

The IOWA LION



June 2026

iowalions.org

Lions International Served More Than 410 Million People Worldwide

*By Shauna Schuda
LCI Public Relations Department*

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following story shows why it is so important for every Lions club to report service in the Lion Portal. Our service cannot be counted in numbers like this without being told.

Between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025, Lions International members served more than 410 million people globally, reflecting the unwavering dedication of over 1.4 million Lions and Leos.

“Over the past year, Lions worldwide have once again demonstrated the true power of making a mark,” said Fabrício Oliveira, Immediate Past International President of Lions Clubs International and current Chairperson of Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF). “From disaster relief and fighting hunger to advancing vision health and empowering youth, our service has touched millions. I am immensely proud of what we have achieved together and grateful to every Lion and Leo for their commitment to making a difference.”

For more than 100 years, Lions have strengthened communities through service and humanitarian projects. That work is amplified through LCIF, which provided aid to more than 19 million people this year by supporting Lions’ local and global efforts.

In 2024–2025 alone, Lions carried out nearly 1.5 million service projects—proving that wherever



there is a need, a Lion is ready to serve. Highlights from this year of service include:

- Welcoming over 211,000 new members to Lions Clubs International, a three percent growth from the previous year.
- Awarding more than 1,800 LCIF grants totaling nearly \$44.5 million, bringing aid to millions in need.
- Hosting 94,000 projects to protect the environment and build healthier, more sustainable communities.
- Leading 104,000 initiatives to prevent blindness and support people who are blind or visually impaired.
- Organizing 238,000 activities to improve food

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

security and access to nutritious meals.

These milestones were celebrated by thousands of Lions and Leos during the 2025 Lions International Convention in Orlando, Florida, where A.P. Singh of Kolkata, India, was elected the 2025–2026 Lions Clubs International President. A businessman and longtime Lion, Singh is dedicated to advancing mental health and well-being while continuing to strengthen lives around the world.

“As we look to the future of service, I am committed to growing our membership—welcoming new voices, energy, and ideas to increase our impact,” said Lions International President A.P. Singh.

“The world needs Lions now more than ever, and together, we will continue to meet that need.”

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jun. 1	Tell-A-Thon 5.0
Jun. 5-7	Iowa Lions State Convention Des Moines
Jun. 11	Iowa Lions Eye Bank Open House
Jun. 13	9NE Margaritaville Night, Waterloo
Jun. 19	Virdi Eye Golf Classic, Eldridge
Jun. 21	Lawler Lions Chicken BBQ Akron Lions 29th Annual Father's Day Golf Tournament
Jun. 26	Leighton 4th of July Celebration
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

The Iowa Lion PRINT SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM

Fill out entirely - Print legibly

SUBSCRIBING LION'S NAME

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

Make checks payable to **Lions Clubs of Iowa** and mail to:

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

\$35 for in Iowa / \$45 for out of Iowa anytime during the year. This is for the 2026-27 Lions year. Orders are NOT prorated. Renewal subscriptions for the 2027-28 Lions year will be billed to subscribers again late next spring.

THE IOWA LION VOLUME 62 - NO. 10 JUNE 2026



Published by the Lions of Iowa
(U.S. Postal Service ISSN Number 0162-3834)

Official publication of the Lions Clubs of Iowa, PO Box 1, Monticello, IA 52310. Published monthly except bi-monthly July-August and December-January issues. Digital subscriptions to Iowa Lions members are included in Iowa Lions Multiple District dues, as are two printed copies per Iowa Lions Club. Printed copy subscriptions are available to Lions members for \$35 per year to members inside Iowa, \$45 to members outside Iowa. Periodicals postage paid at Madrid, Iowa 50156.

PDG Debbie Doty, Editor
309 A Ave. East, Oskaloosa, Iowa 52577
Phone: (641) 673-4173 E-mail: editor@iowalions.org

All changes of address and other correspondence concerning SUBSCRIPTIONS should be directed to the ABOVE address, phone number and/or email.

COPY SHOULD BE TO THE EDITOR BY THE 10TH OF THE MONTH to be considered for publication in the issue of one month later. MATERIAL INTENDED FOR DISTRICT NEWS PAGES needs to be in the hands of the district governors or district news editors prior to that time, according to their deadlines.

Advertising that is relevant to Iowa Lions Clubs is accepted. Contact the editor for rate information.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
THE IOWA LION EDITOR
PO Box 132, Monticello, IA 52310
Tel. (515) 232-2215

PID Del Brown Leaves Legacy of Service

Past International Director Delmar “Del” Brown of Iowa City passed away in his home on May 20. He was 88 years old.

A member of the Iowa City Lions Club since 1986, PID Del left a legacy of service to Lions as well as his church.

Born in Grinnell to LeRoy Brown and Lois Hammer, Del was the third of six children. He grew up working on a family farm in rural Newburg, Iowa, where he graduated from Newburg High School with Salutatorian honors.

After graduation, Del began his lifetime of service by joining the Navy from 1956-1960. While in the Navy he was a communications specialist and traveled to the South Pole on three different missions, as well as traveling to Australia and New Zealand. After leaving the Navy, he began a career at Collins Radio in Cedar Rapids, where he met his wife, Clista “Susie” Davis.

In 1966, Del and Susie moved to Iowa City, with their three daughters, Kelly, Wendy and Kristie. There Del started his career at the University of Iowa. He worked for Dr. Van Allen’s department before becoming a Broadcast Engineer for WSUI radio station until his retirement in 1997. He also worked part time for KRNA and KZIA radio stations.

Del served as Campaign SightFirst Group coordinator and was instrumental in starting the KidSight program in Iowa, serving on its first committee.

He served as district governor of District 9X9 and was elected council chair of Multiple District 9 in 1997-1998. He moderated seminars at the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum in 1998 and 1999 and was a presenter at the Forum in 2000.

Del was elected to serve a two-year term as a director of The International Association of Lions Clubs at the association’s 85th International Convention, held in Osaka, Japan, July 8-12, 2002.

In recognition of his service to the association, PID Del has received numerous awards, including the Club President Excellence Award, the District Governor Excellence Award, the Extension Award, several Key Member Awards and the Ambassador of Good Will Award, the highest honor the association bestows upon its members. Additionally, he had received the



Past International Director Delmar “Del” Brown

Iowa Lions G.E. Bud Klise Leadership Award, the International President’s Award, the International Lions Leadership Award and several International President’s Certificates of Appreciation.

Outside of Lions, Del was a youth mentor and choir member at his church. In the past he served as a senior member of the Society of Broadcast Engineers, the Parent Teacher Association president, his church’s council chairperson and Sunday school superintendent.

A memorial service was held for Del at The Congregational United Church of Christ Church in Iowa City.

Condolences and memorial donations made to the family may be sent to Clista Brown at their home in Iowa City.

Share Your Story at Community Events With Free Materials

*By Lion Jess VandenBoom
Leader Dogs for the Blind
Manager of Philanthropy for Lions
Engagement (Western U.S. and Canada)*

Lions are gearing up for summer! With more community events, summer is a perfect opportunity to share the story of Lionism with our neighbors. My club, the St. Clair Shores Lions Club, sets up a



FREE MATERIALS. The St. Clair Shores Lions Club displays Lions information at community events, including free educational materials from Leader Dogs for the Blind.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

On Jan. 26, Lisa underwent surgery to repair a damaged heart valve that resulted from meningitis. In addition to the heart valve repair, she also received a pacemaker. She was dismissed from the hospital on Feb. 6.

