

# LIONS DISTRICT 25 A NEWSLETTER

*Coming Together to Serve*

## DISTRICT CONTACTS

### **District Governor**

Lion Patty Cooke-Furlong

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### **First Vice District Governor**

Lion Jim Furlong

[jimful179@aol.com](mailto:jimful179@aol.com)

### **Second Vice District Gov**

Lion David Dickinson

[daviddickinson20@yahoo.com](mailto:daviddickinson20@yahoo.com)

### **Cabinet Secretary**

Lion Robin Smith

[mswolfen@aol.com](mailto:mswolfen@aol.com)

### **Cabinet Treasurer**

Lion Elinor (Sally) Davis

[csdavis61@comcast.net](mailto:csdavis61@comcast.net)

### **Newsletter**

Lion Jackie Katz

[jpkatz1984@gmail.com](mailto:jpkatz1984@gmail.com)



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**Happy Easter!**

## District Governor: Patty Cooke-Furlong

Hello 25A Lions:

I hope you are all ready for Spring! I know I am done with the cold!

I want to thank all who attended the 25A Convention at Fair Oaks Farm! Despite being busy as DG and dealing with a broken wrist, I enjoyed it greatly. The Convention Committee did a great job! Both VDG Jim and I visiting with ID Steven Middlemiss of New Hampshire. He had some heartfelt stories about how Lionism has affected his entire life. His father was a Lion, so ID Steven learned the value of service at a young age. Now his daughter has joined the “family” business and is also making a difference as a Lion.



As for the elections, Congratulations to our 2025-2026 District Officers!

District Governor → Lion Jim Furlong

1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor → Lion Dave Dickinson

2nd Vice District Governor → Lion Wendy Semans

Check the results for the State and District projects later in the newsletter.

Now that the convention is over, we cannot slow down! We have three months remaining in this year to achieve the objectives for 2024-2025. You have all done a great job of adding members to your clubs! Right now, District 25A is a plus 36 in membership – the best in the State! This is fantastic! But this achievement will be wiped away if we drop members at the end of the year.

Constitutional Area	Membership in Fiscal Year	Membership in Previous Fiscal Year	Members Added in Fiscal Year	Drops in Fiscal Year	Gain or Loss in Fiscal Year
☐ Multiple District 25	7,981	8,200	533	528	5
☐ District 25 A	1,116	1,112	97	61	36
☐ District 25 B	952	1,009	50	85	-35
☐ District 25 C	1,261	1,348	60	95	-35
☐ District 25 D	1,150	1,134	88	57	31
☐ District 25 E	1,124	1,165	77	55	22
☐ District 25 F	1,235	1,280	89	98	-9
☐ District 25 G	1,143	1,152	72	77	-5

We must always be working to keep our Lions Clubs healthy and retaining members is crucial for the club's success. Here are some strategies that might help:

**Engage with Inactive Members:** Reach out to members who have been inactive and ensure that all dues are paid. This can help in re-engaging them and making them feel valued.

**Continuous Recruitment:** Keep asking others to join in serving the community. New members bring fresh energy and ideas.

**Celebrate Achievements:** Acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of the club and its members.

**Organize Events and Activities:** Regular events and activities can keep members engaged and motivated. The recent 25A Convention at Fair Oaks Farm is a great example of an event that brought members together.

**Leadership and Communication:** Strong leadership and clear communication are key. Ensure that the club's goals and activities are well-communicated to all members.

We are a great district! You have all worked hard to make that so!

Keep asking others to join you in serving your communities.

Take care and thank you for all you do!

Governor Patty Cooke-Furlong



[Jimfurl179@aol.com](mailto:Jimfurl179@aol.com)

630-699-4278

## District Governor Elect Jim Furlong

I debated long and hard whether to post this. But I thought if a pretty good characterization of many Clubs and Districts throughout Lionism. Please read it and take it to heart. And, as they say, “If the shoe fits, wear it.”

**With thanks to PDG Charlie Short and (of course) ChatGPT.**

I asked ChatGPT the question below:

What can you say about an organization that has:

- Many strong traditions
- Detailed constitution
- Extensive training on small details and traditions
- Multiple membership categories and by invitation only, with aging and declining membership
- Frequent disagreements over minor details
- Strong personalities dominating leadership
- Many meetings following Robert’s Rules of Order
- A complicated org chart with many boxes and titles
- Power retained by former high-ranking members
- An abundance of pins and medals

Here is the response:

An organization with these traits, plus aging and declining membership, suggests that it is:

### *1. Aging and Struggling to Adapt*

- The declining membership means that younger generations are not interested in joining or are leaving due to outdated practices.

