

The IOWA LION



September 2026

iowalions.org

Extra! Extra! Read All About It Together, We Can Continue Changing Lives Across Iowa

By VDG Ann Baughman
Iowa Lions Foundation President

There are a lot of exciting things happening with the Iowa Lions Foundation this year. First, 1st Vice District Governor Brent and Lion Dawn Janssen are stepping down as the Iowa Lions Hearing Aid Bank coordinators. I thank Brent and Dawn for their service and dedication to our Hearing Aid Bank since 2022. This position will need to be filled by another Iowa Lion ready to expand their service. See the ad on Page 4 for details on the position and how to apply. Application deadline is Oct. 9.

Next up, the Foundation will provide **\$379,700** to our core Iowa Lions entities and programs to help fund their operating budgets. It is only through your generous donations (clubs and individuals) to the Iowa Lions Foundation that make this possible.

Thank you in advance!

Entity/Program 2026-27 ILF Operating Budget

Iowa KidSight \$205,000
(45% of their overall operating budget)

Iowa Lions Eye Bank \$135,000

Cochlear Implant Research \$16,200

Hearing Aid Bank \$7,000

Eyeglass Recycling Centers (x3) \$16,500

Your Iowa Lions Foundation Board members are taking action to help raise **\$129,000** towards the needed \$379,700. Please make your club's donation to the Iowa Lions Foundation early and help your trustees meet their assigned goal! We fell short last year and I'm challenging the trustees to meet or

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District	Trustee/Director	2026-2027 Goal: Club Donations
9SW	PDG Gary Glockhoff and PCC Dawn Goodsell	\$22,000
9NW	1VDG Jeremy Thompson and Lion Michele Hull	\$11,000
9NC	PDG Mike Rivera and PDG Tasha Finch	\$12,000
9NE	Lion Sandy Moses and Lion Lyle Kaut	\$26,000
9MC	Lion Steve Halstead and Lion Rich Roorda	\$16,000
9SE	Lion Chelle Lehman and Lion Roger Smith	\$13,000
9EC	Lion Dan Huber and PDG Rick Baughman	\$29,000

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sep. 3-5	USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum, Memphis, Tennessee
Sep. 19	9EC Fall Rally, Camp Tanager
October	Leo Membership Growth Month Vision Awareness Month
Oct. 1	Deadline to purchase Peace Poster Kits
Oct. 8	World Sight Day
Oct. 8-18	Lions Week of Service for Vision
Oct. 10	World Mental Health Day
Oct. 15	White Cane Safety Day
Oct. 16	World Food Day
November	Lions Diabetes Month
Nov. 6-7	District 9NC/9NE Convention, Clear Lake
Nov. 14	World Diabetes Day
Nov. 15	Postmark deadline for clubs to send winning Peace Posters
Nov. 20-21	District 9SW/9NW Convention, Winterset
Dec. 1	Postmark deadline for DGs to send winning Peace Posters
Dec. 15	Postmark deadline for state to send winning Peace Posters
February	Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
Feb. 13-21	Lions Week of Service for Youth
Feb. 15	Int'l Childhood Cancer Day
Mar. 6	9EC Convention, Camp Courageous, Monticello
Apr. 10-11	9SE District Convention, Ottumwa



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

exceed their goal this year.

When you are contacted by one of them asking to join your club meeting, please respond timely. They need your help to meet their district goal as well as share information with you about the Foundation.

Please consider making a personal donation (any amount helps) to the Iowa Lions Foundation to help raise the additional \$250,700 needed. Another way to help...your trustees have "I Gave" pins for a minimum donation of \$20. It is also through past donations (legacy gifts, estates, etc.) that we are able to utilize our investments. Of course, we also receive a generous donation each year from the Verdi Eye Golf Classic.

THE IOWA LION VOLUME 63 - NO. 2 SEPTEMBER 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.

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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

Iowa Lions Foundation Profit & Loss

July 2025-June 2026

REVENUE

9EC	\$29,193.60
9MC	\$16,380.00
9NC	\$11,456.00
9NE	\$21,160.00
9NW	\$10,182.00
9SE	\$14,894.11
9SW	\$21,426.27
Total Revenue from Districts	\$124,691.98

OTHER REVENUES

Amercia On-Line	\$304.28
Ebersol Trust Income	\$60,165.80
Give Sight Give Love	\$82,399.55
I Gave Pins	\$1,016.00
Power of 300 Campaign	\$4,584.00
Interest Income	\$261.29
Investment Interest Income	\$289.17
Investments Transferred In	\$179,000.00
Memorial Brick Contributions	\$270.00
Memorial Contributions	\$2,220.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$317.00
Donations for Grants	\$34,184.26
Personal WCA Donations	\$18,658.80
Pin Traders-Warren Coleman	\$1,000.00
Power of 300 Interest Income	\$39.73
Virdi Golf	\$32,978.38
TOTAL REVENUE	\$542,380.24

EXPENDITURES

Administration

Lions Clubs of Iowa	\$14,000.00
Meeting Expense	\$149.00
Trustee Expense	\$225.00
Total Administration	\$14,374.00
Bank Service Charge	\$215.50

Contract Services

Accounting Fees	\$4,580.00
Total Contract Services	\$4,580.00
Iowa KidSight	\$195,750.00
Eyeglass Service Project	\$7,271.82
Iowa Lions Hearing Aid Bank	\$7,000.00
University of Iowa Cochlear	\$34,523.00
Iowa Lions Eye Bank	\$135,000.00
Iowa Lion Eye Bank Project	\$40,000.00
Miscellaneous Expense	\$607.00

Operations

Postage, Mailing Service	\$92.55
Supplies	\$1,412.33
Total Operations	\$1,504.88
Grants Funded	\$33,684.26
Pin Expense	\$1,919.50

Warren Coleman Award

Plaque Bases	\$7,374.74
Total Warren Coleman Award	\$7,374.74

Total Expenditures \$483,804.70

Net Operating Gain or Loss	\$58,575.54
Future Expenditures for GSGL	\$82,399.55
Total Other Expenditures	\$82,399.55
Net Gain or Loss	\$(23,824.01)



IOWA LIONS FOUNDATION

To foster, promote and support sight and hearing programs through humanitarian service provided by combined efforts of Iowa Lions Clubs.

