

# LIONS DISTRICT 25 A NEWSLETTER

*Coming Together to Serve*

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APRIL 2026

District Governor Jim Furlong



## District Governor Jim Furlong

630-699-4278



### ***Where There's a Need; There's a Lion (well, about 50)***

I'm very proud of District 25-A right now. A very devastating tornado hit the relatively small community of Lake Village in Newton County recently. It was preliminarily estimated by the National Weather Service to be an EF-3 or 4. The southern end of Lake Village is gone.



Initially I was on the phone with Carolyn Laviolette who is the District's point person for Emergency Preparedness. There was some confusion over who was in charge. We were told United Way would be coordinating volunteers and that just wasn't the case. We talked about a Disaster Relief Grant from the Lions Clubs International Foundation and how we could also personally help. A request for a grant was placed with LCIF on a Thursday and by Friday it was approved. Very timely help. We have a Disaster Relief Fund in the District and its committee consists of the IPDG, 1VDG, and 2VDG. They approved \$5,000 be taken that fund. So between the LCIF max grant of \$15,000 and the District's \$5,000 we had \$20,000. But here's where the District shined. Now we needed some boots on the ground, so to speak. I've come to refer to these Lions as my 2 Jenns. Jennifer Coscenza (who lives in Lake Village) and Jennifer Niemeyer both Presidents of their Clubs, Lowell and Lakes of the Four Seasons came to the rescue. They found out who ran the local food pantry and who was organizing the relief effort in the community center. On Wednesday we found out they might have to stop food service not only for displaced people but for the many volunteers arriving from as far away as (get this) a church in North Carolina. We volunteered to serve lunch and dinner for the next four days keeping food service going until at least Sunday. But, we needed Lions to step up. And they did in a big way.

District Governor Jim Furlong

A call to Jackie Katz our District Newsletter Editor and we put out a call for volunteers to serve lunch and dinner over the next 4 days. I got tons of responses and yet I was still flying by the seat of my pants. Thursday morning, I wasn't sure what to expect as I walked into the community center. This is what greeted me.

**WE SERVE**

A dozen Lions, in their yellow vest had answered the call. I was a little overwhelmed to say the least. Special props to Dennis Fisher who came all the way from Door Village in LaPorte County. Thanks to all!!!

And that's the way it was for the rest of the weekend. I estimated at least a dozen clubs and perhaps 50 Lions stood with the residents of Lake Village in their time of need. I couldn't help but think of my DG motto "Facta non Verba" (Deeds not Words) and the Lions International motto WE SERVE were so appropriate in this endeavor.



More pictures at the end of this newsletter.

APRIL 2026

## First Vice District Governor David Dickinson



2026-2027 District 25A, Indiana.

Global Action Team: GLT, GMT, GST, and GET.

DGE Dave Dickinson, 1VDGE Wendy Semans, 2VDGE Carlyle Edwards, and IPDG Jim Furlong.

Officers, 2026-2027, District 25A, and requested.

Zone Chairperson(s): Zone 2, Zone 3, Zone 5, Zone 7, and Zone 8.

Lion Club: President, Secretary, Treasurer, and ALL Lions.

- Adult Eye Screening.
- Chaplains & Memorial Service.
- Emergency Preparedness (Lions ALERT).
- Environment.
- Liberty Day.
- Parliamentarian.
- Sergeant-At-Arms.
- Tail Twister.

Serve with: Honestly, Empathy, Acceptance, Respect, and Trust.

Steps on how to make our world a better place.

NO ACT OF KINDNESS, NO MATTER HOW SMALL, is even wasted.

LISTEN TO YOUR MEMBERS if you want to retain them.

DGE Dave Dickinson



Second Vice District Governor Wendy Semans

Hello Lions!

Spring has Sprung! Everything is fresh and new. Convention is over; congratulations to DGE Dave Dickinson and 2vdg Carlyle! I am looking forward to working with both of them.

Is it time for a club refresh, time to really start looking at membership and thinking outside the box on new ways to gain new people or ask old members back into the fold? New ideas for service projects, fundraising?