The Spring Pancake Breakfast was very successful, one of the best turnouts the Leighton Lions have had in years. At their May meeting, Leighton Lions presented a check for \$7,000 to the Groenendyks to help them with expenses not covered by insurance

The Groenendyks are very grateful for the outpouring of thoughtful prayers, sincere acts of kindness and well-wishes from the community from when Lisa was hospitalized up through the day of the pancake breakfast. Lisa is now on the road to recovery.

table and a craft at community events each summer.

When people donate glasses and include the case, our Lions members clean and display them at community events. We invite people to take home a case, and we encourage children to use some art supplies to decorate their own to use as a toy or purse. While they're browsing, we can tell the story of Lions and Leader Dog, talk about our other service projects, and encourage our neighbors to get involved.

We display Lions club flyers and Leader Dog brochures so it's easy for people to learn more and sign up to help. Leader Dog's programs are free to those who need them, and Lions help get the word out. Go to the [Request Materials page on the Leader Dogs for the Blind website](#) to request free brochures to share with those near you who may need support.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT. Leighton Lions Club President Gary Vandenbert (left) presents Lisa and Bruce Groenendyk with proceeds from the club's Spring Pancake Breakfast to help with expenses not covered by insurance.



IOWA LIONS
EYE BANK
OUR VISION IS YOUR VISION

You're Invited!

Please join Iowa Lions Eye Bank staff at an open house to celebrate the eye bank's 70th anniversary and the Iowa Lions' Give Sight, Give Love fundraising campaign.

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026

4 to 6 p.m.

Iowa Lions Eye Bank

Third Floor, BioVentures Center

2500 Crosspark Road

Coralville, IA 52241

Drop by to tour the facility, meet the eye bank's staff, and get a glimpse of some of the things made possible thanks to the Iowa Lions' Give Sight, Give Love campaign and LCIF matching grant.

Light refreshments will be provided.

International Report

Past International Director
Ardie Klemish

641-740-0148
ardieklemish@gmail.com



Happy FATHER'S DAY

Last Chance for LCIF Special 2025-2026 Presidential Pin Recognitions

International President A.P. Singh has designed special recognition pins for LCIF donors this year. Your personal one-time donation to LCIF of \$50-\$99 qualifies you for a bronze pin; a donation of \$100-\$199 for a silver pin; and \$200 or more for a gold pin. These are prestigious pins and are only designed for this 2025-2026 Lions year. The final date to qualify for this very special pin is **June 25 for online donations**. You need your member number and club number to donate online. Please contact your LCIF district coordinator with questions.

Has your club/district donated? All final donations by check must be **mailed by June 10** to ensure they're processed by June 25. Mail donations to:

Lions Clubs International Foundation
Department 4547
Carol Stream IL 60122-4547.

Be sure to put your member number and club number in the memo section on your check. NOTE: LCIF donations are NOT mailed to our international headquarters; rather to our processing center to speed the transaction. Online donations must be completed by June 26. Why not make a donation to LCIF in honor of your husband/brother/dad/grandfather...or a veteran?

Take Your Voter Certification Card to International Convention in Hong Kong

Your club secretary **MUST** enter you as a voting delegate at international convention on the Lion Portal **BEFORE** you leave for Hong Kong. You must have your certification card with you when you enter the voting area **AND** your photo ID. You won't be allowed to vote without them! Remember, sitting district governors get an automatic vote in addition to their club's delegate count, but they still must be entered

in the Lion Portal as a club's voting delegate. District governors elect do not get an automatic vote but can serve as a regular delegate for their club. **EVERY VOTER must be entered in the Portal as a club delegate.**

Training for 2026-2027 Club Officers

It is **IMPERATIVE** that EVERY Lions club officer for 2026-27 in Iowa receives training this year so they can learn how to use the Lion Portal. **PLEASE** plan to attend the training in your district this summer! You should receive information on date, time, and place from your district Global Leadership Team coordinator. If you don't receive information, call your GLT coordinator or district governor for the information. Communication, collaboration, and accountability = a strong **TEAM** !

2026 Iowa Lions State Convention

If you weren't there, you missed a great event! Great live music, delicious food, and Lions fellowship. Be sure to attend in 2027!

International Director David Wentworth and his wife Valerie from Nebraska were our international guests. They reminded us that Lions is "The Greatest Show in Service!" Buddy Teaster, president/CEO of Soles4Souls informed us how to serve others by donating our good-quality shoes. We gained a more in-depth description from the Iowa Lions Foundation trustees about the entities supported by the Iowa Lions Foundation. Kimberly Zarecor from the VRAC Research Center at Iowa State University encouraged us to "Shrink Smart." Numerous state/ international awards were presented (see photos in this and July/August edition of *The Iowa Lion* magazine). Dave Rehbein, past National Commander of the American Legion made us feel proud to be Americans!

Happy 250th Birthday America!! Display your flag at your home and office!



ID 437537842 | America 250 © Djusha | [Dreamstime.com](https://www.dreamstime.com)

A View from the Chair

Council Chair
Phillip Larabee

319-465-5006
phillip.larabee@gmail.com



Hello my fellow Lions. Today I am writing my last “View from the Chair” article. My term as council chair ends on June 30. Council Chair Elect Chris Waring takes over on July 1, the same day Laura and I leave for Hong Kong, China, for the Lions Clubs International Convention.

Laura and I will attend our third Lions Clubs International Convention. I know Iowa will be represented with another seven Lions from Iowa at this convention. Recently, we learned the Parade of Nations had to be cancelled but now Lions are encouraged to attend the largest Tai Chi event in the world.

All the Iowa Lions attending the international convention are signed up to attend the Midwest Breakfast. Last year, Laura and I were the only Lions from Iowa to attend the Midwest Breakfast in Orlando, Florida. In my last conversation with Past International Director Lee Vrieze, he mentioned that he is expecting maybe 100 Lions at the Midwest Breakfast this year.

There are some election items on the ballot at the international convention for you to be aware of. The first is to lower the number of international directors from Constitutional Area 1. The second is to increase the international dues by \$2 per year for five years. Unfortunately, I am expecting Constitutional Area 1 vote to pass this time as I was recently told they are expecting approximately 50,000 Lions to attend this convention, the majority of which will not be from Constitutional Area 1. I am expecting the dues increase to not pass on this ballot.

Laura and I have signed up for a couple of tours in Hong Kong. The first tour will enlighten us on the Chinese religion and how Great Britain influenced this area before the 21st century. Our second tour will take us on the world’s longest bridge and visit many of the islands in the Hong Kong area. Anyway, we are very excited to visit our fourth continent and 10th country.

Recently, I went to Camp Courageous of Iowa for their Omelet Breakfast Open House. I was able to visit with many people I had not seen in a couple of years at this event but also met the new CEO/Executive Director

of Camp Courageous of Iowa Craig Stadtmueller (pictured below).