We Serve

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

IOWA LIONS HEARING AID BANK COORDINATOR



Are you looking to grow in your service outside of your club? Can you dedicate 10 to 12 hours a week? Then we have the perfect opportunity for you to help Iowa Lions continue providing free hearing aids to those in need!

Very little knowledge of hearing aids is needed to fill this open position. You won't be left to learn on your own as training will be provided.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Collect and sort hearing aids to either salvage or place into inventory.
- Maintain the hearing aid inventory via Excel.
- Provide audiologists a current inventory list via email upon request.
- Ship hearing aids to audiologists upon request.
- Manage salvage aid program by mailing damaged or outdated hearing aids to Starkey.
- Handle correspondence with donors.
- Promote the program by attending Lions district and multiple district events and two Iowa Hearing Aid Association meetings.
- Provide reports to the Iowa Lions Foundation upon request.

If this sounds like you (or a Lion you know), applications should be submitted to Lion Ann Baughman at baughman1009@gmail.com. If you prefer to mail in an application, please contact Lion Ann at 563-320-7332 for a mailing address. Download the fillable application [here](#).

Application deadline is Oct. 9, 2026.

Sioux City Lions Receive Dr. William E. Scott Award

By Chelle Lehman

Iowa KidSight Program Coordinator

Iowa KidSight was honored to present the annual Dr. William Scott Award to the Sioux City Lions Club in recognition of the club's exceptional leadership, volunteerism, philanthropy, and dedication to improving children's vision health. They have partnered with Iowa KidSight since 2001.

During a recent presentation at Unity Point in Sioux City, Brian Owens, president of the Sioux City Lions Club, accepted the award on behalf of the club. The award will be displayed at the Iowa KidSight office as a symbol of the club's lasting impact on the program and the children it serves.

Named in honor of Dr. William E. Scott, a visionary leader, champion of children's eye health, and founder of Iowa KidSight this prestigious award was created by

the Iowa KidSight staff and recognizes individuals and organizations whose commitment mirrors Dr. Scott's passion for service. Recipients exemplify outstanding leadership, volunteerism, philanthropy, and unwavering dedication to the mission of Iowa KidSight.

The Sioux City Lions Club has embodied these ideals through its steadfast support of Iowa KidSight and its commitment to ensuring children have access to early vision screening and follow-up care when needed. Through generous financial support, active volunteer engagement, and advocacy for children's vision health, the club has helped advance Iowa KidSight's mission and positively impact countless children and families across Iowa. Iowa KidSight is deeply grateful for the Sioux City Lions Club's partnership and honored to recognize its remarkable contributions with the Dr. William Scott Award.



DR. WILLIAM E. SCOTT AWARD. Sioux City Lions Club President Brian Owens (right) accepts on behalf of the club the Dr. William E. Scott Award from Iowa KidSight Program Coordinator Chelle Lehman.

International Report

**Past International Director
Ardie Klemish**

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New International President's Theme: Rooted in Service

Mark S. Lyon from Connecticut was sworn in as the 2026-2027 Lions International president at the Lions International Convention in Hong Kong last month. His theme for the year is Rooted in Service.

Our first priority is service. Our commitment to service makes us who we are. When we focus on service, we strengthen our communities, our clubs, and the bonds we share as Lions.

Our second priority is membership growth. Our third priority is LCIF. Every Lion needs to support LCIF so LCIF can support our Lions.

Our fourth priority is advocacy. We do this through awareness, education, public policy, events, and partnerships.

BE THE RIPPLE: Every time you serve, you make a ripple that travels far and wide, touching many lives along the way. Keep improving our clubs and communities to ensure they are places where everyone can thrive.

STAY CONNECTED: Remember how important the personal side of service is: it starts with strengthening our connections.

BRANCH OUT: engage young people to become Lions to serve with us and GROW with us!

News from LCI Executive Officers and July 2026 Convention & Board Meeting

Leadership: 2026-27 executive officers elected were President Mark S. Lyon from Connecticut, 1st Vice President Dr. Manoj Shah from Kenya, Africa, 2nd Vice President Tony Benbow from Australia, 3rd Vice President Robert Rettby from Switzerland, and Immediate Past International President A.P. Singh from India is our new LCIF chairman for 2026-27.

I served on the international board of directors with Mark Lyon, Tony Benbow and A.P. Singh and on the LCIF Board of Trustees Development Committee with

Dr. Manoj Shah.

Five new international directors from the USA were elected: Jim Barbar from South Carolina, Diana Castillo from Florida, Greg Crapo from Mississippi, Kathy Dorman from Vermont, and Daniel Marney Elkins from Delaware. I've served with Diana as an area LCIF coordinator and with Daniel on the USA/Canada Forum Planning Committee. Four of the new directors will be keynote speakers in Iowa in the 2026-27 year.

Three International **constitution and by-laws changes** were passed in Hong Kong by Lion voters from around the globe.

The first resolution was to require past district governors to be members of clubs in good standing if they are to exercise their right to vote independently of their club's delegate formula.

The second resolution was to increase semi-annual international dues, to be phased in over five consecutive years. Dues will increase \$2 per year for five years beginning 2028-2029 year.

The third resolution is to increase the total number of international directors by one and reduce the number of board appointees by one. The international director positions were redistributed, reducing the number of international directors from the USA (currently 10) to eight beginning in 2028; adding one director from Constitutional Area 3 (Mexico and Central America); and adding two directors from Constitutional Area 6 (India, South Asia, and the Middle East.)

LCIF: MD9's Multiple District Coordinator for 2026-27 is Bernadette Lane. District Coordinators are: 9EC Bernadette Lane, 9MC PDG Jimmy Bacon, 9NC PDG Mike Nissly, 9NE Council Chair Chris Waring, 9NW still pending as of press time, 9SE Past Council Chair Nancy Love, and 9SW PDG Ken & PID/Past LCIF Trustee Ardie Klemish.

