

The IOWA LION



October 2026

iowalions.org

Lions Little Lenses: Three Small Words, One Mighty Mission

*By PDG Steve Rehmann
Lions District 9NW*

Sometimes the biggest missions begin with the smallest words. Lions. Littles. Lenses. Three simple words that, when spoken together, ignited one of the most ambitious, coordinated, and heartfelt service campaigns I have ever been part of as a Lion. What started as a spark inside a NICU unit in Sioux City grew into a district wide effort, crossed a state line, rallied 27 Lions clubs, drew in individual donors, inspired a sorority, and ultimately delivered life changing equipment into the hands of the people who needed it most.

Helen Keller called upon Lions to become Knights of the Blind, and this campaign carried that charge forward in a powerful, modern way. Lions across 9NW lived up to her directive not with symbolism, but with action, stepping forward together to protect sight where it begins, in the earliest days of life.

Where It Started: A Need in the NICU

The story begins quietly, inside the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at UnityPoint St. Luke's in Sioux City. NICU staff members Teresa Streeter and Nurse Manager Abby Laws saw a need that could

not be ignored. Premature infants and medically fragile newborns often face a range of vision-related challenges. Their eyes are still developing, and conditions such as retinopathy of prematurity (ROP), congenital cataracts, and other early stage ocular issues can emerge quickly. Early detection is critical. The right equipment can mean the difference between catching a problem early or missing it entirely.

Streeter and Laws knew that better tools could mean better outcomes. They also knew they could not fund the equipment alone. They approached Jim Braunschweig, Associate Director of Development at UnityPoint St. Luke's, asking if he knew any donors who cared about children's vision. Jim did not just know someone. He knew the right someone, Don Maynes, an Iowa Lion. That connection helped lead him to Bernadette Lane, our Iowa LCIF coordinator. With that point of contact, the spark found oxygen. Lane helped us develop the concept and plan the execution of the drive.

Momentum Builds — Over Coffee, Naturally

The idea gained traction quickly. At the 2025 Iowa Lions State Convention, Braunschweig connected with then incoming Council Chair Phillip Larrabee. Over coffee at a Hy-Vee in Altoona, the concept began to take shape. Larabee brought in then outgoing District Governor Mike Mulrone and me as the incoming 9NW DG. The three of us, along with Lane and the staff at Unity Point, looked at the need, the potential impact, and the opportunity to partner with LCIF. We did not hesitate. We did not overthink it. We did not form a committee to study it for six months. We looked at each other and said the same thing: "We can do this." That was the moment the mission



New equipment purchased with an LCIF Vision Grant will help NICU staff at Unity Point St. Luke's Hospital in Sioux City detect early vision problems in premature infants.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

UPCOMING EVENTS

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
Oct 22	Oskaloosa Lions Virtual Mental Health Symposium, via Zoom
Oct 24	Leighton Lions Fall Pancake
November	Lions Diabetes Month
Nov 6-7	District 9NC/9NE Convention, Clear Lake
Nov 14	Lions PEP Rally, Pella 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
Feb 13-21	Lions Week of Service for Youth
February	Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
Feb 15	Int'l Childhood Cancer Day
Mar 6	9EC Convention, Camp Courageous, Monticello



Jim Braunschweig, Associate Director of Development at UnityPoint St. Luke's Hospital in Sioux City, addresses visitors and media at the celebration of Lions Little Lenses on Aug. 6.

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became real.

Mobilizing 9NW — All Hands on Deck

Once the LCIF grant application was underway, the next phase began, mobilizing the clubs of District 9NW.

Reaching out to all 28 clubs became the priority, making sure every Lion understood the need, the mission, and the opportunity to make a lasting impact on the smallest and most vulnerable members of the Siouxland community.

Then something remarkable happened. The Sioux City Lions Club stepped forward with a \$5,000 donation, a powerful opening salvo that told me the district was all in. It was not just a contribution; it was a statement: We can do this!

From there, the district moved with purpose. Clubs organized fundraisers, allocated service budgets, and rallied members. Individual Lions stepped up with personal donations. Non-Lions contributed. The Preceptor Delta Epsilon Sorority joined the effort. Even the Alcester, South Dakota Lions Club crossed the border to support the mission.

Twenty seven of 28 clubs participated. Five clubs—Hartley, Fort Dodge, Orange City, Remsen, and Rolfe—became our Vision Champions, each contributing at least \$1,000. Sioux City remained our Vision Partner with its \$5,000 leadership gift. Sioux City, Fort Dodge, Akron, and Fort Dodge Evening stood as our charter clubs for the campaign. It was a district wide mobilization—coordinated, disciplined, and driven by purpose.

What Do These Lenses Actually Do

The specialized lenses we secured through this campaign are not ordinary medical tools. RetCam lenses are high-precision neonatal diagnostic instruments used by ophthalmologists and NICU clinicians to examine the eyes of premature infants. These lenses allow the medical team to detect early stage retinal abnormalities, identify congenital eye conditions, monitor optic nerve development, assess the effects of oxygen therapy, and capture detailed images for specialist review.

Standard equipment simply cannot provide this level of clarity—premature infants' eyes are too small, too fragile, and too sensitive. Designed specifically for neonatal use, these lenses give clinicians the ability to see critical details without causing discomfort or risk. In a NICU environment where every gram of weight, every breath, and every heartbeat matters, having the right tools is essential, and these lenses provide the accuracy and confidence the team needs.

These lenses allow St. Luke's to:

- Screen approximately one hundred fragile newborns each year—many of them multiple times during their NICU

stay.

- Ensure equitable, reliable imaging for all babies, regardless of skin tone.

- Reduce stressful out-of-town transfers by more than 75%.

- Deliver faster, clearer results to consulting ophthalmologists in Omaha.

- Provide families peace of mind and give babies the best chance at a lifetime of healthy vision.

When the equipment arrived, I saw firsthand how grateful the NICU staff were. They knew exactly how much this would help their tiniest patients. And they knew Lions had stepped up in a big way.

Mission Accomplished

The specialized lenses were ordered immediately. They arrived quickly, before the ink was dry on the final campaign reports, they were already in use in the NICU at UnityPoint St. Luke's.

The impact was immediate. The NICU staff now had the tools they needed to better diagnose, monitor, and protect the vision of premature infants—tools that will serve hundreds of families in the years ahead. This was not just a donation. It was an investment in the future of Siouxland's littlest patients.

On Aug. 6, Lions leaders, club members, NICU personnel, UnityPoint staff, and local media gathered at St. Luke's for the official recognition event. The room was full of gratitude, pride, and a sense of accomplishment. The NICU team expressed how much the lenses meant to them. Lions from across the district stood shoulder to shoulder, knowing they had done something meaningful and lasting.

Lions. Littles. Lenses. Three small words that became a rallying cry. Three small words that united a district. Three small words that delivered real, measurable, life changing impact. We did it. But I always knew we could, because we are Lions. When the mission is clear, we answer the call.



Teresa Streeter, RN; Abby Laws, RN Unit Manager; and Past Council Chair Phil Larabee are recognized as New 9NW Vision Champions for their part in bringing Lions Little Lenses to fruition.

