

The IOWA LION



May 2026

iowalions.org

Exira Lions Seek to Establish Eyeglass Recycling Center in 9SW

*By Juanita Reynard
Public Relations Chair, District 9SW*

Past District Governor Allen Zobel from the Exira Lions Club is establishing an eyeglasses recycling center at the Exira Lions Club House on the western side of Iowa. Volunteer Lions from both the Exira and Audubon clubs will be trained to sort, clean, test, and package eyeglasses for recycle.

PDG Allen has requested a grant from the Iowa Lions Foundation to purchase a new lensometer for District 9SW to be located at the Exira Lions Club. District 9SW will learn if the grant is approved at the next Iowa Lions Foundation Trustee meeting at the Iowa Lions State Convention in June.

If you have collected glasses to recycle, please deliver them to the Exira Lions Club House from 9 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday. Do not throw away the hard eyeglass cases either. Those will be repurposed as survivor kits for the Alert Team trailers.

Here's a look at how the eyeglass recycling process works:

Step 1: Sorting.

Lion volunteers will sort through all the glasses that come into the sorting/testing center. They need to separate the good glasses from the ones



that are broken or unusable.

Step 2: Find the Broken Frames. The Lions will sort through all the glasses they receive. They will separate the good frames from the broken frames. If the broken frame is all plastic, then they will throw those away. If any of the broken frames contain metal, then they will pop the lenses out and save the frames in a separate area. Those broken frames with metal will be shipped to a company in New York that melts down the plastic to reclaim all the different metals. The value of the metal they collect from these frames will be shared with the Exira Eyelasses Recycling Center.



Step 3: Save the Good Ones. Identify and clean all the good glasses and place into another area. These will be checked and identified for their optical strengths.



Step 4: Check Lenses. Each of these glasses with healthy frames and lenses will be checked using the lensometer instrument which calculates the prescription of each of the lenses.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Step 5: Package Glasses. Once the machine has determined the strength of each of the lenses, the results will be marked on the outside of these special bags and then the glasses will be placed inside the bag. These glasses will be picked up by missionary groups from Indiana or Wisconsin.



a spectacle lens and verify the correct prescription in a pair of eyeglasses.




A lensometer is an optical instrument used in ophthalmology. It is mainly used by optometrists and opticians to measure the back or front vertex power of

UPCOMING EVENTS

May	Strengthen Membership Month
May 27	Memorial Day
May 28	Oskaloosa Cyber Lions Mental Health Symposium on Youth
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

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Honoring a Lion in Your Area Helps Leader Dog Clients

*By Kelsey Martin Gardner
Director of Philanthropy for Lions Engagement
Leader Dogs for the Blind*

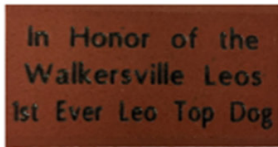
Lions are instrumental in contributing to the services Leader Dogs for the Blind provides and sharing the mission with those who need us. Each year, hundreds of people who are blind or low vision learn the skills they need to travel with confidence and purpose thanks to your support.

As we approach the end of the Lions year, we hope you will consider honoring a club member or a Lion Leader in your district or multiple district with a recognition piece from Leader Dogs for the Blind. The below options are each unique tributes to those who are supporting your community.

LIONS RECOGNITION PROGRAMS

Bricks \$250 (4"x8")
\$500 (8"x8")

Clubs can commemorate their donation with a personalized tribute brick displayed in our outdoor plaza (includes keepsake mini-brick).



Symbolic Puppy Sponsorship \$500

Help to build the foundation these puppies will need to become great Leader Dogs. Sponsorship includes photos, puppy profile, banner patch, certificate and matching plush dog. To see our current symbolic puppies, visit LeaderDog.org/ways-to-give/sponsor-a-puppy



Leader Dog Medallion \$1,000

A meaningful way to honor a Lion in your club or district for their outstanding service. This special recognition not only celebrates dedicated leadership but also supports our mission to empower individuals who are blind or visually impaired with the skills and confidence to live independent lives.

Top Dog Club Award \$5,000+

Lions clubs achieve this elite status when they cumulatively donate \$5,000 or more in a fiscal year. Less than 10% of Lions clubs who donate to Leader Dog are Top Dog Clubs. These clubs will be recognized for their achievement with a recognition letter, a patch for your club's banner, Top Dog pins for club members, a mini certificate to display with your club's name and a stuffed plush puppy.



When you honor individuals in this way, you extend their impact by supporting the cause of vision – one of the eight Lions Global Causes – and by helping clients like Deb.

“I am getting my wings back. Leader Dog Olaf is really gentle and focused on making sure I’m okay. His puppy raisers did a beautiful job with him. He’s very proud of himself when he gets it right - and he works really hard to get it right!”



Leader Dog Graduate Deb, Oregon

Future Leader Dogs Harper, Jackson and Tica will only be available for symbolic sponsorships through the end of June. Don’t miss out on these puppies before they return to campus for formal guide dog training.



Dr. Scott Named 2026 University of Iowa Eight Over 80 Award Recipient

By Chelle Lehman
Iowa KidSight Program Manager

Iowa KidSight is proud to celebrate Dr. William Scott, the program's founder and medical director, on being named a 2026 University of Iowa Eight Over 80 Award recipient. This prestigious honor recognizes alumni over the age of 80 who exemplify a lifetime of service, leadership, and meaningful impact. These are qualities Dr. Scott has embodied throughout his remarkable career.

For decades, Dr. Scott has been a driving force in advancing children's eye health across Iowa. His passion for early vision screening, commitment to education, and unwavering belief in giving every child the best possible start have shaped both Iowa KidSight and the lives of countless families. His leadership and vision continue to guide the program's mission today.

A dedicated Hawkeye, Dr. Scott earned four



degrees from the University of Iowa and even competed in football and basketball as a Kinnick Scholar. His career in ophthalmology has been marked by excellence in teaching, research,

mentorship, and compassionate patient care. His influence is deeply woven into the Department of Ophthalmology and the statewide success of Iowa KidSight.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Scott on this well deserved recognition and express our gratitude for his lifelong dedication to improving children's vision and well being throughout Iowa.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

Service – *“I want to plan an environmental service project. What project planners are available?”*

Marketing – *“Our club wants to do more on social media. Do you have any resources that can help?”*

Leadership Development – *“How can I improve my skills as a club president?”*

Young Lions and Leos – *“What are the steps to becoming a Leo-Lion?”*

Club Supplies – *“Where can I find Lions T-shirts?”*

LCIF – *“How do LCIF grants support Lions?”*

Convention – *“How do I register for Lions International convention?”*

Executive Officers – *“Who was the president of Lions Clubs International in 1952?”*

“Who was the International President from

Iowa?”

Constitution & Bylaws – *“How long must a Lion be a member before being elected a club officer?”*

AI is changing the way we find information, generate content and create efficiencies. The more we educate ourselves about the power of AI, the more we can use it to make an even bigger impact. So be sure to explore other AI tools that Lions are using and check out some AI tools created by Lions.

AI tools developed by Lions

[LionsMap2Grow](#) – Develop a plan to grow your club.

[LionsMarket2Grow](#) – Turn service into great marketing.