Remember, DISTRICTS raising \$10,000-\$19,999 from July 1 to June 30 will receive 15% back in District and Club Grants; districts raising \$20,000-\$29,999 will receive 20% back; districts raising \$30,000 or more will receive 30% back. CLUBS raising \$5,000 or more will receive 15% back.

In calendar year 2025-2026, MD9 received \$300,000 in LCIF funds for projects right here in Iowa!

Club Excellence Awards Due Soon

Clubs must submit 2025-26 Club Excellence Award nominations by Aug. 31. Your 2025-26 district governor must sign the form.

A View from the Chair

Council Chair
Chris Waring

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As we move forward into another busy Lions year, I want to encourage all of us to stay focused on what brought us to Lions in the first place — service.

International President Mark Lyon has chosen “Rooted in Service” as his presidential theme this year, and it speaks to the heart of who we are as Lions. Service is our foundation. It brings us together, strengthens our communities, increases our impact and gives people a reason to become Lions — and to stay Lions.

I encourage every club to take a fresh look at service in your community. What needs are you seeing? Is there something new your club could try? Get creative, invite others to join you and have some fun along the way. A service project doesn't have to be large to make a difference. Every act of service matters, and together those acts make our communities stronger.

I also want to share an important reminder about the new club suspension policy. It is more important

than ever for clubs to keep their accounts current and in good standing. Account information and payments are now handled online only, so please make it a regular practice to check your club's account and address any outstanding balances. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact your District Treasurer or District Governor. We want to help clubs resolve issues before they become problems.

Our **Unite & Ignite the Roar in MD9** event in August was a great success! It was wonderful to see Lions come together to learn, exchange ideas and enjoy fellowship. If you missed it this year, you will have another opportunity. Unite & Ignite will be held on the eastern side of the state in 2027, and you won't want to miss it. Keep your eyes open for more information as plans develop.

Finally, it is truly an honor to serve as your council chair. I want Lions across Iowa to know that I am open to your questions, discussions and ideas. We are stronger when we communicate, share what is working in our clubs and districts, and support one another.

Let's stay connected, continue trying new things and keep our roots firmly planted in what matters most — serving others.



UNITE & IGNITE THE ROAR. Past Council Chair Phil Larabee (left) and 9SW Global Service Team Coordinator Allen Zobel talk about service at the August Unite & Ignite the Roar of MD9 summit held in Boone.

District 9MC

**District Governor
Zane Vokes**

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I just got back from spending a week at the Iowa Lions Youth Exchange Camp. The students were from Italy, France, Belgium, Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Finland and Mongolia. It was fun interacting with them as we toured the Iowa State University campus and our state capitol. Watching them learning line dancing, playing disc golf, zip-lining, boating, swimming, tie-dying t-shirts, spending the day at Adventureland, visiting bison and alpacas up close, experiencing the Warren County Fair in Indianola, eating corn-on-the-cob and root beer floats, and enjoying the meals that different Lions clubs provided were just a few of the activities that brought us closer together with them. It was a tearful time when camp was over and everybody needed to return home but many memories were made and friendships forged. I hope your club makes an opportunity to meet with our great international students next summer. Enjoy some of the photos of this year's camp below.



Welcome to a new Lions year with our new International President Mark Lyon from Connecticut. How appropriate is it that his last name is Lyon?

Since service is the foundation of Lions and it's the very root of what Lions do and who we are, International President Mark Lyon's theme is "Rooted in Service." He feels that meaningful service fuels growth, increases our impact and strengthens our communities and our world. It's why people join us — and why they stay.

Please email me your club's activities, service, and pictures so that others may see us in action.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Member	Club	Sponsor
Robert C. Young	Traer	Jared Bauch
Shelly Young	Traer	Marilyn Bauch

In Memoriam

Member — Club

Roger Mahnke – Altoona

James K. Jensen – Ankeny



9MC CLUB ACTIVITIES

ALTOONA ran spin art at the Des Moines Arts Festival in July (pictured below).



BONDURANT ran a food stand at the Bondurant Summerfest, profiting \$2,338.

CLIVE held a pancake breakfast; popped popcorn at the Clive Festival; worked at Clive Community Services; volunteered at the Lions International Youth Camp, and transported eye tissue to Grinnell.

DES MOINES SOUTH delivered Meals on Wheels to 107 people; cleaned up Laurel Hill Cemetery after a storm and did weed trimming.

DYSART prepared fresh tenderloins for their world famous tenderloin dinner on July 3 (pictured below).



GARWIN served breakfast for their Freedom Days fundraiser (pictured above); cleaned up city park for Garwin Freedom Days, trimming around trees, the bandstand, community center, playground equipment, and concession stand.



JOHNSTON toured the Johnston organic Sweet Pea Farm after the club's July 13 dinner meeting (pictured above).



NEVADA participated in the town's Fourth of July parade (pictured above).

MARSHALLTOWN EVENING delivered Meals on Wheels; popped popcorn.

District 9NW

District Governor
Julie Ford

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Greetings, Iowa Lions. On Aug. 8, we gathered in Boone for an inspiring event — Unite and Ignite the Roar for MD9. Nearly 100 Lions came together for a day filled with leadership development, fellowship, and renewed commitment to service. The program featured six outstanding presenters who shared their expertise and passion for Lions leadership:

- Past District Governor Jay Norby (Minnesota) delivered four dynamic leadership seminars.
- MD9 LCIF Coordinator Bernadette Lane and MD9 Global Service Coordinator Dawn Goodsell facilitated impactful sessions on LCIF and service.
- District Governor Janet Krueger (Wisconsin) presented on marketing and social media.
- Past Council Chair Tammy Rockenback (Wisconsin) led an informative seminar on membership.
- Iowa Lions Foundation President Ann Baughman provided both basic and advanced training on navigating the Lion Portal.

A heartfelt thank-you goes to the committee whose dedication made this event possible. Allen Zobel (9SW) initiated the idea and connected with presenters, while 9NW 1st Vice District Governor Jeremy Thompson secured the venue at Des Moines Area Community College in Boone, arranged lodging at Cobblestone Inn & Suites, and coordinated catering options. Lays Potato Chips generously donated snacks, and committee members wore matching shirts created by 905 Ink — perhaps next year we can outfit all attendees.