So besides trying to get ready for state convention and my last six weeks as your council chair, I picked up a new title of grandfather. My grandson, Elliot Daniel Federspiel-Larabee, was born in late April 2026. He came into this world with many people loving him.

I also announced the date of my retirement from full-time employment. I thought I should let my employer know so they can find someone in a couple of years to replace me. While the year 2031 seems like a long time away, I know this date will seem like tomorrow. Now I need to focus on finding something to retire to. I have always thought about working in a hardware store part-time. My parents owned a hardware store and I think ending my career in one would be a perfect way to finish up my working career.

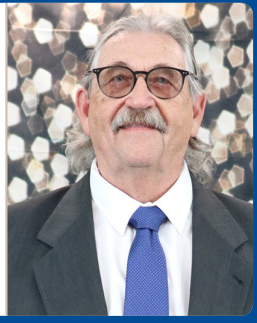
Lastly, I received a phone call from the district governor from where my hometown is located in Nebraska. She asked me for assistance to help rebuild the club and was looking for names of people to talk to. She told me I put her and her team in front of many great people to talk to. Now to finish up and rebuild this club that I remember as a child in my hometown in Nebraska.

Thanks again everyone for your support.

District 9MC

District Governor
Jimmy Bacon

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



My Journey to District Governor

One day a few years back, I wanted to explore the position of a district governor. I had thought about this for some time, so I put on my grown-up pants and voiced my interest. Soon after that, I was part of the 9MC District Governor Team as a 2nd vice district governor. I teamed up with the 1st vice district governor and headed out to visit Lions clubs in our district. At this time 9MC didn't have a district governor, so we were it.

As we were visiting these clubs, I was finding out that a lot of clubs really did run differently from one another. This is ok as long as the end results come out the same. In most cases it was, but in some clubs, we were finding they have money in the bank and are not doing anything with it. We asked what have you done in your community in the last few months? Most of the time, the answer we got back was "We collected glasses to be recycled or we had a cleanup day. Oh yeah, we had our annual soup/spaghetti supper or pancake breakfast." These are all good things to do, but one thing I never heard was "we had a membership drive."

Ok, well time goes on and before you know it, I am 1st vice district governor of 9MC. I am going to take my notes and continue this district journey.

This time around I visited clubs on my own as we moved up, so now the district governor had different tasks to do. Besides, I needed to do this on my own, hoping I would have a 2nd vice to go with me. Out of all the members in 9MC, we couldn't get one member to step up.

As time goes on, I keep visiting clubs and working with the district governor learning new things and getting myself ready for the governor's position. One day on a zoom meeting with district

and state level Lions officers, I didn't like the way the meeting was going. I saw and heard things that I didn't want to be part of. I did stay to the end of the Zoom meeting but soon after that I called my district governor and said I don't want to continue this journey. I guess I wouldn't be a good politician. I then got back into the swing of things in my own Lions club.

Once again time goes on. I attended our district convention and saw what a good time was being had, plus seeing two Lions members that stepped up to be 1st and 2nd vice district governors but no district governor. Once again, no one stepped up. I asked why no one stepped up and the short answer was "I don't know." I am sure there are a lot of reasons why people don't step up. I felt some of it was members like me didn't like the way some things were going. Anyway, that is another story.

Again, I put on my grown-up pants a couple weeks after that convention and asked if I may be the district governor of 9MC. One day there I was wearing a blue dress coat with a patch on it saying "9MC District Governor 25-26." I really didn't know what to expect but going on this journey sounded fun.

I did go to some training, learned a lot from it, but was still in the unknown. I started receiving lots of emails, most I didn't know about but dug into them to find out. Some were telling me what I need to do or what I did wrong, but this is ok cause I am learning, right?

After a while and a trip to Florida to the international convention, I was pumped up and had lots of ideas for my district governor year. Once back in the swing of things, I found most people are not in the mood or didn't like my new ideas for any change. Some say if it isn't broke, why change it. To me this is why we are seeing clubs close down.

I am continuing my year term as district governor and seeing about doing other things in district or state level. Even if my journey was not the way I was thinking, please don't let this decide your journey in the district level. I look back on this journey and am very pleased I came back during the times I did. Our district as well as all other districts need your help.

9MC CLUB ACTIVITIES

SOUTH DES MOINES held pancake breakfast and bake sale fundraisers; delivered Meals on Wheels; filled meal bags for Meals from the Heartland; did a Kidsight vision screening; collected and recycled glasses; cleaned cemetery plots; participated in the Des Moines Trash Bash.

Report Your Lions Service Project on the Lion Portal. Be Sure to Report Your Club Officers for 2026-2027 Before June 30.



DIABETES CAMP. Camp Hertko Hollow Camp and Family Programs Manager Matt Shofroth speaks about camp activities at the April Dysart Lions Club meeting. Camp Hertko Hollow is a camp for kids who have diabetes. They can also bring a sibling. Diabetes is a family disease, so it helps to have a sibling come to learn about diabetes and to enjoy the time doing camping things. Activities at Camp Hertko Hollow include swimming, canoeing, horseback riding, archery, shooting range, ziplining, trading post, arts & crafts, gaga ball, basketball, and evening programs.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Club	Member	Sponsor
Ames	Serdar Aydin	Roger Bentley
Ames Campus	Maggie Buseman	Cayden Kubesh
Ankeny	Susan Kunzman	Scott Wood



KEEPING IT OUT OF THE LANDFILL. West Des Moines Lions Club held its semi-annual Community Shred Day at Northwest Bank in West Des Moines, collecting over 8,000 pounds of paper and more than 300 pairs of eyeglasses, raising \$2,750 from the freewill donations of the community.

District 9NC

District Governor
Tasha Finch

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



- Review the club's roster to make sure it is up to date for the upcoming dues billing on June 30.
- Enter the newly elected officers. Reporting the elected officers helps the club make sure it continues to receive up-to-date information from the District 9NC, Multiple District 9, and Lions Clubs International. Failure to report the elected officers will result in being locked out of the Lion Portal on July.

9NC and MD9 Membership Statistics

July 1, 2025 through May 12, 2026

	9NC	MD9
June 30, 2025	739	6034
New Members	55	341
Transfers	4	10
Reinstated	22	55
Total Added	81	342
Dropped	72	457
May 12, 2026	748	6009
Gain or Loss	9	-25
Retention Rate 1 Year New	100.0%	100.0%
Retention Rate 1 Year Overall	89.4%	90.8%

BILLING: Membership dues are billed based on your club membership roster as of June 30. Some important information regarding billing to note is:

- Credits will not be issued following the dues billing.
- Club supplies and other charges will appear on the invoice.
- The dues of new members is prorated according to their reported join date plus an entrance fee.

INSTALLATION OF CLUB OFFICERS:

Download a copy of the Club Officer Installation Ceremony from the [Lions International website](#) to help your club prepare for this long-standing Lion tradition, typically held at the first meeting of the new Lion year.

COLLECT MEMBER DUES: Ensure individual members and family members have paid their club dues for the 2026-27 Lions year. International dues are currently \$50 annually, state dues are \$20, and 9NC dues are \$5.

REPORTING SERVICE ACTIVITIES FOR THE 2025-26 LIONS YEAR: Reporting for the 2025-26 Lions year is held open through July 2026 to report service activities not already reported for the 2025-26 Lion year.

