



# OH5 PRIDE REPORT

DISTRICT GOVERNOR MIKE KEREK | DEC 2023 | LY 23-24



## FEATURED CLUB: TRI-VILLAGE LIONS

Tri-Village is able to tackle hunger by remembering that "it takes a Village!" [p.8](#)

## LETTER FROM DG MIKE

Being thankful, and being someone's hero at the holidays. [p.2](#)

## OFFICERS/CONTACT

District Governor | PDG Mike Kerek  
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Send newsletter articles to:  
[districtOH5news@gmail.com](mailto:districtOH5news@gmail.com)  
due by the 27<sup>th</sup> of the month

## SAVE THE DATE

Ohio Lions Winter Retreat  
Salt Fork State Park  
Jan. 12-14, 2024

OH5 District Convention  
Deer Creek State Park  
Mar. 15-17, 2024

Ohio Lions State Convention  
DoubleTree Columbus/Worthington  
May 17-19, 2024

USA/Canada Forum 2024  
Louisville, KY  
Sept. 5-7, 2024

## COLEB HELEN KELLER SIGHT SAVER AWARD

Is there someone your club would like to honor?  
[p.3](#)

## HONOR FLIGHT

Learn about this program for those vets who cannot travel, and how you can help [p.5](#)

## SAVE THE DATE

Plain City Lions Annual Dinner and Auction [p.4](#)

## FROM DG MIKE KEREK

It's the season to be thankful, and I have so much to be thankful for.

- Being at my Mom's side in January when she passed away. Whether she heard the words or not, I was able to say, "I love you, Mom," one more time before she took her final breath.
- Being with Dad over Thanksgiving, cooking together and sharing some Father/Son time. Each of those opportunities over this year have meant more than ever before.
- Any moments I have been able to enjoy with my wife when not engulfed by work or Lions.
- Playing golf or fishing with my good friend Gary.
- Having the chance to go to the Newsboys concert with friends and the church youth group.
- Leading worship singing with two talented ladies at church.
- Having a decent work environment with a supportive boss.

The list of things I can be thankful for on the Lions side are too numerous to count. I'm working with amazing people as fellow DGs, on the OLPCF Board, and on our District Cabinet. I love my visitations to other clubs and value the many relationships that have evolved over the years. My own club, the Reynoldsburg Lions, step up every time there is a need. Every time.

It's easy occasionally to get frustrated, even angry. A little envious for various reasons. Depressed from time to time. Even lonely. I checked every box over this year. Some of them repeatedly. I'm human. (Though some might question that assertion...)

But when I step back at times like this and look at what I have been given in life, my difficulties pale in comparison with others. I need to be thankful for all that I have, and I am. Sometimes I just have to be reminded to reset. A little self-examination of what my true priorities are.

And perhaps find opportunities to give someone less fortunate than me something else in their life to be thankful for.

Many of you will celebrate the Holiday Season in some fashion or another, be it Christmas, Hanukkah, or simply getting together as families. Enjoy it, embrace it – you only get one shot at making this year's celebration the best one ever. I wish each and every one of you the best this season.

But if you also happen to have a bit of spare time or spare change to make a difference in the life of someone else over the next month, perhaps someone you don't even know, I hope you take that opportunity as well. Not just as a club, which is important in its own right...but as you. Be someone's hero.

Thank you for all you do and for who you are. I am proud, and thankful, to serve as a fellow Lion with you!

DG Mike

# Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank Helen Keller Sight Saver Award



The Helen Keller Sight Saver Award, created by Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank to honor a nominated individual who embodies the charge the Lions Clubs received from Helen Keller in 1925 to "...hasten the day when there shall be no preventable blindness...." By spreading awareness, educating the community, or raising funds, the recipient of the Helen Keller Sight Saver Award has served as a Knight for the Blind in his or her community.

If your Lions Club has donated \$1000 and have someone that is deserving of this award do not hesitate to apply today. More information and application are with the flyers at the end of this newsletter, or visit <https://www.coleb.org/hkss/>



SAVE THE DATE!