Special thanks also to Hy-Vee in Boone for providing food and assisting with setup.

I am honored to share that I have accepted the role of 9NW District LCIF Coordinator. I attended the Constitutional Area 1 LCIF Leadership Retreat in New Orleans, Aug. 14–17. I look forward to learning more about LCIF and connecting with Lions from across the country.

LCIF continues to make a meaningful impact here in Iowa. Last year, LCIF awarded a matching grant for the Lions, Littles, and Lenses project. Two years ago, LCIF provided a \$10,000 Emergency Grant to the Akron Lions Club in District 9NW after devastating flooding affected homes and businesses in Akron and Hawarden. Please remember — Iowa receives LCIF grant funding, and every dollar donated goes directly to LCIF. Even a small commitment, such as \$5 per month, makes a significant difference.

I recently visited a club in Sioux City and will be attending the Boone Lions summer picnic on Sept. 2, followed by a visit to the Fort Dodge Lions Club on Sept. 10. I would love to schedule time with your club, as well. It would be wonderful to visit every club in our district this year.

Looking ahead, the 2026 USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum will be held in Memphis, Tennessee, Sept. 3-5. I plan to attend. The Forum offers daily learning sessions, meals, a Lions merchandise shop, opportunities to meet new Lions Members and time to explore Memphis. More details will be shared in next month's magazine.

News From Our Clubs

EVERLY served pies at Farmfest.

CARROLL donated school supplies for disadvantaged children to New Opportunities; gave a donation to Carroll County Public Health; donated \$200 to the Alzheimer's Association.



UNITE & IGNITE. District Governor Julie Ford (right) at the Unite & Ignite the Roar of MD9 rally in Boone with 9NW Leader Dog Chair Dawn Thompson (left) and her new Leader Dog Lacy.

IOWA LIONS
DISTRICTS 9NW & 9SW
**COMBINED
DISTRICT CONVENTION**

★
Winterset, Iowa

HOGBACK BRIDGE
BUILT 1884
WINTERSET, IOWA

“Courage
is being scared
to death...
and saddling
up anyway.”

— John Wayne

NOVEMBER
20 & 21
— 2026 —

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

- **DISTRICT CABINET MEETING**
Strategic planning and leadership for our districts.
- **KIDSSIGHT TRAINING**
Help kids see a brighter future through early detection.
- **LIONS TRAINING & EDUCATION**
Learn, grow, and be equipped to make an even greater impact.
- **AWARDS & RECOGNITION**
Honoring the dedication, service, and accomplishments of our Lions.
- **DISTRICT MEETINGS**
Important updates and collaboration for a stronger future.
- **FELLOWSHIP**
Connect with Lions from across 9NW & 9SW.



WINTERSET, IOWA

Where Tradition Meets Service

★
TOGETHER, WE SERVE.

District 9EC

**District Governor
Mike Whitney**

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Look at all the great service being done in 9EC! Clubs doing unique service, fundraising and events – I love it. Clubs are starting to report their club meetings as well – THANK YOU. Also, if you weren't aware, you can attach images to your reported activities. There were more pictures than I could include here but I really enjoyed looking at all of them.

Don't forget to mark your activities as "reported" – any other status is deemed as "in progress" by me and International and will not be counted/reported in our service hours. Remember – if an activity is not in the Portal, it didn't happen! If you are having trouble getting your service activities entered, we have people in our district cabinet that can help.

For those that were able to attend the Unite and Ignite event in Boone on Aug. 8, thank you for investing in Lionism. It was a great day and I have only heard positive feedback. There were people that came from other states to lead some of the sessions. A big thank you goes out to those individuals not to mention everyone that organized this awesome event!

For all those going to the USA/Canada Forum in Memphis, Tennessee Sept. 3-5, please travel safely. This is the 50th year of the Forum. It is a once in a lifetime event, where you can get all kinds of ideas to take back to your club. This will be Carmen's and my first time at a USA/Canada Forum. We can't wait to participate in this fantastic event. We will learn a lot, check out all the vendors, discuss Lionism with new friends we meet, and do some sightseeing in Memphis!

By the time this issue of the magazine comes out, you should have already registered for our district Fall Rally at Camp Tanager on Sept. 19. We are working really hard to get this event finalized and keep the cost to a minimum. Let's have a record turnout! We will be celebrating Lions and Lionism. Everyone is guaranteed to leave with a smile on their face. Come get a picture with our International President, Mark Lyon. Is it him or a cardboard cutout? Who cares? I hope to see EVERYONE there!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO 9EC

MEMBER	SPONSOR	CLUB
Lana Ballou	Janice Carr	Bellevue Area Centennial
Patricia Conway	Laura Duncan	LeClaire



LIKE FATHER, LIKE DAUGHTER. A West Branch Lion wears her dad's "heavy" vest at a recent club meeting.



PARADE PREP. Muscatine Lions prepare for the 4th of July parade.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

ALBURNETT – Deployed and retrieved U.S. flags for July 4th; participated in Children’s Benefit Parade.

ANAMOSA – Fireworks donation; put out flags for the 4th of July.

ANDOVER – Put up flags in Andover cemetery.

BELLEVUE AREA CENTENNIAL – Heritage Days float; raised the Flags Over Bellevue for 4th of July.

CEDAR RAPIDS NOON – Eyeglass collection.

ELDRIDGE – Did Avenue of Flags for July 4th; Eldridge Lions Pancake Breakfast; eye tissue transport; Lions Popcorn in the Park; Feed the Children.

LOW MOOR – annual Low Moor Lions Car Show (pictured below in two photos); Low Moor Lions Parade Group participated in the Camanche Parade where they also had the Lunch Wagon there selling food; Lions parade in Maquoketa.



MILES – July Yard of the Month; donation to Preston-Miles Community Ambulance (pictured below).



MONTICELLO – 4th of July Parade.

MUSCATINE – Moving service; Muscatine 4th of July parade.