Talk with and share ideas with other clubs, we are all one organization and should work together to gain insight and optimize resources to help serve our communities.





## Lions Clubs International Foundation

Do Lions want to know more about what LCIF does? They hear about grants that are given out all over the world:

On the evening of Tuesday March 10, 2026 an EF-3 tornado touched down in Kankakee, IL leaving devastation throughout the town and one man died. The tornado stayed on the ground and hit Lake Village, IN next, many homes were destroyed, trees and power lines down and two senior citizens died. The tornado continued down the road towards Wheatfield, IN many homes and trees were damaged. The tornado continued toward Starke County. Some of our District 25A Lions were affected by this tornado.

Clean up and damage assessment started on Wednesday March 11, 2026. District Governor Jim Furlong immediately began the process of applying for a Disaster Relief Grant through Lions International Foundation. He received an email that a \$15,000 grant would be disbursed into District 25A account on Monday March 16<sup>th</sup>. DG Jim and other Lions traveled to Lake Village to find out exactly what they needed.

We were able to restock the Food Pantry in Lake Village and helped in providing hot meals to the community. From March 19 -22, 2026 over 50 Lions from clubs throughout District 25A provided several hot meals to the community. Picking up food from Strack & Van Til in Lowell and other Vendors in the area, serving the food, and providing take out to those who were affected by the tornado and the volunteers out working in the affected area. Some of our Lions helped deliver the food to those in need.

It was great to see all the Lions come together to help those in need! This was all made possible through the LCIF Grant. The citizens of Lake Village were overwhelmed that the Lions came to help in their time of need.

PDG Randy Greer and PDG Nick Gonzalez would like to thank all of the Lions who came to help in Lake Village. A very proud moment to be a Lion. There is still more work to be done in Lake Village and the surrounding communities, and your donation continues to help!

If your club hasn't made a donation this calendar year please consider doing so! We would like to have 100% of the clubs donating to LCIF this year. If you need help with this or need information regarding your account, please contact:

**PDG Randy Greer**  
219-728-8432  
[lionrandy@yahoo.com](mailto:lionrandy@yahoo.com)

**PDG Nick Gonzalez**  
219-588-4893  
[Nsg1917@yahoo.com](mailto:Nsg1917@yahoo.com)

Donor Network Sponsorship

We neglected to post this ad in the District Convention Ad Book. We appreciate Indiana Donor Network for their Sponsorship.

DID YOU KNOW  
**THE OLDEST**  
INDIANA DONOR WAS  
**103 YEARS OLD?**


**YOU'RE NEVER  
TOO OLD TO SIGN UP TO BE  
AN ORGAN AND TISSUE  
DONOR.**

There are **NO RESTRICTIONS** for registering to be a donor, even for age or medical history. One donor can save up to eight lives through organ donation and heal up to 75 people through tissue donation.

**SO DON'T RULE YOURSELF OUT,  
AND KEEP SAYING YES!**

**DONATE LIFE**  
*Indiana*

Sign up at the **BMV** or at [DonateLifeIndiana.org](http://DonateLifeIndiana.org).



APRIL 2026

## Club Officer Training

Club Officer  
**TRAINING**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**District 25A Officer Training**

**Saturday, May 30, 2026 9:00AM**

***(The Weekend after Memorial Day)***



**Contact GLT Pat Greer [patricia.agreer6@gmail.com](mailto:patricia.agreer6@gmail.com)**

**219-928-3618 to reserve your spot.**

New Hope Church (South Haven) (Next to Wolf Mansion)

712 N 450 W Valparaiso, IN 46385

Lions Club; Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers

Any Lion who would like to find out more about these offices is invited.

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

**Another Training TBA will be offered later in the summer by**

**incoming GLT Joy Robinson 219-973-3457**

**[jrobinson28@hotmail.com](mailto:jrobinson28@hotmail.com)**

APRIL 2026

Chesterton Lions Club

**Chesterton Lions Club**



**We Serve**

## **Pancake & Sausage Meals**



***Saturday, May 16th; 7:00 AM to 10:00 AM***

***At: George's Gyros Spot***

***325 N. Calumet Road, Chesterton***

***Pancakes , Breakfast sausage, Syrup, and Drink***

***Choice of Coffee or Orange Juice, \$10.00 per person***

***All-you-can-eat; See Lions Club members for tickets***

## Lake Village Tornado—Lions Step Up in Service

In the wake of the devastating tornado that struck Lake Village, Indiana, the spirit of service is shining brightly as Lions rally together to support a community in need.