Finally, we are here to assist you. If you have any questions, please contact the 9NC Administrator at GaryShontz@aol.com.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Club	Member	Sponsor
Clear Lake Noon	Jennifer Clancy	Michael Callanan
Iowa Falls	Joy Walker	Timothy Dunphy
Northwood	Myra Dierks	Michael Godfrey
Northwood	Dennis Johnson	Gregg Olson
Rockwell	Dan Westhoff	Timothy Nuehring
Williams	Breanna Carmichael	Charlene Burton
Williams	Hunter Carmichael	Sam Ose
Williams	Trey Seiser	Sam Ose

It's the End of the Lions Year

As the end of the Lions year approaches, club officers should review the information that follows.

CLUB ROSTER: Log into the Lion Portal and ensure the following tasks are completed before the end of the Lions year.

In Memoriam

Club	Member	Years a Lion
Humboldt	Robert L Connor	18 years

9NC CLUB ACTIVITIES

CLEAR LAKE EVENING cleaned up both sides of the road and ditches over a 3.5-mile stretch of property along South Shore Drive for the seventh consecutive year as an Earth Day activity.

CLEAR LAKE NOON is planning its annual chicken barbeque to be held on July 19th.

DOWS hosted an omelet breakfast on April 11.

EAGLE GROVE operated their mobile food pantry serving 90 local families; screened 14 individuals for Type 2 diabetes.

FLOYD parked cars at Wrightz Auction Company as a fundraiser; removed trash from two miles of roadway north of Floyd.

HUMBOLDT cleaned a section of ditches along Highway 3 east of Humboldt (pictured below).



IOWA FALLS received a \$2,500 grant from the Hardin County Foundation, enabling the club to offer \$100 of assistance to each Iowa Falls-Alden student purchasing glasses.

NEW HARTFORD made donations to Beaver Creek Day; Lions Clubs International Foundation, New Hartford EMS, Iowa KidSight, Leader Dogs for the Blind, Iowa Lions Foundation, and Camp Courageous; hosted an omelet breakfast as a fundraiser.

NORTHWOOD delivered Meals on Wheels to residents of Northwood; volunteered at the Northwood Theatre selling tickets and operating the concession stand.

PARKERSBURG assisted the Parkersburg Fire Department by sorting cans for a redeemable can drive; loaned medical equipment to members of the greater Parkersburg community.

ROCKWELL conducted planning for the North Iowa Nationals on Aug.6-8 and the North Iowa Truck Fest on Aug.14-15.

SHEFFIELD operated the West Fork Food Bank in Sheffield; hosted a spaghetti dinner at the West Fork High School.

STANHOPE hosted a pancake supper at the Stanhope Community Center to benefit Stanhope Park improvements.

WILLIAMS hosted its final sessions of bingo for the season.



BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS. Eagle Grove Lions Lori Hungage (left) and Barb Dooley (center) conduct blood pressure checks at the Eagle Grove Senior Center. The pressures of 15 people were checked.



EARTH DAY ACTIVITY. District Governor Elect Mike Yore picks up trash along South Shore Drive in Clear Lake.

District 9NW

District Governor
Steve Rehmann

515-570-9095

steve.rehmann@outlook.com



Frank Sinatra had a way of announcing that the end was near with a grin, raised glass, and the unmistakable confidence of someone who knew he had given everything he had. I feel that now. Around 9NW, that spirit feels familiar. As this Lions year winds down, there is a certain Sinatra-style energy in the air. Not a curtain call, not a farewell ballad, but a proud acknowledgment that we have reached this moment together, and we did it our way – the 9NW way.

This district has never been one to follow someone else's script. Throughout the year, clubs stepped forward with their own creativity, their own grit, and their own sense of purpose. Whether it was a long-standing project conducted with renewed enthusiasm or a brand new idea sparked by a community need, 9NW Lions showed repeatedly that service does not require a spotlight, just heart, commitment, and the willingness to roll up sleeves and get to work.

The strength of this district was not found in any single event or initiative. It was found in the steady rhythm of clubs serving their communities week after week. It was found in Lions who quietly made sure someone had a warm meal, a pair of glasses, a ride to an appointment, or simply the reassurance that someone cared. It was found in leaders who stepped up, volunteers who kept showing up, and communities who trusted Lions to be there when needed.

This year brought its share of challenges, as every year does, but 9NW never blinked. Clubs adapted, adjusted, and kept moving forward. Membership grew in places where it had been stagnant. Service expanded in areas where needs were rising. New leaders emerged, ready to carry the torch. Through it all, the district demonstrated the same resilience and determination that have defined Lions for more than a century.

The 9NW leadership, from the district leadership and the cabinet to the individual club's leadership deserves special recognition. Their steady leadership kept the district moving, kept communication flowing, and kept clubs supported. Their work often happens behind the scenes, but its impact is felt everywhere. The district is stronger because of their dedication.

To the clubs, every single one, thank you. Thank you for opening your doors, welcoming new members, embracing change when needed, and holding fast to the values that make Lions who we are. Thank you for the service hours, the fundraisers, the screenings, the meals, the donations, the events, the partnerships, and the countless acts of kindness that never make it into a report but make all the difference in the world.

As we reflect on the year, it is important to recognize the unique moment 9NW has been navigating. Coming out of COVID, our district, like many across the association, faced a period of uncertainty. Leadership was thin, and for a time it appeared that Lions International might need to step in to help guide the district. That was when Fort Dodge Lion Jim Gill stepped forward to serve as district governor, answering the call at a moment when 9NW needed someone willing to steady the wheel. His service helped restore stability and set the district back on course.

In the years that followed, a succession of senior citizen district governors, PDG Pat Essing, IPDG Mike Mulrone, and DG Steve, along with the current leadership team continued that stabilizing work. Their decades of experience, steady hands, and calm judgment were exactly what 9NW needed to rebuild confidence, strengthen communication, and regain its footing. That season mattered. It provided the foundation on which the district stands today.

Every good ship eventually finds calm seas and a fresh wind. Now, 9NW is entering a new era, one defined not by age, but by energy. The incoming leadership team has beaten us by 30 years, and that is something to celebrate. Their pace, their enthusiasm, and their readiness to lead signal a district that is not just steady, but strong. This is a true changing of the guard: from seasoned captains who steadied the wheel to a new bridge crew ready to push the throttle forward.

In Navy terms, the engine order telegraph has moved from "All Ahead Slow" to a clear, confident "Ahead Full." The district is ready for it. The momentum is real. The future is wide open.

There is a moment in every Lions year when the focus begins to shift from what has been accomplished to what comes next. That moment is here. Just as Sinatra never ended a performance without setting the stage for the next song, 9NW is more than ready for its next chapter. The district stands on solid ground, energized, organized, and prepared for the leadership transition ahead.

The incoming team is ready. The opportunities for service are greater than ever. If this year proved anything, it is that 9NW Lions are at their best when they lean into their strengths: collaboration, compassion, and the

courage to do things their way. That will not change with a new Lions year. In fact, it will only grow stronger.

Sinatra may have sung about doing it “my way,” but around here, the story is different. The strength of 9NW has always been in doing it our way, with teamwork, with purpose, and with a shared commitment to making our communities better. That is the legacy of this year, and it is the foundation for the next.

