

The IOWA LION



April 2026

iowalions.org

A Lions-Powered Project Changing Lives Across Iowa

*By Laurie Arnold
President, Restore Independent Mobility (RIM)*

Restore Independent Mobility (RIM), based in Denver, Iowa, refurbishes donated power wheelchairs and mobility equipment and provides them—by donation—to Iowans who otherwise could not afford them.

Every chair restored is a life restored. Volunteers rescue equipment that would be discarded, repair it to safe working condition, and place it directly into the hands of those who need mobility to work, attend school, worship, and fully participate in their communities.



What RIM Does

- Rescues donated mobility equipment
- Performs technician-grade repairs and safety checks
- Restores equipment to reliable condition
- Places chairs directly with individuals in need
- Keeps usable equipment out of landfills

An Invitation to Lions Clubs

RIM offers presentations to Lions Clubs across Iowa to:

- Share how the program works
- Highlight life-changing impact
- Help clubs start similar projects
- Build collaboration among service-minded Lions



Why It Matters

- Direct, measurable impact on local families
- Hands-on service for clubs of any size
- Sustainable, community-focused model
- A perfect reflection of our motto: We Serve

Whether your club is seeking a signature project or a meaningful way to serve, RIM provides a practical, scalable model that restores independence—and changes lives.

What Your Club Will Learn

- How donated mobility chairs are acquired, evaluated, and restored

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UPCOMING EVENTS

April	Environmental Awareness Month Lions Family & Friends Month Leo Club Awareness Month
Apr. 11	Leighton Lions Spring Pancake Breakfast
Apr. 12	Otter Creek Pancake Breakfast
Apr. 17	Iowa Lions Eye Bank See the Green Fundraiser, Coralville
Apr. 18-19	Iowa VDG/DGE Training West Des Moines
Apr. 18-26	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
May 28	Oskaloosa Lions Mental Health Symposium on Children's Health
Jun. 1	Tell-A-Thon 5.0
Jun. 5-7	Iowa Lions State Convention Des Moines
Jun. 19	Virdi Eye Golf Classic, Eldridge
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

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

- Technician grade safety and repair practices
- Volunteer roles for all skill levels
- How to replicate or adapt the RIM model in your community
- Real stories of Iowans whose lives have been transformed

RIM presentations include photos, videos, examples, and practical guidance — never a sales pitch. The goal is simple: empower Lions to serve more people, more effectively.

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We Serve — and together, we can help more Iowans move forward.

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ILEB Launches “See the Green” Indoor Golf Fundraiser

*By Adam Stockman
Iowa Lions Eye Bank*

I’ve had the pleasure of working, in some capacity, with many Lions over my 23 years with Iowa Lions Eye Bank (ILEB). My name is Adam Stockman and I serve as Director of Operations at ILEB.

First and foremost, thank you. Many of you recently played a major role in the success of the “Give Sight, Give Love” 70th Anniversary Campaign, which raised more than \$127,000 across Iowa and unlocked a \$105,000 LCIF Vision Grant, resulting in more than \$232,000 in total support for Iowa Lions Eye Bank. The widespread support of this campaign was amazing to see!

It is difficult to fully express what that kind of generosity means to me. Because of Lions, we are going to be able to upgrade critical equipment, expand research capabilities, improve training, and ultimately ensure that Iowa Lions Eye Bank continues to enhance the quality of life through the restoration and preservation of sight for patients in Iowa and around the world.

Please know that this message is not another fundraising appeal in the traditional sense. Lions across Iowa have already done so much. Instead, I’m writing with a spirit of gratitude and an invitation.

As part of our continued 70th anniversary celebration, we are launching a new event this year: the inaugural “See the Green” indoor golf fundraiser on Friday, April 17 at X-Golf Coralville.



This event is meant to be part fundraiser, part celebration, and most importantly a chance for Lions and friends of the Eye Bank to gather, have some fun, and celebrate the incredible partnership that has existed since Dr. Alson Braley founded Iowa Lions Eye Bank in 1955.

The format is intentionally relaxed:

- Indoor golf simulators
- Two waves of play (starting at noon and 4 p.m.)
- Teams of four, but solo golfers are welcome and we will pair you up
- Loaner clubs available if you don’t want to bring your own

We will also have some fun giveaway items along with a couple of special silent auction pieces: large (16x20) framed autographed photos of Hawkeye legends Spencer Lee and Jack Campbell.

If you’re a golfer, we would love to see Lions teams sign up and help us launch this event successfully so it can become something that returns year after year.

And if golf isn’t your thing, please still consider stopping by, bringing some energy, and helping us celebrate the work that Lions have made possible over the past 70 years.

Your partnership has shaped the story of Iowa Lions Eye Bank from the very beginning. Events like this are simply another opportunity for us to gather around that shared mission.

Registration information can be found at charitygolftoday.com/Seethegreentourney. A flyer is also available in the digital section of this issue.

I hope to see a lot of familiar faces on the 17th and look forward to seeing a lot of new faces.

Type 5 Diabetes (Part 1)

By PDG Bill Shutters

MD9 Diabetes Awareness Chair

Diabetes Mellitus was first diagnosed around 1550 B.C. Around 400 A.D. the Indian physicians Sushruta and Charaka recognized two forms of diabetes: one form in children and another in adults with obesity and/or a sedentary life style. Sir Harold Percival Himsworth is credited with proving that there were two distinct forms of diabetes: insulin-sensitive (juvenile/Type 1) and insulin-insensitive (adult/Type 2) and verifying that Type 2 was not a milder form of Type 1. Further research has shown there are subtypes of Type 1 and Type 2.

Type 1:

- Severe Autoimmune Diabetes (with antibodies) (SAID)
- Severe Insulin-Deficient Diabetes (without antibodies) (SIDD)

Type 2:

- Severe Insulin-Resistant Diabetes (SIRD)
- Mild Obesity-Related Diabetes (MOD)
- Mild Age-Related Diabetes (MARD)

Additional forms of diabetes are:

Gestational Diabetes A type of diabetes that develops during pregnancy and typically resolves after childbirth, but it requires careful management to ensure the health of both mother and baby.

Type 1.5 Latent Autoimmune Diabetes of Adults (LADA) also known as Double Diabetes where an individual progresses from what appears to be Type 2 to Type 1.

Type 3c which is diabetes mellitus secondary to chronic pancreatitis and pancreatic cancer

Type 3 has been proposed for Alzheimer's disease describing it as a brain-specific form of diabetes with molecular features overlapping other types of diabetes.

Type 4 is a non-autoimmune form of diabetes occurring in elderly lean individuals with hepatic (liver) insulin resistance.

Diabetes mellitus has over 30 recognized symptoms, some are more common than others, but this often leads to the statement that each person's diabetic condition is unique.

In 1955, Phillip Hugh-Jones from the University of the West Indies published an article, Diabetes in Jamaica, in Lancet which included his observations of 215 Jamaicans with diabetes over an 18-month interval. He used the terms

“Type 1 diabetes” and “Type 2 diabetes” to describe the symptoms and conditions he observed, with 12% of the group being thin, ketosis-prone and insulin-dependent as Type 1 and the 80% who were obese (lipoplethoric) and had diabetes as Type 2.

However, there was a group of 13 (6%) both children and adults under 40 years of age who were young, thin with little or no ketosis and needing large doses of insulin (generally over 80 units/day) to control excess glucose or sugar in the urine and maintain their weight. He called this group Type J for Jamaica.

Researchers noted that the higher requirements for insulin may be due to insulin resistance due to uncorrected hyperglycemia (high blood glucose). They did not show signs of ketosis even if the insulin was discontinued. They had a lower weight-to-height as compared to the mean values of the general population and consumed less protein than those in the Type 1 and Type 2 groups.