Lions District 25A, along with numerous District 25A Lions Clubs, have been mobilized quickly to provide meaningful relief efforts for residents impacted by the storm. Through a combined effort that includes support from the Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF) and district funding, a total of \$10,000 has been secured to directly assist the Lake Village community.

These funds are being used to purchase essential supplies for the local food pantry, as well as to support the preparation and distribution of meals for displaced residents, volunteers, and families working to recover and rebuild. Lions volunteers have already been on the ground—shopping for food, stocking shelves, and will be serving meals Thursday through Sunday—ensuring that immediate needs are met with compassion and care.

In addition, the Lowell Lions Club has contributed \$1,000 to the Lake Village Relief Fund, further strengthening the local response and ensuring resources are available where they are needed most.

“This is what Lionism is all about,” said Jennifer Cosenza, President of the Lowell Lions Club. “Lake Village is my home, and while some of us were fortunate, so many of our neighbors are facing unimaginable loss. When disaster strikes, we don’t hesitate—we step in, we serve, and we stand alongside our community.”

In addition to financial contributions, Lions Clubs from surrounding areas have come together in remarkable ways—organizing collections of non-perishable food, household items, and essential supplies. The collective response has been both swift and heartfelt, demonstrating the power of a global service organization working at the local level.

For many, this effort is more than just providing aid, it is restoring hope.

As Lake Village begins the long road to recovery, the presence of Lions—wearing their vests, serving meals, and offering support—serves as a visible reminder that no one faces hardship alone.

From financial support to hands-on service, Lions District 25A and its clubs continue to embody their motto: “We Serve.”

APRIL 2026

East Chicago Lions Club Indiana Harbor

Indiana Harbor East Chicago Lions Club  
Est. 1926

# PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER



*CELEBRATING  
100 YEARS  
1926-2026*

*Sunday, April 26th  
8:00 A.M. to Noon*

*St. Patrick's Church  
3802 Grand Blvd.  
East Chicago, IN 46312*

**TICKETS - \$10**

**50/50 RAFFLE -  
\$1 EACH  
6/\$5 or 13/\$10**



**SERVING A WORLD IN NEED.**

APRIL 2026

Westville



**WESTVILLE LIONS CLUB  
2026 Pork Chops Dinner**

**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY**

**Saturday, May 9, 2026**

**Westville United Methodist Church  
154 W Main St, Westville, IN 46391**

**\$ 13.00 Cost per / 5 years Under FREE**

**\$ 5.00 Pork Chop only**

**Dine in / Carry Out**

**4:00 pm — 6:30 pm**

**Donation with: Westville Scholarships & Community.**

## Door Village

On Saturday March 21st seven members of the Door Village Lions club joined Scipio Township Trustee Kaelynn Deckard and her volunteers in their annual spring park cleanup where flower beds, shrubs and winter debris are cleaned up and disposed of in anticipation of spring planting of annual flowers and the usual activities that frequent the very busy and popular township park.

Club members have been showing up every spring for many years to not only clean up in the spring but to plant various annual flowers in the beds around the historical brick school memorial which the club spearheaded designed and partially financed and was the first project of many the club bequeathed to the park over the years of park development. The cleanup work was very energy-consuming and required a lot of physical effort, but the results were gratifying and much needed, so club members are always happy to be a part of the total effort and are planning to be there again next year to help maintain one of the most popular and well-endowed township parks in the county.



Crown Point Lions

CROWN POINT LIONS CLUB HIGHLIGHTS



Crown Point Lions did eye testing for **Safe Kids Day** at the YMCA March 21, 2026. 56 children were tested by Lions Linda Tessarolo, Beata Eagan, Phil Mayer, Carla Smolek, Pam Gray, Toni Kosaris and Coleen McKen. (pictured left), with 8 referrals. It was a great day of fun activities for children and a perfect way for the Lions to reach out to the community.