As the spotlight shifts and a new Lions year begins, one final message remains, a message of respect, appreciation, and confidence in the journey ahead.

To the Lions of 9NW, consider this a salute rendered with respect, gratitude, and pride. You stood steady at the helm, strengthened the crew, and prepared the ship for the next watch. The course is set, the wind is favorable, and the horizon is wide open.

Bravo Zulu, 9NW. Bravo Zulu. Well done!

As you continue forward into new projects, new challenges, and new opportunities to serve, may you find fair winds and following seas in every journey to come.



GETTING READY. Badger Lions hard at work in the kitchen prepping for their spring pancake breakfast.

NEW MEMBERS

Club	Member	Sponsor
Boone	Kristin Johansen	Robert Marcinkowski
Le Mars	Conor Kniep	Robert Brock
Ogden	Roger Henkel	Richard Larson

In Memoriam

Club	Member	Years a Lion
Wall Lake	Maxine Bettin	29 Years

News From Our Clubs

AKRON held its annual awards meeting with recognition to Akron Lions Club members and Akron community members; donated \$100 to the Leader Dog program; \$300 to the city of Akron for park cleanup and tree replacement.

BADGER cleaned up the ditches near Badger.

BOONE sponsored a pancake breakfast.

CARROLL donated \$120 to Elderbridge for a software update; \$500 to St. Anthony Hospital towards the cost of an Otoacoustic Emissions machine; \$250 to Camp Hertko Hollow to sponsor a local youth for diabetes camp; awarded four \$400 scholarships, two to Carroll High graduates and two to Carroll Kuemper High School.

FORT DODGE held its annual steak fry fundraiser, serving 600 steaks, baked beans, hash browns, and bread; continued KidSight screenings and has now screened over 1,000 school kids in a three-county area for the last six years.

MARCUS held its annual omelet breakfast, serving over 145 people; collecting 25 bags of shoes for Souls4Soles (pictured below).



ORANGE CITY walked ditches to clean up debris in and near the community.

PETERSON held its annual auction with a net profit of around \$32,000; voted to give \$16,000 to the town swimming pool to help with expenses; donated \$250 to the lady’s community group to purchase new utensils and equipment for the community center kitchen; awarded three graduates with \$500 scholarships; donated \$3,000 to help with renovations of the concession stand that the Lions Club built at the ball field. A representative of the Peterson Heritage Society came to the meeting and explained that the old Rock Forrest one room schoolhouse that was moved to Heritage Park desperately needs a new roof. As the Lions Club has always helped maintain the structure, they agreed to pay for the roof to be replaced with cedar shingles and have the large tree overhanging the building taken down.

District 9SE

District Governor
Paul Hain

319-330-5920
paulhain@windstream.net



My time as district governor is quickly coming to an end. Where has the past 10 months gone? I have thoroughly enjoyed this second time around as district governor, having the opportunity to reconnect with the many Lions I haven't seen for a few years but also meeting all of the new Lions that have joined our great organization. My hope is that every club and member continues to ask good prospective members to join all of us in the service we are doing within our communities and around the world.

I want to again thank the Cedar Rapids Noon Lions Club for hosting the 9EC/9SE Joint District Convention this year. It was a great convention and their club did a wonderful job of managing the event and serving the Lions who attended.

Presidents and secretaries, please remember to enter your 2026-2027 officers into the Lions portal so they will receive emails and updates from both Lions International and the Iowa Lions. Even if your officers are the same this next year, they need to be entered by June 30, otherwise they will be locked out of the Portal. Let me know if you need help entering them.

There is still time to increase your membership prior to the end of this Lions year. As of this writing, the district has a positive growth of one (1) member which is our district's goal. Hopefully, we can keep this number positive by more than one (1) by adding more members prior to the end of June. All clubs have done a great job of retaining members this year. The drop rate is as low as I can remember. Great job, Lions, of keeping members active and engaged within your clubs.

Lastly, we are still in need of members stepping forward for district leadership roles. I know that we have many dynamic leaders within our clubs as I have seen you in action. Please step forward to help this district stay great. It's not as hard and demanding as it may sound and appear, and there are many past district leaders to help in any way that we can. Please contact me if you or anyone you know is interested.

Thank you for all of the kindness that you have shown me this year. It has been a special year for both Sylvia and me.



NEWEST MEMBER. Past Council Chair and District 9SE LCIF Coordinator Nancy Oehler Love (center) inducts Barry Russell (left), the newest member of the Solon Centennial Lions Club, as Club President Brian Fitzpatrick looks on.



YEARS OF SERVICE. Lockridge Lions receive Monarch Chevron Awards for their years of service to Lions Clubs International. Pictured (L-R) are Wayne King, 50 years; Bill Griest, 30 years; Ron Bower, 50 years; Mike Renken, 15 years; District Governor Paul Hain. Not pictured is Jerry Luzadder, a charter member of 70 years.

WELCOME 9SE NEW MEMBERS

Club	Member	Sponsor
Clear Creek	Barbara K. Fenton	Craig Fenton
Ottumwa	Phil A. Baum	Ashley Baum
Ottumwa	Evan M. Budde	Jill Budde
Ottumwa	Sally Gilbert	Ashley Baum
Ottumwa	Maria Lanz	Jill Budde
Solon Centennial	Barry Russell	Brian Fitzpatrick
Stockport	Cheyenne A. Troutman	Cassandra Riegel

SERVANT HEROES IN ACTION

BIRMINGHAM hosted a group for a light breakfast before touring Van Buren County.

GRANDVIEW-LETTS held an Easter Egg Hunt in Letts (pictured below); KidSight screened 20 children at the Wapello Elementary School.



IOWA CITY collected over 40 pounds of used eyeglasses for recycling from 13 collection sites; conducted seven KidSight screenings in April with assistance from the Delta Gamma Sorority, screening 202 children.

LEIGHTON picked up trash in and around the Daily Community Garden in Oskaloosa; held its Spring Pancake Breakfast, serving 200 people and raising \$7,000 to assist a Leighton family offset costs associated with a medical emergency; with the assistance of the Fremont Lions Club, KidSight screened 46 children at the Mahaska Y Preschool.

LONE TREE donated \$100 to Leader Dogs for the Blind and Lions Visually Impaired Camp at Camp Courageous; screened 30 children at the preschool at Highland Elementary School in Riverside.

NORTH LIBERTY conducted Iowa KidSight vision screenings for 46 children at Creation Kids; transported corneas from the Iowa Lions Eye Bank to Hiawatha.

OSKALOOSA picked up trash in and around the Daily Garden; collected 162 pairs of eyeglasses for recycling; assembled participant manuals for DGE/VDG training.

VICTOR conducted an Easter Egg hunt with about 40 children participating.

WASHINGTON held a concession stand at a Flyball event; donated \$250 to Camp Courageous to help cover a child's fees; sponsored a blood drive.

WILLIAMSBURG KidSight screened 46 preschool children.



EARTH DAY CLEANUP. Ottumwa Noon Lions pick up trash along Highway 149/Business U.S. 63 during the Worldwide Week of Service for the Environment in April.



District 9SW

District Governor
Beverly Fletcher

712-355-3529
bafcbia@gmail.com



Club Officer Elections

9SW Lions clubs should have conducted the election of club officers and directors for the next Lions year and reported the results to Lions International using 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.