- The focus on tradition and rigid rules suggests that change is difficult and resisted by long-time members.
- Membership by invitation only makes recruitment harder, especially in a time when people expect inclusive and open organizations.

### *2. Highly Bureaucratic and Status-Oriented*

- Robert's Rules of Order, a detailed constitution, and a complicated org chart suggest an overly procedural structure.
- Many titles, pins, and medals indicate a culture that values status, hierarchy, and recognition over effectiveness.
- Power retained by former high-ranking members means that decision-making is often slow and controlled by people who are no longer active contributors but still want influence.

### *3. Prone to Internal Conflict and Resistance to Change*

- Frequent disagreements over minor details mean that energy is wasted on bureaucratic debates instead of focusing on meaningful action.
- Strong personalities in leadership dominate, discouraging new ideas and making the organization feel unwelcoming to fresh leadership.
- Newer members, if any, may feel unwelcome or frustrated due to rigid expectations and politics.

### *4. At Risk of Becoming Obsolete*

- Many historic fraternal, service, and professional organizations face these exact challenges today.
- If the organization does not modernize its recruitment, simplify its structure, and focus on impact rather than procedure, it will continue to shrink.
- The “we’ve always done it this way” mentality is likely pushing potential members away.

### *Examples of Similar Organizations Facing These Issues*

- Fraternal Orders (Freemasons, Elks, Odd Fellows, Knights of Columbus, Shriners, etc.)
- Legacy Service Clubs (Some Lions, Rotary, Kiwanis clubs—especially those that resist change).

- Professional & Social Orders (Certain legal, medical, or alumni societies)
- Veterans Organizations (American Legion, VFW, etc., where recruitment challenges are common)

### **Possible Future Paths**

- Decline & Irrelevance – If it refuses to change, membership will continue to age out and decline, leading to eventual dissolution.
- Slow Modernization – Some members may realize the need for change, but internal resistance will keep progress painfully slow, potentially too late to reverse decline.
- Proactive Reinvention – If leadership embraces simplification, inclusivity, modern communication, and mission-focused engagement, it can regain relevance and attract new members.

### **Key Questions for the Organization's Future**

1. Does tradition serve the mission, or is it holding the organization back?
2. Are new members welcomed and empowered, or are they expected to conform to outdated norms?
3. Is the focus on titles and ceremonies, or on making a meaningful impact?
4. Does leadership embrace change, or resist it to maintain control?

### **Final Thought**

If an organization fits this description, it has two choices:

- Modernize and thrive, or
- Resist change and fade away.

APRIL 2025

## Conferences and Conventions 2025



Click on **Convention** at [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org) for more information **and to register**.

**Come join your fellow Hoosier Lions and march in the Parade of Nations!**

## Be inspired and entertained

At LionsCon, you'll be treated to unforgettable entertainment and engaging seminars.

### Connect with fellow Lions

You'll have plenty of opportunities to get together with Lions and Leos from around the world. So be ready to share your experiences and your ideas, and learn from one another.

## Get involved

Lions don't just attend LionsCon—they get involved in it. There are so many opportunities for you throughout the convention.

**DON'T FORGET TO SCHEDULE YOUR OFFICIAL VISIT  
WITH GOVERNOR PATTY FURLONG-COOKE.**

**GOVERNOR PATTY'S CALENDAR IS ON PAGE 20**

APRIL 2025

## State Convention April 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> in Shipshewana

While this may seem like wishful thinking, the one thing for sure is the arrival of the 2025 Indiana Lions State Convention in Shipshewana on April 25-26-27. While you can sit back and wait for the arrival of Spring you need to take action to insure your participation at the Convention. The committee has secured several rooms at other lodgings in Shipshewana, but they are in short supply.

There is still time for individual clubs to purchase an ad in the program book that would highlight your favorite project and accomplishments. Contact Middlebury Lion Sopheap “Sophie” Long for details. Her email address is [sopheap.long@gmail.com](mailto:sopheap.long@gmail.com), her phone number is 574-215-9474. The committee has arranged for a memorable Convention with informative seminars, a full exhibit and vendor area, interaction with fellow Lions, and of course, delicious food. That combined with the various attractions around the Shipshewana area will insure a marvelous weekend.