Hugh-Jones could not find a dietary cause, though he did consider the consumption of bush teas that interfere with carbohydrate metabolism and could lead to diabetes as a possible cause. He performed liver biopsies on three individuals and found no abnormalities with hormone levels consistent with Type 1 and hepatic (liver) fat consistent with Type 2. He concluded that the Type J group had a condition which was clinically different from Type 1 and Type 2.

There was a bit of controversy over the existence of Type J diabetes. In 1961, Tulloch and Macintosh followed up by including Hugh-Jones's patients in a larger sample and concluded that Type J was a subtype of patients with poorly-controlled Type 2 diabetes and changed the name of the condition to J-type. It was later named “phasic insulin-dependent diabetes.”

After these studies were completed, many cases of the J-Type were reported in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia and confirmed the lack of ketosis and high insulin requirement with protein-energy malnutrition. They also concluded that undetermined environmental toxins could be a factor.

In 1985, the World Health Organization (WHO) Expert Committee on Diabetes included Malnutrition-Related Diabetes Mellitus (MRDM) as a separate form of diabetes mellitus with protein-deficient pancreatic diabetes (PDPD) as its subtype. Further research showed the J-Type patients had pancreatic disease affecting the exocrine function of the pancreas, which is often seen in infants suffering

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HELP WANTED: Podcast Producer and Host

*By Phillip Larabee
Council Chair*

Lions Clubs of Iowa is searching for a volunteer podcast producer and host as a means of promoting the Iowa Lions Foundation and Lionism in Iowa.

A podcast producer and host manages the entire lifecycle of a podcast, combining creative, technical and administrative duties. Key responsibilities include planning episodes, booking guests, operating recording equipment, editing audio, writing show notes and promoting episodes. They ensure high-quality, engaging audio content that resonates with the audience.

Podcast Producer Responsibilities:

- **Pre-Production:** Researching topics, booking guests, drafting interview questions and creating outlines.
- **Production:** Operating recording equipment (microphones, sound boards) and guiding guests on talking points.
- **Post Production:** Editing audio to remove errors,

adding music/sound effects and ensuring high sound quality.

- **Distribution & Logistics:** Uploading episodes to hosting platforms, creating show notes and managing the publishing calendar.
- **Marketing:** Developing promotional strategies and managing social media content.

Podcast Host Responsibilities:

- **Content Creation:** Conducting interviews, hosting discussions or presenting monologues.
- **Audience Engagement:** Building rapport with guests and connecting with listeners to develop a loyal following.
- **Narration:** Developing content with a consistent engaging voice.

If interested, please email Council Chair Phillip Larabee at phillip.larabee@gmail.com **no later than May 1, 2026.**

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from acute malnutrition. Additionally, plant toxins, such as those used in teas of the region, were not a factor. Increased amounts of albumin protein were found in their urine, which is a marker of kidney damage.

Since J-Type diabetes was associated with undernutrition but the types of underlying undernutrition such as whether a lack of protein, calories or what trace minerals or micronutrients that led to an increased risk of MRDM, that caused it were not understood. In 1999 the WHO removed MRDM from the diabetes classification, stating “Whilst it appears that malnutrition may influence the expression of several types of diabetes, the evidence that diabetes can be caused by malnutrition or protein deficiency per se is not convincing.”

In 2000, the University of the West Indies took the bold step to establish the Tropical Metabolism Research Unit (TMRU) to investigate and develop treatment protocols for infants with SAM because protein-energy malnutrition was a significant public health issue in the region. There were two types of SAM; severe wasting without swelling (marasmus) and moderate wasting with swelling of limbs, belly and face with high mortality (kwashiorkor). The children with marasmus often had low birth weights and there were developmental and physiological differences between the groups. The children with marasmus were able to process proteins and fats to sustain energy metabolism, but were glucose intolerant due to impaired insulin secretion rather than

insulin resistance.

Researchers continued to study the long-term effects of severe undernutrition. Using matched studies on marasmus, kwashiorkor from a cohort of adult survivors and a community group as a control group, relationships between birth weight, the degree of wasting, adult size, glucose levels, insulin secretion, insulin resistance, pancreatic function and the risk of diabetes were studied. Similar studies were conducted in India and Africa, China and Mexico.

In January 2026, researchers and medical scientists from the United States, Jamaica, United Kingdom, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Uganda and Rwanda convened at an International Consensus Meeting in India to discuss the science and management of diabetes in individuals who have experienced undernutrition. Leaders from the National Institutes of Health, the American Diabetes Association and the International Diabetes Foundation (IDF) were also in attendance. Based on the presentations and discussions the group reached the consensus that this form of diabetes deserved a distinct classification and it should be named Type 5 Diabetes. On April 8, 2025 at the International Diabetes Foundation World Diabetes Conference in Bangkok, Thailand officially recognized that after 70 years this long-overlooked form should be called Type 5 Diabetes Mellitus.

International Report

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LCIF - Only Two Months Left to Donate This Lions' Year

Every district, club, and INDIVIDUAL Lion only has 60 days left to make a donation this 2025-2026 calendar year. Have Y-O-U made a personal donation this year? Has your club?

Iowa Lions HAVE received and WILL BE receiving matching fund vision grants from LCIF for Iowa Lions Eye Bank equipment, Iowa KidSight cameras and for a vision project at St. Luke's in District 9NW. Every dollar you donate to LCIF helps someone in need! The need is great, so let's open our hearts and wallets!

Register for 50th Anniversary of USA/Canada Forum Before Rate Increase

Online registration is available at lionsforum.org. Registration is \$385 plus a \$200 hotel deposit. Cost increases May 31. Forum highlights include over 80 seminars, hands-on service projects, exhibits with the latest/greatest ideas for Lions, the Forum Store full of Lions' swag and more, and a chance to meet our International Officers and Board of Directors in person.

Registration includes four meals with live music (Thursday night is Emerald Empire Band; Saturday night is Floyd Armstrong Smith from The Fifth Dimension) and keynote speakers (Friday noon is on Human Trafficking; Saturday noon is International President Mark Lyon). Go home UPLIFTED!!

Memphis is only 12 hours by car from most of Iowa, especially using all interstate highways.

Register NOW for Lions Clubs of Iowa State Convention June 5-7

The Des Moines Airport Holiday Inn is easily accessible via interstate from every direction. Come enjoy a live band Friday night, fellowship, food, seminars, and International Director David Wentworth and Lion Valerie from Omaha, Nebraska. Business or formal attire is suggested for the Saturday night's delicious dinner and prestigious awards presentation. Enjoy fellowship with your Lions family!

Last Chance to Register for 2026 GPLLI and FDI at Reduced Rate

Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute registration cost is \$220 until April 30. The fee increases to \$240 on May 1. GPLLI is designed for local club leaders. Contact PID Ardie Klemish for a registration form or questions.

Faculty Development Institute (FDI) is for Lions working towards being facilitators/trainers.

Voting 2026 International Convention in Hong Kong, China

The 108th annual Lions Clubs International Convention is July 3-7 in Hong Kong, China.

Who can vote at international convention? Every Lions club in good standing can participate in the election. Voting can only be done IN PERSON in China. The club must have ALL dues and fees (club supplies, etc.) paid in full at least 15 days before the convention. Each club is allowed one delegate for every 25 members or major fraction thereof. The Lion Portal will inform you when your club has reached its maximum number of delegates.

Your club secretary MUST certify your club's international convention voting delegates on the Lion Portal: log onto the Portal, click on "My Club", click on Members, click convention delegates, then convention type: the Portal tells you how many delegates you have. Then click "Assign a Delegate"..check the name. Open box called "delegate confirmation" and PRINT the delegate certification card for each delegate. The system shows how many club delegates your club has. It also shows VIP Delegates, Allowed Delegates, and Available Delegates on the right hand side. A Lion is only eligible to be a voting delegate after being a member for at least a year and a day.