[LionsServe2Grow](#) – Organize a service carnival.

[LionsLearn2Grow](#) – Develop training and solve problems.



OSKALOOSA CYBER LIONS CLUB

WE SERVE. WE CONNECT. WE CARE.

MENTAL HEALTH *Symposium*

FOCUSING ON YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH & BULLYING

Our youth face real challenges—and they don't have to face them alone. Join us for an informative and inspiring evening dedicated to understanding, supporting, and empowering the young people in our community.



THURSDAY
MAY 28, 2026



TIME
6:30 P.M.



VIA
ZOOM

REGISTER TODAY!



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OR VISIT: https://us02web.zoom.meeting/register/gaV6rRbPQuOkMgAXr8_wsA



GAIN KNOWLEDGE
from mental health professionals



LEARN STRATEGIES
to support youth well-being



EMPOWER
our community to make a difference



OPEN DISCUSSION
about bullying and its impact



TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD A STRONGER, KINDER FUTURE FOR OUR YOUTH.

EVERY CHILD. EVERY VOICE. EVERY MIND MATTERS.

International Report

Past International Director
Ardie Klemish

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2026 Iowa Lions State Convention

The Iowa Lions State Convention will be held June 5-7 at the Des Moines Airport Holiday Inn. A special hotel room rate of \$122 plus tax is being held until May 14. Call the hotel directly at 515-287-2400 and tell them you are with the Lions Club for the special rate. Hotel reservations **MUST** be completed by Thursday, May 14. Convention registration is \$110 per person for the entire weekend package which is due by May 28. There will be no refunds or cancellations after May 28.

Our international guests will be International Director David Wentworth and his wife Valerie from Nebraska. Events begin **FRIDAY** morning with the Council of Governors meeting from 10 a.m. to noon. DGE/VGDG Partner in Service training is 11 a.m. to 12 noon. The Iowa Lions Foundation meeting is 1-3 p.m. and new 2026-2027 Iowa Lions Foundation trustees will have training from 3-5 p.m. An Iowa KidSight informational meeting will also be from 3-5 p.m. Friday. This will have the “latest and greatest” information on new Iowa KidSight cameras that will arrive later this year. The pin traders will meet Friday at 6 p.m. at Perkins Restaurant at 2000 McKinley Avenue (straight north of our hotel on the right hand side of the street). Registration will be from 2:30-6:30 p.m. in the foyer on the west side of the ballrooms. Friday evening meal is on your own. The hotel’s in-house restaurant, The Grill, will be open Friday evening serving hot sandwiches with a variety of sides. The STARDUSTERS band will play live music in Ballroom North from 7:30-9 on Friday evening. This is the same band that delighted us with their 50s, 60s, and 70s music last year. They perform regularly at Lake Robbins Ballroom in Dallas County, as well as at Prairie Meadows in Altoona. The Hospitality Room #158 will be open at 9 p.m. for visiting with friends while enjoying snacks and soft drinks.



SATURDAY breakfast is “on your own”, again available at “The Grill”, where they make excellent

biscuits & gravy that includes freshly cut hash browns, and many other breakfast favorites. Registration, vendors and displays begin at 8 a.m. on Saturday in the ballroom foyer. Editorial board meets at 7:40 a.m. State committee meetings are 8 to 8:30 a.m., with PDG meeting at 8:30 a.m. Saturday morning seminars are: “Soles for Souls”, Meet and Greet with ID David Wentworth, and an Iowa Lions Foundation seminar session highlighting the four entities funded by the foundation: Iowa KidSight, Iowa Lions Eye Bank, Iowa Lions Cochlear Implant Center, and Iowa Lions Hearing Aid Bank. Saturday noon keynote luncheon speaker is Iowa State Extension Service presenting “Shrink Smart”. The winning artist for the Iowa Peace Poster will be announced, as well as the LEO of the year. The Lions of Iowa annual business meeting is from 2 to 4 p.m. in Ballroom South which includes year-end state reports. The 2025-2026 Lions of Iowa memorial service is 4:15 to 4:45. The international banquet is 5:30 to 8:00 pm in Ballroom south, where major state and international awards will be presented along with ID David Wentworth’s keynote address. SUNDAY morning’s buffet breakfast (included in your full-package registration fee) features keynote speaker David Rehbein, the former National Commander of the American Legion.

USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum

The USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum is Sept. 3-5 in Memphis, Tennessee. Registration cost increases June 1. Registration covers over 80+ seminars and four meals complete with keynote speakers (Thursday night opening banquet, Friday noon lunch, Saturday noon lunch, and Saturday evening banquet). A \$200 hotel room deposit is required with your registration fee. You can drive to Memphis from Iowa in 12 hours, or fly on several airlines.

Thursday evening is our 50-year anniversary celebration with LIVE music from Emerald Empire Band. Friday noon speakers are Stephanie Krieger Graef and Leslie King talking about Human Trafficking. The Saturday noon speaker is Lions International President Mark Lyon from Connecticut. Saturday evening we close out with more LIVE music from one of the greatest male voices of the 1970s: Floyd Armstrong, lead vocalist for The Fifth Dimension. There will be dancing in the aisles on both Thursday and Saturday evenings.

Free bus transportation is available between the hotels and convention center. You can call a cab or Uber to get to/from airport/hotel on arrival/departure days. Memphis has MANY tourist attractions, so come early or stay late. Register at lionsforum.org.

A View from the Chair

**Council Chair
Phillip Larabee**

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My term is quickly coming to an end. State Convention is not that far away, then on my last day as your council chair I will be packing for our trip to the Lions Clubs International Convention in Hong Kong, China. So as I prepare for these last couple of months, I want to bring you up-to-date on some news.

State Council Chair Elect

At the March 28 Council of Governors meeting in Grimes, the district governors elect voted Past District Governor Chris Waring of the Independence Lions Club as the council chair elect. Chris was the 2024-2025 district governor for 9NE – the same year I was district governor for 9EC. You are going to enjoy Chris as your council chair for 2026-2027. We had a great time in Melbourne, Australia together attending the Lions Club International Convention. She has spent the last year as the LCIF chair for District NE. I know Chris will do a great job and I wish her the best in her upcoming year.

Sunday Morning State Convention Speaker

This year I was asked to find the speaker for the Sunday morning session of the Lions of Iowa State Convention. Our speaker is the former National Commander for the American Legion for the fiscal year 2008-2009, Dave Rehbein from Ames.

So who is Dave? Dave Rehbein was born and raised in North Bend, Nebraska. When he graduated from high school he was not ready to go to college so he took some classes on building radios before coming to Cedar Rapids to work for Collins Radio. When the project ended, Dave entered the U.S. Army and served as an infantryman with the 4th and 1st Armored Divisions in Germany from 1970 to



1971.

He returned home to North Bend, ready to go to college. He started college at Wayne State College in Wayne, Nebraska, before meeting a professor who encouraged him to transfer to Iowa State University, where he studied and graduated with a degree in physics. After graduation he went back to Iowa State University where he received a Master's Degree in Metallurgy. Upon graduation, he accepted a position as a research metallurgist at the Ames Laboratory, U.S. Department of Energy. During his time with the Department of Energy, his scientific work resulted in 75 published papers, one patent and more than 150 professional presentations. He held this position until his retirement in July 2008, the same year he was elected to the National Commander of the American Legion.