Fun at the Iowa State Fair



Waukee Lion Gary Glockhoff (District 9SW) finds the new Lions drinking fountain on the State Fairgrounds.



Miles Lions Kelvin Kiefer and James Jacobs (District 9EC) work the Lions booth at the Iowa State Fair.



Leighton Lion Debbie Doty and Fremont Lion R.D. Keep (both District 9SE) work the KidSight booth at the state fair.



Muscatine Leos (District 9EC) dressed in a Lion mascot costume give hugs and high-fives at the Lions booth.



**SAVE
THE DATE**

LIONS PEP RALLY



PREPARE



ENGAGE



PROPEL

*Prepare leaders. Engage Lions.
Propel our clubs forward.*



FREE EVENT!
ALL Lions encouraged to attend!



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2026
9:00 A.M. – NOON

Maytag Student Center, Central College
PELLA, IOWA

International Report

**Past International Director
Ardie Klemish**

641-740-0148
ardieklemish@gmail.com



A RECORD OF DEVELOPING LEADERS

Iowans at the 2026 USA/Canada Forum

WE had 38 Iowa Lions registered for the 50th annual USA/Canada Forum Sept. 3-5. There were 1,900 Lions from around the world gathered at the Renasant Convention Center in Memphis Tennessee for the event.

Nearly 90 seminars were presented by facilitators from the U.S., Canada, England, the Netherlands, India, and Kenya. A successful STRIDES walk was held raising \$11,500 for retina surgeries for low-income patients living with diabetes. Two service projects helped Porter-Leath (a charity that helps under-served children ages 3-5). A thousand mini-art kits were assembled and \$1,000 in toys was donated for Christmas gifts for the children. A third service project made tie blankets for patients at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital in Memphis. Five-hundred pounds of leftover food from the general meal sessions was donated to the homeless shelters in Memphis, where 1,000 people were fed with our food donation. LCIF received \$315,178 in donations from Memphis Forum attendees.

General session highlights: Thursday evening featured a 50-year anniversary celebration. Forum history includes Past International Director Norm Dean, who served as the 15 year chair; PID Gary Fry, who served as the 25 year chair in Halifax, Nova Scotia, only nine days after the horrific events of 9/11. The Emerald Empire Band helped us all smile and sing Thursday night with the dance floor full for a solid hour of '50s, '60s, '70s and '80s live music.

Friday noon speakers were Stephanie Graef and Nicole Harbert who spoke on Human Trafficking.

Saturday noon International President Mark Lyon inspired us to "Stay Rooted in Service" and "Be the Ripple!"

Our closing banquet on Saturday evening had fellow Lion Floyd Armstrong, lead singer from the Grammy-nominated Fifth Dimension working the room of 1,900 people while the dance floor was once again totally covered with Lions and Leos. People were even dancing in the carpeted aisles, singing along to songs like "Sweet Caroline" and dancing to "YMCA."

Thanks to the Iowa Lions who helped make the 2026 Forum a success. Forum Planning Committee members were Ardie Klemish as General Chair, Ken Klemish on Transportation team, Chris Waring as Strides and Service Project Chair, and Debbie Doty as Marketing Chair. Lisa Prochaska and Chris Waring worked in the Forum Store, Phil Larabee was a seminar moderator, and Kristin Glockhoff was a ROCKSTAR volunteer in the Seminars Office!

Be sure to register for the 2027 Forum in Huntsville Alabama, where tours will be available for Helen Keller's Ivy Green, as well as the Space Center.

Iowa District Conventions in November

The joint 9NC/9NE convention will be in Clear Lake Nov. 6-7 where International Director Kathy Dorman from Vermont will be the international guest. The joint 9SW/9NW convention will be in Winterset Nov. 20-21 where ID Debbie Dawson from Canada will be our international guest. Registration forms for both events can be found in this issue of *The Iowa Lion* magazine. Come join the FUN!!

Council Endorses International 3rd VP Candidate for 2027 LCIcon

Both the Iowa Lions Council of Governors and the LCI board of directors have endorsed Past International Director Vijay Kumar Raju from India for international third vice president. He will be on the ballot at the Lions International Convention in Washington, D.C., July 2-6, 2027.

The board is impressed with Vijay's dedication, vision, and service, including his recent role as a member of the LCIF Board of Trustees. PID Raju has also served as chairperson of the Membership Development Committee, Centennial Action Committee member, GAT Area Leader, LCI Strategic Planning Committee, LCIF Constitutional Area Chairperson, and many other roles in over 30 years as a Lion.

All Clubs and Districts: File Your 990N by Nov. 15 with the IRS to Retain your Tax-Exempt Status!

A View from the Chair

Council Chair
Chris Waring

563-920-0857

lion.chriswaring@gmail.com



Where Will Your Lions Journey Take You?

Step up, get involved, and discover the opportunities, friendships, and fun waiting for you in Lions.

One thing I have learned during my Lions journey is this: **the more you get involved, the more Lions gives back to you.**

I recently returned from the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum in Memphis, where I had the privilege of serving as Chair of the Service Project and Strides Walk. We accomplished some amazing things through service, but what stays with me just as much are the Lions I met, the friendships made, the laughter shared, and the energy that comes from being surrounded by people who share the same passion for helping others.

That is what I want more Iowa Lions to experience!

Sometimes we get comfortable within our own clubs—and our local clubs are the heart of everything we do. But there is an entire Lions world waiting for you beyond your club. District and state events, forums, leadership opportunities, training, committees, and service projects give you the chance to meet Lions from across Iowa and beyond, exchange ideas, and bring new enthusiasm back home.

Another tool I encourage every Lion, especially our club officers, to become familiar with is the Lion Portal. The Portal is much more than a place to enter membership information. It connects you to important club information, service reporting, training and learning opportunities, billing information, Lions resources, and more. **Keeping your club and officer information current** is also important so communications from Lions International, Iowa Lions, and your district reach the right people. Don't think of the Portal as just another task—use it as a tool

to help your club succeed!

We need you to step up!

Maybe that means chairing a project, serving on a district or state committee, attending an event you've never attended before, or considering a leadership position. You don't need to have all the answers before you begin. None of us did! There are Lions ready to mentor, encourage, and support you along the way.

Most importantly, I want to hear from you. What is important to you? What does your club need? What ideas do you have that could make Lions stronger in Iowa?

Your voice matters. Your ideas matter. Your involvement matters. **YOU** matter.

So, take that next step. Raise your hand. Try something new. Meet some new Lions. Have some fun!

You might be amazed where your Lions journey takes you.



TOGETHER AGAIN. Lions friends from different states excitedly greet each other during one of the luncheons at the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum in Memphis.

District 9SW

District Governor
Christopher Wilkins

641-340-2325

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A Remarkably Awesome Gang of Bikers Really Appreciating Iowa!

For those not in-the-know, RAGBRAI is the Des Moines Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa. It's an "Iowa coast-to-coast," week-long adventure that brings people from not only all over the USA, but the WORLD! I met people from India, Germany, and even France (where the world's other most well-known bicycle ride was happening – the Tour de France).

