includes all meals, dorm room, and classes). Final registration deadline is May 31, 2026. The registration forms are on the [Iowa Lions website](#), plus will be available at all the district conventions in Iowa this spring. Dorm rooms will have two students per room. Register NOW to save your space! All the districts in Iowa have available scholarships. Act now to save your seat!

A View from the Chair

Council Chair
Phillip Larabee

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It is hard to believe I am writing March's article for *The Iowa Lion*. These past couple of weeks have been interesting to say the least.

Email, Telephone and Texting Scams

It seems the scammers have nothing better to do but send out more "spoof" emails or make scam phone calls across the state. I recently received a phone call from a scammer telling me I owed \$10,000. Then I received a text message stating my U.S. Bank credit card was being shut down because of a fraudulent transaction. The interesting fact is that I do not have a U.S. Bank credit card.

What should you do? Read those emails carefully and put your cursor over the email address to see the actual email address it's coming from. I discovered the "spoof" email address had an extra "I" in my first name.

Concerning the telephone call, I promptly hung up the phone. No arguing. No allowing the spammer on the other end to try to convince me he was legitimate. When I checked the phone number, it was a recently canceled phone number from the Iowa City area.

Concerning the text message, I deleted the text and reported it to my carrier as junk.

In a recent survey, over half of the people will not answer the phone call if they do not know the number. I am doing the same. If you need me, please leave me a message and then I will return the call.

Concerning emails, I will check to make sure the email address is legit. Never click on the links in suspicious emails.

As many of you know I work in banking. Scammers are working harder than ever to get our information and money. The financial world

is dealing with more scams. Please do your due diligence to ensure the emails, phone calls and text messages are legit. I have always followed the adage "If it is too good to be true, it is."

Remember, no one will tell you that you won a prize if you did not enter the contest.

When I took over as your council chair, I reviewed every bill to make sure the bill was legit. I remember one company was a little upset with me as I did not authorize the bill payment until a couple of weeks after receiving the bill. It was not until I could verify the bill really belonged to the Lions did, I authorize the payment. I had never heard of the company before and when I called to verify the company was legit, I learned the company I called was getting hit with "phish" emails that very same day.

Remember:

1. Neither Lions Clubs International nor Lions Clubs International Foundation will ever ask you to buy gift cards or send money via email or text messages.
2. Always verify suspicious requests by contacting the person directly using a known phone number.
3. Check the sender's email address carefully – scammers often use addresses that look like official email addresses.
4. Report any suspicious emails to club leadership and District Governor immediately.
5. If you get scammed, file a complaint with the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (ic3.gov) giving them as many details as possible.

Let's keep our Lions community safe!

Convention Season

It is spring convention season. District MC convention is March 6-7 in Marshalltown. District NW and SW is March 13-14 in Carroll and District EC and SE is March 20-21 at Camp Tanager, which has a Mount Vernon address but is located closer to Cedar Rapids.

The Iowa Lions State Convention will soon follow, June 5-7 in Des Moines.

See you at the conventions.

District 9NE

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Growing Lions in 9NE

District Governor Dale Schrad encourages every club in District 9NE to make membership growth a priority. New members bring fresh ideas, new energy, and ensure our clubs remain strong and active in their communities.

If your club needs membership kits or support with recruiting efforts, please contact DG Dale directly. DG Dale and PDG Chris Waring are also available to assist with club officer installations and special events. Don't hesitate to reach out. They are here to help your club grow and thrive.

District 9NE Vision Grant & LCIF Impact

District 9NE has submitted a Matching Vision Grant to Lions Clubs International Foundation to support KidSight vision screening. LCIF District Coordinator PDG Chris Waring submitted the grant on Jan. 28 for five KidSight cameras, with 13 9NE clubs participating.

WELCOME 9NE NEW MEMBERS

Member	Club	Sponsor
Christy Bartels	Oelwein	Bradley Bunce
Adam Klein	Balltown	Robin Ludicocysy
Sally Meyne	Van Horne	Luella Albers

In Memoriam

Member	Club	Years a Lion
Wayne E. Bicknese	West Union	65 years

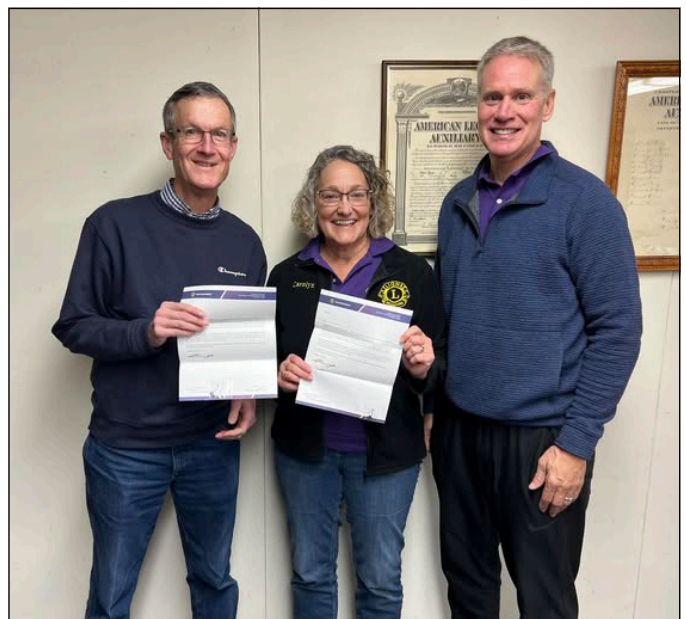
This project reflects how LCIF giving returns to Iowa, supporting disaster relief, recovery from the Vinton tornado, freezers for local food pantries, diabetes gardens, and many other community needs.

District 9NE's LCIF goal this year is \$35,890. When reached, 30% will return to our district as District Community Grants (DCG)—funds that help individual clubs launch or expand local service projects and stretch limited resources. Every donation—club or individual—makes a difference. Every dollar represents hope.

Did You Know?