Then print the delegate confirmation number and give it to your club's voting delegate(s). Once the voting delegate is assigned in the Lion Portal, the delegate will receive an email with their confirmation number. They MUST have that PRINTED delegate confirmation number with them in order to vote in Hong Kong and must wear their LionsCon name badge AND show a government issued photo ID when voting.

Once a vote is submitted, it CANNOT be modified. Election results will be posted during the final plenary session July 6. Current 2025-2026 District Governors DO have an automatic vote, BUT the club secretary MUST enter them in the system. 2025-2026 District Governors Elect do NOT have an automatic vote.

A View from the Chair

Council Chair
Phillip Larabee

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This morning I awoke to the sound of thunder and rain hitting the house windows. I attended the convention for Districts NW and SW in Carroll. I thought the joint convention was very nice. I was glad to see my old friends from these two districts, plus it was fun to stay at the Carrollton Inn. The last time I stayed in this hotel I had not met my wife Laura yet and I was working for the U.S. Treasury as a bank examiner at the end of the ag crisis of the 1980s. The stay brought back memories of the troubles the ag crisis brought into rural communities in Iowa and Nebraska.

This morning I spent many hours reading about the wild fires in Nebraska. As many of you know, I was born and raised in Nebraska. These fires include the Morrill County fire, where over 780 square miles have burned, destroying six structures; Valentine Kilgore-Cody fire where over 6,000 acres of land have burned along with one structure; North Platte fire where over 100,000 acres of land have burned; Halsey fire located near the Nebraska National Forest where over 40,000 acres of land have burned; plus many other small wildfires. I have friends and high school classmates living very near the Morrill County fire. The Valentine fire is within an hour of where my aunt and uncle live. I saw the number of volunteer fire departments who have sent firefighters and equipment to fight these fires in areas these departments never thought of serving. Some of these crews have traveled over 10 hours to assist. Then I read about a person who died in one of the fires.

While this part of Nebraska typically has more cattle than humans, these fires still cause great economic injury. The lack of hay and grass to feed the cattle will cause many economic hardships for these ranchers. A couple of years ago I talked with my cousin who is fire chief for a small rural town in North Central Nebraska. He told me fighting fires in the open range land is tough because you never know when you will be entering a canyon or walking down steep hills in blinding smoke. The number of firefighters who are injured fighting these fires is amazing. His wife said no matter how many showers these firefighters take, they smell like smoke for days on end.

When these natural disasters occur, Lions turn to LCIF. This is why our clubs and members should donate to LCIF, because they support natural disaster grants and so many other issues. Has your club or you made a donation to LCIF this fiscal year? I will tell all I make a monthly donation to LCIF and I am glad I do. This foundation has given significant help all over this world, including Iowa. Please consider making a donation today.

Clubs across Iowa should be working on their elections for the upcoming fiscal year. When your elections are completed, please assign next year's officers in the Lion Portal right away. This will make the state secretary's job easier when updating the Who's Who, plus ensure your club officers will have access to the Portal immediately at the beginning of next fiscal year.

As many of you have heard, the 2026 Lions Clubs International Convention will be held in Hong Kong, China. While there is only going to be a small delegation from Iowa attending this convention, including my wife and I, there will be some significant ballot issues to be voted on at this International Convention.

The first ballot issue is a holdover from last year's International Convention. This item includes redistributing the number of international directors from the USA from eleven to nine. This ballot issue barely failed at the Orlando convention in 2025. Now with the convention out-of-country, I could see this ballot issue passing.

The second ballot issue concerns International dues, with a proposed increase of \$2.00 each year starting in 2028 for the next five years. If my memory is correct, the last time this ballot issue hit the voting booths it took a couple of years of voting before the ballot issue passed.

Now for the a new policy issue which will take effect on July 1, 2026. This policy deals with the titles beginning with Global. No district Global Extension, Leadership, Service or Membership Chair can serve at the district level and the multiple district level at the same time. This also means, for example, if you serve as the district Extension Chair you cannot serve in any of the four multiple district Global offices. At the district level, a person can only serve one Global position per fiscal year. You can serve on any of the other positions, as long as the position does not contain the title of Global

Another new policy involves the district governor team. No two Lions serving as district governor, first vice district governor or second vice district governor may come from the same club at the same time.

District 9NE

District Governor
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As the Lions year starts to change to new leadership, your own club is looking to a different group of Lions to carry your service programs and fundraising events through 2026-2027.

Who is a Lion? I find that a Lion is a service-minded individual that devotes time and energy to helping others. They also, usually, are not only a Lion, but devote time to other nonprofits. They devote time to churches, historical groups, school help groups, food banks and many more that are in their own community. So, don't be afraid to ask someone who is committed to another organization to be a Lion. Individuals that support the community will also make time to be a great Lion. You just need to ask!

In the time remaining as your district governor, I have many district conventions and clubs in my district to visit. Of course, just like all districts around the world, we need more members to carry out the service that is needed around every corner. In this always changing world, the need for Lions is growing faster than our membership. Of course, we need to make sure the world knows what we do, as the Lions are the best kept secret in the world. So, report your service and make sure we do not only advertise our fundraisers, but our service to the local media.

Leadership training is available to all qualified Lions. Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute (GPLLI) will be July 17-19 at Baker University in Baldwin City, Kansas. Our District 9NE will help with the cost for a qualified Lion.

The best Forum to attend is the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum, held in Memphis, Tennessee, Sept. 3-5, 2026. Iowa's own PID Ardie Klemish will greet you. If you want to be motivated, you need to attend. Even if you think you know everything there is to know about Lions, there is room to learn more, so go to the Forum to learn things you did not know.

Attendance at zone meetings, district conventions and our own state convention is waning. Lions support is needed, so be proud to be a Lion and attend. See you there!

Denver Lions Start Food Pantry

Ever since the Denver Leo Club organized a city-wide food drive, the Denver Lions Club dreamed of starting a food pantry for their community. Six years later, that dream became a reality.

The space was generously donated, and volunteers stepped up to complete all of the needed upgrades. Every bit of labor was donated, and all supplies were given by supporters.

Cost to the Lions Club: \$0.

This is a true community partnership with Denver Cares—the churches of the Denver community—working together as the Shared Harvest Food Pantry to serve Denver's neighbors.



PROVIDING FOOD FOR THOSE IN NEED. Denver Lions Sue Buss and Zach Summerlot stock shelves at the Shared Harvest Food Pantry in Denver.

**“Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so much.”**

Helen Keller

9NE CLUB ACTIVITIES

CALMAR conducted a KidSight screening.

DECORAH provided a community meal; did eyeglass recycling.

HUDSON cleaned up brush by city signs.

INDEPENDENCE collected shoes for Soles4Souls.

LAWLER helped run a concession stand; held a scholarship breakfast

OELWEIN helped at the food pantry; ran Bingo at the senior center; assisted with tax preparation; read, labeled and recycled eyeglasses.

SHELLSBURG sponsored a blood drive.

VAN HORNE collected cans and bottles for redemption; held its annual omelet breakfast.

WEST UNION held KidSight screenings at Turkey Valley, NICC Early Childhood Center, St. Teresa Ossian Preschool, South Winn Elementary School, St. Teresa Calmar and St. Teresa Child Care Ossian.

WESTERN DUBUQUE held a prediabetes seminar; collected and distribute reading classes; collected tabs for Ronald McDonald House.