Our special guest, Past International President Jimmy Ross, and Saturday luncheon speaker, local weatherman/poet/storyteller Gary Seiber will certainly inspire you to magnify your involvement in Lions and community involvement. The committee has done just about everything we can do, now it's up to you. We hope to see you at the Convention!

PDG Marlyn Fast PDG Brian Thomas





APRIL 2025

District 25A Officer Training May 31st

Club Officer  
**TRAINING**



## District 25A Officer Training

**Saturday, May 31, 2025 9:00AM**

New Hope Church (South Haven)  
712 N 450 W Valparaiso, IN 46385

Lions Club Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers, Tail Twisters  
Any Lion who would like to find out more about these offices is invited.

Zone Chair training will also be offered.

Refreshments will be served and a chance to win a gift card just for  
attending!

Contact GLT Pat Greer [patricia.agreer6@gmail.com](mailto:patricia.agreer6@gmail.com)  
219-928-3618 to reserve your spot.

APRIL 2025

Leader Dogs Fundraiser



**BOZ'Z PLACE &  
DISTRICT 25-A LIONS  
LEADER DOG COMMITTEE**

**FUNDRAISER FOR  
LEADER DOGS FOR THE BLIND**

**APRIL 13, 2025  
5:00 PM. To 8:00 PM.**

**AT BOZ'Z PLACE WINFIELD, IN.**

**WHITE ELEPHANT AUCTION  
STARTS AT 6:30 PM.**

**GUESTS CAN BRING A WRAPPED GIFT  
FOR THE WHITE ELEPHANT AUCTION.**

## District 25-A Indiana Lions for Leader Dogs

Join us for a **fun-filled evening** at Boz'z Place Bar for our **White Elephant Sale** on **Sunday, April 13, 2025**, from **5:00 to 8:00 PM!** 🎉

### What to Bring:

- A wrapped gift valued at \$15.00 or more (no live items, please). Get creative with your wrapping! 📦

### Special Guests:

- Meet some adorable **Leader Dog Pups in Training** and learn about their journey to becoming life-changing companions. 🐾

### Why Attend:

- Help us raise funds for **Leader Dogs for the Blind** and make a difference in the lives of those in need. Last year, we raised an impressive **\$2003.00!** Let's aim even higher this year.

### Location:

- Boz'z Place, just outside of Lakes of the Four Seasons: 8281 E 109th Ave, Crown Point, IN 46307

### Questions?

- Contact Chuck De Las Casas at 219-776-3031 for more information.

We can't wait to see you there and make this event a huge success! 🌟

**District 25-A Leader Dog Committee**

APRIL 2025

## District 25-A Convention Held at Fair Oaks Farms

The District 25-A Lions held their convention at Fair Oaks Farms on March 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. The venue chosen is known for their “Dairy Disneyland” style exhibits, fine hotel, great food, wonderful service and award-winning cheeses.

Led by District Governor Patty Cooke-Furlong, the convention featured seminars on “Bringing the Lions into the Digital Era” by Lions Dan Moynihan and Jennifer Niemeyer. Lion ZC Carlyle Edwards spoke on “How to Become a 501 (c) (3). Both seminars were well attended, providing information that many Lions Clubs are seeking in order to better meet the needs of their community and clubs.

ID Steven Middlemiss from New Hampshire was the featured guest speaker. His inspiring message of service recharged the Lions in attendance.

The District Convention also featured a memorial service for Lions who passed away in the last year and induction of new members by ID Steven Middlemiss.

Mid-morning included a short walk outside around the beautiful wooded Fair Oaks campus. The purple scarfs were a nice touch for the walk!

Voting for the new District Governor took place in the morning and the results were announced at the evening banquet. Lion Jim Furlong will be the next District Governor, Lion David Dickenson will be the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor and Lion Wendy Seman will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> District Vice Governor.