There are two consequences of not reporting the new officers: 1) the rights of officers to access the Portal expire after June 30, and 2) the officers of your club will not be listed in the annual Who's Who.

To input your new officers, go to iowalions9sw.org, hover over NUTS & BOLTS and select REPORTS, FORMS, AND OTHER INFORMATION. Then select the option for "Training: How to Enter Your Lions Officers in the LCI Portal." These are step-by-step directions for reporting your club's new officers and directors.

Also, please enter your service activities into the Portal, so we can put them in *The Iowa Lion* magazine.

If you need help inputting your club officers/directors and/or service activities, please reach out to District Administrator Juanita Reynard at kahluafawn@yahoo.com and she will help walk you through the process.

Service Reporting

9SW District had a grant-driven year with an LCIF Vision Grant for the 18 new KidSight cameras. We have also shared service activities both in *The Iowa Lion* and our 9SW monthly newsletters that can be found under the Media tab on [our district website](#).

9SW Lions perform many services, but they are

not all reported in a timely manner. That is going to be a major focus for the district next year.

Service reporting is about telling our story. This is how we show Lions International, Iowa Lions, 9SW District and our local communities the impact we are making. It is how we make sure our work is seen, counted, and valued ... and recruit new members.

Soles4Souls

What is a shoe drive? According to the [Soles4Souls website](#), "A Lions shoe drive fundraiser for Soles4Souls collects new or gently-used shoes and sneakers to support our mission of turning donated footwear into funding for global anti-poverty initiatives. By participating, donors promote recycling and help provide shoes to those in need, reinforcing environmental responsibility and community support. Both pairs and single shoes are welcome."

I discussed that topic in the [July 2025 issue of the 9SW Lions newsletter](#). I revisited the topic again in the [May 2026 district newsletter](#), announcing that the Iowa Lions now have **three storage facilities** available to leave your shoes to be picked up by the Soles4Souls semi-trucks. See the list of storage facilities on Page 28 of this issue of *The Iowa Lion* magazine.

Recycle Eyeglasses

For eyeglasses processed for recycling in District 9SW, we need to keep the eyeglasses INSIDE their cases (when available) to prevent scratching of the lenses, otherwise, we will not be able to recycle them. We are in the process of finalizing the information for 9SW Eyeglass Recycling in Exira.

Wrapping It Up

Thank you, 9SW Lions Clubs, for your support in raising over \$66,000 during 2025-2026 fiscal year as we worked on our LCIF Vision Grant. We could not have done this without you.

Clubs have developed and shared their new and exciting service projects for the past year.

9SW Lions will continue to grow as we are "Serving in the Loess Hills of Iowa" my theme for 2025-2026.

9SW SERVANT HEROES IN ACTION

ZONE 1

COUNCIL BLUFFS approved two individuals for hearing aids; picked up 35 glasses at Vision Works; drove to Sidney to screen preschool and kindergarten children for KidSight; raised \$1,015 with Candy Days outside Hy-Vee to support a variety of services; donated \$1,000 to LCIF and Iowa Lions Foundation.

GLENWOOD picked up, bagged and stored 907 pairs of shoes for Soles4Souls; screened 40 kids for KidSight; helped unload food trucks at Mills County Storehouse.

MISSOURI VALLEY held annual Easter Egg Hunt for 300 children.

NEOLA sorted and bagged cans and bottles for redemption (see below); assisted by the Neola Busy Members 4-H Club who will receive the funds for the month of April donations.



VILLISCA picked up and delivered donated food from Hy-Vee to organizations in town; packed food for the Feed the Pack program; assisted an elementary school with proctoring of state assessments; assisted the Community Betterment Organization with Easter Egg Hunt prep and cleanup; donated \$325 to LCIF, \$600 to Iowa Lions Foundation, \$500 to District 9SW, \$100 to Iowa KidSight, and \$200 Leader Dog.

ZONE 2

AUDUBON prepared French Toast for the Good Neighbor fundraiser; interviewed several Audubon residents for Project 2030 Community Survey and created, circulated and analyzed the results; completed Lions University Master's Degree classwork.

ZONE 3

PANORA held a breakfast fundraiser for the Kass Duis Scholarship to raise funds for a Panorama Schools graduating senior going to a trade school.

ZONE 4

ADEL collected hazardous household waste working with the South Dallas County Landfill and Metro Waste agency; received a \$5,000 grant from the Dallas County Community Foundation towards a new KidSight camera; worked on our adopted highway cleanup with the local FFA club; vision screening for ADM Elementary School and University Kids Day Care.

PERRY conduction water testing; provided care for a handicapped person; managed and worked in the food pantry; helped the Chamber of Commerce; gathered toys for Toys for Tots; managed pet rescue; promoted the flag project; worked with Elks Club on community fundraiser; worked with Optimists to provide beds to people in need; worked with the historical society; attended a 9SW Spring Zone 4 meeting.

WAUKEE attended the 9SW Spring Zone 4 meeting; cleaned St. Mark Lutheran Community Fridge; collected 97 pairs of eyeglasses; did quarterly park clean-up at Alice Nizzi Park.

ZONE 5

INDIANOLA NOON raised \$9,000 with its 6th annual Meat Raffle; donated \$1,500 to provide two scholarships for local students to Camp Hertko Hollow Teen Week; donated \$500 to Warren County Leadership Supporting Project for We LIFT compassion fund; planted trees at Wilder Elementary; volunteered at Indianola School District Music Dept; volunteered at the Open Table meal site.

ZONE 6

ADAIR provided music therapy at multiple care centers; helped with the Adair Food Pantry, attended multiple Lions leadership meetings; sent cards to shut-ins; screened 11 children for KidSight.

WINTERSET raised \$351 through community bingo; donated \$300 to the junior high Adventureland Trip.

ZONE 7

MURRAY cleaned up the final resting places of many Murray residents at its cemetery cleaning project (pictured below); attended District Governor Elect Training for MD9.



Servant Heroes In Memoriam

Member	Club	Years a Lion
Carmelite Staker	Perry	12

9SW New Servant Heroes

Member	Sponsor	Club
Michaela J. Cook	Laura Stuetelberg	Exira
Nikki D. Nickel	Nicola Endriss	Indianola

District 9EC

District Governor
Greg Andresen

563-209-7787

gregandresen412@gmail.com



Now that my year of being district governor is finally coming to an end, I would like to thank Lions in the district who have supported me throughout my year. My year started by getting a new Lions Club chartered in LeClaire.

One club I would like to thank is the Cedar Rapids Noon Lions Club. They were the host club for the combined 9EC/9SE District Convention. At this convention, they were responsible for picking up the food/drinks for the Friday night part of the convention. They helped with Saturday preparations including helping with registration, serving food and presenting the colors to open on Saturday. They helped with other tasks throughout the day, as well. It was a successful convention and now I am saying **THANK YOU** for being the host club for the convention.

At this time, I would like to wish incoming District Governor Mike Whitney and his District Governor Team a lot of success during year of 2026-2027. This year we have a full DG Team. I am asking the club members of the district to provide them whatever they need throughout the year.