WELCOME 9NE NEW MEMBERS

Member	Sponsor	Club
Rich Bohr	Robert Klemish	Calmer
Robert Glass	Robert Klemish	Calmer
Lester Timp	Robert Klemish	Calmer
Monica Hird	Douglas Melchert	Hopkinton
Ashton Schwickerath	Greg Kout	Lawler
Brittany Childers	Cynthia Miller	Oelwein
Twila Schroeder	Roger Engstrom	Postville
Peter Eilers	Scott Wirth	Vinton
William Schwinke	Terrynie Meier	Waverly

In Memoriam

Member	Club	Years a Lion
Larry Jensen	Decorah	8 years
Francis Ries	Hopkinton	54 Years

About LCIF District & Club Community Impact Grants (DCG)

District and Club Community Impact Grants from Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) help Lions clubs fund local service projects that meet important community needs. These grants are made possible through donations from Lions to LCIF, which returns funds to districts to support projects led by local clubs. Lions clubs work with their district leadership to apply for DCG funding for qualifying community service projects.

For more information about DCG grants, read the article on Page 1 of this issue of *The Iowa Lion* and contact Lion Chris Waring, District 9NE LCIF Chair.



FOOD PANTRY SUPPORT. Decorah Lions Club President Charlie Smock (left) presents two checks to Matt Tapscott of the Decorah Area Food Pantry. The donations included \$1,300 from an LCIF District and Club Community Impact Grant (DCG) and \$200 from the Decorah Lions Club. The funds were used to purchase three chest freezers from Rockweiler Appliance, helping the pantry expand its ability to store and distribute food to those in need.

District 9MC
District Governor
Jimmy Bacon

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I want to thank you all for attending the district convention. I wasn't able to be there but from all the reports I received, it was a great time. Awards were handed out and money was raised.

I want to congratulate Dennis Kern from the Ankeny Lions Club for stepping up to become the 2nd vice district governor. Then Greg Townley will be moving from 2nd to 1st vice district governor. Training for these two will be held on April 18-19 in Des Moines. The district governor position has not been filled as of yet.

Let's all try and finish this year off with some new members and don't forget about getting your own club officer positions filled. Let's try not to be putting someone back into office that has been an officer for a number of years.



GIVE SIGHT, GIVE LOVE. 9EC Past District Governor James Bixler (center) presents Iowa Lions Foundation Give Sight, Give Love banner patches to Mark Polich (left) of the Garwing Lions Club and Deb Esterbrook (right) of the Marshalltown Evening Lions Club.



TRADITIONAL JACKET. Past District Governor Bill Pollard (right) presents International Director Mark Mansell from Washington with a personalized jacket, the traditional Iowa gift to a visiting international director.



DISTRICT LION OF THE YEAR. Past Council Chair Bill Pollard (center) receives the first ever District 9MC Lion of the Year award from Past District Governor Bill Shutters (left) and 1st Vice District Governor Elect Greg Townley.



SEMINAR SPEAKERS. (Left photo) Past District Governor Donna Wood discusses what her job as Iowa Lions State Secretary entails. (Right photo) Iowa KidSight Program Director Chelle Lehman explains the changes coming with the Iowa KidSight cameras and 9MC KidSight statistics.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Member	Club	Sponsor
Kathy Mabe	Clive	Bradley Brown
Amber Barz	Johnston	Kurt Barz
Kurt Barz	Johnston	Ronald Lower
Paulette Dyson	Johnston	Sandra Briggs
Karla Lower	Johnston	Ronald Lower
Justin Smith	Johnston	Thomas Leffler
Crystal Edwards	Nevada	Rob Edwards
Kirk Pederson	Nevada	Nick Valline

9MC CLUB ACTIVITIES

AMES collected 566 pairs of glasses; had three applications for eyeglasses; sent 6,000 pairs of eyeglasses of to be recycled; screened 132 kids for KidSight.

DYSART held a pancake breakfast, a Valentine's Day meeting, and a fish fry.

NEVADA KidSight screened 18 Lil Cubs and 49 elementary students; helped raise \$3,200 at a Cancer Bowling Benefit to assist two families.

In Memoriam

Member	Club	Years a Lion
John Even Jr.	Ames Lions	53 years



PRESIDENTIAL APPRECIATION. Lions Linda Mattson and Steve Halstead receive Presidential Certificates of Appreciation at the District 9MC Convention. Pictured (L-R) are International Director Mark Mansell, Past International Director Ardie Klemish, Linda Mattson, Steve Halstead, Debbie Mansell and Past International Director Gary Fry.



MORE SEMINAR SPEAKERS. (Left photo) MD9 Iowa Lions Youth Exchange Camp Coordinator Sheri Holliday talks about the Iowa Lions Youth Exchange Camp and outgoing Youth Exchange opportunities. (Right photo) MD9 LCIF Coordinator Bernadette Lane shares how District 9MC is faring with LCIF donations and updated policies on earning District and Club Grant (DCG) funds.



PROJECT IDEA. Lions give a presentation on getting a community flag project started.



PROTOTYPE. Lions inspect the prototype of the new screening camera that iScreen is making for Iowa KidSight vision screenings. Lion Chelle Lehman passed it around the room at the District 9MC Convention.

District 9EC

District Governor
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Welcome District 9EC Lions to the month of April. In this month we will observe the holiday of Easter, where families and relatives get together for a nice meal and the kids participate in Easter egg hunts.

This month I am reminding all clubs to have completed their club officer elections and get them reported in the Lion Portal. Having this done makes it easier for the state secretary in the process of getting information ready for the 2026-2027 Who's Who directory. If you need assistance in getting this accomplished, contact State Secretary Donna Wood at 563-249-9962.

Now that the weather is getting nice out, we need to have the clubs keep recruiting new members and finding new service projects. I am also asking of all clubs that when you have a service project get it reported and completed in the Lion Portal. As your district governor, I always view the service activities so I can put this information into *The Iowa Lion* magazine. I also encourage all clubs to submit photos from service projects whereas I can have these published in *The Iowa Lion* magazine as well.

In closing, just remember "Service is the Key" to the success and growth of your club. If we are doing this, we are Leading to Serve and Serving to Lead our communities.

USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum

This year is the 50th annual USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum which will be in Memphis, Tennessee, on Thursday, Sept. 3 through Saturday, Sept. 5, 2026. If you would like to join in the fun at this Forum, please register. You can register online at the [Forum website](#). If you registered before March 31,

In Memoriam

Member	Club	Years a Lion
William Prichard	DeWitt Nite	40 years
Dennis Dykstra	Tipton	33 years

you were charged the Early Bird rate. As of April, the registration cost is \$360 plus \$200 deposit on the hotel. This rate will increase again after May 31. Please get registered as soon as possible so you can enjoy the fun.

Leadership Training Sessions

This year in the month of July there will be two great leadership training sessions. The first training session will be the Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute on July 17-19. This session is to prepare you for leadership positions throughout the organization.

The second training session is the Faculty Development Institute July 16-19. The purpose of this training is to enhance training delivery skills and training techniques that will increase the quality of training and overall effectiveness of Lions leadership programs.

To download more information and applications, go to the [MD17 Kansas Lions website](#). These institutes will both be held at the Baker University in Baldwin City, Kansas.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO 9EC

CLUB	MEMBER	SPONSOR
Alburnett	Melissa L. Stoll	Roberta Carver
Alburnett	William R. Valka	James Carver
Cedar Rapids Noon	Anitha Puthige	Padmanabha Puthige
Tipton	Doug M. Smith	Kenneth Crock



MONARCH MEMORIAL. Eldridge Lions set up for the Monarch Memorial Tree Project. Pictured (L-R) are Sue Day, Ann Baughman, Tom and Nadine Schwarz, Rick Baughman, Cyndi Jarvis and guest Linda Ewoldt.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

BLUE GRASS knitted hats for families in need; collected recycled material in Blue Grass; picked up trash in Blue Grass.