What did RAGBRAI look like? Imagine around 40,000 bicycles beginning with their rear wheel in the Missouri River at Onawa in 9SW, and finishing with a front-tire dip in the Mississippi River at Dubuque nearly 400 miles away.

Day one was a SWELTERINGLY humid 100 degrees, and the trusty annual storm dropped temps to as low as 70 degrees by day seven. As they say, "If you don't like the climate in Iowa, wait a day."

Now, how did MY RAGBRAI look? To begin, I was asked to serve in Exira by local legend, Past District Governor Allen Zobel, with a free-will buffet for the



Making friends with the bikers in Exira.



With the EHK-Exira LEOs advertising their chicken dinner.

bikers. Ninety miles from home at 6 o'clock in the morning, I was already enjoying my fellow Lions and hundreds of early-birds trying to beat the heat. And when I say "buffet," the Exira Lions went all-out! Burgers, Maid-Rights (a District 9NW classic), watermelon, coleslaw (the food they trusted me to make), pickles, drinks, and perhaps the most coveted dish: powerful air conditioning.

I forewent the A/C to stand outside for a few hours sharing menus and directing bikers to the Lions Hall. The place was continually FULL. I even got to meet the Exira LEO Club, who had the hottest possible costume to draw attention for their chicken lunch. I made a deal for them; they advertised our meal and we advertised theirs. Then I found a homemade pie shack and made a similar partnership. Collaboration for the win!

Next, I drove to Guthrie Center to help with their shared Guthrie Center/Panora/Jamaica Lions Penne Pasta Dinner at the fairgrounds. How fun to see clubs working together to serve ravenous bikers while fundraising to help their communities! Some die-hard Lions there. The plan originally was to be a lunch fundraiser. 5 hours later... we were feeding the dinner rush. Finally, we sold out of meals. Early on there was concern we wouldn't sell enough to pay the overhead. But with some flexibility in timing, not a scrap was left! Not even for me. But I heard it was good. LOL. ALWAYS be ready to roll with the punches! That evening, as a storm brewed and lightning webbed across the sky, I was able to relax and enjoy talking to some new friends about Lionism while enjoying an OUTSTANDING band.



Duet between a thundering base guitar and a thunderous sky.

As the clouds billowed and the thunder cracked loudly enough to shake my car, I drove to Lake Panorama to cool off and clean up. The temperature dropped over 30-degrees in about five minutes. I stayed in my car overnight, with a front-row seat to the storm, recuperating from 14 hours of continual food-slinging. I saved a lot of mileage and hours! As Lions, we should always be trying to be good stewards of our resources while seeking reciprocal benefit. Five o'clock in the morning came early, but at least the rain decided to take a rest.

Ten minutes after waking up, teeth were brushed and I was at the Greenfield Lions' Fresh-Squeezed



The Greenfield Lions' Fresh-Squeezed Lemonade Stand.



The dogs look tired at Lake Panorama.

Lemonade Stand on the Panora square! These Lions were already hard at work, squeezing lemons and setting up shop. Kudos to those early-birds. Again, there was some great improvisation: We began selling pickle juice (chock full of electrolytes!) and offering some lemonade with a little pickle juice in it (tastes surprisingly like Gatorade). The Greenfielders were a well-oiled machine; everyone had their place, but they also did well helping one another to get things done. Very proud to have partaken in their fundraiser to the very end!

As district governor, that is what I hope to do; not only come visit you, but help you be the best Lions Servants you can be. I want to connect the clubs, with one another and with the resources they need. I want to be a part of your events, to serve and bleed (metaphorically I hope...) beside my fellow Lions.

What I learned from RAGBRAI is this: talk is cheap and action is invaluable. Hope and flexibility are paramount to success. Wise use of resources is a virtue. Collaboration increases value exponentially. And being a LIONS LEADER IS AWESOME!

Anchors Aweigh, Fellow Lions!

Don't forget to register for the 9SW/9NW District Convention. See the registration form on Page 11 of this magazine

9SW New Members

Club	Member	Sponsor
Atlantic	Ann McCurdy	Vicki Nordskog
Atlantic	John McCurdy	Vicki Nordskog
Greenfield	Annette DeGraw	David Huff
Greenfield	Robert Greenway	Virginia Kuhfus
Harlan	Mindi Wollaston	Verne Nelson
Indianola	Jacob Meshke	Christopher Desplanques

District 9NW

District Governor
Julie Ford

712-550-9043

julieford98@gmail.com



Empowering Our Purpose: How Service, Leadership, and LCIF Drive Our Mission

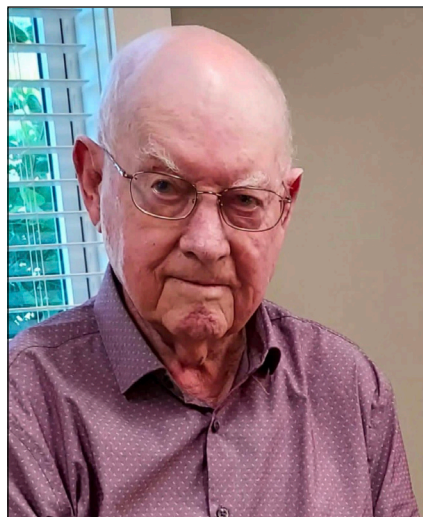
The Heart of Lions—Hands-On Community Service

Every Lions year begins with momentum driven by local service. Whether organizing community vision screenings through Iowa KidSight, assembling student care packages, or running local food drives, hands-on service remains the foundation of why members join and stay. These local efforts directly address immediate needs and demonstrate the visible impact of Lions across Iowa towns.

Amplifying Local Work through LCIF Grants

While local hands-on effort powers service projects, the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) multiplies that impact. LCIF funding provides matching grants, disaster relief, and equipment support that turn local ideas into major community developments.

- **Disaster & Emergency Relief:** Equipping local clubs to deliver rapid relief—such as cleanup supplies and food distribution—when local floods or natural disasters hit.



CENTURION. 100-year old Akron Lion Lawrence Maynard.

- **Health & Vision Grants:** Funding specialized equipment to expand vision and hearing screening programs across schools and clinics.
- **Matching Club Funds:** Directing contributions back into local district projects so clubs can accomplish larger goals than would be possible alone.

[Go onto LCIF to donate.](#) You can also donate on the Lion Portal. Grants have gone to Iowa. Two years ago there was a flood along the Big Sioux River in Iowa. Akron Lions Club was able to get an Emergency Grant to help people from Akron and Hawarden.

Gathering at Conventions & Elevating District Leadership

To stay connected, inspired, and informed, attending upcoming district conventions and leadership forums is essential. Conventions serve as more than formal meetings—they are opportunities to share project ideas, discover new LCIF grant pathways, and build bonds with fellow Lions across the state.

With a new service year comes the vital need to fill club and district leadership roles. Stepping into positions such as club president, service chairperson, or LCIF coordinator ensures that clubs remain structured, energized, and capable of taking full advantage of international grant resources.