During his time with the American Legion, he has served on the National Americanism Commission from 1989 to 1999, with service as an instructor on the National Information Conference staff conducting the judge's briefing for the National Oratorical Contests and as Match Director of the Junior Shooting Sports national finals. He has served as chairman of the National Foreign Relations Commission, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission and the Legislative Commissions.

During his year as National Commander for the American Legion, he visited 47 states, three territories and 10 foreign countries advocating for veterans' issues and American military members. He made two visits to President Obama in the White House and presented oral and written testimony to Congress.

After serving as Commander, he was appointed to a five-year term on the Department of Defense's Recovering Warrior Task Force with duties visiting military installations and VA hospitals around the country to assess the care our troops were receiving in recovering from physical and mental injuries and transitioning to civilian life. This task force prepared four reports to Congress, resulting in many improvements for the men and women in this care.

Dave's grandfather and my great grandmother were siblings. My late dad followed Dave's career in the American Legion and talked about meeting Dave in 2008 while Dave was on tour in northeast Nebraska visiting American Legion Posts. Dave is a fantastic person and you will enjoy listening to him speak Sunday morning at the State Lions Convention.

District 9NE

District Governor
Dale E. Schrad

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Random thoughts from your district governor.

My term as district governor is coming to an end. All the experiences are what makes DG such a great position to hold. This is my second term as DG, first in 2022-2023. With the second term, you get to visit all your friends again and learn about all the service they have undertaken. Every visit renews my love of being a Lion and my theme of “Someone Needs Us.” I know District Governor Elect Craig Spilde will enjoy his year starting with the International Convention in Hong Kong.

Needs of 9NE: New members, younger members, develop leaders so our district can continue to be a leader in Iowa. So how do we make it happen! We Ask! Service is the key to find like-minded people, so invite friends to a service activity. I find most current Lions are also involved in other community groups, church organizations and service groups, so don't be reluctant to ask.

In my visits, I was asked what else can we collect, so here is a list of things to collect: eyeglasses, hearing aids, scrap iron, Soles 4 Souls, Bags to Benches, beer and pop tabs, 5-cent deposits, trash along roads, books for Little Libraries, food for food banks, Toys for Tots, school supplies, coats, gloves, backpacks. I am sure there are others.

During our fundraising events, make it fun! Everyone is happy, so make sure you portray that happiness. Sometimes let non-members help grill, serve and cleanup, as they might become members.

Just some random thoughts from my visits, and I still have more visits to make. What a joy being a DG!

Make It Personal. Make It Powerful.

Every gift to Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) changes lives—but your personal donation makes it even more meaningful.

When you give, you're not just supporting a cause...

You're restoring sight, providing disaster relief, feeding families, and bringing hope where it's needed most.

Even a small monthly gift adds up to something extraordinary.

Lions Can Impact Futures—and it starts with you.

Will you consider making your personal gift today? Visit [LCIF.org/donate](https://www.lcif.org/donate), scan the QR code below or write your check to LCIF and mail to LCIF, Dept 4547, Carol Stream IL 60122-4547.



MASTER CHEF. Lion Zac Slaymaker cooks sausages at the Belle Plaine Lions Pancake Breakfast.

9NE CLUB ACTIVITIES

BALLTOWN – Lions Calander

CEDAR FALLS – Lions Pride; Food Bank

GARRISON – Annual Food Sales; Beef & Noodles Dinner

HUDSON – KidSight Vision Screening; donation to LCIF; Cleared tables at Pizza Ranch

INDEPENDENCE – KidSight; Soles4Souls; Chili Supper

OELWEIN – Food Pantry; Eyeglass reading, labeling, recycling; Tax Prep Assistance; Senior Center Bingo

WEST UNION – KidSight Retakes at NICC and Ossian; New KidSight screenings



EASTER WINNERS. Winners of the Lawler Lions Easter Egg Hunt show off their prize baskets. Pictured (L-R) are Tristan Irvine, Callison Neville, Ivan Montiel and Elizabeth Njus.

WELCOME 9NE NEW MEMBERS

Member	Club	Sponsor
Peter Lingen	Decorah	Pete Tekippe
Chris Podhajsky	New Hampton	Doug Welton
Caryn Bartle	Independence	Harold Freeman
Paul Bartle	Independence	Harold Freeman
Donald Waterlander	New Hampton	Jim Kiffel

HOTCAKES ALL IN A ROW. (L-R) Lions Gary Chambers, Darrin Gillett, Darrel Wilken and Dan Conrad man the griddles at the Cedar Falls Lions Pancake Breakfast.



District 9NW

District Governor
Steve Rehmann

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As we move into the home stretch of this Lions year, I find myself energized by everything 9NW has accomplished and everything still ahead of us. This has truly been a wonderful year to be a 9NW Lion, and as we get closer to July 1, you are going to hear me say that more and more. We have built momentum, strengthened our clubs, and shown what service-minded Lions can do when they pull together with purpose.

RENEWAL: April has always felt like a month of renewal, a chance to reset, recharge, and refocus. Easter, spring weather, and the sense that the world is waking up again all bring a fresh burst of energy. This year, that feeling was especially welcome. I had the chance to step back for a short vacation, clear my head, and return refreshed. Sometimes a little distance gives you a clearer view of just how much good is happening right in front of you. I came back into the rhythm of club visits, service projects, and conversations with Lions across the district, I was reminded once again that renewal is not just about rest. It is about reconnecting with why we serve and finding new energy in the work we do together.

While it is natural to reflect on the year as we approach the home stretch, I want to be clear: these articles are very much forward looking. We are not wrapping up yet. We are building momentum, strengthening our foundation, and preparing for the leadership that will carry 9NW into the next chapter.

When I look at 9NW with that renewed perspective, I see a district that has every reason to be proud. We have taken on big goals, supported each other, and kept our focus on service. We have shown resilience, creativity, and unity. We have built relationships that will carry us well beyond this Lions year. And we have done it together, not as isolated clubs, but as a district that believes in shared purpose and shared success.

WHAT IS NEXT: One of the things that gives me tremendous confidence as we head toward the next Lions year is the leadership team preparing to step forward. District Governor Elect Julie Ford and First Vice District Governor Elect Jeremy Thompson bring energy, youthfulness, and a genuine passion for service.

They are invigorated, prepared, and ready to lead. I have watched them grow into their roles this year, and I can tell you without hesitation that 9NW is in exceptionally capable hands. Their leadership will continue the forward progress we have made, and they will bring their own strengths and ideas to the work ahead.

This year has been shaped in many ways by the vision grant, and that was intentional. It was a major undertaking, a major opportunity, and a major unifying effort. Next year will naturally shift to a different focus, and that's exactly how leadership should work. Each year builds on the last, but each year also has its own priorities. The next year, the emphasis will be on membership, service, and service reporting, the core of who we are as Lions.

A BRIEF VISION GRANT UPDATE: All the paperwork has now been submitted to release the matching grant funds, and we should see some big announcements soon. Twenty five of our twenty eight clubs participated, an incredible show of unity and commitment. And in a wonderful cross border moment, the Alcester, South Dakota Lions stepped in with a \$400 donation that pushed us over the \$20,000 mark. That kind of support reminds us that service does not stop at county lines or state borders. It is Lions helping Lions, wherever they may be.