ELDRIDGE had a Puzzle Palooza fundraiser for an Iowa KidSight camera; transported eye tissue; conducted Bingo for Grand Haven residents; had a flags program for first graders.

LeCLAIRE stocked shelves for the Pleasant Valley Food Pantry.

LOW MOOR conducted an Iowa KidSight screening; had an Omelette Breakfast to raise funds for an Iowa KidSight camera.

LOWDEN assisted Jerry Inman from Stanwood Lions with an Iowa KidSight screening for the Linn-Mar Elementary School.

MARION NOON KidSight screened 47 with two referrals.

MILES donated \$250 towards a new camera for Iowa KidSight.

PRESTON made a donation of \$300 to the Valley Light House Project; made adult tie blankets for Ronald McDonald House; donated \$500 to a Quiz Bowl Team at Eastern Valley School to help cover travel expenses.

WEST BRANCH worked at the concession stand at Carver Hawkeye Arena; had two eye tissue transports; hosted three Pickle Ball events.



FOOD PANTRY AID. Members from the LeClaire Lions helped fill two shelving units at the Pleasant Valley Junior High and three shelving units at the Pleasant Valley High School for a new Food Pantry.



WARREN COLEMAN HONOREES. Eldridge Lions Club President Beth Schwager (far left) presents Warren Coleman Awards (L-R) Mark Wall, Darlene Link, Dave Curtlott, and Sue Cannon.

District 9NC

District Governor
Tasha Finch

1013 Caldwell St
Aplington, Iowa 50604

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tasha@alumni.uni.edu



A Great Opportunity to Serve on a 9NC Global Action Team

First Vice District Governor Mike Yore is putting together 9NC's Global Action Team for next year. He is looking for club members to serve on one of 9NC's four GAT Teams:

1) Global Membership Team (GMT) which focuses on helping clubs recruit new members.

2) Global Leadership Team (GLT) which focuses on helping clubs with leadership training of club presidents, secretaries, treasurers, etcetera.

3) Global Service Team (GST) which focuses on developing new and supporting existing service projects.

4) Global Extension Team (GET) which focuses on supporting new club start-ups.

Each team consists of a coordinator and a few club members who can meet virtually or in person. Training will be provided.

Please consider volunteering to serve on one of these Global Action Teams. Let 1VDG Mike know if you are interested in participating or if you would like to nominate a club member. He can be reached at Yoremike3@gmail.com.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Club	Member	Sponsor
Eagle Grove	Kasey Burns	Tiffini Toliver
Eagle Grove	Cari McPeak	Tiffini Toliver
Iowa Falls	Kollan Kolthoff	Bernal Koehrsen

In Memoriam

Club	Member	Years a Lion
Parkersburg	Wendall Abkes	42 years

Lithium-Ion Batteries Can Be Dangerous

By Tony Finch

Lithium-ion batteries power most of our portable electronics, electric vehicles, and storage systems because they store a lot of energy in a compact, lightweight package. That same high-energy density is what creates their hazards if they are misused or damaged.

How failures happen:

1. A local cell failure can trigger rapid heating and chemical reactions that spread through the cell and adjacent cells. Temperatures rise, releasing flammable vapors and more heat is generated.
2. Direct shorts or improper charging can cause excessive current and heat.
3. Physical damage from punctures, crushing, or severe deformation of cells can break separators and cause internal shorts.
4. Exposure to high temperatures, fire, or improper storage accelerates failure risk.



BATTERY WOES. Lion Tony Finch of the Parkersburg Lions Club makes a presentation on the dangers of lithium-ion batteries at a firemen's conference held in Hawkeye.

9NC CLUB ACTIVITIES

CLARION donated \$500 to the Clarion-Goldfield-Dows Schools After Prom Committee.

CLEAR LAKE EVENING sold fresh-made popcorn at the Surf Ballroom's Winter Dance Party as a fundraiser; hosted a Red Cross blood drive at the VFW; donated \$500 to My Happy Place.

EAGLE GROVE staffed a mobile food pantry, serving 95 families; provided displays regarding international childhood cancer awareness in the local hospital and the library.

FLOYD conducted its annual frozen food sale as a fundraiser.

IOWA FALLS The Jennings Real Estate Team provided the program with topics on local real estate trends and the importance of using a real estate agent when buying or selling.

KAMRAR hosted its annual pancake supper fundraiser.

MASON CITY hosted an omelet breakfast as a fundraiser; Cerro Gordo County Conservation Education Manager, Heather Hucka, presented a program at the club's February meeting.

NEW HARTFORD hosted an omelet breakfast.

NORTHWOOD volunteered at the Northwood theater by selling tickets and working in the concessions stand.

OSAGE Lions volunteered at the Knights of Columbus breakfast resulting in a \$1,460 donation to assist with the purchase of a KidSight camera.

PARKERSBURG conducted KidSight screenings of 189 children; prepared MannaPack food kits for the Feed My Starving Children organization.

SHEFFIELD collected 60 pairs of eyeglasses from donation boxes and volunteered at the West Fork food pantry.

WILLIAMS hosted bingo twice a month as a fundraiser with soup and sandwiches available for purchase.



TIP MONEY. Clear Lake Evening Lions Club President Jason Bradshaw (right) presents a \$500 donation to My Happy Place, represented by Katie Klemsrud. It was the latest donation from tips collected during the Evening Lions popcorn sales at The Surf Ballroom events.



PREPARING MANNA. Parkersburg Lions Tony Finch, District Governor Tasha Finch and Carol Smith, with the assistance of Carol's grandchildren, prepare MannaPack food kits for the Feed My Starving Children organization.

PACKED FOOD. District Governor Tasha Finch and fellow Parkersburg Lion Carol Smith show a few of the finished MannaPack food kits they assembled for the Feed My Starving Children organization.

District 9NW

District Governor
Steve Rehmann

820 N 15th St
Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501

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March has always been a busy month for Lions in Iowa, but this year felt different, fuller, more connected, and marked by moments that reminded us why we do this work. With convention season behind us and spring finally pushing winter aside, it is a suitable time to look back at what we accomplished together and look ahead to the final stretch of the Lions year.

A Convention to Remember. Our first combined 9NW/9SW District Convention is now officially in the books. What a terrific weekend it turned out to be. Bringing our two districts together was more than a scheduling decision. It was a chance to build new connections, share ideas, and celebrate the spirit of service that unites us. The energy throughout the weekend was unmistakable.

Our speakers were engaging and thoughtful, and the memorial service led by PDG Dale Schoening was especially moving. It was overseen with dignity and care, and it reminded us that our strength as Lions comes not only from what we do, but from the people who have walked this path before us.

A highlight of the weekend was PID Debra Wasserman's keynote address. Her message was heartfelt, insightful, and grounded in decades of service. She challenged us, encouraged us, and left the room inspired. We were fortunate to have both PID Debra and Lion Steve with us, and their presence added something special to the entire event.

Sioux City was recognized as a Founding Partner

in our vision grant project (pictured right). Fort Dodge, Orange City, Remsen, Hartley and Rolfe clubs were recognized as Vision Champions for donating \$1,000 or more to the grant project. Sioux City, Akron, Fort Dodge and Fort Dodge Evening were recognized as charter clubs. In total 25 of our 28 clubs participated in our vision grant project. Well done, 9NW.



It was clear that this first combined convention was more than a success. It was a meaningful step forward. My thanks to the Carroll Lions Club for hosting, to Des Moines Area Community College for the excellent venue, and to every Lion who helped make the weekend memorable.

A Vision Grant Victory Worth Celebrating. Looking back in March also means celebrating one of the biggest achievements of our year: we exceeded our Vision Grant goal.

This district stepped up in a way that reflects who we are. Clubs of every size contributed. Individual Lions made personal gifts. Because of that collective effort, specialized lenses will soon be in the hands of the medical teams who need them most.