**Plain City Lions Annual Dinner and Auction**  
**Thursday, April 25, 2024**

**Der Dutchman Restaurant – Plain City. Ohio**

**Doors open at 6:00p.m. - Dinner served at 6:30 p.m. Auction to follow.**

**Dinner tickets will go on sale in spring 2024**



## HONOR FLIGHT AT HOME

Honor Flight Columbus is excited to announce their fifth **Honor Flight at Home in Marion** to supplement their long-standing mission of honoring our senior veterans by providing them with a no-cost trip to Washington, D.C. to visit their memorials. The Honor Flight at Home program is designed to recognize and honor, in Marion, any veteran that served active duty during 1941-1975, who has not previously gone on an Honor Flight, and **cannot** travel to Washington. This program is FREE for veterans and will be held Saturday, June 8, 2024 at Tri-Rivers Vocational School.

Deadlines for applications for veterans is May 25, 2024- see more information on the flyers at the end of this newsletter.

Lions Clubs can contribute by donating towards the cost of the program, and/or by helping a veteran attend.



## NOTES FROM PDG JOE

### PEACE POSTERS

Many thanks to all that participated in the contest this year. Please put the Peace Poster Kit in your budget for next year so you can order after the theme is announced next year and work with staff and schools that are interested in the program.

2022-2023 winner: Emma Andreea Paveliuc,  
13 years old, Romania



<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/start-our-approach/youth/peace-poster>

## Community Service *FOR* and *BY* Your Community

I encourage you to read the feature article included in this newsletter about the activities of the Tri-Village Lions (those completed and those planned). The projects described there are (we think!) impressive – but the lesson to be learned (and borrowed by others!) have to do with how the projects were funded and brought to fruition.

There was a time when many of our Lions Clubs were larger and were able to pull off a few well-coordinated service projects a year, supported by our separate fundraising projects. But as the numbers shrunk, so did the ability to impact our community. Smaller clubs raised lesser amounts of money, and thus had to scale back our service projects because we had smaller budgets to support those efforts. But it doesn't have to be that way.

Consider asking for help from your community. Are there community foundations that provide funding for projects in your area? Are there other service organizations in your community (for example, Rotary Clubs, Kiwanis Clubs, Key Clubs) who have members ready to serve? Are there community members who will donate money to be used to pay for things for community members who can't afford them directly?

Decide who you want to serve – and then “pitch” the PROJECT to your community (with the Lions spearheading the activity, of course!). Sometimes, WE SERVE by gathering the resources needed instead of doing it all by ourselves!!!

Yours in Lionism,  
Lion Jane Jarrow  
OH5 GST





## Monthly Trivia Contest



Be the **first** to send the correct answer to the Lions Trivia Question each month and win a \$10 Lions Money prize, to be spent on anything Lions related, from your DG!

Please note, these questions will NOT be easy.

Send answers to [districtoh5news@gmail.com](mailto:districtoh5news@gmail.com)

How many Lions Clubs were represented at the 1918 Dallas convention?

*There's still time to answer November's Trivia Question!*

## The Lions Funnies



**GOT YOUR LIONS CLUB'S IRS,  
ATTORNEY GENERAL, AND  
UNCLAIMED FUNDS FORMS FILED IN TIME**



**NAILED IT**

## December Feature Club: Tri-Village Lions Club

### “Focus on Hunger”

The Tri-Village Lions made a conscious decision to focus our service efforts this year on issues of hunger and food insufficiency in our community. We began, in July, by inviting community members to buy tickets to our annual Pancake Breakfast for themselves – or for others! Folks could buy tickets to be donated to our local food pantry, who shared those tickets with patrons of the food pantry to enjoy. More than 80 children and adults who regularly rely on food from the Heart-to-Heart pantry were able to enjoy a traditional pancake breakfast with the Lions.

In August, we proposed a new initiative. We set out to provide food for children in the schools in Tri-Village (Upper Arlington and Grandview) who receive free school lunch, and would be without that hunger support during the five days of the Thanksgiving break. We knew that we couldn't pull this off by ourselves – and we didn't need to. You may want to check out the website we established to celebrate the inaugural efforts of the “Tri-Village Packers” at [www.trivillagepackers.com](http://www.trivillagepackers.com). Make sure to check out the reference to “Our Team.” The Tri-Village Lions brought together folks from a variety of community-based organizations. Together, we packed and distributed more than 1400 meals and snacks to 93 children in the Tri-Village community. The project was funded by a grant from the Upper Arlington Community Foundation, along with contributions from both organizations and community members.