OTTER CREEK AREA – July 2026 Flags for Scholarships; park maintenance; End of Summer Fun Day prep; Meals on Wheels; Legion Maintenance

WEST BRANCH – Hosted multiple adult pickleball open gym days; assisted West Branch Food pantry with unloading of weekly HACAP delivery truck; Summer Jam @ Camp Tanager; built a handicapped ramp; parked cars for the Hoover Presidential Museum grand opening.

In Memoriam

Member	Club	Years a Lion
James Ray	Davenport Breakfast	53
Leon J Frick	Low Moor	34

District 9SE

(Open at Press Time)

Contact IPDG Paul Hain

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Ever since Helen Keller called upon Lions to champion the cause of vision in 1925, Lions around the world have stepped up to serve.

October is Vision Awareness Month and now is the time to start planning what your club will do to bring awareness about vision within your community. Lions Week of Service is Oct. 8 -18, with World Sight Day being Oct. 8.

Recycling eyeglasses and KidSight screenings have been our go-to projects, however, there are other projects that we can get involved in. Check out the "Vision Service Projects Ideas" on Page 25 of this issue of the magazine.

October is also Lions Membership Growth Month. Congratulations to the clubs who have already added new members this new Lions year. Let's keep this positive growth going throughout this Lions year by asking prospective members to join us in the great service work that we are doing.

Heads up treasurers and presidents: starting the 2026-2027 Lions year, there is an amendment to the club suspension policy that is posted online, changing the 120-day rule to 90 days. Automatic cancellation will be scheduled the second month following suspension.

So, check the Portal for your club's dues statement and get it paid. You might also make a plan to check monthly for invoices from LCI so that nothing is missed. No one wants a club suspended for nonpayment.

WELCOME 9SE NEW MEMBERS

Club	Member	Sponsor
Grandview-Letts	Barbara Thompson-Campbell	Jim Thompson
Ottumwa Noon	Brad Sylvester	Jill Budde
Ottumwa Noon	Taylor Sylvester	Debbie Sylvester
Victor	Elissa Hawkins	Susan Wilgenbusch
Victor	Sarah Kaplan	Debra Michalek
Victor	Debra Michalek	Patty Hinrichs
What Cheer	Liam Arkema	William Grubb

SERVANT HEROES IN ACTION

DANVILLE helped prepare fish and chicken dinners at July 4th celebration to raise money for the Danville Fire Department.

FAIRFIELD donated a one year supply of saline solution to a homeless person.

LEIGHTON picked up trash around the Daily Community Garden; served a spaghetti bake dinner during the Leighton 4th of July Celebration.

LONE TREE put up 224 U.S. flags in the Lone Tree/River Junction area in observation of Independence Day; provided a meal for the Iowa Lions Youth Exchange Camp; donated \$125 to the Lone Tree Chamber of Commerce for the National Night Out on Aug. 4.



NORTH LIBERTY harvested vegetables at Fields of Faith for distribution at local churches three times; placed and retrieved flags for Independence Day; watered and pulled weeds at the Fields of Faith Garden; served lunch during the North Liberty Summer Lunch and Fun program (pictured above).

OTTUMWA NOON sold brooms as a fundraiser at the Wapello County 4H Expo, helped serve chicken dinners to fair goers and assisted with parking cars for an afternoon and evening.

SIGOURNEY presented a \$500 scholarship to a senior at Sigourney High School.



LOT CLEAN-UP. Milton Lions helped remove a dilapidated trailer house from a property in town. This included cutting down and hauling away major brush and tree overgrowth on the lot. Pictured above is the before on the left and the after on the right.



LEMONS INTO LEMONADE. Grandview-Letts Lions serve lemonade as a fundraiser over July 4. They also took their trailer around Southeast Iowa to the Louisa County Fair, the Chief Wapello Day Car Show in Wapello and Watermelon Days in Coneville. Watch for their trailer at Fruitland Fun Day Sept. 12.

District 9NC

District Governor
Mike Yore

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Hello Iowa 9NC Lions!

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer, even with the wild weather that we have been experiencing!

This year, our shared theme is Nurturing Growth Together. It is not a slogan — it is a strategy. It is anchored in the four priorities that guide Lions worldwide and define our success as the largest service organization in the world:

1. Get back to our roots by focusing on meaningful service.
2. Plant seeds of growth by inviting new members..
3. Let leadership shine by advocating for others.
4. Support LCIF and let it support you.

Lions Weeks of Service

Please start planning now for the three Weeks of Service set for this year. It starts with Oct. 8-18, 2026, focused on Vision. Then comes Feb. 13-21, 2027, where we invest in our youth. Finally May 29-June 6, 2027, we care for our environment.

Participating in these Weeks of Service is one of the criteria towards earning the Club Excellence Award for your club. Other requirements include increasing the membership of your club, ensuring your club officers have been trained, as well as contributing \$20 per member to the Lions Club International Foundation. For more details, go to [Club Excellence Award page](#) on the Lions International website.

Record Your Service

Please also begin to enter all of your Clubs Service Activities and Donations into our Lions Portal. It only takes a couple of minutes to account for your Clubs Activities and it's very important to let the World know what we as Lions have achieved!!

This month there were only 12 service activities completed in the Portal for District 9NC. I know that

there have been many more and it is critical to our Lions organization to document all that we do for our communities!

[Click here](#) for the link to log on to the Portal.

If you need help, please reach out. I would also be happy to teach anyone who needs help with entering service activities in the Portal!

Send Me Your Photos

Please also remember to send me photos of your club's service activities and projects so I can include them in future issues of *The Iowa Lion* magazine. Let me know of any service activities or projects that you are planning in the future as I would love to be able to attend them!

Register for Our District Convention

Please register for our district convention in Clear Lake on Nov.6-7. The form is on Page 21 of this issue.

We will be having a Meet and Greet Friday evening, Nov. 6, and the convention will be on Saturday, Nov. 7. We are once again combining our district convention with 9NE. This has worked out well the past couple of years.

There will also be opportunities to tour the Historic Surf Ballroom and brand new Surf Music Enrichment Center before the Meet and Greet on Friday or after the convention on Saturday.

District Leadership Opportunities

I am putting out another plea to all Lions who are interested in learning more about leadership opportunities in our district!