SERVICE REPORTING: As we transition from a grant-driven year to a service-driven one, I want to highlight something important: we all do service, but we do not all report it. That is going to be a major focus next year. Service reporting is not about paperwork; it is about telling our story. It is how we show our communities, our state, and our international organization the impact we are making. It is how we make sure our work is seen, counted, and valued.

To help with that, Past District Governor Mike Mulrone will serve as our district administrator and service coordinator next year. Mike will be in close contact with clubs offering support, answering questions, and helping everyone navigate the portal. He is committed to making sure no club feels left behind or overwhelmed. If your club needs help, guidance, or just a quick walkthrough, Mike will be there. This is about lifting everyone up, not calling anyone out.

As I look at the months ahead, I feel a deep sense of pride, not just in what we have done, but in what is coming. We have built a solid foundation this year. We have strengthened relationships, expanded our reach, and shown what 9NW can accomplish when we work together. And now we are handing that momentum to a leadership team that is ready to take it even further.

News From Our Clubs

You're going to hear me say this several more times as we approach July 1, because it's important and it's true: I am incredibly proud of 9NW. Proud of our clubs, proud of our service, proud of our teamwork, and proud of the leaders who are stepping forward to guide us into the next chapter. This district is strong, it is united, and it is ready for what comes next.

And I want to close with a message that you will hear again, not because it is a farewell, but because it is my guiding principle. It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your District Governor. That is not a final reflection; that is a present tense truth.

Remember, the job is simple: show up, do the work, and do it right. That is exactly what 9NW has done all year, and we are not done yet.

We have a strong finish ahead of us, and even stronger days to come.

AKRON donated funds to the local park board.

BADGER held its annual Easter egg and candy hunt for children in the community; held a community pancake breakfast; conducted an Earth Day community cleanup.

BOONE completed several Iowa Lions Eye Bank tissue transports; hosted the Boone-Madrid-Ogden-Woodward four-club meeting at the Iowa Arboretum & Gardens.

CARROLL did a remarkable job of hosting the 9NW/SW convention at DMACC.

CHURDAN delivered Meals on Wheels every week; made a \$5,000 donation to the Paton-Churdan Early Learning Center project.

FORT DODGE served a pancake breakfast for the Kandiland Daycare as a community event with 150 people served and kids visited with Leo the Lion and Thumper the Easter Bunny; was recognized as a Vision Champion for its \$1,400 donation to Lions-Littles-Lenses and for the donation to the stoves for the Ukraine project.

HARTLEY hosted the annual Hartley-Everly-Peterson-Royal four-club meeting; was recognized as a Vision Champion for its \$1,000 donation to Lions-Littles-Lenses.

LEHIGH held a community-wide pancake breakfast.

ORANGE CITY was recognized as a Vision Champion for its \$1,375 donation to Lions-Littles-Lenses.

REMSEN was recognized as a Vision Champion for their \$1,000 donation to Lions-Littles-Lenses.

ROLFE was recognized as a Vision Champion for their \$1,000 donation to Lions-Littles-Lenses.

ROYAL held its annual stag fundraiser; donated \$1,000 to the Leader Dog program.

SIOUX CITY conducted a springtime Kidsight screening as well as eyeglass collections; was recognized as Founding Partner for its \$5,000 donation to Lions-Littles-Lenses.



VISION CHAMPION. Fort Dodge Lions Club President Cliff Weldon (left) receives a certificate of appreciation from DG Steve Rehman recognizing the club's \$1,400 donation to Lions-Littles-Lenses



EXCITING NEWS. (L-R) Fort Dodge Lions Club President Cliff Weldon, District Governor Steve Rehman, Fort Dodge Fire Department Chief Matt Price, PDG Mike Mulrone together after an interesting presentation by Chief Price on the exciting news regarding new equipment and a second station in Fort Dodge.

In Memoriam

Club	Member	Years a Lion
Ogden	Dennis Pelleymounter	10

District 9EC

District Governor
Greg Andresen

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Welcome to the month of May, District 9EC Lions. All clubs should have reported their club officers for the year 2026-2027 in the Lion Portal. You will still need to report your officers even if you did not make any changes. Please get this done as soon as possible.

On March 20-21, we had the combined convention for the Districts of 9EC and 9SE at the Camp Tanager Lodge in Mount Vernon. We had in attendance International Director Melissa Washburn from New Mexico and her traveling companion, Past Council Chair Gemma Ferguson. They were treated to a tour of the Iowa Lions Eye Bank on Friday, March 20. They were very impressed with what the eye bank accomplishes. The Friday part of the weekend included having pizza and enjoying music bingo at the hotel. The Saturday part included International Director Melissa Washburn as the keynote speaker along with speakers PCC Gemma Ferguson, Dr. Julianne Thomas from Camp Tanager, District 9SE Governor Paul Hain and LCIF Coordinator, Bernadette Lane. The two fun events at this convention were the Chuck-a-Duck fundraiser for childhood cancer



PRESIDENTIAL APPRECIATION. The fourth highest award in Lions was presented to two 9EC Lions at the 9EC/9SE District Convention. Pictured (L-R) are International Director Melissa Washburn, Lion Clara Cook, Lion Ann Baughman, District Governor Greg Andresen, and Past International Director Ardie Klemish.

and a Pie in the Face fundraiser for LCIF.

Each district had two Lions members who were presented the Presidential Certificate of Appreciation for their outstanding service to Lionism. For District 9EC, those were Ann Baughman and Clara Cook. District 9EC also presented a District Lion of the Year Award to Jerry DePenning from the Alburnett Lions Club and a District Leader of Year to 1st Vice District Governor Mike Whitney from the Center Point Lions.

This convention concluded with the election of officers for each district and the singing of "God Bless America." I will say the Lions that attended this convention were treated with good fellowship, good food, good weather and a great meeting place.

Leadership Training Sessions

Iowa still has many spots available for Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute on July 17-19 at Baker University in Baldwin City, Kansas. This session is to prepare you for leadership positions throughout the organization.

To download more information and application, go to the [MD17 Kansas Lions website](#).

In closing, I am reminding you of the importance of reporting new members and service activities in the Portal. It shows the new members their time matters, gives clubs a reason to celebrate, helps us spot clubs that need support early and turns service into stories that inspire others to join. This is how retention happens, not by accident, but by visibility. This is why I always say "Service is the Key," because service never ends in our communities.



DISTRICT AWARDS. District Governor Greg Andresen presents the District 9EC Lion of the Year Award (left photo) to Lion Jerry DePenning of the Alburnett Lions Club and a 9EC Leader of the Year Award (right photo) to 1st Vice District Governor Mike Whitney of the Center Point Lions Club.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO 9EC

CLUB	MEMBER	SPONSOR
Cedar Rapids Noon	Leland G. Freie	Alan Huneke
Eldridge	Linda M. Ewoldt	Cyndi Jarvis
Miles	James E. Jacobs	Lola Kruse
Mount Vernon	Mark Fisher	Jay Currie
West Branch	Rajan Bhatta	Craig Verlo

CLUB ACTIVITIES

ALBURNETT made donations during the parade of checks at the District 9EC/9SE Convention; donated one pair of eyeglasses, one pair of hearing aids and 306 pairs of shoes for Soles4Souls; provided food for two families in need.