The 9SW/9NW District Convention will be held in Winterset Nov. 20-21. There will be a meet and greet on Nov. 20. It's a time of socializing at The Sports Page in Winterset. Nov. 21 will be the convention itself. There will be speakers, a district meeting and more socializing. Come and support your district. For more information contact 9SW District Governor Christopher Wilkins or me. The registration form is on the next page.

Inviting Others to Join the Journey

The best way to sustain service projects and fill future leadership roles is through consistent membership growth. Inviting community members, friends, and colleagues to participate in a hands-on service event or attend a meeting provides them with a direct look at how Lions make a tangible difference.

- **Share the Experience:** Invite prospective members to a service activity or a club project before asking them to join formally.
- **Highlight the Impact:** Explain how local service combined with LCIF grant backing transforms both local neighborhoods and global initiatives.
- **Provide Clear Next Steps:** Offer simple orientation details and welcome new members into immediate, meaningful involvement.

News From Our Clubs

AKRON: Donated to Heart of Habitat for Humanity.

WOODWARD: Donated to Heart of Habitat for Humanity.



MADRID: held the Madrid Lions Chicken BBQ (pictured above).

FORT DODGE: Kidsight screened 100 kids.

MANSON: Organized a Pie Drive to raise funds for service projects.



QUITE MOMENT. District Governor Julie Ford enjoys a quiet moment while attending the LCIF Coordinators Conference in New Orleans in August.



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
Madison County Conservation Center
2508 Pammel Park Trail, 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 9EC

District Governor
Mike Whitney

319-560-3531

mdwhitney96@gmail.com



I would like to extend my sincere apologies to the family of **Gerald Moser** and to the **Otter Creek Area Lions Club**. Gerald's passing was inadvertently omitted from our district's In Memoriam section for an extended period of time. Although this acknowledgment comes much later than it should, please accept my heartfelt sympathies. You remain in my thoughts and prayers.

My message this month is brief but important: **begin gathering your tax information now**. November will arrive quickly, and **waiting until the last minute—Nov. 15—is not an option**.

Once your materials are organized, please submit your **Form 990** to the IRS. For most clubs, this will simply mean completing the **990 N (e postcard)** by answering a few basic questions. Clubs requiring the **990 EZ** will have a more detailed filing process.

In either case, please be proactive and get this completed promptly.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO 9EC

MEMBER	SPONSOR	CLUB
Bruce A. Smith	David Machacek	Alburnett
Becky Esbaum	Sue Cannon	Eldridge
Kathi Herold Eichelberger	Julie Herold	Fruitland Community
Lili Yan	Laura Duncan	LeClaire
Carson A. Youngquist	Roger Hill	Low Moor
Keith A. Cox	Wendy Stansbery	Muscatine



HAPPY FIRST FRIDAY. Center Point Lions deliver donuts to all school employees on the first Friday of the new school year.



CELEBRATIONS. District Governor Mike Whitney helps celebrate Urbana Days with Urbana Lions member Bryan Schaeffer.



COMMUNITY PICNIC. Monticello Lions provide a meal to the community through the annual Free Community Picnic.

CLUB ACTIVITIES

ALBURNETT donated Shoes for Soles4Souls; parked cars at the football game; deployed and retrieved Flags on Labor Day Weekend.

ANDOVER attended a club member's funeral; put flags up at the Andover Cemetery.

BELLEVUE AREA CENTENNIAL created a newsletter and template for newsletters.

CEDAR RAPIDS NOON conducted multiple vision screening and collected eyeglasses.

CENTER POINT helped at the Monticello Lions Club Food Booth at the Jones County Fair; volunteered at Urbana Days; put on the Joe Cook Memorial Golf Tournament; participated in High Five Friday at the elementary school (pictured right); had a few members attend the USA/Canada Leadership Forum.



ELDRIDGE packed lunches for Feed the Children; organized eyeglasses.

LECLAIRE participated in the annual Tugfest parade (pictured right).



LOW MOOR took the Lunch Wagon to sell food at the DeWitt Tunes in Town; made a donation to Elvira Cemetery Veterans Memorial fund; held an awards and guest night.

LOWDEN made a donation to North Cedar Booster Sponsorship; took the food trailer to the 3/30 Golf and Country Club to feed golfers and others.

MILES created a Facebook page; volunteered at the Iowa State Fair.

MUSCATINE volunteered multiple times at the Iowa State Fair.

OTTER CREEK AREA held End of Summer Fun Day; did some hall maintenance; did some maintenance at Midway Park; distributed meals for Meals on Wheels.

PRESTON made a donation to a "Cards for Kids" event.

TIPTON gave trolley rides to people to/from their cars at the Cedar County Historical Society Heritage Days; gave trolley rides to/around/from Cedar Manor Nursing Home out to the Cedar County Historical Society; held its ROHLF Fly-In Breakfast at the Mathew Memorial Airport; gave a donation to the Back to School Bash.



WEST BRANCH hosted a kids tractor pull during Hoover Hometown Days; provided free water for Hoover Hometown Days Celebration; put on a Prairie 5K Run and 1.5K walk; hosted multiple adult pickleball open gyms days; worked at the Field of Dreams; worked on a handicapped ramp; collected eyeglasses to recycle; volunteered to work a kids tractor pull in Tipton; had its annual steak supper at Fawcett's Cold Springs Pond; grilled for West Branch High School football crowd (pictured above); transported eye tissue from Grinnell to Coralville; put flags out as part of Flags over West Branch.

In Memoriam

Member	Club	Years a Lion
Dwaine Boehde	Andover	45
Allan Naeve	Andover	45
Gerald E Moser	Otter Creek Area	28

District 9SE

(Open at Press Time)
Contact IPDG Paul Hain
319-330-5920
paulhain@windstream.net



OFFICIAL VISITS: I have been asked by several clubs, "Who is the current district governor." The truth is, 9SE does not currently have a district governor, nor do we have a first or second vice district governor. We continue to look for Lions who are willing to run for second vice district governor at the next district convention.

In the meantime, several of the past district governors have offered to do official club visits. So, please contact me at the number and email address at the top of the page if your club would like a district governor visit and I'll help coordinate someone to fill that position.

In the meantime, I encourage you to save the date for an upcoming Lions PEP Rally to be held Nov. 14 at Central College's Maytag Student Center in Pella. This free event will be from 9 a.m. to noon, just a few hours on a Saturday, and will cover: **Promoting** Leadership on both the club and district levels; **Engaging** Lions; and **Propelling** our clubs forward. We have some dynamic Lion leaders from out of state coming in to present, too.

ATTENTION, PEACE POSTER CHAIRS:

Debbie Doty is our acting Peace Poster Chair this fall. For any clubs sending in Peace Posters, remember the **postmark deadline is Nov. 15**. Please mail them to Debbie's business address:

Lion Debbie Doty
309 A Ave E
Oskaloosa IA 52577

9SE Club Activities

CLEAR CREEK picked up and delivered food to the Tiffin Food Pantry.

DANVILLE donated \$250 for catcher's equipment for Danville Softball Rec League.

FAIRFIELD picked up trash at the football stadium after Meet the Trojans night and at home football game; collected two very large boxes of used eyeglasses.