We are currently in need of zone chairpersons (each zone chair supports four to five clubs in their area) and we also need to fill our 2nd vice district governor position.

If anyone is interested in pursuing any of these opportunities, please contact me as soon as possible.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Club	Member	Sponsor
Iowa Falls	Mark Buschkamp	Michelle Nederhoff
Iowa Falls	Catherine Morse	Amanda Wood
Iowa Falls	Austin Tillery	

9NC CLUB ACTIVITIES

ALGONA participated in Kossuth County Fair Parade in support of 4-H and FFA youth to promote the Algona Lions Club.

CLEAR LAKE EVENING raised funds by serving popcorn at the Surf Ballroom.

EAGLE GROVE volunteered at the local movie theatre; served 269 people and 93 families with the mobile food pantry; collected eyeglasses for recycling.

HAMPTON worked at Franklin County Historical Museum; served a meal during and after the Franklin County parade; held a fundraiser during the Humboldt County Fair.

NORTHWOOD sold tickets and helped in the canteen at the Northwood Theatre; held a Duck Pluck at the Worth County Fairgrounds on the Fourth of July.

PARKERSBURG hosted a potluck dinner for the residents of the Parker Place.

ROCKWELL sponsored the Rockwell Tractor Pull which attracted over 5,000 attendees over the three-day event with proceeds going toward scholarships for the West Fork Schools.

STRATFORD organized the "Stratford on the Loose" community parade.



250TH BIRTHDAY. Clear Lake Evening Lions enter a float in the Clear Lake 4th of July Parade.



RUBBER DUCKY, YOU'RE THE ONE. Parkersburg Lions President Jim Everts is with Daffney the duck. Daffney was helping the Lions with their annual Duck raffle fundraiser going on in July. All proceeds go back to community programs, service and outreach.



NEVER TOO OLD TO SERVE. Allison Lions members cook omelets with their oldest member, Doc North (in the orange shirt). Lion Doc is 96 years young.

District 9SW

District Governor
Christopher Wilkins

641-340-2325

christopher.jesus.wilkins@gmail.com



Should I Go to an International Convention?

Greetings Fellow Lions! Let's chat about the Hong Kong International Convention. It was possibly the best week of my life. Don't tell my kids I said that. They think it's their births. Imagine thousands of people divided among a diversity of cultures united in one place behind one global message: we serve.

Wonderfully talented speakers, foods that defy description, truly mind-boggling entertainment, experiences you will find nowhere else, and most importantly for me, new friends I would never have made any other way. You might ask, "Why should I go to an international convention? How does that help my community?"

#1 Motivation. When you see the impact Lions International has on the world, you can't help but want to bring that heart to serve home! You'll see thousands of men and women cheering with one voice, yet in dozens of languages, all to honor those who have invested resources and sweat to improve the lives of others. People ascend to the stage with million-dollar donations, feeding the hungry and healing the sick. At an

LCI Convention, you can't help but be motivated to help more at home.

#2 Education. Another powerful part of Conventions are the learning opportunities. Brilliant speakers, and concise, well-organized break-out sessions make you a wiser, better Lion. My favorite classes focused on the use of AI in marketing our local clubs. Expect more use of that technology in the future!

#3 Networking. On my trip, I met people from all over the United States and the world. Wisdom from 200-plus countries and territories on what works, what's new, and even what no longer works. You learn how impactful your domestic donations are in facing disasters and emergencies, which teaches you how to more prudently respond when the calamity comes to your own door.

You also make life-long friends who can support not only your Lions journey, but your personal journey. A new friend of mine named Osama, who is expecting his first child, traveled throughout Hong Kong with me and asked for parenting advice along the way. This is what being a Lion is about. Strong Lions make stronger service. A Lions family is stronger than the sum of its parts.

Lions who attend a convention simply become better Lions. Better Lions give better service. Better service means better communities. Better communities produce more servants, who may find their local Lions Club the perfect avenue for fulfilling that purpose.

If you want the Lions legacy to be prodigious, to be permanent, to be powerful. I submit that you need to attend conventions. Not only international, but the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum, state and district conventions. I'm hooked! Hope to see you there.



Some of the pins I was given for posing for pics (many from the little sweet girl in the next pic; no clue where she was getting them!)



This little lady kept wanting pictures and hugs. Lions are loved around the world!



My new friend Unitta from Zambia says I have a place to stay if I'm ever her way.



One of my new best friends, Osama from Pakistan (currently lives in Hong Kong) took me to Kowloon Peak at sunset



Kowloon Peak panorama after sunset



DISTRICT 9SW / 9NW JOINT CONVENTION

Nov. 20-21, 2026 • Winterset

FRIDAY, NOV. 20, 6 PM: Meet & Greet
Sports Page, 224 IA-92, Winterset (*Pay on your own*)

SATURDAY, NOV. 21, 8 AM: Convention
History on the Hill, 815 South 2nd Ave, Winterset

STAY LATE TO TOUR THE JOHN WAYNE MUSEUM
on Saturday, Nov. 21, at 4 PM

NAME: _____

Lion? Y / N OFFICE HELD: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: _____

E-MAIL: _____

CLUB: _____ DISTRICT: _____

Please note any special dietary needs.

I need a display table for: _____

____ Saturday Convention **\$35**
(includes continental breakfast and lunch)

____ Saturday Convention Only **\$15** (No Meals)

____ John Wayne Museum Tour **\$10**, 4 PM Saturday

Total Enclosed = _____

All registrations due by Nov. 6, 2026

Send check payable to **Lions District 9NW**
and mail to: Dale Schoening
1747 R Ave
Madrid, IA 50156

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:

A block of rooms have been reserved at the Cobblestone Inn and Suites in Winterset, 1304 N Ave, for \$109.99 per night. Call direct at 515-462-4889 and use group name Lions Club Convention.

District 9NE

**District Governor
Craig Spilde**

563-382-9497
craigspilde@gmail.com



What is a Lions International Convention? Impressions of a First Timer

As a district governor elect, our convention started two days before the actual convention with the last of our training, a culmination of two years of webinars and online training. For the first time, we sat at the table with class members, who up to this point had simply been a small square on a screen. We shared our challenges, our successes, our goals and our plans for attaining those goals. We heard inspirational speakers and were privileged to have International First Vice President Mark Lyon share his vision for our organization with us. Those two days were capped with a banquet to celebrate the journey, and to fire us up for the adventures ahead.