- 40% of District 9NE clubs have not yet made an LCIF donation this year
- Less than 1% of Lions have made a personal LCIF gift (as of February 2, 2025)
- DCG funds go directly back to clubs to support local service projects
- Every Lion and every club can donate—any amount matters.

Make your donation today on the [LCIF website.](#)



MEMBERSHIP SERVICE AWARDS. West Union Lions President Bruce Ehler (right) congratulates members Dick Woodard (left) for 45 years and Carolyn Bruner for 20 years of service to Lions.

9NE CLUB ACTIVITIES

BELLE PLAINE sponsored a blood drive with about 20 participants.

HUDSON did a KidSight vision screening.

INDEPENDENCE volunteered at the local food pantry during the Worldwide Week of Service for Hunger; reached a total of 3,195 pairs of shoes for the Soles4Souls shoe drive as of February 1.

WEST UNION disassembled the Rec Center light display, helping with post-holiday cleanup.



NEW FOOD PANTRY. Cedar Falls Lions helped open a new food pantry at UnityPoint Clinic on Prairie Parkway in Cedar Falls. The food pantry will be used when the Prairie Parkway Garden is dormant. Beth Juhl (pictured) of UnityPoint manages the pantry, which accepts food donated only by UnityPoint staff, Lions Club members and community garden volunteers



NEW MEMBER. Waverly Lions induct new member William Schwinke (center). He is introduced by Past District Governor Stephen Becker (left) and is with sponsor Terrie Meier (right).



WARREN COLEMAN HONORS. (Above photo) Kelli Frisch (left) receives a Warren Coleman Honorary Award from current Oelwein Lions President Cindy Miller. (Below photo) Hudson Lions President Bert Strayer (right) presents the awards to Jim Phares (left) and Bruce Johnson (center). Phares and Johnson received the awards for conducting Lions KidSight vision screening for children in North Tama, Hudson, and Orange Township schools and preschools over the past few years.



District 9NW

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March is convention spring season in Iowa! We kick off March 6-7 with the 9MC Convention, followed by the combined 9NW/SW Convention on March 13-14 and the combined 9 EC/SE Convention on March 20-21. Add the March 28 Council of Governors meeting and we have four straight weekends of Lions gathering in friendship and service. What a terrific way to leap from winter into spring.

We have made it through Groundhog's Day and Valentine's Day. Now it is time to look ahead with St. Patrick's Day, March Madness, and a full slate of Lions events. March easily outshines February.

CONVENTION: Let us look at our convention on March 13-14. We have a great program lined up. We will kick things off Friday evening with a get together at the Carrollton Inn, followed by a meal at the 1730 Taphouse. It is a chance to relax, reconnect with Lions from across the state, and hear a few words from our distinguished guests, PID Debra Wasserman and her husband, Lion Steve Wasserman. They will be driving in from Faribault, Minnesota, so let us hope the weather cooperates.

Saturday begins with registration and donuts from 8-9 a.m., followed by an engaging morning program featuring several interesting speakers. Curious about the Melvin Jones Lions International Memorial in Arizona? Come hear PDG Lisa Alexander from Clayton, Missouri, share more about this special place.

After our lunch break, I look forward to a dynamic presentation by PID Wasserman, followed by a question and answer period. We will wrap things up with a brief "state of the district" presentation from me for 9NW and DG Bev Fletcher for 9SW. I am looking forward to the opportunity to recognize several outstanding Lions from

our district, as well as several clubs. There are many deserving clubs and Lions across our district answering the call to service. It is our strength.

Throughout the day, Lions will have opportunities to visit with project leaders, learn about statewide initiatives, and connect with fellow members who are tackling similar challenges in their communities. Whether you are a first-time attendee or a convention regular, there will be something new to discover. Our district conventions are more than business meetings; they are a chance to recharge, share ideas, and remind ourselves why Lions service matters. Every year, I leave these gatherings inspired by the creativity and commitment of our clubs, and this year's program is designed to highlight the work happening across Iowa and spark innovative ideas for the months ahead.

We will also have several project tables and informational displays available throughout the morning, so be sure to stop by and learn more about statewide service initiatives, vision programs, and opportunities for your club to get involved. And if this is your first district convention, we especially welcome you. These gatherings are a wonderful way to meet Lions from across Iowa, ask questions, and see the broader impact of our organization. You will find a friendly, supportive environment from the moment you walk in.

I want to specifically acknowledge the Carroll Club for their willingness to help host our convention and Des Moines Area Community College-Carroll for providing access to a great venue. We could not pull this off without their contributions, and it is great to be holding our convention in a community with such an active club.

VISION GRANT: Our Vision Grant effort continues to build incredible momentum. Each week more clubs and individual Lions step forward, and we are now within sight of the finish line. Thanks to the generosity already shown across the district, we are down to the final stretch. Only \$2,240 remains to reach our goal as I write this. LCIF has awarded our grant — now let us finish strong and be recognized for a fantastic achievement.

The response from our clubs has been inspiring. Gifts have come in from every corner of the district — large clubs, small clubs, and many individual Lions. Several additional clubs have joined over the past week, and others have let me know their discussions are underway. Every one of these commitments moves us closer to putting better vision tools into the hands of the people who need them most.

We now have only a handful of clubs left to hear from and I am confident we will get there. Conversations

In Memoriam

Club	Member	Years a Lion
Peterson	Greg Brown	35

are happening, pledges are being made, and interest continues to grow. Jim Braunschweig, Associate Director of Development at St. Luke's, 1st Vice District Governor Julie Ford, and I will be visiting with clubs throughout February and March, including a trip to the Alcester, South Dakota Lions, where they have asked to learn more about our project. The excitement around this grant is real, and it is spreading.

What has stood out most to me is the spirit behind these contributions. Lions-Littles-Lenses has resonated because it is simple, local, and deeply connected to who we are as Lions. When a club adds its name to the list of supporters, it sends a message to families in their community: We believe in your kids, and we are investing in their future. That trusted voice — steady, dependable, and focused on service — is what sets Lions apart.