What has stood out to me throughout this effort is the spirit behind it. Lions-Littles-Lenses resonated because it was simple, local, and deeply connected to our mission. When a club added its name to the list of supporters, it was not just a donation, it was a message to families in their community: We believe in your kids, and we are investing in their future.

As district governor, I could not be prouder of how 9NW responded. This was a true team effort, and the impact will be felt for years to come.



PRESIDENTIAL RECOGNITION. Presidential Certificates of Appreciation, the 4th highest award in Lions, are presented Lion Jim Braunschweig of Sioux City (far right) for his work on our vision grant and the "dynamic duo" of Lions Jeremy (left photo) and Dawn (center photo) Thompson of Boone for their leadership in the Boone club and District 9NW. Each are shown pictured with Past International Director Debra Wasserman and District Governor Steve Rehmann.

News From Our Clubs

A Full Schedule Through April 12. The weeks ahead remain busy. Between club visits, follow ups on the grant, and the usual spring activity across the district, the calendar is full right up to April 12. Kathy and I will be on the road quite a bit, and I am grateful, as always, for her support and patience as we navigate this stretch.

On April 12, we will be in Omaha for something that has become a family tradition: the Bill Steckis Free Baseball Clinic for Kids. Bill, our son-in-law had the opportunity to pitch in the Pittsburg Pirates minor league system. He is a well-known coach in the Omaha baseball community as well as a sports broadcaster. He has poured his heart into this event for twenty-seven consecutive years, except for COVID. It is a long running, volunteer driven clinic that brings together former pros, area coaches, and the Creighton University baseball team to give kids a day of learning, encouragement, and fun, all at no cost to the families. Watching Bill work with those kids each year is a reminder that service takes many forms, and that the desire to give back runs deep in our family.

A Short Break, Then Back to Club Visits. After April 12, Kathy and I plan to take a week or two to catch our breath. It has been a full year, and a short break will help us recharge before the final push.

From late April through mid-June, my focus will shift back to club visits as we wrap up the term. These visits are one of the best parts of serving as district governor. Every club has its own personality, its own traditions, and its own way of serving its community. Seeing that up close, the projects, the people, the pride, is something I never take for granted.

As we move toward the end of the Lions year, I am reminded again that our strength is not found in any single event or project. It is found in the steady, dependable work of Lions who show up because they believe their community deserves more than just someone being present. They deserve someone who cares.

A TV detective once said, “You don’t do the job for the glory — you do it because someone’s counting on you.” That sounds like Lions to me.

Thank you for your service, your heart, and your commitment to making this district shine.

AKRON continued to work with Remsen, Orange City and Le Mars to secure funding for the new KidSight camera; took shoes to Sunnybrooke Church.

BOONE continued KidSight screenings in the community; transported eye tissue for the Iowa Lions Eye Bank.

CHURDAN delivered Meals on Wheels; held its annual fish sale grossing \$11,304; donated \$150 to the post prom party; installed carsiding on the interior of a new shelter house.

FORT DODGE served a pancake breakfast/open house at the Kandiland Daycare in Fort Dodge, displaying membership materials and KidSight information.



CAMERA FUNDING. The Carroll Lions Club accepts a grant from the Warren H. Timmerman Charitable Trust to fund the entire cost of the new KidSight camera being rolled out this year. Pictured (L-R) are Timmerman Trust Board Member Chris VanDyke, Carroll Lions Club Treasurer Lisa Mohr, Ann Menzel with Iowa Savings Bank, Lion Ann Schlecta, Carroll Lions Secretary Ron Morlok, Ben Meyer with Iowa Savings Bank, Jenni Middleton with Iowa Savings Bank.



45 YEARS OF SERVICE. District Governor Steve Rehmann presents Manson Lion Paul Barrett with a Monarch Chevron Award for 45 years of Lions service.

NEW MEMBERS

Club	Member	Sponsor
Madrid	Tracy Blackmer	Raymond Ortmann
Ogden	Craig Heineman	Tom Hollinghead
Royal	Gatlin Faust	Roman Fahnländer
Royal	Brent Trierweiler	Mitch Fahnländer

District 9SW

District Governor
Beverly Fletcher

103 Chad Circle
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503

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bafcbia@gmail.com



9NW/9SW District Convention - March Madness happened over the weekend of March 13-14 at the Des Moines Area Community College campus in Carroll. 9NW District Governor Steve Rehmann and I have been working as a team for the past six months to prepare for the first joint 9NW/9SW District Convention.

The facilities were outstanding with three large screens to be able to watch videos and PowerPoints along with two classrooms to hold individual district cabinet meetings for 9NW and 9SW. Registration was done by Lion Kristin Glockhoff. 9NW had 25 registered; 9SW had 39 registered, and there were 25 other districts and speakers registered. After 12 cancelling for illnesses and other emergencies, we had a total of 77 attending.

SPEAKERS: 1) PID Debra Wasserman, the keynote speaker (pictured right), is a retired school social worker from Faribault, Minnesota. Her presentation shared the beginnings of Lionism in 1917 with Melvin Jones, a Chicago businessman, who dreamt of the great things that could be done if the business men worked together for the betterment of their community. Today we honor the name of our founder through the Melvin Jones Fellowship Program.



2) Talking about Melvin Jones, another speaker was PDG Lisa Alexander (pictured right), from Clayton, Missouri. PDG Alexander served as district governor for Missouri Lions District 26-M3 during the 2014-2015 Lions year. At our convention, PDG Alexander shared insights on the Melvin Jones Memorial in Arizona, offering historical context, personal reflections, and a deeper understanding of the legacy of Lions Clubs International's founder.



3) Our third speaker in Carroll was JoAnn Alumbaugh from the Tori's Angels Foundation based in Panora. Tori's Angels Foundation is a non-profit organization that helps Iowa families who have a child with a life-threatening illness. The Foundation covers medical expenses that are not covered by insurance, such as deductibles and co-pays. The Foundation has helped a total of 195 families since it began in 2011. Alumbaugh invited the Tyler Klotz family (pictured right) to speak about their experiences and how Tori's Angels has been part of their health journey with their daughter, Grace.



4) Our fourth speaker was Dawn Thompson who shared the effects that July 4 fireworks had on her Leader Dog that caused her retirement as a service animal.

5) MD9 LCIF Coordinator Bernadette Lane gave a dynamic LCIF presentation, including a PowerPoint packed with heart-touching LCIF stories, photos, and facts. Her presentation garnered donations from the audience.

Council Bluffs 2nd Vice President Dr. Barry Jose was one of our "Bad Portrait" artists, along with 9SW 1st Vice District Governor Chris Wilkins, who drew pictures of Lions for a \$5 donation each.

PDG Ken Klemish had a bingo board that raised a \$1,000 for LCIF with \$20 donations per chance. The winner was Past Council Chair Dawn Goodsell.

9NW/9SW had a combined Memorial Service with a PowerPoint developed by 9SW District Secretary Kristin Glockhoff. The service was led by MD9 Chaplain Rev. Dale Schoening.

PRESIDENTIAL CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION:

1) PDG Allen Zobel is the District Global Extension Team and District Global Membership Team Coordinator, as well as Iowa Lions Foundation Trustee. In September 2025, Allen was able to bring 95 Lions together in Audubon High School for the Yip Yo Palooza Conference with five international and regional Lion guests. PDG Allen and his team of volunteers are now working on Phase II of Yip Yo Palooza in August 2026.