**Lake Village**—was devastated by the recent tornado. Homes are gone, families are displaced, and lives have been turned upside down in a matter of moments.

But in the midst of this devastation, something powerful is happening... Lions from District 25A are stepping up.



“We Serve”

Thank you  
Lions!!!!

SPRING BINGO

What an amazing night for Spring Bingo

There were lots of raffle baskets, 50/50's, tips for meats, and so much more.

The Lions worked very hard and kept the evening very lively.

There were many happy winners as you can see by the pictures.

Thank you to all the Lions but especially thank you to all the people who attended to help support the Crown Point Lions Club. The money raised by this fundraiser will help to support the community in so many ways.



Lions had to take a moment to watch Purdue Win!!!!



Lots of great prizes to win.

APRIL 2026

LOFS Lions

**LOFS LIONS CLUB  
3RD ANNUAL  
WAYNE D. KRONER SR.  
MEMORIAL PORK CHOP DINNER**

**APRIL 19TH  
4P-7P**  
SEASONS LAKEHOUSE




SCAN THIS CODE TO  
PURCHASE TICKETS

<p><b>DINNER INCLUDES:</b></p> <p>PORK CHOP(S) PARSLEY POTATOES BAKED BEANS APPLE SAUCE COLE-SLAW DINNER ROLL DESSERT</p>		<p><b>TICKET PRICES</b></p> <p>1 CHOP DINNER-\$15 2 CHOP DINNER-\$18</p> <p><b>FREE</b> HOT DOGS AND CHIPS FOR THE KIDS</p>
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**COME JOIN US AT THE SEASONS  
LAKEHOUSE FOR OUR ANNUAL  
PORK CHOP DINNER APRIL 19TH FROM 4P TO 7P**

**DINE-IN  
OR  
TAKE-OUT**

ONLINE TICKET SALES WILL END AT 5PM APRIL 16TH  
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



## *The LOFS Lions Car Cruise Returns this Summer!*



*Fun & Free Event!*

**Three Dates:**

Monday June 10th

Monday July 15th

Monday August 10th

**4pm to 7pm in  
the Lakehouse Parking Lot**

Featured Food Vendors:

**Ken Dawgs and Snowie**

And...the Lions will be selling  
raffle tickets with the  
winner announced each evening!



*Cruise into the Summer with the LOFS Lions*

Celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup>  Year of Service in 2026!

**There will be a third food truck, rotating vendors.  
Stop in for the cars, enjoy good food!**

APRIL 2026

Indiana Lions State Convention May 2026



2026 Indiana Lions State Convention

Hosted by District 25-C

May 1-3, 2026

Embassy Suites

6089 Clarks Creek Rd, Plainfield, IN 46168



Please reserve your lodging by March 31, 2026 by phone at (317) 839-1106 ext 0, or email at Zoe.Garner@Hilton.com. Reference Lions Convention Rooms Block--Code 918 and ask for the type of room you need (Single, Double, Queen, King)

Room Rate: \$179.00 + taxes and fees per night (includes breakfast buffet or made-to-order hot breakfast [\$20 value] and evening (5-7 p.m.) Manager's Reception with snacks and beer, wine and cocktails [\$20 value], included in the cost of the room)

All Convention (Pre)Registrations must be received by March 31, 2026

Name \_\_\_\_\_
Lion Title \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Name \_\_\_\_\_
District: \_\_\_\_\_ Club: \_\_\_\_\_
Address: \_\_\_\_\_
City / State / Zip \_\_\_\_\_
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_
Is this your FIRST Indiana Lions State Convention: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Friday morning - Tour of Indiana Law Enforcement Academy (limit 30 per time slot) 9 a.m. \_\_\_ 11 a.m. \_\_\_

Please note any dietary restrictions for alternative meals: \_\_\_\_\_

Friday Evening Dinner \$25.00
Double D's Southern BBQ (located off site at MADE@Plainfield), includes Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Dessert and drink
Select one: \_\_\_ Shredded Chicken \_\_\_ Pulled Pork