Every remaining gift, no matter the size, helps us move directly from fundraising to action. Thank you to every club and every Lion who has already stepped forward. Your leadership is carrying this project across the line.

As we enter the final stretch, I am hopeful that by the time we gather in Carroll, we will be able to say those three powerful words together, "We did it." Whether we cross the finish line before convention or during it, I know this district will rise to the moment. If we can add "100% club participation" to that celebration, it will be an achievement we will remember for years to come.



MEMBERSHIP SERVICE. (Above photo) Marcus Lions Club President Nancy McLaughlin (left) presents Lion Judy Heidesch with her 25-year Membership Service Chevron. (Below photo) 21-year-old Akron Club President Mackenzie Schram (right) presents Lion Tom Schroder with his 20-year Membership Service Chevron.

News From Our Clubs

AKRON worked with Remsen, Orange City and Le Mars to purchase a new KidSight camera; donated \$50 to the local prom; made donations to the local food bank.

BOONE conducted an Iowa Lions Eye Bank tissue transport; held a Friday evening and Saturday morning pancake supper/breakfast, serving 381 people with a \$3,700 profit.

CHURDAN delivered Meals on Wheels, serving over 100 people on a very frigid day Jan. 23; donated \$250 to the Give Sight, Give Love program.

FORT DODGE served Meals on Wheels; hosted a multi-club Valentines Day party; continues KidSight screening.

HARTLEY hosted a Burger Bar during a community-wide seasonal event with a net profit \$2,322.



NEW MEMBERS		
Club	Member	Sponsor
Akron	Joseph Small	Julie Ford
Badger	Michelle Hendren	Michael Hendren
Fort Dodge	Kathy Rehmann	Steve Rehmann

District 9EC

District Governor
Greg Andresen

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Welcome to the month of March, where we will have the combined convention of districts 9EC and 9SE. I hope you already have registered for this event. The convention will be held at the Camp Manager Lodge in Mount Vernon on Saturday, March 21. Our keynote speaker will be International Director Melissa Washburn from Carlsbad, New Mexico, and her Partner-in-Service Gemma Ferguson. Past Council Chair Gemma will give a presentation on Lions Service on the Global Level. The opening presentation will be on what Camp Manager is about. The speaker on this is Dr. Julian Thomas. The other presentation will be on Servant Leadership According to Bees by 9SE District Governor Paul Hain, who is a beekeeper.

We will have a couple fun things to raise funds for Beat Cancer Today and LCIF. There will be a memorial service where we will honor two past international directors who have passed away in the past nine months and then will read off the names of members who have past away in he last year.

We will have a Czech luncheon, district and presidential awards, district elections and a parade of checks for each district. So, if you haven't registered yet, please do so ASAP.

At this time I am asking all clubs to have nominations and elections of officers for the year of 2026-2027 during the months of March or April. After your election is completed, please record them in the Lion Portal immediately.

In Memoriam

Member	Club	Years a Lion
PID Norm Dean	Davenport Village	60
Lawrence Martens	Low Moor	47
Lee W. Beine	Tipton	44
James M. Reeve	Tipton	24
Dr. Greg Garvin	Walcott	42

USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum

This is the 50th year of the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum, which will be held in Memphis, Tennessee, on Sept. 3-5, 2026. Now is the time to register for this event while the fees are lower and rooms available in the headquarters hotel. You can register online at lionsforum.org. Fees increase on April 1.



LIONS SERVICE. First Vice District Governor Mike Whitney (left) presents a 30-year Member Chevron to Coggon Lion member Robert Gearhart.



DISTINGUISHED LION. Coggon Lions President Brendan Schott (left) presents a Distinguished Service Award to Lion John Franson for 32 years of service.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO 9EC

CLUB	MEMBER	SPONSOR
Center Point	Matt A. Jaynes	Garrett Atkinson

CLUB ACTIVITIES

BELLEVUE AREA decorated the Riverfront with Christmas lights for the holidays; celebrated the forming of the new Le Claire Lions and donated \$500 to the club.

CENTER POINT made a donation from Pork Days to the Center Point Urbana PTO Walking Trail.

CLINTON made a donation of clothing for the youth in the community.

DAVENPORT BREAKFAST held a Trivia Night in November.

DEWITT NOON made a donation of funds to purchase a new KidSight camera and to share with area clubs; raised funds from a Bingo Night; collected eyeglasses.

DELMAR held a blood drive.

DEWITT NITE served a free meal to the residents of DeWitt Referral Center; provided a meal for the youth while watching Christmas movies; made a donation to a local pantry.

ELDRIDGE transported eye tissue; collected donated items for a local food pantry; collected eyeglasses.

FRUITLAND had a fundraiser for the annual L-M Graduating Senior Scholarship.

LOW MOOR voted to raise funds for new KidSight camera.

LOWDEN donated to HACAP Food Pantry, to the Post Prom Celebration for North Cedar High School, and to LCIF in honor of Melvin Jones' birthday.

MARION NOON donated to Feed the Starving Children with the funds coming from a local business and the Marion Noon Lions.