We still need to recruit new members, especially younger members, and search for new service projects throughout the year. When you are doing this, you need to get them recorded in the Lion Portal.

In closing, let me remind you that “Service is the Key” to success and growth to your club and to the district.

USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum

On Sept. 3-5 will be the 50th anniversary of the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum. This will be held in Memphis, Tennessee. If you would like to attend and join in the fun, you can register online at the Forum website.



DISTRICT PEACE POSTER WINNER. District Governor Greg Andresen presents District 9EC Peace Poster winner Astrid Husar with her winning Peace Poster and a \$50 prize as Astrid’s mother looks on.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO 9EC

CLUB	MEMBER	SPONSOR
Cedar Rapids Noon	Anitha Gururaja	Padmanabha Puthige
Clinton	Noah Christopher Lange	Rhonda Lange
Walker	Kimberly Heckart	Dave Elsbernd



DIABETES AWARENESS. District 9EC Diabetes Chair Tony White, a member of the Bettendorf Lions Club, gives an informative presentation on diabetes awareness at the Eldridge Lions Club meeting.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

ALBURNETT had a Trivia Night; helped with parking for two track meets; cleaned up around Alburnett Martin Complex for spring track.

ANDOVER cleaned up road ditches along Highway 57; had a 45th anniversary celebration for the club.

BELLEVUE sponsored Inspiration Stables to help special needs children and adults; were entertained by the Bellevue High School Choir.

BETTENDORF conducted an Earth Day clean up in public parks (pictured below); had a pancake breakfast.



CEDAR RAPIDS NOON donated \$250 to the Iowa Library for the Blind; \$100 to Leader Dog; \$100 to Camp Courageous, \$688 to Wright Elementary which provides for school field trips and various school supplies; had a Cake Sale Fundraiser with Hy-Vee and Dave's cakes, raising \$386; paid for five eye exams and eyeglasses; KidSight screened at local schools and community day care centers; hosted the District 9EC/9SE Convention.

CENTER POINT conducted spring roadside clean up for Earth Day (pictured below).



ELDRIDGE conducted three KidSight screenings; ran Bingo at Grand Haven; did Earth Week clean up; transported eye tissue; set up the library book sale.

LECLAIRE cleaned up Huckleberry Park during the Worldwide Week of Service for the Environment (pictured below).



LOW MOOR conducted a KidSight screening.

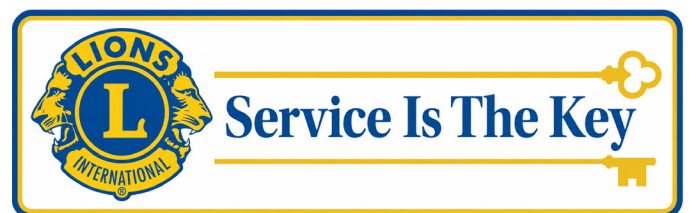
LOWDEN donated \$100 to the garden club for flowers and \$250 to the America 250 Lowden Park Day Celebration; conducted a blood drive.

MILES had a Burger Stand fundraiser; recycled May Day flowers; filled aluminum cans with flowers to brighten the day for senior citizens.

PRESTON did spring roadside clean up two miles west of Preston on Highway 64.

STANWOOD held KidSight screenings at the Academy of Early Learning in Lisbon and at Linn-Marr preschools; presented a Warren Coleman Honorary Award to member Tony Wagner.

WEST BRANCH grilled for the high school track meet; hosted three pickleball events; attended the Main Street West Branch Sweets for Success fundraiser; competed at West Branch High School Trivia; collected shoes for recycling; completed a ditch clean up project; transported eye tissue to the Iowa Lions Eye Bank; helped serve at the Camp Courageous Omelet Breakfast; dropped off eyeglasses at Coralville Wal-Mart.



District 9NE

District Governor
Dale E. Schrad

319-242-1988
daleschrad@gmail.com



June 2026 is now here, and that means my last chance to write something to inspire Lions to make a difference. Change is here for 9NE with a new district governor. District Governor Elect Craig Spilde of Decorah will be taking over at the Lions International Convention in Hong Kong. Craig is a great Lion and I know the district will continue to be one of the best in the state.

My role in 2026-2027 will be supporting Craig as the district Global Extension Team coordinator. The team will be working on new Lions clubs and increasing membership. As Lions, we need additional members to carry out the mission of WE SERVE! We need Lions in our communities, where our paw print is on the local community, the state and, of course, the world. A Lion is

a proud citizen who feels the need to make a difference.

So, what I offer is, just ask! After all, most current Lions are involved in the community in many other ways, so if you think they are too busy to ask, wrong. They will make time if you ask.

I have enjoyed my year as district governor making many new friends. That friendship will last my lifetime. I will finish my year; I will have attended every district convention in the state and every Lions club in my district.

Remember, Lions think it costs too much to be a district governor. A lot of those expenses are repaid by Lions International and the district, but you still cannot put a price on lifetime friendships.

WELCOME 9NE NEW MEMBERS

Member	Sponsor	Club
Lonnie Schult	Jack Schult	Fredericksburg
Michael Hucker	Michael Feldman	Hopkinton
Patrick Sullivan	John Charley	Hudson
Chad Hanson	Billy Foss	LaPorte City
Christal McAtee	Halane Cummings	Urbana



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS. Cedar Falls Lions Club presents the 2025-2026 Congdon Family Scholarship to Zephyr Forsyth and Sam Seery. Zephyr Forsyth (4th from left) is a 2nd semester junior at the University of Northern Iowa majoring in English, with a minor in Creative Writing and a Literary Publishing Certificate. She is scheduled to graduate in May 2027. Sam Seery (5th from left) is also a 2nd semester junior majoring in English-Teaching, with a minor in Creative Writing. He is also pursuing a Special Education Instructional Strategist for grades 5-12 minor and a Schooling and the Future of Education Certificate. This scholarship is awarded annually to a recent graduate of a Cedar Falls high school who is a current undergraduate attending UNI. The recipients are pictured with Lions (L-R) Fred Abraham, Club President Keenan Davis, Adrian Talbot (3rd from left), Eric Rosburg and Dan Conrad (right).

9NE CLUB ACTIVITIES

CALMAR – annual Pork Chop Dinner

CEDAR FALLS – Blackhawk County Food Bank; Ditch Cleanup; Prairie Parkway Garden; Honor Guard; Kidsight

DYERSVILLE – Community Tree Planting Day 2026

FREDERICKSBURG – Spring Pancake Breakfast; Everybody Hurts; Cub Scouts; School House Project; KidSight Screening

GARNAVILLO – Can Sort; Scholarships for Graduating Seniors; Planting a Memorial Tree

HUDSON – KidSight Vision Screening; Cleaning City Gardens

INDEPENDENCE – Park Clean Up; Soles4Souls

JANESVILLE – Served luncheons during Spring City-wide Garage Sale Days

LAWLER – Lawler Community Easter Egg Hunt

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

VAN HORNE – Can/Bottle Collection

WEST UNION – Ditch cleanup for two miles on U.S. Highway 18; Rain Garden cleanup; Lions Park cleanup; Annual picnic.