2) Lion Juanita Reynard is the District Public Relations and Lions Information Chairperson and the

District Administrator for the Lion Portal. Juanita is a talented IT Person. In 2024-2025, she worked with PDG Gary Glockhoff and redesigned the [district website](#). Juanita works to keep it updated in the three areas of ABOUT, NUTS & BOLTS, and MEDIA. She is also my editor for the 9SW monthly newsletter. Clubs communicate with her about a variety of items, including getting the new officers posted on the Lion Portal, updating changes of officers, email addresses, etc. She reviews and edits articles for 9SW cabinet members. She is out finding new service projects for 9SW Lions Clubs.

As a creative person, Juanita developed our “Combo Con Card” for the 9NW/9SW District Convention. We had three winners of the Casey’s gas cards of \$20-\$25: 9SW Lion Sara Kerkhoff, 9NW Lion Robin Schiro and 9NW Lions Mackenzie Schram & Tamara Schram jointly.

Lions were flexible as we adjusted the program by keeping our eye on the upcoming blizzard and getting PID Debra Wasserman and her husband, Steve, on the road for their drive back to Faribault, Minnesota, Saturday afternoon. They “made it home without any difficulty at all.” They said it was windy all of the way, but they didn’t hit any snow or ice until about 10 miles from their home. They woke up Sunday morning to 11 inches of snow on the ground, according to Lion Steve.

Servant Heroes In Memoriam

Member	Club	Years a Lion
Larry England	Diagonal Lions Club	9
Terry L Frantum	Jamaica Lions Club	15
Carl L Ford	Tingley Lions Club	23
Don Breshears	Lamoni Lions Club	35
Kassen “Kass” Duis	Panora Lions Club	41
Darrell Shook	Panora Lions Club	41

9SW New Servant Heroes

Member	Sponsor	Club
Bryan Swartzter	Thomas Waltz	Adel
Nathan Head	Les Elliott	Diagonal
Mary Ann Green	Sheri Holliday	Winterset
Mary B Walkup	Terry McNeley	Winterset
Brianna Smart	Beth Lund-Karl	Greenfield
Nancy Stringer	Kendalyn Huff	Greenfield
John Ward	Kendalyn Huff	Greenfield
Laura Ward	Kendalyn Huff	Greenfield

9SW SERVANT HEROES IN ACTION

ZONE 1

COUNCIL BLUFFS approved three individuals for hearing aids; picked up 37 pairs of eyeglasses; did nine Iowa KidSight screenings at multiple locations for 179 kids.

GLENWOOD screened 11 kids at Northeast Elementary School; helped unload food truck at Mills County Storehouse.

NEOLA sorted and bagged cans/bottles for redemption; collected breakfast items for Tri-Center Elementary; collected items for local food pantry; collected and donated items for the Blessings Box.

VILLISCA picked up donated food from HyVee to deliver to Good Sam, low rent housing, the food pantry, Feed the Pack, early childhood center and a few families; provided transportation for doctor appointments; watered trees for city; set up collection site at basketball game for Soles4Souls and eyeglass collections.

ZONE 2

AUDUBON collected shoes for Soles4Souls; taught religious education to youth; prepared and delivered meals to neighbors needing assistance; collected and delivered plastic bags to a neighboring club; drove homebound people to the doctor, therapy and church; took groceries and prescriptions to the homebound.

ZONE 4

ADEL sponsored Adel Cub Scouts and assisted with running their Pinewood Derby.

PERRY organized AMOS; worked with the Elks Lodge for community activities; provided rides for elderly; managed a pet rescue; worked with the Optimist Club on the flag project; provided bedding for immigrants.

WAUKEE collected 514 pairs of eyeglasses.

ZONE 5

INDIANOLA NOON distributed American flags and literature to third grade students; collected 48 pairs of shoes for Soles4Souls; volunteered at the high school Jazz Band competition concessions area; attended the Norwalk Shrimp, Steak & Lobster dinner to support their club; volunteered with the Indianola Public Schools music program.

NORWALK held its annual Shrimp, Steak & Lobster dinner, raising \$6,000.

ZONE 6

ADAIR provided music therapy at multiple care centers; helped with the Adair Food Pantry; donated \$670 in individual donations to LCIF.

WINTERSET raised \$273 at community bingo; raised \$17 tail twisting; donated \$370 to Winterset Schools Education Foundation, \$500 to Camp Hertko Hollow, \$2,000 to Iowa Lions Foundation, \$1,000 to LCIF, and \$1,000 to Iowa Lions Youth Exchange Camp.

ZONE 7

LORIMOR held a free will donation dinner and bingo, raising \$650 with 50% of proceeds donated to veterans.

District 9SE

District Governor

Paul Hain

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Lone Tree, Iowa 52755

319-330-5920

paulhain@windstream.net



By the time you read this, the district convention will be in the books. As we finish the last three months of the Lions year, have you held a prospective member event? Have you “ASKED” a prospective member to join your club to further the service you are doing within your community? In order to have a healthy club, we need to continue replacing ourselves with new members. Several clubs in the district are doing a great job of growing their membership. We all need to follow in their footsteps and do the same.

Several weeks ago, I spoke to the Leo club at Van Buren High School in Keosauqua. This is a club of 35 members and are very active within the community. The question was posed “What is a Lion?” A number of answers were given but they didn’t come easily from the Leos. Some of the responses given were Lions are every day individuals, compassionate and dedicated volunteers. We share a purpose to serve within our communities and being part of a Lions club helps us to grow. Also, just like being a Leo, we can have fun while serving.

When asked what do Lions do, again it was somewhat of a challenge getting answers. They knew some of the activities within their community but beyond that not much was known. They knew that they were making a difference within their community, but not what the eight global causes of Lions were. How many Lions within our own clubs could name all of the eight global causes?

Why do I bring all of this up? How many Lions within our own clubs could name all of the eight global causes? Do they all know what is happening

WELCOME 9SE NEW MEMBERS

Club	Member	Sponsor
Ottumwa Noon	Christopher L Northcutt	Jill Budde
Ottumwa Noon	Hollie D Tometch	Ashley Baum

within Iowa or internationally? How many people within our communities fully understand what Lions clubs do both within our communities – locally, nationally and internationally? If we don’t know as members, how can we talk with prospective members about Lions?

We all need to do a better job about informing ourselves about Lions to grow our clubs. During my club visits this Lions year, I have asked members if someone at the meeting could tell me what Lions Mission 1.5 is. Very few knew what it is.

As I told the Leos, we all need to visit the [Lions International website](#). There is a wealth of information on the site and a lot of great training available. Please take advantage of this free information to help you and your club.



FAT TIRE CLASSIC. Cyclists start their ride at the 9th annual Lake MacBride Fat Tire Classic hosted by the Solon Centennial Lions Club in February. The club raised \$10,500 at this year’s event.

SERVANT HEROES IN ACTION

DANVILLE donated \$100 to Danville Community Schools in memory of a member.

FAIRFIELD hosted a presentation by the Iowa Library for the Blind and Print Disabled at the Fairfield Public Library; helped fill bags with food to be distributed to school children to take home on weekends.

GRANDVIEW-LETTS donated \$500 to the Louisa Muscatine Community School for the backpack program and \$500 to the Letts Methodist Church for their backpack program.

OSKALOOSA raised and lowered U.S. flag to and from half-mast for federal holidays and as directed by the governor's office.

VICTOR screened 64 children at three preschools in the Victor area.



PORCH PROJECTS. Community members make door mats and porch signs at a fundraiser hosted by the Melcher-Dallas Lions Club to raise money for the Melcher-Dallas Dollars for Scholars scholarships.