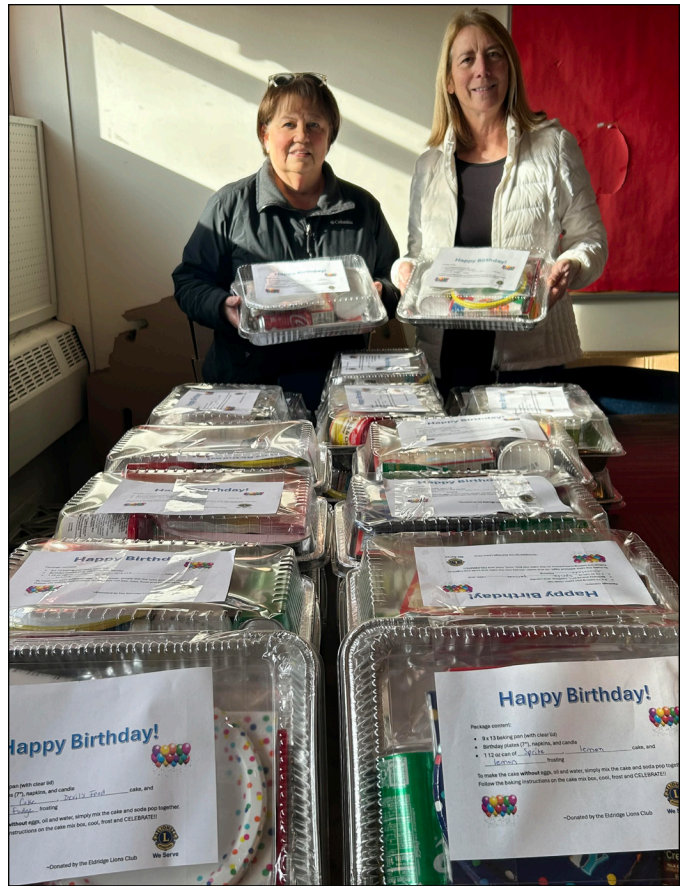
MONTICELLO donated money to a food pantry.

PRESTON made a donation towards a KidSight camera.

OTTER CREEK performed maintenance on Legion Hall; delivered Meal on Wheels; secured auction items for the April Pancake Breakfast.

TIPTON received a donation from the Michael Boyle Family; made a donation to West Branch Cheerleaders for the upcoming Dance Marathon which raises funds for the Iowa City Children's Hospital.

WEST BRANCH worked the concession stand at Carver Hawkeye Arena; hosted pickleball events; transported eye tissue; donated eyeglasses.



BIRTHDAY WISHES. Eldridge Lions President Beth Schwager and Club Tail Twister Judi Sarafin donate 27 birthday cake kits to the North Scott Food Pantry in conjunction with Lions International Hunger Awareness month and the corresponding Week Of Service for Hunger. Each birthday cake pan included the directions, cake mix, soda, frosting, plates, napkins and candles.



PUZZLEMANIA. People race to put together puzzles at the Eldridge Lions Club's Puzzle Palooza. This year's funds are going towards the purchase of a new KidSight camera.

District 9NC

District Governor
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tasha@alumni.uni.edu



Club Officer Elections

Clubs should be conducting the election of club officers and directors for the next Lions year so the results will be reported using the Lion Portal NO LATER than May 15. Please pay attention to this deadline, as it will facilitate the compilation of the 2026-2027 Who's Who by the state office.

Lions Clubs International's Standard Club Constitution and By-Laws states club officer elections should be held in April and club secretaries are to report the results of the election within 15 days.

Officers should be reported under the tab "Next Lions Year" even if they are repeating officers. This is essential for the officers to have access to the Portal on July 1.

Reporting Service Activities

If no service activities appear for your club, it is because your club secretary or service chairperson did not record them on the Lion Portal or on Facebook. As an alternative, service activities can now be reported via an email to 9NC Administrator Gary Shontz. His email address is garyshontz@aol.com. If reported via email, supply the name of the activity, the date(s) of the activity, type of activity, narrative description of the activity, number of people served, number of volunteers, total volunteer hours, and funds raised or donated (if applicable). Also, include your telephone number in the email.

DG Tasha Finch would like to see all 32 clubs in 9NC reporting their service activities.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Club	Member	Sponsor
Iowa Falls	Brook Lauritson	Michelle Nederhoff
Iowa Falls	Adam Nederhoff	Michelle Nederhoff
Rockwell	Jason Merfeld	James Thomas
Rockwell	Morgan Steenhard	Travis Steenhard



IOWA FALLS LIONS MASCOT. Local Iowa Falls artist Mike Dennis created an amazing new mascot for the Iowa Falls club. Iowa Falls residents should keep an eye out for "Leonard the Lion" around town at events hosted by the club.



TOYS FOR TOTS. Jeff Stealy, board member of Clear Lake Noon Lions, presents a check for \$500 to Avalon Cronin representing Toys for Tots.

In Memoriam

Club	Member	Years a Lion
Marble Rock	Arlin Enabnit	42

9NC CLUB ACTIVITIES

ALGONA held an informational meeting about the Iowa Lions Foundation; made donations to three nursing homes for Christmas gifts; adopted a local family; volunteered at the local food pantry; made a cash donation to the Algona Middle School Science Fair.

CHARLES CITY operated a “Flags Over Charles City Program,” installing a flag in a customer’s residence on Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, and Veterans Day.

CLEAR LAKE NOON collected new, unwrapped toys and cash for Toys for Tots; assisted Clear Lake Evening host a Red Cross Blood Drive.

CLEAR LAKE EVENING screened eyes at various sites during December and January at various sites; assisted third graders at Clear Creek Elementary with reading; volunteered at the Clear Lake Food Pantry; sold popcorn as a fundraiser at The Surf Ballroom; hosted a Red Cross Blood Drive with the assistance of Clear Lake Noon Lions.

EAGLE GROVE volunteered at the mobile food pantry; assembled and delivered eighty bags of food to nourish Eagle Grove Elementary students over the holidays; conducted A1C testing to detect diabetes; collected food and toiletries for the local food pantry; donated \$2,000 to Humboldt Lions to assist with the purchase of a KidSight camera; donated eyeglasses.

HAMPTON donated \$1,200 to Friends of Beeds Lake; conducted annual football bowl pools as a fundraiser; screened fifteen children for Iowa KidSight.

HUMBOLDT held a dinner for hearing impaired individuals; prepared and distributed 271 food baskets, serving 681 people; served a chili and soup supper as a fundraiser.



LIONS RAFFLE WINNER. Jeff DeVary of Mason City accepts a \$500 gift certificate valid at Louie’s Custom Meats and More. He is the winner of the latest Clear Lake Evening Lions fundraiser raffle, which Louie’s helped sponsor. Pictured (L-R) are Kathy Covillo of Louie’s, DeVary, Lisa Prochaska of the Clear Lake Evening Lions, Britney Covillo of Louie’s, and Jeff Tecklenburg of Clear Lake Evening Lions. All raffle proceeds go to benefit people in need and community projects.