GRANDVIEW-LETT'S served lemonade at Conesville Watermelon Days and raised \$637; donated \$100 to City of Letts for the use of the building for club meetings; donated \$300 for Leader Dog; donated \$400 to the Louisa County Fair Board.



LEIGHTON screened 53 children at the Pella Regional Health Center Back-to-School fair (pictured above); donated \$500 to the Leighton 4th of July Committee; received a \$150 donation from Pella Regional Health Center.

LONE TREE donated \$200 to the Lone Tree School for student tickets to athletic events; 19 tractors participated in a tractor ride around Lone Tree and held a Muscle Tractor Show with 15 tractors to raise funds to help purchase a KidSight camera; held annual Kiddy Tractor Pull at the Lone Tree Fall Festival with 53 children participating; screened four children at the Fall Festival.

MILTON participated in Cantril Days serving breakfast and holding an Old-Time Carnival for children, raising \$459.

NORTH LIBERTY harvested vegetables and weeded at Fields of Faith, to bring fresh vegetables to local community members in need.

SIGOURNEY screened 23 children at the Sigourney Preschool.

WEST BURLINGTON donated \$500 for a college scholarship.

WELCOME 9SE NEW MEMBERS

Club	Member	Sponsor
Fairfield	Gregory A. Miller	Arvin Bogaards
Victor	Raelene Hawkins	Elissa Hawkins
Victor	Margaret McWilliams	Susan Wilgenbush



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, LION. West Burlington Lions threw a birthday party for 92-year-old Lion Dwaine Gooding, who has been a member for 45 years.



CANTRIL DAYS. One of the children's old-fashioned carnival games run by the Milton Lions at Cantril Days in Cantril.



WINNING KIDS. The winners of the Lone Tree Lions annual Kiddy Tractor Pull at the Lone Tree Fall Festival.

District 9NE

**District Governor
Craig Spilde**

563-382-9497

craigspilde@gmail.com



Each incoming district governor can choose a design for their pin. I selected a bridge for my pin's background. This is a bridge that was constructed in Decorah at Dunning Springs several years ago. While the structure itself is impressive, it's the construction method that makes it special. This bridge is constructed of dry laid stone. There is no mortar or adhesive or fasteners of any type. It stands by the forces of mother nature and the skill and craftsmanship of the stone masons who constructed it.



Over the course of many months, I observed the construction process, the temporary supports to aid in erecting the structure, the selection of each stone by the mason to fit in the next place, the use of a hammer and chisel to shape it, the careful placement of the stone so that it was in position to fulfill the role needed, and finally the removal of the temporary supports. It occurred to me that we go through a similar process in building the Lions.

We establish a framework for a successful organization. We select Lions to fill the necessary positions. We shape them with mentoring and training. We place them in position to fulfill their role in supporting the structure; and finally we remove the temporary support and let the structure function on its own.

Like a bridge, Lions purpose is to provide a way for people to get from where they're at, past some obstacle, to where they want to be. That's what service is all about. Like a bridge, if there are stones missing, it is less secure, less strong, less able to provide service, as are Lions when we are missing pieces.

So please consider stepping forward to fill roles in your club, your district and your multiple district. Help us make sure we continue to serve as a bridge to help, a bridge to hope, a bridge to happiness.

Our district convention is Nov. 6-7. A joint convention with 9NC, it will be held in Clear Lake. I met our keynote speaker, International Director Kathy Dorman from Vermont, while at the USA/Canada Forum in Memphis. She shared with me that she likes to know about her audience so she is able to talk about what is important to them. One way she learns about the various Lions she will be addressing is by using the service reported in the Portal. I know our clubs are doing amazing service, but she will not know that if it's not in the Portal. Please, please, report your service in the Portal.

We will be holding district wide portal training, Oct.10. This will be done via Zoom, so it will not require any travel time. Sessions will be titled as training for specific club officer roles, but ALL are welcome to attend. Just let us know so we can include you in the Zoom invites so you have access.

As I mentioned above, I attended the USA/Canada Forum in Memphis in early September. For me, it's a place to find out how much I don't even know how much I don't know. The many seminars provided ideas on things to use, or adapt to our district and use in order to make us better. Things I always discover when I expand my circle: others experience the same challenges and frustrations I do; others are willing to listen; others have areas of expertise that I can tap for ideas or help. Networking is one of the most valuable tools a person can have.

Remember, being a Lion needs to be fun so I'll try to leave you with a smile:

- Bobby and Ralph were walking home from Sunday School, each deep in his own thoughts. Finally Ralph said, "What do you think about all this devil stuff we studied today?" Bobby replied thoughtfully, "Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. This is probably just your dad, too..."
- Children should always listen to their elders, not because they're always right, but because they have more experience at being wrong.
- The teacher, after correcting class papers, remarked to the student, "I don't see how one person can make so many mistakes on his homework." The student considered for a moment, then replied, "It wasn't just one person-my dad helped."

9NE CLUB ACTIVITIES

BELLE PLAINE – Face painting, playground maintenance

CEDAR FALLS – Food Bank

GARNAVILLO – Can Redemption

HOPKINTON – 75th Club Anniversary/city block party, community pork chop/corn boil; youth library service project

INDEPENDENCE – Soles4Souls

JANESVILLE – Roadside cleanup; fair goer transport

JESUP – Reading to school kids; Veteran Park maintenance; Brandon Days

OELWEIN – Medical transport; meal site assistance; food pantry; eyeglass recycling; Senior Bingo; Historical Society aid

VAN HORNE – Can Redemption

WATERLOO – Eyeglass collection

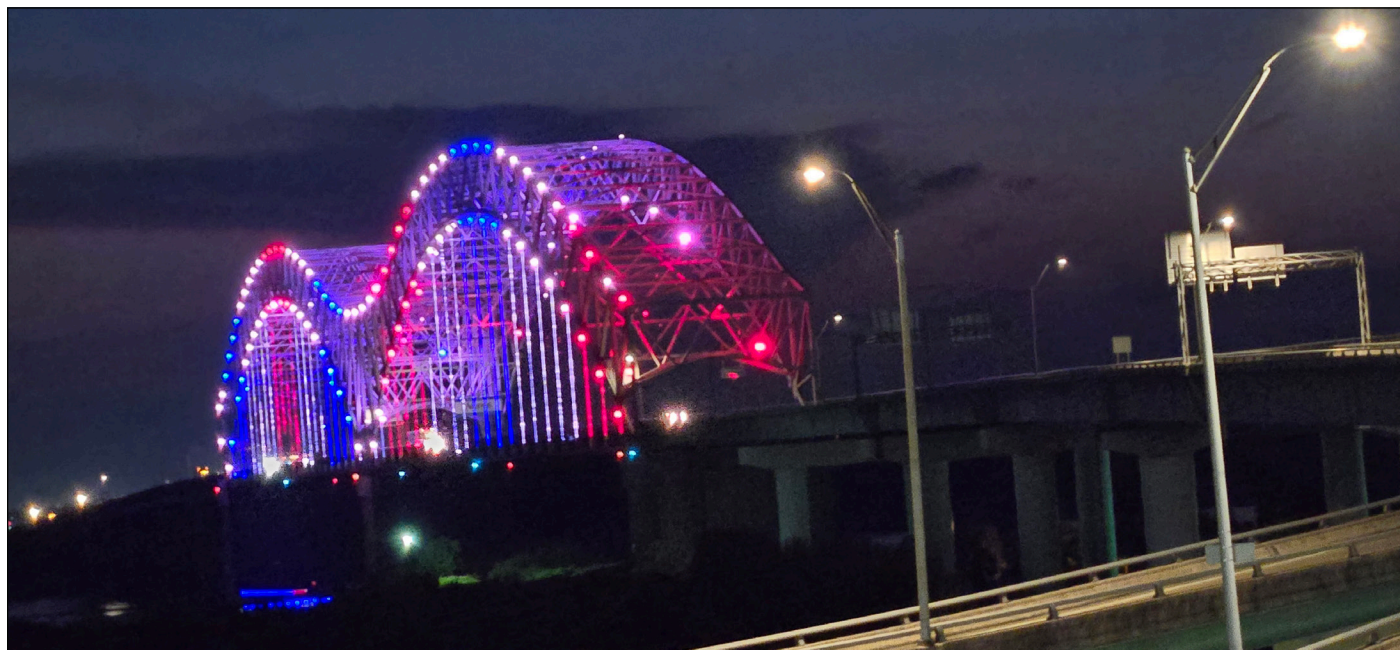
WAUKON – Toy donation to Ronald McDonald house; donation to school milk fund (pictured below)