ANDOVER made donations to childhood cancer, vision, Ronald McDonald House and is sponsoring a hole at the Virdi Eye Golf Tournament

BELLEVUE attended the Omelet Breakfast in Preston, the Soup Supper in Miles and the District 9EC/9SE Convention.

CEDAR RAPIDS NOON collected 6,729 pairs of eyeglasses.

ELDRIDGE conducted five KidSight screenings; had Bingo at the Grand Haven Retirement Home; greeted junior high students and gave them mechanical pencils as a Friendly Friday project.

LOW MOOR made donations during the parade of checks at the District 9EC/9SE Convention; attended the zone meeting on March 30.

MARION NOON conducted a KidSight screening.

MILES had a Soup Supper on March 17; collected eyeglasses; held a blood drive; attended the zone meeting on March 30.

STANWOOD donated to the Cedar Fair; is sponsoring a hole for the Virdi Eye Golf Tournament; sponsored a North Cedar Student for the HOBY Leadership Conference; made donations during the parade of checks at the District 9EC/9SE Convention; donated eyeglasses; presented a Warren Coleman Award to North Cedar Elementary for participation in the Peace Poster Contest for 22 years; held a blood drive; conducted a KidSight screening.

WEST BRANCH delivered eyeglasses for recycling to the Wal-Mart in Coralville; worked three different times at the Carver-Hawkeye Arena concession stand; built a handicapped ramp; hosted two pickleball events; had a Pancake Supper; did an eye tissue transport to the eye bank in Coralville; attended the 9EC/9SE Convention; built a four-court pickleball complex as a legacy project.



NEW MEMBER. Eldridge Lions welcome Linda Ewoldt (center) as the newest member of the club, with Club President Beth Schwager (left) and sponsor, Cyndi Jarvis (right).



PIE IN THE FACE. International Director Melissa Washburn puts a pie in the face of Council Chair Phil Larabee. ID Melissa's ticket was drawn from those who gave donations to LCIF during the 9EC/9SE District Convention.

In Memoriam

Member	Club	Years a Lion
Larry Echeberry	Davenport Breakfast	6
Clyde Myer	Monticello	33
Gerald E. Meyer	Otter Creek	37
Jay Hughes	Preston	26
Lyle Zimmerman	West Liberty	61

District 9NC

District Governor
Tasha Finch

319-269-5136
tasha@alumni.uni.edu



If You Receive an Email to Send Money or Gift Cards, Don't Do It! It's a Scam!

During the past two years, several club officers and members have received emails allegedly sent by a 9NC cabinet official, such as the district governor or 1st vice district governor, requesting they send money or gift cards. These emails are fraudulent!! Cabinet members have not and will not request money or gift cards from club officers or members. 9NC cabinet officials receive reimbursement for official travel and other expenses from budgeted funds of District 9NC or Lions Clubs International. They will never request money or gift cards from club officers or members.

Club Officer Elections

By the time you receive this edition of *The Iowa Lion*, clubs should have conducted the election of club officers and directors for the next Lion year and reported the results to Lions Clubs International using the Lion Portal.

Reporting election results is necessary even if the present officers will also serve in the new year. If your club has not conducted the required election of officers and/or your club secretary has not reported the results of the election in the Lion Portal, please do so immediately.

There are two consequences of not reporting the new officers: the rights of officers to access the Portal expire after June 30 and the officers of your club will not be listed in the annual Who's Who.

Reporting Officers And Directors in Portal

Here are step-by-step directions for reporting your club's new officers and directors:

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Club	Member	Sponsor
Charles City	Aaron D. Hobert	Russell Schwarz
Clear Lake Noon	Avalon Cronin	Jeff Stealy

- Sign into the Lion Portal; select "My Club."
- Select "Officers" and check the "Future" filter.
- Select "Manage Officers"
- Select "Create a New Assignment"
- Select "Upcoming Lion Year"
- Select Officer type by indicating "Officer." Officer title is "Official."
- Select Officer title from pull-down menu.
- Select Member by checking the person's name.

That's it! Repeat this sequence for the remaining officers and directors.

Club presidents and secretaries who need assistance in reporting officers and directors for the new Lion year may call the 9NC Administrator Gary Shontz, at 319-529-0154 for assistance.



WARREN COLEMAN AWARD. Mason City Club President Sharon Somers (left) presents a Warren Coleman Honorary Award to Ashley Elliott at a recent meeting. According to Somers, Ashley is always willing to volunteer when needed and is a key part of the Mason City organization.

9NC CLUB ACTIVITIES

CLARION sold Pizza Ranch pizzas as a fundraiser for scholarships as well as tickets for its April 12 spaghetti dinner.

CLEAR LAKE EVENING conducted a Red Cross blood drive.

EAGLE GROVE served 92 families from their mobile food pantry; donated non-perishables to the Goldfield Food Pantry; donated \$250 to a family for travel and medical expenses, \$500 to the Community Garden to help with food insecurity, and \$250 to a community member for medical expenses.

IOWA FALLS high school Student Success Counselor Amy Hutchinson, and high school counselor, Jessie VanHove, presented a club program, as did Scott Kroger, Rehabilitation Services Director at Hanson Family Hospital.

KAMRAR hosted an annual pancake supper.

MASON CITY honored Tiffany Nonweiler with a Melvin Jones Fellowship Award and Ashley Elliott with a Warren Coleman Honorary Award.

NEW HARTFORD hosted an omelet breakfast.

NORTHWOOD volunteered at the Northwood Theatre by selling tickets and concessions.

PARKERSBURG honored Harlan Schuck with a Melvin Jones Fellowship Award; donated two bicycles to the Parkersburg Easter Egg Hunt.

ROCKWELL planned for the North Iowa Nationals scheduled for August 6-8 and North Iowa Truck Fest scheduled for August 15.

SHEFFIELD volunteered in the West Forks Food Pantry; made plans for the April 12 spaghetti dinner at West Forks High School.

STANHOPE planned a pancake supper on April 13 with the proceeds benefiting Stanhope Park improvements.

WILLIAMS hosted Bingo twice in the month with soup and sandwiches available for purchase.



IOWA KIDSIGHT. Iowa Falls Lions Shawn Loughren (left) and Nicole Pergande screened over thirty preschool and kindergarten students at Alden Elementary.



48 YEARS OF SERVICE. Parkersburg Club President Jim Everts (right) presents a Melvin Jones Fellowship Award to Harlan Schuck (left). Harlan was a charter member of the club.

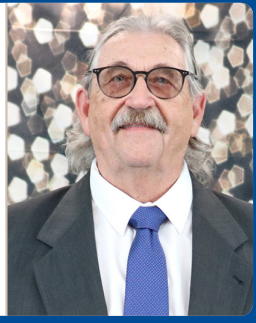


SNACKS FOR TEACHERS. The Clear Lake Evening Lions presents a \$500 contribution to the Clear Creek Elementary School. Pictured (L-R) are: (FRONT ROW) Lion Jeff Tecklenburg, Talitha Allen, Brianna Sholly, Alysha Lloyd, Lion Lisa Prochaska, and Lindsay Broadbent; (BACK ROW) Kelly Bowmen, Jennifer Mikkelsen (third grade teacher), Lisa Backhaus (transitional kindergarten teacher), Leah Wilkerson, Sara Allen (second grade teacher), and Troy Lentell (principal).