IOWA FALLS hosted a drive-up community meal consisting of pasta, green beans, garlic bread, and cookies.

KAMRAR hosted Santa and Mrs. Claus for their annual “Lions Christmas with Santa” event (picture below).



NEW HARTFORD hosted an omelet breakfast to raise funds to support community needs and Lions-related organizations.

NORTHWOOD donated \$300 to First Lutheran Caring Tree to be used for Christmas presents; held the club Christmas party; donated \$300 to United Northwood-Kensett Elementary to fund activities when school gets out early; sold tickets at the Northwood Theatre and staffed the concessions stand; delivered Meals on Wheels; conducted a Red Cross Blood Drive at the Worth County Fairgrounds.

OSAGE creatively partnered with a local merchant to raise funds for a new KidSight camera. Randy’s Neighborhood Market asked customers if they would “round up” their grocery bill to the next dollar. The “round up” raised \$1,230!

PARKERSBURG conducted a silent auction as a fundraiser, raising \$3,300; delivered fruit, candy, and goodies to shut-ins in the Parkersburg area; loaned medical equipment to residents of the Parkersburg community. A member assisted with vision screening in Ethiopia!

SHEFFIELD distributed food bags and turkeys in November to 84 families; distributed Christmas food bags including a ham in December; provided funding to three high school students towards a trip to Carnegie Hall; hosted a Dad’s Belgian Waffle supper as a fundraiser for scholarships and community needs. During the first half of the club year, the West Fork Food Bank provided enough food for 37,000 meals!

WILLIAMS is offering Bingo as a fundraiser two times a month through April 2, with a light meal available for purchase each night.

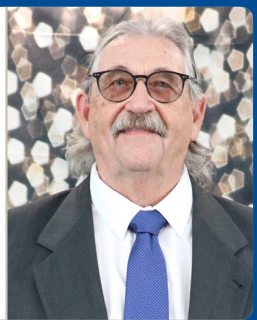
District 9MC

District Governor
Jimmy Bacon

7002 Indianola Ave. Lot 159
Des Moines, Iowa 50320

515-491-3340

baconjim.55@gmail.com



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Member	Club	Sponsor
Mike T. Long	Marshalltown Evening	Steven Hyde
Diane Staker	Reinbeck	Dale Wambold
Michelle A. Rogers	Story City	Charlotte Miller



RACE WITH A PURPOSE. Two Bondurant Lions members challenged each other to a 100-yard dash (actually only 90 yards downhill). Over \$3,600 was donated to the Iowa Food Bank and the Ronald McDonald House, including \$200 donated by the Bondurant Lions Club. Pictured (L-R) are Lion Rusty Stephen (White Lighting); Ryan Maher, owner of Greencastle in Mingo, Iowa (organizer); and Lion Jim Nelson (I35 Stallion).

In Memoriam

Jack P. Sherman – Grinnell
PDG Chuck Boeding – Montezuma

9MC CLUB ACTIVITIES

AMES screened 135 children at three preschools and daycares; approved one set of eyeglasses for someone in the community; collected 78 pairs of eyeglasses and two hearing aids.

DYSART held a blood drive in partnership with LifeServe Blood Center with 25 units of blood collected providing life-saving assistance to up to 75 lives; hosted Cedar Rapids Police K-9 Officer Cody Vry and his police dog Max (pictured below), who provided a skills demonstration.



MONTEZUMA helped someone obtain a hearing aid through the Iowa Lions Hearing Aid Bank; paid for replacement eyeglasses for an elementary student; donated \$600 to the Montezuma Food Pantry.

SOUTH DES MOINES hosted a zone meeting; planning a pancake breakfast for April 18 and a car show to help the Wakonda Christian Church Youth Group raise money for their mission trip; working to get with different schools in the community that have a raised garden on the school grounds.



NEW LION. Marshalltown Evening Lions President Deb Estabrook (right) inducts new member Mike Long to the club.

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.

District 9SW

District Governor
Beverly Fletcher

103 Chad Circle
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503

712-355-3529

bafcbia@gmail.com



9NW/9SW District Convention - The convention will be held March 13-14 in Carroll. Hotel accommodations will be at the Carrollton Inn, 1730 Hwy 71 North, Carroll. The convention will be held on Saturday, March 14, at the DMACC Campus, 906 N. Grant, Carroll. Print and fill out your registration form and send it to Kristin Glockhoff per instructions on the form.

Here is the tentative agenda:

Friday, March 13 there will be a dinner at the Carrollton Inn Restaurant at 6 p.m. with a buffet supper at \$25 per person, that includes the tip. Drinks will be extra. At the Carrollton Inn around 7 p.m. there will be remarks by PID Debra Wasserman and a social after the meal from 7:30-9 p.m. with a light dessert.

Saturday, March 14 at DMACC Campus:

7 a.m.-1 p.m. – Registration & Delegate Certification. Coffee and donuts will be served.

8 a.m. - 9NW and 9SW Cabinet Meetings in separate rooms.

9-9:10 a.m. – Welcome & Call to Order

9:10-11 a.m. – Melvin Jones Lions International Memorial by PDG Lisa Alexander; Tori's Angels by JoAnn Alumbaugh; Leader Dogs for the Blind by Dawn Thompson

11-11:25 a.m. – Memorial Service

11:25-11:30 a.m. – Invocation

11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. - Lunch

12:15-1:30 p.m. - Introduction of Head Table and Dignitaries. Keynote speaker PID Debra Wasserman from Minnesota.

1:30-1:45 p.m. – Parade of Checks, State of the Districts, Awards, Silent Auction Results, Recognition, Drawings

1:45 p.m. – Break

2 p.m. – Election of District Officers.

2:30 p.m. – Closing Remarks & Announcements.
God Bless America. Lions ROAR!



Leader Dogs for the Blind with a Few Amazing Numbers

By PDG Ken Klemish

9SW Leader Dog Chair

Leader Dog receives **ZERO** federal or state funding: relies **SOLELY** on voluntary donations to fulfill its mission.