WESTERN DUBUQUE – Serve Epworth Community Meals; Western Dubuque Bobcat Den Food Drive; Adopt A Highway Cleanup; Western Dubuque Service Day



BUS BARN CLEAN UP. Belle Plaine Leos cleaned up the bus barn as a project. Pictured (L-R) are Jesse Upton, Hayden Neuhaus, Sawyer Neuhaus, Lucy Smith, Cayllen Purk, Elyse Jacobi and Sadie Jacobi.



STORIES THAT CONNECT US

SHARE. INSPIRE. IMPACT.



REAL STORIES



REAL CONNECTION



REAL IMPACT

JOIN US JUNE 7TH

A global, virtual day of storytelling to support
Lions Clubs International Foundation.

<https://bit.ly/TellAThon6>



MARGARITAVILLE Night

TO SUPPORT

**BEAT
CANCER
TODAY**



PRESENTED BY

**BEAT CANCER TODAY
& IOWA LIONS 9NE**



 **FRIDAY, JUNE 13TH**

 **6:35PM**

 **RIVERFRONT STADIUM
WATERLOO, IA**

**TROPICAL THEME •
SPECIALTY JERSEY AUCTION
SILENT AUCTION • AND MORE!**

**ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT
BEAT CANCER TODAY**

**JOIN US FOR A FUN NIGHT OF BASEBALL,
COMMUNITY & CANCER SUPPORT!
TOGETHER, WE CAN **BEAT CANCER TODAY!****



**LIONS
9NE**



THE IOWA LION

BUSY KITCHEN. Leighton Lions operate as a team in the kitchen during their Spring Pancake Breakfast, the biggest one they've had in years.

Leighton Lions Raise \$7,000 to Support Family Dealing with Health Crisis

*By Quintin Morrow
Leighton Lions Club Secretary*

The Leighton Lions Club hosted its Spring Pancake Breakfast fundraiser on April 11 at the Leighton Christian Reformed Church with proceeds going to Lisa Groenendyk.

A resident of rural Leighton, Lisa had suffered a life-threatening bout with bacterial meningitis beginning shortly after Thanksgiving 2025. Lisa and her husband, Bruce, sought medical attention at the Pella Regional Hospital, initially being diagnosed as just having the flu, but her condition continued to get worse. It wasn't until doctors submitted Lisa to a spinal tap that her condition was finally diagnosed as a confirmed case of bacterial meningitis.

Lisa was immediately admitted to Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines on Dec. 7, when she went unresponsive until awakening on Dec. 10. She was hospitalized for three weeks.



SCRAMBLING. Leighton Lion Chuck Bogaard packs up scrambled eggs at the club's Spring Pancake Breakfast.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

ADDITIONAL DIGITAL COVERAGE



MANY YEARS OF SERVICE. 9NW District Governor Steve Rehmann presents Monarch Chevron Awards for recognizing Lions' years of service to members of the Madrid Lions Club: (left) Carl Duhling, 20 years, (center) Larry Spourt, 25 years, and (right) Earl Check, 50 years.



ROADSIDE CLEAN UP. Badger Lions and community members clean up ditches along the roads in and near Badger.



BREAKING EGGS. Marcus Lions prepare made-to-order omelets at their annual fundraiser.



NEW MEMBER. 9NW District Governor Steve Rehmann welcomes new member Tracy Blackmer to the Madrid Lions Club.

ADDITIONAL DIGITAL COVERAGE



Akron Lions Club

29th Annual Father's Day Golf Tournament

Sunday, June 21, 2026 9:00 AM Shotgun

Four Person Scramble (Men & Women Welcome)

\$50 per person *Includes Lunch
*cart rental not included

To sign up and/or reserve a cart call 712-568-3146

Hole in One Prize

\$10,000 split with Akron Opera House



**Akron Golf Club
941 Country Club Dr Akron, IA**

Please bring used eyeglasses and hearing aids to recycle.
Thank you for supporting this Akron Lions Club event.

ADDITIONAL DIGITAL COVERAGE



22nd Annual
**LAWLER
LIONS**

BBQ

CHICKEN DINNER

**4 PIECE BBQ CHICKEN, POTATO SALAD,
COLESLAW, ROLL & BUTTER**

**SUN. JUNE
21**

**OUTSIDE INSURANCE ASSOCIATES
OF LAWLER**

11:30AM - 3:30PM

\$15 IN ADVANCE | \$16 AT DOOR

**TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED FROM ANY LAWLER LIONS MEMBER,
BANK IOWA OR INSURANCE ASSOCIATES OF LAWLER**

PICNIC STYLE OR DRIVE THRU

PICNIC TABLES & TENT

ADDITIONAL DIGITAL COVERAGE

Iowa Lions Storage Locations for Soles4Souls Shoe Drives



GLENWOOD LIONS

[Pitzer Thrift Storage](#)

59364 Hillman Road
Glenwood, Iowa, 51534

Contact:

- **Reg Hockabout**
rugtop@yahoo.com
- **Dick Stipe**
dick_pam_strpe@gmail.com

INDIANOLA NOON LIONS

[Highway 92 Storage](#)

2008 E 2nd Ave
Indianola, IA 50125

Contacts:

- **Roger Foelske**
roger.foelske@gmail.com
- **Lon Fry**
lrobfry@icloud.com
- **Greg Avit**
greg@avittautomotive.com
- **Rick Wilson**
rickdw69@aol.com

MOUNT VERNON LIONS

[Mt Vernon Self Storage](#)

940 7th St SE
Mount Vernon, IA 52314

Contact:

- **Bernadette Lane**
blane1220@aol.com

Please Follow these Guidelines to Make the Process Flow Smoothly

1. S4S recommends 13-gallon trash bags which hold roughly 12 pairs depending on shoe size. Bags should be tied. When making your delivery, know the total number of pairs being delivered and share with the contact.
2. Call, text or email the club contact (above) to arrange a time to meet and unload your shoes.
3. Clubs in our larger communities may wish to register your shoe drive with S4S and work toward a goal of collecting 10,000 pairs within a calendar year to earn a free spot on an S4S travel experience or receive 100 pairs of new shoes to be distributed to a local qualified non-profit in your community. If you are interested in exploring these opportunities, contact Bernadette Lane in Mount Vernon (information is above). You can also visit www.soles4souls.org and search "start a shoe drive" to learn more.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Clubs who register their shoe drive need to track the number of pairs collected by completing the digital donor form at <https://soles4souls.org/digital-donor-form> and hit submit. This form can also be used to receive a tax receipt for your donation of shoes.

THANK YOU!

ADDITIONAL DIGITAL COVERAGE

SMALL TOWN, BIG CELEBRATION
FOR 250 YEARS!

Leighton's Annual 4th of July Celebration

250 YEARS

JUNE 26

Rain Date: Saturday, June 27th

EVENTS

INCLUDE



FOOD @ 5:00 PM
GAMES @ 5:00 PM
ADULT SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT
@ 6:00 PM & 8:30 PM
PARADE @ 7:30 PM
FIREWORKS @ 10 PM

SCAN FOR EVENT DETAILS



Parking is Free Will Donation for
the Pella Shooting Club!

Small Town = Small Parking.
Please consider carpooling
Small Town = No ATM.

SOFTBALL SIGNUP



Softball Sign up will
be available day of
on a first come, first
serve basis.

Find more details on our Facebook page Leighton Community Events & News.