The convention itself had an agenda of things that needed to be accomplished for the organization to continue to function. There were plenary sessions where 15,000-16,000 Lions all came together in one arena to hear from International President AP Singh and others about Lions on an international level.

There were smaller sessions throughout the convention center where we could hear from fellow Lions who faced the same issues as the rest of us, yet have found ways to grow and succeed.

There were seminars from Lions International headquarters showing some of the new features coming in the Portal. There were opportunities to listen to the international director candidates and, maybe most importantly, the opportunity to vote on the candidates and the other issues proposed.

But as is often the case, it's the unofficial happenings that defined this convention for me. It's getting on the elevator at the hotel and always encountering someone in Lions attire. The obligatory greeting of "where are you from?" and the sometimes surprising response, like the one time when I responded with my usual "USA," only to

be pressed for more detail. When I added Iowa, the inquiring gentleman's face lit up with a smile. He shared with me that he was from Malaysia, but four of his kids graduated from Iowa State.

Convention is sharing stories with fellow Lions as you wait in a queuing line, or meet walking down the hallway in the convention center or out and about in the host city. Convention is realizing that no matter what the language or cultural differences, when you put on that emblem with the capital "L" and the double facing Lion head, whether it be a pin or a shirt, a yellow vest or some impressive costume, there is a shared commonality – a bond that joins you together. That bond is the desire to serve. As International President Mark Lyon's motto pronounces, "We are rooted in service."



Entertainment during the district governor elect banquet in Hong Kong.

WELCOME 9NE NEW MEMBERS

Club	Member	Sponsor
Decorah	Spencer C. McKinney	Russ Freerking
Hudson	Wilson Q. Esquivel	Bruce Johnson
Hudson	Andrew E. Holbach	Bruce Johnson
Hudson	Zach R. Holbach	Bruce Johnson
Janesville	Perry Mast	Cindy Dobbs
Janesville	Terry Schipper	Steven Dobbs
Nashua	Vickie L. Gaede	Dennis Litterer

In Memoriam

Member	Club	Years a Lion
Robert Albertsen	Van Horne	4 Years

9NE CLUB ACTIVITIES

GARRISON – Garrison Fun Days serving food at the park.

HUDSON – Can/bottle drive; pie baking contest; city garden and benches.

INDEPENDENCE – Soles4Souls; 4th of July Parade.

JANESVILLE – Transport attendees to fair events; Habitat for Humanity Restore.

OELWEIN – Food pantry; eyeglass recycling; meal delivery; senior center Bingo.

VAN HORNE – Pop can/bottle redemption.

WAUKON – Donation to Allamakee County Relief Office and Allamakee County Food Shelf.

WAVERLY – Handicap ramps; Pallet Maze at Bremer County Fair.

WEST UNION – Circus fundraiser.



HOT SUMMER, COOL TREATS. Belle Plaine Leos sell baked goods, bottled water and popsicles at the annual Belle Plaine July 3rd car show.



SWEET CORN. New Hampton Lions prepare sweet corn for the community in celebration of their 75th charter anniversary.

DISTRICT 9NC / 9NE JOINT CONVENTION

Nov. 6-7, 2026 • Clear Lake, Iowa

FRIDAY, NOV. 6, 6 PM: Meet & Greet
The Surf Galley, 619 Buddy Holly Place, Clear Lake
(Pay on your own)

SATURDAY, NOV. 7, 8 AM: Convention
United Methodist Church
508 2nd Avenue North, Clear Lake

COME EARLY OR STAY LATE: Surf Ballroom & Music Experience Tour. Special Lions Rate (\$10) Tours at 4 p.m. Friday or 4 p.m. Saturday. (Mark below which day you prefer). Walk in the Footsteps of Legends—And into the Future of Music History

NAME: _____

Lion? Y / N OFFICE HELD: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: _____

E-MAIL: _____

CLUB: _____ DISTRICT: _____

Please note any special dietary needs.

I need a display table for: _____

____ Saturday Convention **\$30**

(includes continental breakfast and lunch)

____ Saturday Convention Only **\$10** (No Meals)

____ Surf Ballroom & Music Experience Tour **\$10**

____ Friday @ 4 p.m. ____ Saturday @ 4 p.m.

Total Enclosed = _____

All registrations due by Oct. 24, 2026

Send check payable to **Lions District 9NC**

and mail to: Marian Gehrls

PO Box 322

Iowa Falls, IA 50126

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:

A block of rooms has been reserved at Fairfield by Marriott, 1401 Bayou Road Clear Lake, for \$138-147/night. (641-357-8585) Block rate good until Oct. 6, 2026. Use group code Clear Lake Evening Lions or follow [this link for hotel reservations](#).

LCIF RAFFLE



Lions Clubs
International
FOUNDATION

A CHANCE TO WIN. A CHANCE TO CHANGE LIVES.

Win this stunning
professionally framed
Diamond Artwork-
a symbol of strength,
courage and service



100% of your raffle donation
supports LCIF grants that
empower Lions to serve
their communities
and the world.



TICKETS
\$20 EACH

Your donation is made
to LCIF in your name.

You are making a
difference – and
you could be a winner!



Winner will be
drawn at the
2027 Iowa Lions
State Convention

BUY A TICKET. CHANGE A LIFE. BE A LION.



Donate by Check

Make your check payable LCIF and mail it to:
Chris Waring, LCIF Coordinator – District 9NE
924 Dohrmann St., Jesup, IA 50648

Or scan the QR code to donate online, then send a quick email to:

lion.chriswaring@gmail.com

Together, we can
CHANGE THE WORLD.

all. The nearest identified location with anything that is intended to meet the needs of children and families with these different types of abilities is over 45 miles away from Ottumwa.”

The Sensory Wall addresses this gap by providing a permanent, inclusive feature designed specifically for children with sensory and mobility challenges. As a capital infrastructure project, it delivers long-term humanitarian benefit aligned with the LCIF mission to improve health and well-being and support people with disabilities.