263 clients from Iowa have been served by Leader Dog.

242 Guide Dog Clients from Iowa have been served (that's over **\$17.9 MILLION** worth of service for **FREE** by today's costs!!)

Iowa currently has **11** active Guide Dogs in service.

Iowa currently has **2** official Leader Dog puppy raisers.

Each working Leader Dog's annual maintenance cost is **\$1,500** per year (health, etc.)

Over **10,000** Leader Dogs have been trained/distributed in the past **85** years.

Leader Dog training from puppy to completed training takes **12-18** months.

Blind clients normally wait **12-18** months before receiving their dog.

Leader Dog has placed dogs in all **50** US states, **7** Canadian provinces, and **39** countries.

There is **no cost** to the blind client for the dog!

District 9SW Lions clubs/individual Lions have been the top dollar donating district in Iowa for Leader Dogs for over **10** years! **T-H-A-N-K Y-O-U** for your contributions! Keep up the **GREAT** job! **YOU** bring independence to every blind client!

9SW SERVANT HEROES IN ACTION

ZONE 1

COUNCIL BLUFFS processed a hearing aid assistance application; paying \$50 in hearing aid assistance; wrote letters and made phone calls soliciting monetary funds for a new KidSight camera, raising \$7,200.

GLENWOOD donated \$4,700 to Iowa KidSight towards a new camera and \$1,000 to Iowa Lions Foundation; conducted 28 KidSight screenings; helped at Mills County Storehouse food bank.

NEOLA donated \$2,000 to KidSight for new cameras; sorted and bagged cans and bottles for redemption; donated food to the school for students' breakfast needs; transported 35 pairs of donated shoes for Soles4Souls project.

ZONE 2

ATLANTIC collected, sorted and delivered 45 pairs of eyeglasses to Walmart.

AUDUBON cleared sidewalks and driveways for the elderly after storms; volunteered on a non-profit board; cared for pets of hospitalized friend.

EXIRA received two grants to cover costs of roof repair and front of building facade in the HUD program; gave out \$1,000 in scholarships to two college students; made Iowa Lions Foundation club visits; established two storage units (Indianola & Glenwood) for Soles4Souls in 9SW; donated blood.

ZONE 4

PERRY volunteered with the historical society, St. Pat's Church, Iowa Veterinary Association, KidSight screenings, water testing, pet rescue, and at the community school for a remembrance of the lives lost in the school shooting.

WAUKEE KidSight screened 87 children; volunteered at Drake University and church; collected 57 pairs of eyeglasses and one hearing aid; attended the 9SW cabinet meeting; donated \$4,700 to Iowa KidSight toward a new camera.

ZONE 5

INDIANOLA NOON partnered with Hy-Vee dietitians for A1C diabetic screenings; presented Melvin Jones Fellowship awards to club members Tracey Gerrish and Gordon Smith.

ZONE 6

ADAIR donated \$300 to Iowa KidSight; provided music therapy at several care centers; helped with Adair Food Pantry; made personal donations to LCIF, Iowa Lions Foundation and KidSight; attended multiple district and Forum meetings; sent cards to 29 shut-ins; picked up Iowa KidSight club donations around district.

FONTANELLE donated \$300 to Iowa KidSight.

WINTERSET awarded a \$500 and a \$1,000 scholarship to two students; donated \$4,700 towards a new KidSight camera; ran community Bingo; donated \$759 to Friends of the Winterset Parks for restoration of community mural.

ZONE 7

MURRAY ran a social media campaign to educate the community on current needs and resources within town; participated in a LionsUSA interactive learning seminar and DGE group learning event.

9SW New Servant Heroes

Member	Sponsor	Club
Debora Hume	David Hume	Council Bluffs
Ronald Fitzpatrick	Kyle Nakamoto	Glenwood

District 9SE

District Governor
Paul Hain

111 Ryan St
Lone Tree, Iowa 52755
319-330-5920
paulhain@windstream.net



By the time you receive this issue of *The Iowa Lion*, we will be approaching the last third of this Lions year. The district convention is just days away, I hope you will take the opportunity to join us at Camp Tanager, outside of Cedar Rapids, as we join with District 9EC to host the combined convention.

As of this writing, the district is still down four members from a year ago. There is still time to make the push to get new members in your club. The district cabinet and I are willing to help your club with a prospective member event. Let me know when and how I can help you. New members are vital to every club in helping with the service that we are doing within our communities.

The district is in need of club members to step forward and lead the Lions in the 9SE District. Our district is in search of a district governor, 1st and 2nd vice district governors, an Iowa Lions Foundation trustee, zone chairs and Public Relations chair. Each cabinet position has a budget to help with your expenses and training to help you know what is expected to fulfill that office. Please contact me if you are willing to step up into one of these positions.

Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute, (GPLLI), is a great way to prepare for leadership positions throughout Lions, and is customized to best accommodate the needs of the area. GPLLI will be July 17-19 at Baker University in Baldwin City, Kansas. Registration is \$220 if received by April 30, then increases to \$240. It covers meals, dorm, and all class materials. The district has scholarships available to pay for the registration, all you have to do is get there. Dorm room space is limited so apply early by contacting either myself or PDG Debbie Doty for scholarship information. We must send in applications so they are received by June 1, so contact us soon if you are interested

in attending. I've yet to have anyone go that didn't believe it was a worthwhile event.

Iowa KidSight is in the process of updating the cameras that are used for the preschool vision screenings that we do. The current cameras are 12 to 14 years old and technology has changed in that time. LCIF District Coordinator PCC Nancy Love has sent an email to all of the district's presidents to inform the clubs of this and to see what interest there is in helping obtain the new cameras. Please let her know what your club's interest is in helping to obtain the cameras.

As we get into warmer weather and clubs activities increase, please remember to enter your projects into the Portal so I can see them and I will give the club mention in *The Iowa Lion* magazine. If you need help entering in the Portal, please reach out to me and I will help you with it. Thank you.