District 9MC

District Governor
Jimmy Bacon

515-491-3340
baconjim.55@gmail.com



Hello, 9MC Lions. I hope I am finding most, if not all, of you in good health. It has been a busy time in each Lions club these last few weeks. Most clubs have had their club officer elections for the upcoming year; if not you should be. I am hoping clubs are getting some new members in the officer positions instead of the same people running your clubs as years past. It is a hard thing to do getting members to step up and be a leader but it can be done. It has been proven that a club with the same officers year after year becomes a stagnant, less fun, then loses members, and then CLOSES.

Some say we only have a few members and only a few come to meetings. Then you better start looking at your club, do an audit:

1. Have we been having fun at the meetings?
2. Have we given the members that don't show up a task to handle?
3. Are we doing things in the community?
4. Are we doing officer training within our own club so others know what the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, tail twister jobs consist of?

There are many things clubs can do to get new members or old members involved.

Iowa has done pretty good on getting new members but we still need more to close out this year. I can show you numbers but they are just Iowa or district numbers. They mean nothing to most people. What you need to do is look at your own club numbers. They are the most important to you all. Again, it has been proven by now this late in this year if a club has not signed up a new member that club needs to have

a talk with their membership committee. You say "well our club is not big enough to have a membership committee," then you all are the membership committee.

Ask yourself this question, WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME I INVITED SOMEONE TO ATTEND OUR LIONS MEETING? Remember this goes for a possible new member or even a member that hasn't attended a meeting in a while.

This next year coming up (2026-2027) needs to be a turn-around year for District 9MC. Some rules have changed on how many positions one person can have their name on. The reason Lions do this is because members like you and I don't get involved in the district level. As of right now, we do have the 1st and 2nd vice district governor positions filled. We are hoping the district governor will be to soon. But I am telling you, all three of these highest-ranking district Lions members will need your help. So, support them in filling their cabinet positions. None of these jobs are hard to do. Yes, they take a little of your time, but it is rewarding as long as we all work together in making things happen. If you don't know what the positions in the cabinet are, then reach out or go to the Portal.

As I am closing out my year as 9MC district governor, I look back at things I didn't do but look at the things that I did do and they are the ones that matter. I have asked myself many times was it worth it being a district governor? For me it is still a good question that I will always ask myself, but I am glad I was a district governor. As for any of you, well become a district governor and find out.

In Memoriam

Member — Club

Leonard Tipping – Ames

Lynn E. Sorensen – Des Moines Host

Michael J. Wiskirchen – Des Moines Host

9MC CLUB ACTIVITIES

AMES collected 260 pair of eyeglasses from various locations.

DYSART hosted a LifeServe Blood Drive, collecting 25 units of blood; served 138 people at their second fish fry of the year with the Silver Cord group assisting; heard a report from Lion Rick Krug on his trip to Costa Rica, which included visiting a coffee plantation, the Monteverde Cloud Forest Biological Preserve and zip-lining through the forest (pictured below).



SOUTH DES MOINES cleaned up Laura Hill Cemetery as part of the Adopt-a-Block program; finishing up with KidSight for this school year; prepared for April Pancake Breakfast and May Car Show.



NEW MEMBERS. Johnston Lions swore in four new members at the April meeting. Pictured (L-R) are MaryJane Paez, new member Amber Barz, sponsor Ron Lower, Kurt Barz, new member Paulette Dyson, sponsor Sandy Briggs. Karla Lower also joined, but was not in attendance.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Member	Club	Sponsor
Chris E. Hankenson	Des Moines Host	Scott Hankenson
Dan B. McCue	Grinnell	David Ketter
Charles Good	Nevada	Kirk Pederson



TOYS GALORE. The Ames Lions Club held their Central Iowa Toy show at the Boone County Fairgrounds on March 29th. Thirty-two exhibitors set up 93 tables of toys for sale. It was attended by 250 people and profited of \$2,800.

District 9SW

District Governor
Beverly Fletcher

712-355-3529
bafcbia@gmail.com



Monarch Chevron Awards

Monarch Chevron Awards honor 9SW Lions members for completing years of membership and service. There are 136 9SW Lions receiving this award for 2025-2026. The award is given by multiples of 5 starting with 10, 15, 20, 25, 30... through 65 years. These chevrons fit under your Lions' pin.

International President A.P. Singh sends a congratulatory letter for each member who will receive this award. The chevron symbol indicates your length of service by recognizing the anniversaries of members as "You lead to serve and serve to lead."

I have been delivering these awards to clubs as I visit and shared with Lions at the 9NW/9SW District Convention at DMACC in Carroll on March 14.

If your club was unable to attend the district convention, I mailed them to your club president between late March and Easter.

New ALERT Lions Club

The Lions International Week of Service for the Environment was April 18-26, 2026. Now in May, join a new Iowa service club that will help support your communities and the world.

You all can be members of the Iowa ALERT Lions Club. You will be in a club with members from all over Iowa working to make sure that MD9 Lions will be able to respond to any disaster that hits the state. We are starting to assemble a core group of new members to form this club, but we need associate members from all seven districts to participate in the club.

You will learn how to assist in the setup of the ALERT trailers in your community if a disaster hits near you. All you have to do is let MD9 ALERT

Chair Gary Glockhoff know that you are interested and he will put you on the list. You will still be a regular member of your present club, but you will attend Zoom meetings and give your input into the workings of the ALERT Club.

Send Gary Glockhoff an email at g.glockhoff@gmail.com with your contact information and your current club.

Thanks, Gary Glockhoff!

Service Reports and Contest

Past Council Chair Dawn Goodsell is the MD9 Global Service Team Chairman. She is having a contest to see which district in Iowa can have the most clubs reporting service on the Lion Portal.

Dawn would like to give a \$1,000 LCIF donation on behalf of the district with the highest service % reported. There was an article about it in the February issue of *The Iowa Lion* to boost clubs to help input service projects into the Lion Portal.



YOUTH VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR. Milo Lions President Randy Uttley presented Trace Storm with the Don Schaefer Youth Volunteer of the Year Award at the club's March soup supper. Trace receives a \$50 gift card and his name on the permanent plaque.

9SW SERVANT HEROES IN ACTION

ZONE 1

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

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 Hy-Vee 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

ATLANTIC attended district convention; donated \$1,000 to LCIF and \$1,000 to Iowa Lions Foundation; staffed the food pantry; participated in 4-H Endowment Fund fundraiser; called Bingo for two service events; quilted blankets for families in need; helped the Kiwanis Club install flagpoles.

AUDUBON attended the district convention; collected shoes for Soles4Souls; collected \$601 for the local library; volunteered around the community making and delivering meals, providing transportation to medical appointments, working at a church fish fry, nursing home cleanup and medicare enrollment assistance at the hospital; prepared and served a pancake meal to nursing home residents.