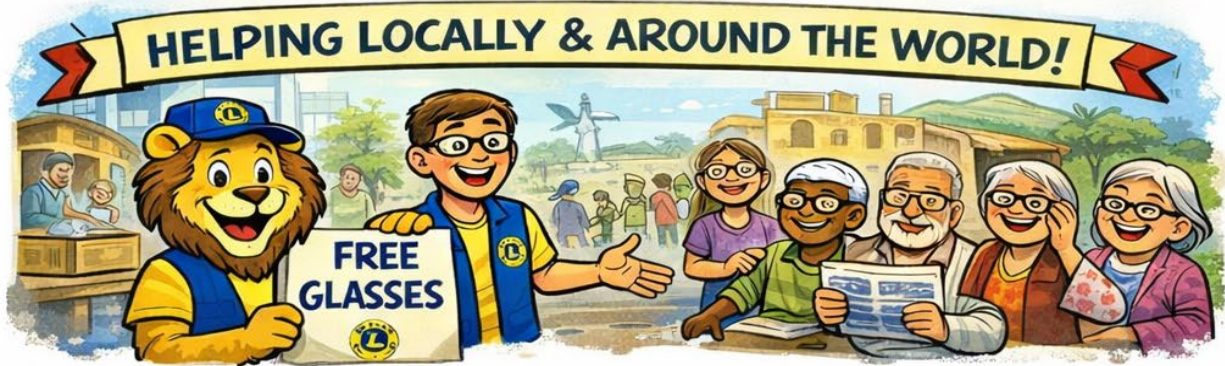


MONARCH CHEVRON AWARDS. District Governor Paul Hain (far left) presents Monarch Chevron Awards for years of service to members of the Ottumwa Noon Lions Club.

The Journey of Donated Eyeglasses...

Have you ever wondered what happens to the eyeglasses collected by your club?





Stay tuned for more details in an upcoming issue of *The Iowa Lion* about Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centers (LERC's) in Iowa.



GOLF CLASSIC. The team from the Iowa Lions Eye Bank takes to the green on their sponsored hole at the 2025 Virdi Eye Golf Classic. The annual tournament in District 9EC is recruiting sponsors and golfers for the 2026 event.



THE IOWA LION

Virdi Eye Golf Classic Scheduled for June 19

*By Andy Ploehn
Virdi Eye Golf Classic Tournament Chair*

The 2026 edition of the Virdi Eye Golf Classic will be held on Friday June 19, 2026, at Glynn's Creek Golf Course in Eldridge with a 9 a.m. shotgun start.

This is the 15th year of the Virdi Eye Clinic being the signature sponsor for this tournament. With their generous support, the total funds raised by the Virdi Eye Golf Classic in the past 19 years are over \$300,000.

Last year the event raised over \$35,000 for the



Iowa Lions Foundation and this year the Virdi Golf Committee is looking to set another record by raising over \$40,000!

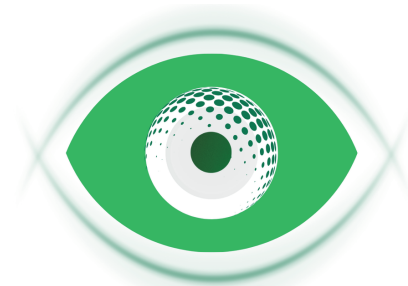
We are asking that all Lions support the Virdi Eye Clinics and area Lions Clubs in raising money for the Iowa Lions Foundation. The registration and sponsorship form is on Page 28 in the digital section of this magazin. Please send the completed form to:

Andy Ploehn, Tournament Chair
1001 Coffelt Avenue
Bettendorf, IA 52722

Not a golfer? Still want to help? Volunteer at the Tournament! Volunteers are needed the day of the tournament for various activities. Contact Volunteer Coordinator Loren Claussen at 563-210-7832 or claussenagribiz@msn.com.

Thank you again for your support in making this a successful tournament!

ADDITIONAL DIGITAL COVERAGE



see the GREEN indoor golf fundraiser



Friday, April 17, 2026 | X-Golf Coralville

Join us for See the Green, a fun, social indoor golf fundraiser supporting the operations of Iowa Lions Eye Bank.

About the Event

See the Green is a relaxed, community-focused indoor golf event open to everyone—golfers and non-golfers alike. Whether you're playing a round, stopping by to socialize, or supporting the mission, this event is designed to bring people together for a great cause.

- 4-person best-shot indoor golf
- Two waves of play available for registration: Noon to 3 p.m. or 4 to 7 p.m.
- Highly realistic, state-of-the-art golf simulators
- Bring your own clubs or use complimentary loaner clubs

Not a Golfer? No Problem.

You don't need to golf to be part of the fun. Family, friends, Lions Club members, and community supporters are encouraged to attend, enjoy food and drinks, and help raise awareness for sight restoration. X-Golf Coralville is generously donating 10% of all food and beverage sales during the event to Iowa Lions Eye Bank. Giveaways will take place later in the event, adding a little extra excitement for attendees.

Registration details and pricing are available on the event website. Early registration is encouraged. Sponsorship opportunities are available starting at \$500, and all sponsorship levels include registration for a foursome. This event is supported by the University of Iowa Center for Advancement.

Learn More & Register

Register or learn more at:

charitygolftoday.com/Seethegreentourney

(Or scan the QR code at the right!)

Event Contact:

Adam Stockman
adam-stockman@uiowa.edu



ADDITIONAL DIGITAL COVERAGE

Leighton Lions Club

Spring **PANCAKE
BREAKFAST**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026
6:30-9:00 A.M.**

LEIGHTON CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH



**SERVING: Scrambled Eggs,
Sausages, Biscuits & Gravy,
Fruit, Coffee and All You
Can Eat Pancakes**

**FREEWILL DONATION
Open to the Public**

Proceeds from this fundraiser will go to rural Leighton residents Bruce and Lisa Groenendyk for priority needs after Lisa's recent major health crisis.



Right after Thanksgiving, Lisa encountered a major health crisis, a confirmed case of Bacterial Meningitis. The life-threatening infection was very serious with the worst damage to her heart. Lisa spent 37 days in treatment and rehab including three weeks at Mercy One Medical Center in Des Moines. Part of her treatment was heart surgery to repair a damaged valve. Lisa is now home, anticipating a full recovery. Lisa and husband, Bruce, wish to express sincerest thanks to the staff at the Pella ER, Mercy One, Clive Rehab and the public for the many prayers and acts of kindness. To God be the glory for helping the Groenendyk's endure this trial in their lives.

ADDITIONAL DIGITAL COVERAGE

**OTTER CREEK AREA LIONS CLUB
ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST**



**SUNDAY, APRIL 12
8:00 AM TO 12:00 PM
TODDVILLE LEGION HALL**

**Freewill donation at the door to benefit
cancer, hunger & environmental programs
sponsored by all Lions Clubs**

**Enjoy pancakes, eggs, ham, juice, milk and coffee
Carryout available**

Silent Auction & Bake Sale too!



**WE SERVE
Toddville, Robins & Palo**



ADDITIONAL DIGITAL COVERAGE

Registration Form

* _____
Company Name

* _____
Contact Person

* _____
Address

* _____
City, State, Zip

* _____
Phone

Names and Email address of the team captain

* _____
Golfer #1

* _____
Contact E-mail for TEAM CAPTAIN

* _____
Golfer #2

* _____
Golfer #3

* _____
Golfer #4

**ALL HOLE IN ONE'S
SPONSORED BY**



I'm interested in *sponsoring* the
VIRDI EYE GOLF CLASSIC at
Glynns Creek Golf Course.
Enclosed is my check for:

_____ \$600 Major Sponsorship (4 golfers)

_____ \$150 Hole Sponsor

_____ \$100 Single Player

_____ I am unable to participate,
but please accept this
contribution of \$ _____

Please make checks payable to:

"ILF GOLF TOURNAMENT"

**Mail the registration form/s and
check to:**

**Andy Ploehn Tournament Chair
1001 Coffelt Ave.
Bettendorf, IA 52722**

If you have any questions, contact:
Andy Ploehn, Tournament Chair
at 563-940-0922, or by e-mail:
andyploehn1@me.com