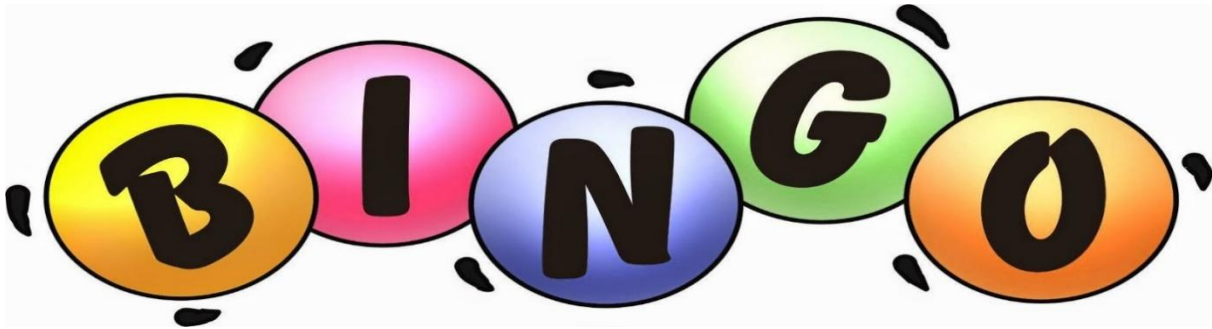
A big thank you to the convention team led by Lion Chuck Delascasas. Everyone did a wonderful job, and the amount of preparation really showed.

It was a successful convention, featuring fellowship and fun. Thank you to all who attended and see you again next year again at Fair Oaks Farms !



APRIL 2025

## News Around the District—Crown Point Lions Bingo



### Crown Point Lions Club Spring Bingo

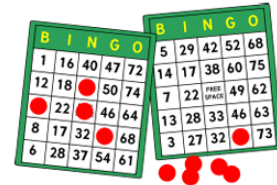
Thursday, April 10, 2025

DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 PM \* FIRST BINGO AT 6:00 PM

St. Elijah Church 8700 Taft Street - Merrillville, IN

Tickets are available at the door or presale from a Crown Point Lion

\$6.00/Person



Bingo and Door Prizes

Bring used eye glasses and receive extra Bingo cards

**Tip Boards for Bacon, Sausage, Hams, etc.**

**50/50**

**Money Bingos**

**Loads of Prizes and Fun.**

License #001729 - Event #162109

APRIL 2025

News Around the District—Cedar Lake Lions Pancake Breakfast



**CEDAR LAKE LIONS CLUB  
Annual Pancake Breakfast**



April 13, 2025

Palm Sunday

7:30 AM until Noon

Location:

Hanover High School

10120 W. 133<sup>rd</sup> Ave.

Cafeteria Door E

Cedar Lake

Carry-outs available

Cost: Free will offering at the door

Proceeds to benefit:

**Hanover 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington DC Field Trip**

and

**Cedar Lake Lions Club Community Outreach**



***The Schererville Lions***

**Pancake Breakfast**

**Sunday Morning, May 4th, 2025**

**From 8:00 to 12:00**

**At the**

**St. John Township Community Center**

**1515 Lincoln Hwy.**

**Schererville, IN 46375**

**Pancakes, Bacon and Scrambled Eggs**

**Juice, Milk, Coffee**

**Free Will Offering**



**All Proceeds go to the**

**Downs Syndrome Association**



News Around the District—MD-25 Lions Pin Design Contest

# MD-25 LIONS

## 2026

### International Pin Design Contest!



2024



2025



What  
will be  
2026?

Let your Creative side shine and you could  
be the next designer chosen!

The International Convention is heading to  
**HONG KONG, CHINA JULY 3-7, 2026.**

Pins MUST include: - MD 25 Indiana (as text)  
- The Intl Convention year – 2026  
- Lion Club Intl Logo  
- Intl Convention Host City representation

\*MD 25 graphic representation of MD-25 usually includes a race car and/or the  
outline of Indiana.

***Please note that the completed design will be NO larger than 1 ¼ inch to 1 ½  
inch in diameter when it is finished, so make your design includes all of the  
above while maintaining clarity.***

Each Club can submit one design. If there are multiple designs submitted by one district,  
one design will be selected by the District Governor. All District designs need to be  
submitted to your district chair by January 3, 2025. You can scan and attach it to an email  
and send it to [pccmsg@comcast.net](mailto:pccmsg@comcast.net). Each District's selected design will be presented to  
the State Council on January 19, 2025. You will be notified if your design was chosen.  
Remember: pin designers do not have to be (a) Lions, you do NOT need to be a  
professional designer, and jewelers can clean up your drawings.