ZONE 4

ADEL was approved for a \$5,000 grant from the Dallas County Community Foundation to help pay for a new iScreen camera; vision screening of 15 students at Van Meter Preschool.

PERRY collected Toys for Tots; provided rides for the elderly; tested river water; worked at pet rescue; helped with the St. Pat's Fish Fry and Mt. Olivet senior citizens dinner; worked with the Elks lodge on their activities and Optimists on bedding for immigrants; coordinated a class reunion; attended district convention.

WAUKEE donated \$3,700 towards a new KidSight camera, two individual members donated \$1,000 towards a new camera; donated \$100 to Leader Dog, \$300 to Iowa Lions Foundation, \$300 to LCIF and \$300 to Iowa KidSight; provided KidSight screening for 46 children.

ZONE 5

INDIANOLA NOON collected and delivered 1,000 eyeglasses to the state office; attended the district convention.

MILO prepared for a soup supper; donated \$100 to Leader Dog.

ZONE 6

ADAIR provided music therapy at multiple community locations; Helped with Adair Food Pantry; 4 members attended 9SW District Convention and several other Lion leadership meetings; Donations: \$360+\$60 to LCIF, \$200 for elementary school student books, \$100 AC/GC graduating seniors scholarships, \$50 Adair Library for preschool books, \$50 Iowa Lions Eye Bank.

WINTERSET donated \$500 to Meals for the Heartland, \$250 to Downtown Flower Project; raised \$1,988 from Beef Burger Drive-up Fundraiser for scholarships for seniors and community shelter; 3 members attended district convention, 5 members helped raise \$192 with community bingo; made \$14 through taitwisting at club meeting.

ZONE 7

LORIMOR sponsored March Bingo.



DON'T THROW THESE AWAY. Save the hard eyeglass cases instead of throwing them away. The Exira Lions Club will use them to assemble survivor kits to be distributed from the Lions ALERT trailers.

9SW New Servant Heroes

Member	Sponsor	Club
Hope L. Palser	Debora Hume	Council Bluffs
Deanna M. Van Winkle	Barry Jose	Council Bluffs
Jacqueline M. Phippen	Barbara Paulsen	Exira
Dustin Ross	Kayla Bailey	Lorimor
Chris Wethington	Kayla Bailey	Lorimor
Shauna Wethington	Kayla Bailey	Lorimor
Rachel Barnes	Marla Crawford	Mount Ayr
Zackary Barnes	Marla Crawford	Mount Ayr
Melanie C. Redmond-Guanci	Anita Brgurich	Norwalk

District 9SE

District Governor
Paul Hain

319-330-5920
paulhain@windstream.net



The 9SE/9EC District Convention is in the books and it was a great convention. International Director Melissa Washburn and traveling companion Past Council Chair Gemma Ferguson were great Lions International representatives. Sylvia and I had the pleasure of hosting them and giving them a taste of Iowa. They now know what a breaded pork tenderloin is, as we enjoyed one from an establishment in Cedar Rapids that won the best tenderloin in Iowa contest several years ago.

Friday morning we enjoyed a very extensive tour of the Iowa Lions Eye Bank along with 9EC District Governor Greg Andresen. The tour was followed by a wonderful lunch at the Ronnenberg Restaurant in Amana, introducing ID Melissa and Gemma to the rich history of the Amana Colonies.

Servant Leadership According to Bees

When I was asked to give a seminar on “Servant Leadership According to Bees,” my first thought was what does a colony of bees and a Lions Club have in common? The more I reflected on the topic, the more I found that the two are similar in more ways than I thought.

Just as we have to prepare the bee colony to expand and produce after a long winter, we have to do the same with our clubs. Some clubs take a month or two off during the winter but not the bees. To keep the bees healthy and the colony alive, we have to feed them throughout the winter, as we should be feeding our club members Lions information to keep the members and club healthy as well. Are we strong coming out of winter as we look to the spring and summer Lions activities, or do we need to be fed more in getting ready for upcoming service activities? Do we need to grow our membership, as the bees do, to expand our service within our communities? Now is a great time to be finalizing what

WELCOME 9SE NEW MEMBERS

Club	Member	Sponsor
Grandview-Letts	Marty L. Massey	Jennifer Massey
What Cheer	Frank Calvert	Raymond Adams
What Cheer	Glenda Wiese	Carl Wiese



LCIF PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL. Immediate Past District Governor Mike Renken and last year’s LCIF District Coordinator Paul Hain receive the LCIF Presidential Award for meeting last year’s LCIF fundraising goal for the district. Pictured (L-R) are International Director Melissa Washburn, MD9 LCIF Coordinator Bernadette Lane, IDG Renken, DG Hain and Past International Director Ardie Klemish.

we will be doing this summer and adding new service activities, just the same as the bees are adding to their winter stores and surplus for the next long winter.

Get Next Year’s Officers in the Portal

As soon as your club holds officer elections for the 2026-27 Lions year, please enter the new officers into the Lion Portal. By doing so, your new (and returning) officers will have access to the Portal when the new fiscal year starts on July 1, and receive information from Lions International. If you are having trouble entering the information into the Portal, please reach out to me, District Cabinet Secretary-Treasurer Debbie Doty or District Administration Nancy Oehler Love so we can help walk you through the process. Also please enter your service activities into the Portal, so I can put them in our magazine.

The Best Lions Leadership Training

There still is time to register for Great Plains Lions Leadership Institute being held at Baker University, Baldwin City, Kansas, July 17-19. The district has scholarships available; the only cost you have is the expense of getting there. This is a great leadership training event that you won’t regret attending.

Another great event with lots of great learning seminars is the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum, which will be in Memphis, Tennessee this Sept. 3-5. This is the 50th anniversary of the Forum and it is always a great experience. Iowa’s own Past International Director Ardie Klemish is the general chair of the Forum this year.

SERVANT HEROES IN ACTION

BIRMINGHAM hosted a Salisbury steak supper fundraiser; held a blood drive at the clubs building.

COLUMBUS JUNCTION held a highway ditch trash clean up with help from the high school track and cross country teams; screened 40 children at a KidSight screening; several members donated to LCIF; attended the 9SE District Convention.

FAIRFIELD held a spaghetti supper fundraiser; delivered meals to businesses for Women's Club to raise money for McElhinny House, historical home in Fairfield.

FORT MADISON screened 33 children at a KidSight screening and three Lions completed their screening training.

GRANDVIEW-LETTS donated \$150 to the Letts library to pass out books to children at the Easter egg hunt, \$200 to the LM post prom, \$450 to the upcoming 4th of July celebration in Grandview, and \$300 to Leader Dogs for the Blind, attended the 9SE District Convention.

IOWA CITY NOON screened 173 children at a number of KidSight screening sites; collected 100 pounds of used eyeglasses.

LEIGHTON packed Take Along Meals for elementary and middle school students.

LONE TREE donated \$500 to the Iowa Lions Foundation, \$1100 to LCIF, 4 members attended the 9SE District Convention, donated \$300 to the Lone Tree Wellness Center for repair or purchase of equipment.

MELCHER-DALLAS participated in the ABC book giveaway for students in the elementary school.

VAN BUREN LEOS at Keosauqua helped the Keosauqua Lions at their annual Soup Supper and Auction (pictured below).