We have plans for the future, as well. We will be doing a series of small hunger-related projects throughout the coming months, and then focus on two major initiatives in the spring. The Tri-Village Packers will stage a return to send home food for hungry school kids over Spring vacation. Then, in late Spring, we will be producing a cookbook targeted for seniors in our community. It will include recipes for 1 or 2, heart healthy recipes, diabetic-safe recipes, and more. This, too, will be funded by someone else – the Upper Arlington Senior Association.

We anticipate that before the year is done, the Tri-Village Lions (and friends!) will have served more than 700 Tri-Village residents with projects related to food, hunger, and food insufficiency – all provided through the generosity of money and spirit from our community neighbors!



FEEDING OUR COMMUNITY





# GROVE CITY LIONS CLUB

## Free Vision Screening

During the  
breakfast don't  
forget to get  
your child's



## PANCAKE BREAKFAST!

### WHERE

Grove City United Methodist Church  
2684 Columbus Street

### WHEN

Saturday, December 9, 2023  
7:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon

### COST

Donations accepted at the door.

Photo with Santa  
from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.



Photos: \$10.00 each



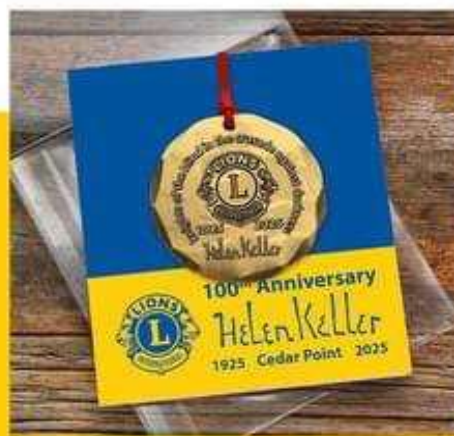
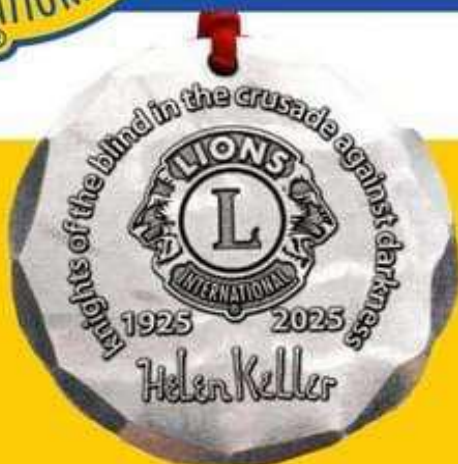
All proceeds benefit Pilot Dogs, Inc.  
and Grove City Lions' Sight Care Programs.





# Helen Keller

## CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE



### Ohio Lions and Wendell August Forge Are honored to present a limited edition ornament

At the 1925 Lions International Convention at Cedar Point, Ohio, Helen Keller presented her challenge to the Lions to be her "Knights of the Blind"

Her cause lives on as today's Lions provide vision services worldwide as one of eight global initiatives.

For a suggested minimum donation of \$18 (US dollars) for the hand forged aluminum and \$23 for the bronze version, with all proceeds benefiting Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), you will receive a one of a kind memento, with Helen Keller's digital signature.

All Ohio Lions LCIF Leadership will have these to offer in person. All others can purchase through WAF website directly at [wendellaugust.com/lcif](http://wendellaugust.com/lcif)

WAF and the Ohio Lions *thank you* in advance for your donation and sharing in a piece of Lions International history.

This fundraising project is brought to you by the LCIF Leadership team of MD13 Ohio.

**INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING:** We greatly appreciate our international customers. While online international orders aren't available due to various shipping complexities, we do consider minimum bulk orders of 100 pieces or more on a case-by-case basis, with certain restrictions. For assistance, please call 1-800-923-4438. For a timelier response, email [info@wendell.com](mailto:info@wendell.com) and type "LCIF Helen Keller" in the subject line. Thank you for your understanding. We're dedicated to providing a smooth experience for all our international customers.