I encourage every club and member to continue to support the Iowa Lions Foundation and Lions Clubs International Foundation. These are YOUR foundations, and with your support to them, we can continue to do the service that we are known to do in our communities and around the world. Unlike other charities, nothing is taken out for administrative costs; all of the money donated goes to fund the projects.



SUPPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY. At the Kwik Star ribbon cutting ceremony at Tiffin, Kwik Star presented the Clear Creek Lions Club with a \$1,000 donation. Clear Creek Lions Kevin Swanson holds the check with the club members behind him.

SERVANT HEROES IN ACTION

DANVILLE donated \$500 to the Back-Pack Program at the Danville Community School; donated \$150 to the Danville Post Prom.

FAIRFIELD served a breakfast to raise \$1,010 to help fund the two \$500 Lions Club Scholarships to be awarded this spring.

GRANDVIEW-LETTS raised \$1,280 at their Annual Soup Supper.

MELCHER-DALLAS raised \$400 at their monthly Bingo Night.

NORTH LIBERTY raised \$600 helping staff a concession stand four times at Carver Hawkeye Arena,

VICTOR recycled 115 pairs of glasses; delivered baskets of food and fruit to eight shut-in individuals within the community.



FOUNDATION SUPPORT. Keosauqua Lions Club President Steven Pilcher presents District Governor Paul Hain with a check for \$1,000 for the Iowa Lions Foundation.



CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS. Keosauqua, Birmingham, Milton and Stockport Lions clubs raised \$14,000 from the Festival of Trees project and presented it to Christmas for Kids in Van Buren County. Pictured (L-R) are Keosauqua Lions President Steven Pilcher, Christmas for Kids Coordinator Susan Rice, Birmingham Lions 1st Vice President Dixie Pencil, Stockport Lions President Garrett Filson, Keosauqua Lions Festival of Trees Chairs Barb and Ben Morris, Milton Lions President Gary Cooper.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

and as part of a local match for equipping Prairie Parkway Sensory Garden.

- Eldridge Lions installed an accessible basketball court with a DCG.

There are a lot of resources available so you can learn more about the DCG program. You can view the guidelines and application, facts and project ideas on the [DCG page on the LCIF website](#). Please note that the LCIF materials have not yet been updated to include the new higher percentage of return which takes effect next fiscal year, based on this fiscal year's giving.



EASIER ACCESS. Muscatine Lions installed a walkway and ramp at Harmony House with the help of a DCG.



HOLIDAY MEALS. Mount Vernon Lions provided support for holiday food baskets using a DCG.



THIRST QUENCHER. District 9SE used some of their DCG funds to install a lion drinking fountain at an inclusive playground in Oskaloosa. It has not only been enjoyed by everyone, especially children, but also brought great name recognition to Lions.

DCG Eligibility*

Club giving (per fiscal year)

- US \$5,000 – \$9,999.99: 15% back to club's DCG account
- US \$10,000 – \$19,999.99: 20% back to club's DCG account
- US \$20,000 and above: 30% back to club's DCG account

District giving (per fiscal year)**

- US \$10,000 – \$19,999.99: 15% back to district's DCG account
- US \$20,000 – \$29,999.99: 20% back to district's DCG account
- US \$30,000 and above: 30% back to district's DCG account

* Calculations based on unrestricted giving.

** District giving totals are minus the amount from clubs contributing \$5,000 or more.





District and Club Community Impact Grant Project Ideas

Beginner

- Buy a vision screener for a youth screening program
- Provide scholarships for books or other college expenses to high school graduates
- Donate laptops/technology to local library or school
- Purchase non-perishable items for food pantry
- Buy books, toys, or entertainment materials for a non-profit, school, pediatric waiting room, etc.
- Distribute winter coats, gloves, and hats for those in need
- Create essential items kits for the homeless
- Cover costs of equipment for a non-profit or hospital
- Donate pet supplies to local animal shelter
- Sponsor the purchase of a guide dog for a visually impaired individual
- Purchase exercise equipment for community center

Intermediate

- Create a pollinator or sensory garden for the community
- Repair bicycles and provide them for youth in need
- Partner with a health agency to develop brochures highlighting a public need (diabetes awareness, vision development in children)
- Knit hats, sweaters, or booties for premature babies
- Purchase supplies for tutoring program and volunteer there weekly
- Renovate a local bus stop to add shelter and shade
- Cook meals at a food pantry each month
- Help create signage in braille for local nature trail
- Organize a district-wide volunteer event
 - Pack school supplies kits
 - Host an environmental clean-up or tree planting
 - Make meals for community members

Advanced

- Use DCG funding as local match for one of LCIF's board-approved grants
- Plan and facilitate a camp for youth with special needs – children with cancer, diabetes, or intellectual disabilities
- Organize and support a medical mission project
- Construct a playground and organize a grand opening
- Establish a volunteer transportation program for errands and appointments for homebound seniors
- Create and manage a medical equipment bank. Lend out wheelchairs, crutches, and other equipment needed by the physically disabled
- Coordinate a humanitarian event for the local community:
 - Diabetes screenings
 - Safety town for children
 - Fishing tournament for the visually impaired
 - Theater festival for youth



THE IOWA LION

PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENT THANKS TO LCIF. District 9MC has utilized their district's LCIF DCG funds to enhance the Dysart-Geneseo Elementary School playground and to support a Food Bank's Backpack program.

Imagine What YOUR District or Club Could Do with an LCIF DCG

By Bernadette Lane
MD9 LCIF Chair

An LCIF grant program that is being widely used in Iowa and can be accessed by a single club is the District and Club Community Impact Grant program – more commonly known as DCGs.

Many clubs and districts in Iowa have received DCGs from LCIF to provide for projects across the state. There are exciting updates that have been made to this LCIF program where even more money will go into a DCG account. Teaser – not 15% back but up to 30% back! That is correct, up to 30% back!