Saturday Lunch \$30.00
Buffet style: Tuscany Lasagna with fresh vegetables and/or Italian Sausage Hoagies with sauteed vegetables, Caesar Salad, Dessert Minis and drink

Saturday All-State Banquet \$55.00
Plated dinner of Chicken Piccata and Roasted Pork Tenderloin, Strawberry Fields Salad, Chef's Choice Potato, Vegetable Medley, Rolls/Butter, Dessert Minis and drink

Saturday Strides Walk
(pick up T-Shirt at Registration Table) (Please circle size needed)
Donation only (no walking or T-Shirt) \$ 5.00
Walk with T-Shirt (S / M / L / XL) \$20.00
Walk with T-Shirt (XXL / XXXL) \$25.00

TOTAL REGISTRATION DUE \_\_\_\_\_

If Mailing: Mail form with check payment to: PDG Chloe Weyrauch, PO Box 94, Prairie Creek, IN 47869. Make check payable to Indiana Lions State Convention. On-line registrations payable by credit/debit card can be made by visiting https://inlionsconvention.org after February 1, 2026.

It roads this May lead to Plainfield and the 105th Indiana Lions State Convention, as we welcome Past

## Indiana Lions State Convention May 2026

International President Joe Preston and Lion Joni for a weekend of Lions' fun and fellowship. On behalf of the 2026 Convention Committee, we invite you to make the trip to the "Heartland of Indiana" on May 1-3, 2026.

With construction of I-69 to Evansville now complete, all of our districts now have quick and easy access to the convention. Whether you are traveling I-69 or I-65, I-70 or I-74, or US-231 or even the Old Historic US-40 National Road which runs right through downtown Plainfield, there is no reason not to pack up the car and make a weekend getaway to be with your Lions' family.

The weekend kicks off with tours of the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) on Friday morning, and then a BBQ dinner hosted by the Plainfield Lions Club at Made@Plainfield before the opening plenary session at the Embassy Event Center. Many of our local community police officers have graduated from ILEA since the first class in 1969.

The Saturday luncheon will feature Dr. Dan Neely as the keynote speaker. Dr. Neely is the medical director for Indiana Lions Operation KidSight preschool vision screening program, has served as the team ophthalmologist for the Indianapolis Colts, and gives of his spare time with Orbis flying hospital.

Past International President Joe Preston, of Mesa, Arizona, will be the keynote speaker for the Saturday evening banquet, and will be presenting several Leadership and Presidential Awards to the Lions of Indiana along with is certain to be an inspirational message about being a Lion.

In between these events, are district caucuses, the second plenary business session, exhibit hallway, seminars, Strides Walk and much more.

Voting happens on Sunday morning, along with a Memorial Service to remember all of those Lions who have ended their service to those WE SERVE before the closing session.

The Embassy Suites and Event Center is located just a couple of minutes from I-70, and your room reservations entitle you to complimentary made-to-order breakfast (a \$40 value\*) and a complimentary "Manager's Reception" each night from 5:00 – 7:00 pm (a \$40 value\*). There is ample free parking at both the hotel and the event center for those coming in for the day.

So why not make the trek to Plainfield on May 1-3, 2026 and celebrate being a Lion?

*(\* value based on double occupancy room)*

Convention Pictures Fair Oaks Farms



Senior Leadership above going over the details, Lion Bert Nelson telling more dad jokes, above!



LOFS Lions pre-chant contest



Guest Speaker Lion Steve Pangere

APRIL 2026

Convention Pictures Fair Oaks Farms

Friendly Lions Greeting You!



Just heard a great dad joke from our guest speaker, Lion Bert Nelson!

Below: From Indiana Donor Network, Kari Frame & Laura Peters



Pictures—Lake Village Volunteers\*



**\*The pictures on these 2 pages do not reflect the scope of the response. These images are but a few that were gathered and sent to the newsletter editor.**

**Lion Jackie**



APRIL 2026

Pictures—Lake Village Volunteers