While the final design of the sensory wall was created by Des Moines artist Hilde DeBruyne, it includes many tiles crafted by the neurodivergent community, students, and staff of Ottumwa High School.

Mike Stiemsma, director of special programs at Ottumwa Community Schools, said each special needs student that participated was partnered with an art student at Ottumwa High School to create their own tiles with different tactile sensations on each one. The tiles were then bisque fired and glazed for the artist to place in the overall wall design.

“The sensory wall is expected to directly benefit more than 900 children annually, with thousands of additional indirect beneficiaries including families, caregivers, educators, and community members who utilize the inclusive play space throughout the year, Lion Jill added. “We anticipate that adults with a variety of sensory needs will also interact with the Sensory Wall, bringing the number of direct interactions to over 1,000 per year.”

Key features of the sensory wall include:

1. Interactive Art Elements:

- **Tactile Panels:** Incorporate various textures such as smooth, rough, soft, and bumpy surfaces to provide tactile stimulation.
- **Movable Parts:** Include gears, levers, and sliders that children can manipulate, promoting fine motor skills and interactive play.

2. Visual Stimulation:

- **Nature-Inspired Murals:** Use colors and



PARK DEDICATION. People from across Southeast Iowa gather in the rain for the grand opening of the Market Street Landing All Inclusive Play Space along the Des Moines River in Ottumwa.

patterns inspired by the natural surroundings, such as the Des Moines River, trees, and local wildlife.

- **Light Features:** Integrate LED lights that change color and intensity, offering visual stimulation and calming effects.

3. Auditory Elements:

- **Sound Panels:** Incorporate elements that produce gentle sounds, such as chimes or bells, to provide auditory feedback.
- **Interactive Music Stations:** Include features like xylophones or drums that children can play, encouraging auditory exploration.

4. Proprioceptive and Vestibular Input:

- **Weighted Elements:** Add components that provide deep pressure, such as weighted panels or soft, squeezable sections.
- **Balance Activities:** Include elements like wobble boards or balance beams to engage the vestibular system.

5. **Calming Quiet Zones:** Designate areas with softer colors and minimal sensory input for children who need a break from stimulation.

The successful compilation of the sensory wall within the all inclusive play area is a perfect example of how club and personal LCIF donations get brought back to Iowa in many ways, not just disaster relief.



UNVEILING. Ottumwa Lions unveil the Sensory Wall at the new All Access Park at the River Landing in Ottumwa. The wall was funded by an LCIF Matching Grant.



THE IOWA LION

Ottumwa Lions Unveil LCIF-supported Sensory Wall

PCC Nancy Oehler Love
9SE District LCIF Coordinator

On Aug. 1, a community of people braved a cold drizzle to gather along the Des Moines River in Ottumwa to dedicate the Market Street Landing All Abilities Play Park. The culmination of three years of planning, this park includes wide pathways that are walker, stroller and wheelchair friendly, as well as play equipment for children of all physical abilities.

During the early planning of this park, the Ottumwa Noon Lions Club determined that it would leave a legacy in the community by helping to fund a sensory wall. The Lions reached out to community donors and Lions in surrounding communities in Southeast Iowa to raise the matching funds for a Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) matching grant.

overwhelming for children with sensory processing challenges, autism spectrum disorders, and physical disabilities,” Lion Jill Budde, Ottumwa Noon grant coordinator stated in the grant application.

After approval was provided by the District 9SE Cabinet, the club submitted its matching grant application to LCIF in February and received \$46,343 from LCIF in June to fund the sensory wall portion of the park.

The absence of accessible and sensory-supportive play environments is a documented gap in community infrastructure, Lion Jill wrote in the grant application. “Inclusive recreational spaces have been shown to support physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development, yet families in this region must often travel long distances to access such facilities—if they are able to do so at

“Traditional play spaces are often inaccessible or

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

Vision Service Project Ideas

- Learn about blindness and vision impairment by reviewing the [World Health Organization's fact sheet](#). Consider sharing the information in your community at club meetings, teach-ins or through other outreach.
- Explore the [Lions International Vision webpage](#) which features our vision programs, LCIF grant opportunities, and how to make a donation to empower the service of Lions around the world.
- Collect used eyeglasses and send them to the nearest [Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center](#). Visit the [Eyeglass Recycling](#) webpage for information on collection resources, including ordering the Lions International Collection box.
- Plan a [Lions KidSight](#) children's vision screening event to help identify correctable vision conditions.
- Collaborate with a [Lions Eye Bank](#) in your area or utilize the [Lions Eye Bank Overview](#) resource to promote the importance of corneal donations.
- Organize a [vision screening](#) event in your community. Nearly 80% of all visual impairment can be prevented or cured. The first step to prevention is awareness. The second is early detection through vision screening.
- Contact a local eye care facility or center for the visually impaired to find out how you can support them. For example:
 - Assist with building repairs and renovations.
 - Provide transportation to and from appointments for individuals undergoing treatment.
 - Consider making in-kind donations of supplies or equipment.
- Support individuals and families in your community by providing vouchers for comprehensive eye exams and eyeglasses. Explore partnerships with local vision service providers to provide affordable or free services.
- Plan a service activity on [World Sight Day](#), which is on the second Thursday in October annually.
- Organize a braille, large print and audio book collection to benefit a local school, library or senior center.
- Develop a directory of community resources and services available for people who are blind or visually impaired.
- Organize an inclusive sporting event for children with and without visual impairment.
- Partner with a local hospital or vision provider to hold an educational event about vision conditions such as cataracts, refractive errors, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, and macular degeneration. Visit the [Lions International Advocacy webpage](#) to explore ways to raise awareness and create positive change.
- Connect with organizations that provide service animals for the visually impaired and see how your club can engage with them.
- Work with your city, town, or community to ensure all bus stops and public transportation locations have braille signage or audible announcements.
- Celebrate [International White Cane Day](#) on October 15 by learning its history, advocating for accessibility and independence for people who are visually impaired, and exploring ways to make an impact in your community.