DCGs have been making an impact in Iowa since 2020. In the past five years, LCIF has awarded 27 DCGs across all seven districts, totaling \$105,947. Here are some of the projects they have funded or helped to fund. Note the wide variety of projects and start to think about what you could do with a DCG!

Some projects funded by DCGs include...

- Davenport Village Lions utilized a DCG to purchase baby supplies for Pregnancy Resource

Center.

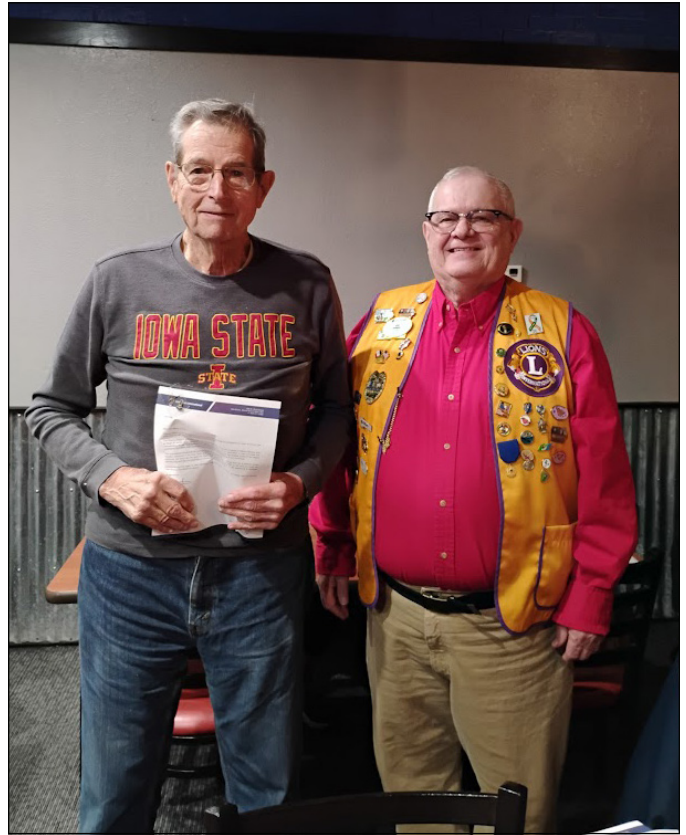
- Walcott Lions built an all-inclusive playground at Water Tower Park with DCG funds.
- 9EC utilized their district DCG funds to support Give Sight, Give Love for Iowa Lions Eye Bank.
- 9NC utilized their district DCG funds for a variety of projects such as replacing a library's computers following a tornado, for energy efficient freezers at a food pantry and for diabetes awareness and screening projects.
- 9NW put some of their DCG funds toward the purchase of a compressor for a local grocery store that, were it not for the Lions, would have gone out of business and left local citizens in hardship without local access to groceries.
- In 9SW, Adair Lions used some of their DCG funds to support the Adair Food Pantry.
- 9NE has utilized their district's DCG funds for projects such as a community garden and greenhouse, building ramps at a Boy Scout Camp

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

ADDITIONAL DIGITAL COVERAGE



NEW NW MEMBER. 9NW First Vice District Governor Julie Ford (left) and Akron Lions Club President MacKenzie Schram (right) induct new member Joe Small into the Akron Lions Club.



SERVICE RECOGNITION. (Above photo) 9NW District Governor Steve Rehmann (right) presents Boone Lion Wayne Koos with his 60-year Membership Service Chevron. Rumor has it that Lion Wayne has nearly perfect attendance. (Below photo) DG Steve Rehmann recognized Manson Lion Jerrold Jimmerson with a 15-year Membership Service Chevron.



WELCOMING SMILES. Manning the ticket table at the Boone Club pancake supper are Lion Dawn Thompson, PDG Dale Schoening and Lion Wayne Koos



ADDITIONAL DIGITAL COVERAGE

Virtual Women's Symposium

March 8 | International Women's Day

9:00 am EST (New York) / 14:00 UTC

Register <https://bit.ly/sheLeads26>



Welcome

Lori Sheehan

Opening Remarks Lions Clubs International President
A.P. Singh

Empowerment Through Leadership

Pioneering women lead with courage, clarity, & global purpose

Panel: Dr. Patti Hill, Gudrun Yngvadottir, Sangeeta
Jatia, Elisabeth Haderer

Moderator: Jessie Budiman

Empowerment Through Inclusion

Building bridges through visibility, allyship & radical acceptance.

David Evangelista, Women Leading the Way

Kiera Byland, Special Olympic World Gold Medal
Athlete & Leader, UK

Empowerment Through Digital Presence

Level up your influence with content strategy, mobile
media & AI tools

Jodi Burmester, Daniel Marney Elkins

Empowerment Through Wellness

A calming sound-based mindfulness session to reset,
recharge, & reconnect with your potential.

Smriti Makharia, Sound Therapist, meditation coach,
chakra healer

Empowerment Through Allies

Break ceilings through mentorship, unity & inclusive
leadership.

Panel: Brian Sheehan, Shehzen Luhar, Dato Chin

Moderato: Alper Koçulu



Empowerment Through Transformation

Keynote Speaker: Ruchira Gupta
Ending sex trafficking by centering
survivor voices, challenging harmful
myths, & driving institutional
accountability.

Self defense moves every woman should know
demonstrated by Rich & Susie Morris

Closing Remarks Pastor Heather Elkins

Empowerment in action starts here—women leading change, everywhere

- Keeping a Girl in School – Kenya
Keeping girls in school—& futures within reach
- Police & Princess Ball – United States
Building confidence, trust, & brighter tomorrows.
- Feeding Program – Philippines
Nourishing children, strengthening communities.
- Water by Women – United States / Global
Clean water for families. Dignity for life.



Join the movement

ADDITIONAL DIGITAL COVERAGE



LION OF THE YEAR. New Hartford Lion Dalton Feckers was presented a “Lion of the Year” plaque at the club’s Christmas Party. The nominating committee selected Feckers recognizing his leadership at Beaver Creek Days and consistently volunteering to work at the club’s monthly omelet breakfasts.