## ***Do you love Football?***

Then you'll absolutely love The **Worthington Noon Lions**

**2023 – '24 Bowl (13 Games) Football Pool \***

***An amazing 52 opportunities to WIN!***

End of Year Excitement!! **12 Bowl** Games and **CFP** Championship Game

A "Bowl Pass" (Pool Book) is only **\$30**

**Payout** is **\$25** per Quarter; the CFP Championship game pays **\$50** per Quarter !!

***Perfect Surprise Stocking Stuffer for Family or Friends***

**DON'T WAIT !!** ----->> **ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY Dec. 24**

**Mail \$30 and Completed Order Form to** → **Worthington Noon Lions**

Make checks payable to:  
**Worthington Noon Lions**

**Box 264  
118 Graceland Blvd.  
Columbus, OH 43214**

### **ORDER FORM**

**VERY IMPORTANT - Print Legibly**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Your Pool Book and number will be returned immediately upon receipt of order form & payment

\* Method of random winner determination described in Pool Book

All proceeds to be used for Worthington Noon Lions Club charitable projects.

**THANKS FOR SUPPORTING US !!**



# Attention Veterans – Families/Friends of Veterans



## **Honor Flight at Home. In Ohio. In Marion!**

Honor Flight Columbus is excited to announce our fifth Honor Flight at Home in Marion to supplement our long standing mission of honoring our senior veterans by providing them with a no-cost trip to Washington, D.C. to visit their memorials. Our Honor Flight at Home program is designed to recognize and honor, in Marion, any veteran that served active duty from 1941 to 1975, who has not previously gone on an Honor Flight, and **cannot** travel to Washington.



This free program will be held: Saturday, June 8, 2024  
Tri-Rivers Vocational School  
Rt. 95, east of Marion. Across from Meijers

Check in starts at 1:00PM  
Program is scheduled to run from 2:00 to 3:00PM.

**Deadline for submitting applications is May 25, 2024.** Send application to:  
Honor Flight at Home  
Veteran Application  
Attn: Margie Saull, Event Coordinator  
2406 Owens Road West  
Prospect, OH 43342-9783

Questions? Call Margie at 740-360-8902 or email: [saulkgw4@yahoo.com](mailto:saulkgw4@yahoo.com)  
For family and friends, if you would like to donate towards the cost of this program (souvenirs for the honored veterans), please make check payable to Honor Flight Columbus and write "Marion Honor Flight at Home" on the memo line and then mail your check to Margie. Thank You!





For HFC Use Only: Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date Rec'd: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/20\_\_\_\_

## HONOR FLIGHT AT HOME - MARION

**Honor Flight Columbus (HFC)** recognizes America's senior Veterans for their sacrifices and achievements by flying them to Washington D.C. to see their memorials. We realize not every veteran is able to make this trip. We honor your service to our country, and we would like to invite you to a local Honor Flight at Home event. If you are interested in attending, please fill out this application and mail it to the address listed below. **Currently, HFC recognizes any Veteran age 65 and over with at least one day of active-duty service.**

FIRST		MIDDLE		LAST		What is your PREFERRED NAME?	
GENDER <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female		AGE		BIRTHDAY Month/Day/Year			
POLO SHIRT SIZE		EMAIL ADDRESS					
ADDRESS							
CITY				STATE		ZIP	
PHONE	DAY		EVENING			CELL	

### SERVICE HISTORY

**Please circle all applicable:** World War II: 1941-1946, Cold War: 1947-1950,  
Korean War: 6/27/50 to 1/31/55, Cold War: 1955-1961, Vietnam War: 2/28/61 to 5/7/75, Post Vietnam

**Branch of Service:** Army Navy Marine Air Force Coast Guard Merchant Marine

**Details about your service:** Where,  
When, and What did you do?

### EMERGENCY OR OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME	RELATIONSHIP
EMAIL	PHONE

Please review carefully and sign: **This event is only for Veterans that have not been on an Honor Flight trip and who are unable to fly to Washington DC. Participation in the event is in lieu of flying. The undersigned acknowledges and agrees:**

1. Photographic, video, and audio equipment are frequently used to create media to memorialize and document HFC missions, trips, and events. My image may appear in a public forum (websites, news, or print media, for example) to acknowledge, promote, and advance the mission of the HFC program. I hereby release HFC, all media creators, staff, volunteers, and HFC partners from all claims and liability relating to said media. I hereby give permission images captured of me during HFC activities through video, photo, or other media, as it is used for the purposes of HFC promotional material and publications, at HFC's sole discretion, and waive any rights of compensation or ownership thereto.