WELCOME 9NE NEW MEMBERS

Club	Member	Sponsor
Laporte City	Richard A Snell III	Alex Barz
New Hampton	Bryant Bornholdt	Jim Kiffel
New Hampton	David Hoehne	Dennis Pagel
Vinton	Aric Chvala	Jeff Peterson



PAINTING THE TOWN. Belle Plaine Leos paint faces during Belle Plaine Safety Day.



SPEAKING OF BRIDGES. The city of Memphis lit up the bridge between Arkansas and Tennessee during the USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum. It was red and white in recognition of Canada and red, white and blue for the United States.

District 9NC

**District Governor
Mike Yore**

708-769-0329

yoremike3@gmail.com



Hello Iowa 9NC Lions!

I hope everyone had a great Summer and is looking forward to a wonderful Fall Season!! We have a lot of things planned for this Fall Season so please try to participate in as many activities as you can!

Lions Weeks of Service is Starting Soon!!

Our First Lions Week of Service is VISION from Oct. 8-18. Ever since Helen Keller called upon the Lions to champion the cause of vision in 1925, Lions and Leos around the world have stepped up to serve!! Please try to plan a service activity for World Sight Day on Oct. 8 or International White Cane Day on Oct. 15. The new Vision Service Project Ideas resource can help you get started with popular service activities such as vision screening and eyeglass recycling, as well as some new ideas. Join Lions and Leos around the world as they improve the lives of the visually impaired and help prevent avoidable blindness.



Learn more about vision programs and service ideas on the [Vision Global Cause webpage](#).

We will also be doing an eyeglass recycling project during our 9NC/9EC District Convention in Clear Lake, so bring all of your collected glasses to the district convention!!

Club Officer Training

We will be conducting a club officer training on Oct. 10 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Harvest Bible Chapel West Wing at 2200 N. 24th Street in Clear Lake.

The training will explain the roles of club officers and provide an overview of each officer's primary responsibilities. Club officers will learn how to work together to lead the club. There will then be breakout sessions for each officer role:

- President/Vice President
- Secretary/Reporter/Communications
- Treasurer

- Membership Chairperson/Service Chairperson

This brief training will be FREE to attend but please [click here to register](#) in order for us to prepare for the size of attendants for each officer role.

Our District Convention will be Nov. 6-7

Please also save the date for our district convention on Nov. 6-7 in Clear Lake. We will be having a Meet and Greet on Friday evening and the convention will be on Saturday. We will again be combining our district convention with 9NE. 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.

This will be a very Fun Event for ALL LIONS to attend! We will have several very interesting topics being presented ie:

- Vision
- Eyeglasses
- Hearing Aid Bank
- Youth Camp
- Lions Quest Program
- Leader Dog
- Special Presentation by International Director Kathy Dorman
- Silent Auction

Please try to have as many of your club members attend this event and send in your registration by Oct. 24. The registration form can be found on the next page.

Please Record Your Service

Please remember to enter all of your clubs service activities and donations into our Lion Portal. It only takes a couple of minutes to account for your club's activities and it's very important to let the world know what we as Lions have achieved!

[Log on to the Portal](#). If you do not already have an account, click on "Don't Have an Account" to create a username and password. 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 clubs 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.

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

CLEAR LAKE EVENING – Popcorn sales at The Surf Ballroom; prepped sweet corn for the annual Sweet Corn and Hamburger Feed (pictured below).



HUMBOLDT – Humboldt 80th Anniversary.

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.

In Memoriam

Member	Club	Years a Lion
Armin A. Bruegger	Clear Lake Evening	4 Years
Richard Larson	Iowa Falls	31 Years
Susan R. Jaspers	Parkersburg	4 Years

DISTRICT 9NC / 9NE JOINT CONVENTION

Nov. 6-7, 2026 • Clear Lake, Iowa

FRIDAY, NOV. 6, 6 PM: Meet & Greet
The Boulevard Bar & Grill, 1311 Bayou Rd,
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](#).

District 9MC

**District Governor
Zane Vokes**

515-779-2348

lionzane@me.com



If you are a Lion wondering why your club's activities are not being reported here, it's because your club is NOT reporting your service projects to Lions Clubs International on the Lion Portal. The projects need to be reported so that LCI can partner with other organizations in order to help more people worldwide. Other organizations want to work with a service organization that has the resources (people and time) to go out to do the work that needs to be done.

If your club doesn't know how to report these activities electronically, please contact me, I will either walk you through it via a phone call or I will meet with you to get this done.

Think about all the children that are stuck in hospitals for one reason or another being lonely and bored. Our district is now working on a district-wide project that involves you and your club. Bricks for Hope is a project where clubs either buy Legos, or provide money with which to purchase Legos at a discounted rate, to give to children that are hospitalized. This project will run through our district convention on April 3, 2027.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Club	Member	Sponsor
Grinnell	Geneva Knobbe	Benjamin Latimer
Grinnell	Melissa Strovers	Ramona Mitchell
Reinbeck	Tyler Bueghly	Dale Wambold
Reinbeck	Lenah Oltman	Sean Babinat



NEW MJF. District Governor Zane Vokes (left) presents Clive Lion Rich Sungren with a Melvin Jones Fellowship.



HALF CENTURY OF SERVICE. Montezuma Lions President Eddie Pierson (right) presents club member Bob Hamilton with an award for 50 years of service to Lions.



FEEDING THE HUNGRY. Grimes Lions donate \$2,500 to Grimes Storehouse Food Pantry to help purchase food to stock the shelves.

9MC CLUB ACTIVITIES

AMES collected 501 pairs of eyeglasses and approved two applications for eyeglasses to individuals in need.