**State Pin Committee Contact:** PCC Michael Gutyan



APRIL 2025

News Around the District—LOFS Lions Pork Chop Dinner

**LOFS LIONS CLUB  
2ND ANNUAL**

**WAYNE D. KRONER SR.  
MEMORIAL PORK CHOP DINNER**

**MAY 4TH  
4P-7P**

SEASONS LAKEHOUSE



SCAN THIS CODE TO  
PURCHASE TICKETS

**DINNER  
INCLUDES:**

- PORK CHOP[S]
- PARSLEY POTATOES
- BAKED BEANS
- APPLE SAUCE
- COLE-SLAW
- DINNER ROLL
- DESSERT



**TICKET  
PRICES**

- 1 CHOP DINNER-\$15
- 2 CHOP DINNER-\$18

**FREE  
HOT DOGS  
AND CHIPS  
FOR THE KIDS**

**COME JOIN US AT THE SEASONS  
LAKEHOUSE FOR OUR ANNUAL  
PORK CHOP DINNER MAY 4TH FROM 4P TO 7P**

**DINE-IN  
OR  
TAKE-OUT**



TICKET SALES WILL END AT MIDNIGHT ON APRIL 30TH  
LIMITED WALK IN SALES WILL BE AVAILABLE

ALL TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE VIA THE QR CODE OR YOU CAN REACH OUT TO ANY LOFS LIONS MEMBER OR CALL:  
LION JACKIE KATZ - 219-776-3541 / LION LINDA KRONER - 219-765-3990

SATURDAY  
APRIL 19TH

# Easter EGG HUNT

SPONSORED  
BY LOFS  
LIONS CLUB



A FUN MORNING FULL OF MUSIC AND SURPRISES!  
MOBILE COFFEE BAR AVAILABLE BY DAILY GRIND

PICTURE WITH THE EASTER BUNNY  
9:00 AM-9:45 AM & AFTER EGG HUNT



EASTER EGG HUNT  
10 AM - AGES 5-7 AND 8-10  
10:10 AM - AGES 2-4  
AT SEASONS LAKEHOUSE



BRING A NON-PERISHABLE  
ITEM FOR THE LOCAL FOOD BANKS  
CHRISTI ROGALA 219-798-7991



LAKE OF THE FOUR SEASONS LIONS CLUB - A 501C3 ORGANIZATION

APRIL 2025

## Membership

### **Lions Who Have Completed Their Service**

Fred Richtar	Star City
Tim Earle	LaCrosse

### **District Membership—Welcome New Members!**

Chesterton	Magnolia Kisala	Vince Kisala
Chesterton	Corie -Schultz	Thomas Lee
Hanna	Nicole M Brooks	Teresa Bals-Elsholtz
Koontz Lake	Brenda Janovic	Van Janovic
Koontz Lake	Carole Kuhnke	Brenda Janovic
Koontz Lake	Elizabeth Janovic	Brenda Janovic
Kouts	Michele Ference	Suzette Whited
Lake Station	Michele Doup	Pamela Shaffner
Lake Station	Kimberly Schafer	Pamela Shaffner
Lake Station	Roderick Ellis	Pamela Shaffner
South Haven	Cara Lawrence	Edward Piontek
South Haven	Deborah Rousselle	Laura Piontek
Valparaiso	Donna Cummins	Gerald Newman
Valparaiso	Marylin Miller	Gregory Miller
Valparaiso	Lori Gilliana	Gregory Miller
Valparaiso	Julia Young	Tom Cath

Great Job 25A Lions on adding new Lions to help serve your communities!



Governor Patty Cooke-Furlong's Calendar

Kouts Induction	Thursday	4/3/2025	
DGE Jim Honor Flight	Wednesday	4/9/2025	
CP Bingo	Thursday	4/10/2025	
Cedar Lake Pancake	Sunday	4/13/2025	
Leader Dog Fundraiser	Sunday	4/13/2025	
<b>MD25 Convention</b>		<b>4/25/2025</b>	<b>4/27/2025</b>
ScherervillePancake	Sunday	5/4/2025	
LOFS Pork Chop Dinner	Sunday	5/4/2025	
IU Graduation in Bloomington	Thursday	5/8/2025	5/10/2025
New Officer Training	Saturday	5/31/2025	
Last Cabinet	Sunday	6/8/2025	
LOFS Installation	Wednesday	6/25/2025	
PreConvention Vacation	Saturday	7/5/2025	7/11/2025
International Convention in Orlando	Saturday	7/12/2025	7/17/2025



Lion Patty with 25-A members getting ready for the walk at Fair Oaks Farm during the convention.