2. I further state that medical insurance is the responsibility of the veteran and I understand that HFC does not provide medical care. I understand and accept responsibility for any illnesses or injuries incurred while participating in the Honor Flight at Home program sponsored by Honor Flight Columbus.

SIGNATURE	DATE
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Please mail this application to: Margie Saull, 2406 Owens Rd W, Prospect, OH 43342  
For more info contact Margie Saull at 740-360-8902 or saullgw4@yahoo.com



## HELEN KELLER SIGHT SAVER AWARD

### Application

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#### Individual Completing this Form:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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#### Contribution Details:

Donor Name (individual, club, company, foundation)

\_\_\_\_\_

Donor ID \_\_\_\_\_

Donor Club \_\_\_\_\_

Donor District \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Contribution \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Full Payment ☐ Installment ☐ Final Installment

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**Recipient of Recognition:** (Individual person)

Recipient:     ☐ Be Named Later   ☐ Memorial Plaque in memory of deceased

Recipient Name (Exactly as it is to be engraved on plaque)

\_\_\_\_\_

Recipient ID# (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_ State/Province\_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code\_\_\_\_\_

Club of Recipient \_\_\_\_\_

Club # \_\_\_\_\_

District\_\_\_\_\_

For Memorial List name of Helen Keller Sight Saver surviving family member to whom Memorial plaque will be given.

(Needed for recognition letter which accompanies plaque.)

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Shipping Information:**

Ship to Member ID # (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_ State/Province\_\_\_\_\_

Country\_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail\_\_\_\_\_ Phone\_\_\_\_\_

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**Mail Completed Form to:**

**Helen Killer Sight Saver Award  
Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank  
Jason Brosious, Executive Director  
262 Neil Ave. Suite 140  
Columbus, Oh., 43215**

*District Governor Mike Kerek Invites You To The*

# OH5 2023-2024 Convention



## When:

March 15-16, 2024

## Where:

Deer Creek State Park  
Lodge & Conf. Center  
22300 State Park Rd 20  
Mt Sterling, OH 43143

## Cost:

Friday Night Free  
\$40 Luncheon  
\$50 Grand Banquet  
\$90 Whole Convention\*  
\*(Lodge Room Extra)

## Attire:

Lions Casual

**Friday Night:** Come relax, enjoy free food and drinks, play cards, enjoy the fireplaces, socialize, etc. Back by popular demand, Chris Waller will be doing the painting class again for those interested! Family friendly, but free adult beverages will be available as well. Costume Contest: dress as what YOU perceive a Hero looks like! (Costume contest open to all ages!)

## Saturday:

Necrology

Business Meeting, Foundation/Agency reports, Nominations

Lunch: (noon) Special Guests the Martin Family (Foundation Fighting Blindness)

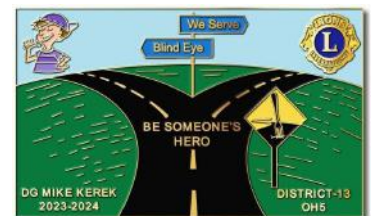
Elections

Sessions: GMA (Global Membership Approach—learn how to increase membership & satisfaction!)

District/Other Resources for Clubs (You don't have to do it all alone!)