ANKENY ran a concession stand at the Principal Golf Classic.



BONDURANT held a 55-mile tractor ride (pictured above) with 36 tractor participants and an expected profit around \$4,000; held a pizza party for the 12 Bondurant Farrar High School \$1,000 scholarship recipients.

CLIVE helped the Altoona Lions with their Spin Art fundraiser; transported five boxes of eye tissue from Des Moines to Grinnell; picked up trash at Lions Park; collected eyeglasses.

MARSHALLTOWN EVENING delivered Meals on Wheels; made and sold popcorn at Hy-Vee to raise money for general giving.

MARSHALLTOWN OUTREACH delivered recycled eyeglasses to Anamosa Prison.

SOUTH DES MOINES delivered Meals on Wheels to 80 individuals.



SPINNING UP. Altoona Lions and volunteers work the Lions Spin Art Booth at the Iowa State Fair.



MANNING THE BOOTH. Grinnell Lions pass out temporary tattoos and information about Lions at the Lions booth during the Iowa State Fair.

ones?

Before we answer your questions, there's some important preparations needed prior to passing the eyeglasses on to keep things flowing smoothly.

It is highly recommended that eyeglasses be placed in a cardboard box (i.e., the size of a copy paper box is perfect if you have enough volume, or a smaller box/zip lock bag for less volume) in an organized fashion to protect the eyeglasses from getting damaged. No need to pre-sort (unless you are a Level 1).

Fold the bows in and layer the glasses on the top edge in the box with paper towels or newspaper between the layers. This also helps with storing the eyeglasses at a Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center (LERC) until they can be processed (washing, using the lensometer to determine the prescription, and placed in the plastic sleeves). Broken glasses and pieces (except for the loose lenses which should be discarded) can be included.

If you are not sure how to get your donated eyeglasses to the next step in the process, you have options. Bring them to a zone meeting, district convention, or state convention. Contact your district governor or one of the LERCs in this article.

Cases: What do we do with the cases? While cases help protect donated eyeglasses when moving through the "system," they can take up a lot of room before the eyeglasses can be processed. Therefore, we ask if you have eyeglasses that were donated in their cases, please remove them before getting them to one of the LERCs. If you can find a way to have them repurposed or the metal ones recycled to keep them out of the landfill, that would be AWESOME! Check with your local county recycling center to see if they accept metal eyeglass cases.

Repurpose ideas: thrift stores (i.e., Goodwill), other Lions Clubs, churches, camps (i.e., Camp Courageous), crafters, etc.

Step 2: Your Donated Eyeglasses Go To One Of Our Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centers

Once you turn your collected eyeglasses over, they make their way to one of our LERCs. Fun fact...Lions Clubs International (LCI) defines three levels of Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centers.

Level 1: A Collection Center, provides the following services:

1. Receives your used eyeglasses (including readers/magnifiers, sunglasses, etc.) from local Lions clubs.
2. Performs sorting to separate:
 - Eyeglasses that are in good condition from those that are broken or have scratched lenses in the line of vision.

Eyeglass Recycling Do's and Don'ts...

1. Do send in all types of eyeglasses.
 - Don't pre-sort, unless you are a Level 1 LERC.
 - Don't send in cases. Find another outlet to repurpose, recycle locally, or discard.
2. Do use a cardboard box.
 - Don't use an oversized box, grocery or garbage bags.
3. Do send broken eyeglasses.
 - Don't send the loose lenses (please discard).
4. Do organize (i.e., fold and layer) to help protect the lenses.
 - Don't just throw them in a box.

- Readers/magnifiers from prescription.
- Non-prescription sunglasses from prescription sunglasses.
- Single vision from multi-focal eyeglasses.

3. Packages for shipment to a LERC, where Level 2 activities are performed.

Level 2: A Collection and Processing Center, provides the following services, in addition to the Level 1 above:

1. Washes and dries eyeglasses so they are easy to read on a lensometer.
2. Reads eyeglasses and writes prescriptions on plastic bags into which each pair of eyeglasses are placed.
3. Packages sleeved eyeglasses in boxes (i.e., copy paper) to send to our Level 3 LERC.

Oelwein and Exira/Audubon accept all types of eyewear—intact prescription glasses, readers, sunglasses (prescription and non-prescription), and broken parts (except the loose lenses, please discard). Usable eyeglasses are prepared for mission use, and unusable eyeglasses or parts are recycled, whenever possible. This not only supports our vision mission but also helps keep materials out of landfills – making eyeglass collection part of our environmental stewardship as well. Yahoo!

Level 3: A Collection, Processing and Shipping Center, provides all Level 1 and Level 2 services. In addition, it offers the following services to optical mission groups:

1. Collects, processes and ships eyeglasses for Lions/Leos or other volunteer groups participating in optical or other health care missions, both

domestically and internationally.

- Provides eyeglasses free-of-charge (except for shipping) for Lions/Leos optical or other Lions/Leos health care missions, as well as other vetted organizations doing verified vision missions.
- Verifies that Lions/Leos, or other groups requesting used eyeglasses for a mission, agree to requirements defined by Lions Clubs International (LCI).

A Level 3 LERC must also:

- Maintain records that include:
 - Number and type of eyeglasses collected, processed, graded and stored.
 - Name of mission groups requesting eyeglasses.
 - Lions/Leos involved in the distribution process
 - Final report on the number of people served during the optical or healthcare mission.
- Provide annual reporting to LCI containing the total number of eyeglasses collected and distributed.

Step 3: Eyeglasses Help Others Through Domestic And International Mission Trips!

Decorah Lions Club works with a variety of mission groups in need of used eyeglasses to take on their mission trips. At the mission site, eye care professionals and trained Lion and Leo volunteers perform vision screenings and dispense the appropriate recycled eyeglasses, free of charge, to children and adults in need.

In 2011, Lion Dr. Brad Schwartz participated in a mission trip to Panama to service the community and the La Gloria school. A local Lions club out of Almirante stepped in to help with transportation and assistance at the school.

NEXT UP... we're creating an interactive Iowa map to show you and the public where Lions eyeglass collection site(s) are located. Be on the lookout for direct communication with your club to gather this information.

Also, if your club is interested in learning more about becoming a Level 1 or Level 2 recycling center, or have questions about content in this article, please contact me, Lion Ann Baughman at baughman1009@gmail.com or 563-320-7332.

Together, Iowa Lions are proving once again that with teamwork and service, we make the world a little clearer for everyone. The donated eyeglasses collected by your club can help improve the quality of life for children and adults living in low- and middle-income communities around the world. Many will experience corrected vision for the first time, enabling them to lead productive working lives, support their families, attend school and advance their education.