VICTOR organized and held a public meeting for the Victor Community titled "Senior Solutions" This program talked about group mental health meetings for those over 65 to help them deal with the stress of aging.



INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT'S RECOGNITION. Past District Governors Debbie Doty and Mike Renken are honored at the 9EC/9SE District Convention with the fourth highest award in Lions. Pictured (L-R) are International Director Melissa Washburn, PDG Doty, PDG Renken, DG Hain and Past International Director Ardie Klemish.



PROGRESSIVE AWARD. Past Council Chair and District 9SE LCIF Coordinator Nancy Oehler Love (left) receives another Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowship Award from MD9 LCIF Coordinator Bernadette Lane at the 9EC/9SE District Convention.

In Memoriam

Club	Member	Years a Lion
Iowa City Noon	George Matheson	56 years

9EC/9SE Combined District Convention



TRADITIONAL GIFT. International Director Melissa Washburn (center) receives the traditional gift of an embroidered jacket for International guests visiting Iowa from 9SE District Governor Paul Hain (left) and 9EC District Governor Greg Andresen (right).



LCIF SUPPORT. MD9 LCIF Coordinator Bernadette Lane passes out LCIF Presidential Supporter pins to Lions who gave at least \$50 to support LCIF.



SWEET COMPARISON. 9SE District Governor Paul Hain, a beekeeper, presents a seminar on "Leadership According to Bees."



WIND DIRECTION. International Director Melissa Washburn of New Mexico tests the wind direction just prior to chucking a duck for Children's Cancer at the 9EC/9SE Joint Convention at Camp Tanager in Mount Vernon. The convention raised \$335 to donate to the Beat Cancer Today organization.



**REGISTRATION FORM
2026 IOWA LIONS MD9 STATE CONVENTION
AIRPORT HOLIDAY INN
6111 FLEUR DRIVE, DES MOINES, IA
JUNE 5 THROUGH 7, 2026**



Guest Room Reservations are your responsibility and should be made at the Airport Holiday Inn, **515-287-2400**. Identify yourself as a Lions Club member when making room reservations. Room rates per night are \$122 plus applicable tax. **These room rates expire on Tuesday, May 14, 2026.**

PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM COMPLETELY

NAME 1 _____ () LION () LEO () GUEST
 CURRENT OFFICE HELD _____ FIRST TIMER () YES () NO
 CLUB _____ . DISTRICT _____
 ADDRESS _____
 TELEPHONE _____ EMAIL _____

NAME 2 _____ () LION () LEO () GUEST
 CURRENT OFFICE HELD _____ FIRST TIMER () YES () NO
 CLUB _____ DISTRICT _____
 ADDRESS _____
 TELEPHONE _____ EMAIL _____

DEADLINE: Registrations must be postmarked by Thursday, May 28, 2026
 No Refunds for Cancellations after May 29, 2026

If you have **SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS, vegan, vegetarian, or gluten free** please use a separate sheet with your name and needs required.

SATURDAY NOON LUNCHEON & REGISTRATION	\$45 Per person X _____	= \$ _____
SATURDAY BANQUET & REGISTRATION	\$60 Per person X _____	= \$ _____
SATURDAY PACKAGE (2 meals & registration)	\$93 Per person X _____	= \$ _____
SUNDAY BREAKFAST	\$42 Per person X _____	= \$ _____
WEEKEND PACKAGE (3 meals & registration)	\$110 Per person X _____	= \$ _____
REGISTRATION ONLY (No meals)	\$ 20 Per Person X _____	= \$ _____

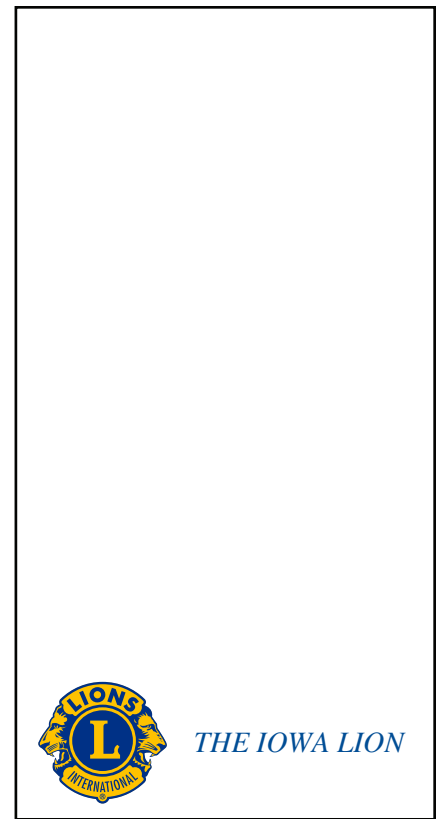
KID SIGHT ANNUAL MEETING Friday 3-5 PM FREE! Are you attending? YES [] No [] please check one

Special Rates in Blue are for First Timers

SATURDAY NOON LUNCHEON & REGISTRATION	\$30 Per person X _____	= \$ _____
SATURDAY BANQUET & REGISTRATION	\$45 Per person X _____	= \$ _____
SATURDAY PACKAGE (2 meals & registration)	\$83 Per person X _____	= \$ _____
SUNDAY BREAKFAST	\$30 Per person X _____	= \$ _____
WEEKEND PACKAGE (3 meals & registration)	\$95 Per person X _____	= \$ _____
REGISTRATION ONLY (No meals)	\$10 Per Person X _____	= \$ _____

TOTAL DUE \$ _____

**Please make checks payable to: Lions Clubs of Iowa MD9 Convention.
 Mail to: Registrar Ed Ottesen, 1941 W 6th Street, Waterloo, IA 50702
 Phone: 319-429-5569 E-Mail: eaottesen@gmail.com**



Have You Met Ellie?

Lions AI provides quick, personalized assistance and streamlined access to what you need, and it all starts with Ellie, an AI assistant for all things Lions International. Whether you have a question about a program, need to find a specific resource or just want a recommendation, Ellie can help.

Please keep in mind that Ellie is still learning, and Lions International programmers continue working to make her AI even better over time so they can create an even better experience.

You can find Ellie under the “Lions AI” heading at the top of the [Lions International website](#).

Ellie is Easy to Use

You don’t need to be an expert to use the Lions’ AI assistant. Simply ask a question or describe what you need and let Ellie take over. It’s that easy. Ellie responds in all of Lions International official languages and many more.

Ellie is Lions Specific

Ellie is focused on one thing—Lions. The Lions

AI assistant pulls from every page and resource on the Lions International website, giving you immediate access to a world of service knowledge. Ellie is constantly learning to provide even better support for you.

Ellie is Generative

The Lions’ AI assistant not only helps you find information, it can also help you create something entirely new, which is called generative AI. Ellie can generate service projects ideas, recruitment strategy suggestions or even write a catchy headline for your marketing materials.

Ellie is a powerful tool, but it’s an easy one to use. When you’re using the AI assistant, keep it conversational. Ask questions, and follow-up questions when you need to. Just let Ellie know what you need, then let Ellie do the rest.

Here are some sample prompts to use with Ellie:

Membership Growth – “What are some creative ways to get people interested in my club?”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4