Service Project: Packing care bags for children in Dayton & Nationwide Children's Hospitals

Grand Banquet: (seat 5:30, start 6:00) Keynote Speaker PID Bruce Beck



**Make sure to visit BlueFrog  
& all the other agencies  
while you're there!**

**To register online, visit [district13oh5.org](https://district13oh5.org)  
Or mail your registration by March 1, 2024  
Room Rates end Feb. 14. Register today!**



## 2024 OH5 CONVENTION REGISTRATION

<http://district13oh5.org/>

March 15-16, 2024  
Deer Creek State Park Lodge  
20635 State Park Rd 20, Mt Sterling, OH



ENTIRE CONVENTION .....\$90  
FRIDAY NIGHT FUN .....FREE  
SATURDAY LUNCH.....\$40  
GRAND BANQUET .....\$50

Club Name

Room Rates are **\$120/Night + Tax**

Call for Reservations:  
Deer Creek State Park Lodge  
Phone 740-869-2020

District: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your own room reservations and use the code: **OLD5**

**Room rates are good until February 14, 2024**

Name	Club/District Position	Entire Convention \$90	Lunch \$40	Grand Banquet \$50	Friday Night ONLY

Please make checks payable to: **District OH5 Lions, Inc.**

MAIL TO:

PDG Jackie Miller  
6728 Cherry Bend  
Canal Winchester, OH 43110  
614-530-1861  
[pdgjackie@gmail.com](mailto:pdgjackie@gmail.com)

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 1, 2024

**Please Note:** NO MEALS may be purchased after this deadline!

**Special Meal Requirements:** Gluten Free ☐ Vegan ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_



## Application for Advertisement Space in the DISTRICT 13-OH5 Convention Booklet

<http://district13oh5.org/>

Please reserve space for us in the District 13-OH5 District Convention Program. We understand that acceptance of this contract and advertising space is subject to the approval of the District 13-OH5 Lions Inc. and Convention Committee are not responsible for errors or omissions beyond reasonable diligence and control. Copy of advertisement or camera ready copy is herewith submitted with payment no later than Feb. 15, 2024.

### RATES

Business Card Size Advertisement (black & white)	\$20.00
Half Page Advertisement (5"x4" horizontal – black & white)	\$30.00
Full Page Advertisement (5"x8" vertical – black & white)	\$50.00

All checks & money orders payable to **DISTRICT 13-OH5 LIONS, INC.** Please specify on the memo line that the payment is for a Convention Program Advertisement.

Enclosed is a check or money order in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ covering full payment for our advertisement.

Name/Company/Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

*Authorized Signature*

*Date*

Send this form and payment to:

CT Dave Risen, 1219 Hilton Dr, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-1346

Email camera ready advertisement and advise size of ad (business card, ½ or full) to PDG Jackie Miller, [pdgjackie@gmail.com](mailto:pdgjackie@gmail.com)

Ads will be reproduced as close to the original artwork that is provided as possible. Printer will use discretion if necessary to improve the quality.

Please provide email address if you would like to see a proof

*Thank you for your support!*



**Lions District 13-OH5  
District Convention  
Credentials Form**

Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Members: \_\_\_\_\_

**Certification of Delegates**

In accordance with Article VII, Section 2, of the District 13-OH5 Lions Constitution which states that each chartered club in good standing is entitled to one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each ten (10) members, or major fraction thereof (5), who have been enrolled for at least one year and a day, we the undersigned, do certify that the following Lions have been duly appointed to represent our Lions Club. All Past District Governors, in good standing, shall be considered a Delegate-at-Large and entitled to one (1) vote, in addition to the delegate quota of their respective club. Nothing herein shall be construed to allow any person more than one (1) vote.

DELEGATES MUST ALSO REGISTER AT THE CONVENTION. DELEGATE REGISTRATION CLOSSES AT 1:30 PM.

**Delegates**

**Alternates**

print names below and leave boxes blank

1. _____	<input type="text"/>	_____	<input type="text"/>
2. _____	<input type="text"/>	_____	<input type="text"/>
3. _____	<input type="text"/>	_____	<input type="text"/>
4. _____	<input type="text"/>	_____	<input type="text"/>
5. _____	<input type="text"/>	_____	<input type="text"/>
6. _____	<input type="text"/>	_____	<input type="text"/>
7. _____	<input type="text"/>	_____	<input type="text"/>
8. _____	<input type="text"/>	_____	<input type="text"/>

**Delegates-at-Large (PDGs)**

1. _____	<input type="text"/>	3. _____	<input type="text"/>
2. _____	<input type="text"/>	4. _____	<input type="text"/>

Mail to: PDG Jackie Miller  
6728 Cherry Bend  
Canal Winchester, OH 43110

Club President's signature \_\_\_\_\_  
or  
Club Secretary's signature \_\_\_\_\_  
or  
District Governor's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Lions of MD13,

As this communication will reach you sometime during the Holiday Season, best wishes to you and your family and friends as you gather together in thanksgiving and celebration of all that has been given to you. Thank you so much for all you give back to those who are not as fortunate.