United States Postal Service

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15. Extent and Nature of Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
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a. Total Number of Copies (Net Press Run)

b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)

(1) Mailed Outside - County Paid Subscriptions

Stated on PS Form 3526	5	5
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(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions

Stated on PS Form 3526	530	531
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(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distributors Outside of USPS

0	0
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(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through USPS

0	0
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c. Total Paid Distribution

{Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4)}	535	536
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d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail or Outside the Mail)

(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3526

0	0
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(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies included on PS Form 3526

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(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail)

0	0
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(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)

0	0
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e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution

{Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), and (4)}	0	0
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f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)

535	536
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g. Copies not Distributed

5	5
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h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)

540	541
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i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)

100	100
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16. Electronic Copy Circulation

a. Paid Electronic Copies	4000	3979
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b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	4750	4747
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c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	4535	4515
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d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies (16b divided by 16c x 100)	100	100
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☒ I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership. ☒ If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the 10/06/2026 issue of this publication.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: (Signed) Debra S. Doty, editor. Date: 10/01/2026. I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).



BEST FIT. Dr. Brad Schwartz, a member of the Decorah Lions Club, helps a patient find the correct set of glasses while on an overseas vision mission.



THE IOWA LION

The Journey of Donated Eyeglasses (continued)

VDG Ann Baughman

Iowa Lions Foundation President

For more than 100 years, Lions across Iowa have continued to change lives through one of our global causes, vision, by collecting donated eyeglasses. This valued service project is helping people around the world see clearly again, one pair of glasses at a time. It is as simple as 1, 2, 3!

Step 1: The Local Lions Club Collects Donated Eyeglasses

The first step in the process begins with you –the local Lions club collecting donated eyeglasses throughout your communities at your local collection site(s). As your club's collection of donated eyeglasses grows over time, you find a way to pass them on. Maybe that's at a zone meeting, district convention, or the state convention. Maybe you call your district governor or some other Lions member to come get them.

So, you've handed them off...but where do they go? What happens to all those eyeglasses, including the broken

Level 2 LERCs in Iowa

1. Oelwein (District 9NE)

Typically processes 10,000 to 15,000 pairs of eyeglasses a year.

Contact Rich Witt for drop-off options at their facility.
563-920-8798, richwitt50@gmail.com.

2. Exira/Audubon (District 9SW)

Newly established.

Contact: Barb Paulsen, Exira Club President, barbaraj.moore79@gmail.com

Lions building is open 9 am – 12: 30 pm Monday thru Friday to receive club collections of eyeglasses.

3. Anamosa State Prison

Performs Level 2 activities only.

Due to prison requirements, only usable eyeglasses may be sent to Anamosa and must be pre-sorted. As a result, some clubs work directly with PCC Judy Stone to complete Level 1 activities.

Typically processes 30,000 pairs of eyeglasses a year.

Contact: PCC Judy Stone, 641-328-0270, jstone4254@gmail.com

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

ADDITIONAL DIGITAL COVERAGE



LIONS
L
INTERNATIONAL

**IOWA LIONS
FOUNDATION**

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

**IOWA LIONS
HEARING AID BANK
COORDINATOR**

We Serve

**CHANGING LIVES
ONE HEARING AID
AT A TIME.**

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.

ADDITIONAL DIGITAL COVERAGE



AW, SHUCKS. Clear Lake Evening Lions shuck corn in preparation of the annual Clear Lake Lions Sweet Corn and Hamburger Feed.



RED BLOODED. Clear Lake Evening Lion Mike Ravara accepts a certificate from the American Red Cross recognizing the club for being a premier partner in 2025.



SPEC-TACULAR. The Mason City Lions Club collects eyeglasses from one of its partners in town.

ADDITIONAL DIGITAL COVERAGE



WINNER, WINNER, CHICKEN DINNER. Clear Lake Evening Lions man a block-long grill for their annual Lions Chicken Dinner.



ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION. Humboldt Lions pause a moment for a group picture during their club's 80th anniversary celebration.

ADDITIONAL DIGITAL COVERAGE



2nd annual

Mental Health SYMPOSIUM

Thursday, Oct. 22 • 6:30 p.m.
via Zoom

Educate. Empower. Engage.

Join us for an hour of **insightful discussions** focused on mental health. This year we are learning about how **law enforcement** deals with their own mental health.

Attendance is FREE but pre-registration is required

Scan Below
to Register



Oskaloosa Police Chief
Benjamin Boeke



Mahaska County Sheriff
Russ Van Renterghem



ADDITIONAL DIGITAL COVERAGE



LEIGHTON LIONS CLUB

FALL PANCAKE BREAKFAST

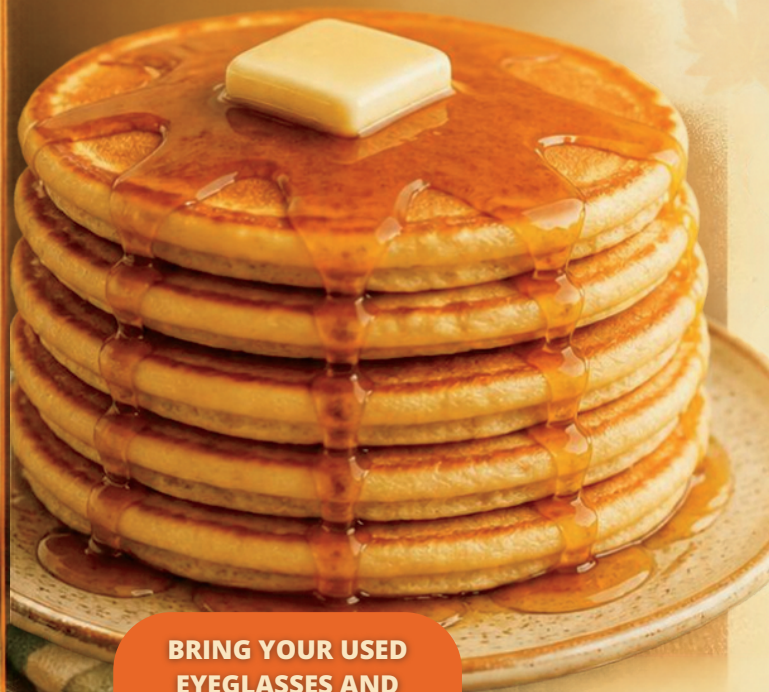
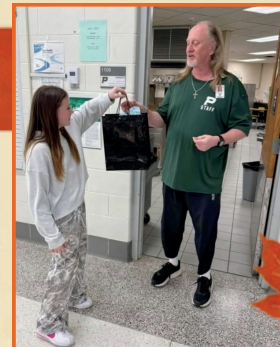


SATURDAY, OCT. 24 • 6:30-9:00 AM
LEIGHTON CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

SERVING: PANCAKES, SAUSAGES, EGGS, BISCUITS & GRAVY AND CHOICE OF BEVERAGE

FREE WILL DONATION

Make Checks Payable to Leighton Lions Club



**BRING YOUR USED
EYEGLASSES AND
HEARING AIDS, TOO!**

PROCEEDS BENEFIT MORTON BERRONG

Leighton resident Morton Berrong is in a battle with lymphoma cancer, currently undergoing six months of chemotherapy. In January, Morton will undergo a special test to see if his cancer has gone into remission. Morton is relying on friends and volunteers for rides to his treatment appointments due to two vehicles that are broken down and in need of repairs. Because of his ongoing treatments and living expenses, he is seriously financially strapped. Though currently on Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), Morton works in the Pella public schools as a custodian and is well known and admired by the student body and staff.