November has been an exciting month in MD13, and December promises to be equally productive and fun. We just completed an RLL2 Training Weekend at Salt Fork Lodge in Cambridge, Ohio. Lions representing all the districts in MD13 were in attendance, ranging from club members to a sitting International Director. We were blessed to have ID Ron Keller fly/flee from Iowa via Chicago/Columbus/Millersport during the wee hours Saturday night and early Sunday morning and appear for lunch and enlightenment Sunday afternoon in Salt Fork. At the other end of the Lions experience, Kevin Plummer of Logan Lions shared his first five months of Lions experience with a gathering that included three first vice district governors, a second vice district governor, a sitting DG, three FDI graduates, a few past council chairs, numerous zone chairs, a GLT, an MDS, PDG's, and moi! We investigated how we became Lions, the skills we had to offer MD13 and our local clubs and districts, identifying potential leaders, and how the multiple district worked and supported Lions work through the responsible use of dues and donations. GLT Chair PDG Jay Carey hopes to follow this training up early next Fall with an Emerging Lions Leadership Institute for current and aspiring club officers.

At the November Council of Governors Meeting, we had an excellent presentation from a representative of the Charitable Division of the Ohio Attorney General's Office. Her presentation was recorded and is currently being edited to possibly being offered as a YouTube program. Keep your eyes open for that unveiling. A tour of the Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank, which stores and provides corneal tissue for research and surgeries, was part of the day, as well as two fine dining experiences provided by the Eye Bank! At the meeting, the DG's voted to have Constitution and By-Laws frame two motions; one to eliminate the International Relations Committee and a second to promote the New Voices Platform. These would be considered at the February CoG Meeting and could be offered for approval at the State Convention in May. In her monthly meeting, PCC Kerry



Parker reported Service Projects reported to MyLions rose from 46% of our clubs to over 70%, in part due to the Fall into Service Campaign. Let's continue to work on letting folks at all levels of society, Lions and non-Lions, know about the good things we do. As I write this report, we are +10 in membership growth for the current Lions Year, but clubs should be looking to their non-participating and non-paying members this month finding ways to help them continue as contributing members of our organization. At the Salt Fork Training highlighted earlier in this message, providing mentoring and training, both of new and existing members, was offered as one way we can do a better job of retention. While we have added almost 400 new members this year, seeing a growth of +10 only takes a little simple math to see we have lost nearly 390. PCC Kenny Schuck's Global Membership Team is about ready to unveil a program to promote membership growth. We have one new club, three in the works, and at least two potential branch clubs being investigated in MD13 at this time. The goal set for us by the International is 918 new members and 8 new clubs. We are barely beyond one third of our Lions Year. We can make this happen, folks!

Check out [ohiolions.org](http://ohiolions.org), our state website, for information on the Winter Retreat and the Spring Convention Season. Those who attended the recent RLLI Training will tell you how much fun it is to gather with Lions from across our districts and state, sharing fellowship, training, and service ideas. Having attended Cabinet Meetings in all our districts, five STEPS walks, a handful of charter nights, and other local Lion events, I can say with confidence that we have an outstanding organization in MD13 of which we can be proud to say we are a member. MD13 Lions are being recognized outside our state boundaries as well. PID Steve Sherer is Chairman for the 2024 USA/Canada Forum in Louisville, Lion Tamarra Parker-Stephens was the feature speaker in the October Meeting of the Regional GAT, Lion Robert Borger is the alternate for Leo Liaison in CA1, and ID Ron Keller is Chairman of the Lions International Membership Committee. Congratulations!

Let's serve, let's grow, and let's have fun in the process.

CC Dave Stockum