

# LIONS DISTRICT 25 A NEWSLETTER

*Coming Together to Serve*

## DISTRICT CONTACTS

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District Governor Jim Furlong



**District Governor Jim Furlong**

630-699-4278  
Jimfurl179@aol.com



*My District Gov Pin*

**Past International Director Gene Rice passes away**



Lions Clubs International and especially District 25-A lost a great leader, mentor and friend when PID Gene Rice passed away this week. Gene was born on the Rice family farm on May 13, 1932. Gene was a lifetime farmer on the Rice Family Farm, which was purchased by his grandfather in 1917.

He was a US Army Veteran, serving from 1953-1955 and spending several months in Korea.

Gene was also a dedicated member of the Lions Club International, serving in various offices from local to district level and was elected to a 2-year term on the International Board of Directors from 1975-1977. He was known as the "wedding singer" in the area, singing at hundreds of weddings and funerals over six decades. Gene also mentored many Lions encouraging them to reach out in service and achieve leadership roles at the District and Multi-District levels. I and all of District 25-A will miss his guidance and friendship.

**Dan Moynihan steps back from his District Activities**

We were all happy when Dan Moynihan and his wife Dana heard that their adoption for young Joey had been approved. Dan confided in me recently that the responsibilities of being a new parent were keeping him very busy, and he wanted to step back from his District and Multi-District roles. I reluctantly agreed. I want to thank Dan for his service to this District and Multi-District. It required me to reach out to replace Dan and these are the people who stepped up.

**DISTRICT GMT**

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The membership growth of Lions Clubs International is a dynamic and critical focus area for the organization, with different trends observed across various regions.

Here is a summary of the current trends and strategies:

#### Current Membership Status and Goals

- **Global Membership:** Lions Clubs International maintains a substantial global presence with **over 1.4 million members** across 200+ countries.
- **Recent Growth:** In the period from July 2023 through June 2024, the organization reportedly **inducted nearly 150,000 NEW MEMBERS**, which represented an eight percent increase from the previous year.
- **Mission 1.5:** Lions Clubs International is actively pursuing "**Mission 1.5**," a major strategic goal to reach **1.5 million members by June 30, 2027**. This initiative highlights the organizational drive to increase their capacity for global service by growing their membership base.

#### Key Focus Areas for Growth

Lions Clubs International utilizes a multi-pronged approach to recruitment and retention:

**Retention is Key:** Research indicates that roughly **50% of new members drop out within the first three years**. Therefore, retention is a major focus, with efforts concentrated on:

- Providing **formal orientation** for new members.
- Addressing the common reasons members leave, such as **boring meetings, club politics, and a lack of active involvement** in service projects.

#### Attracting New Demographic:

- **Youths:** The organization heavily promotes **Leo Clubs** (their youth wing) to develop young leaders and ensure a pipeline of future.

First Vice District Governor David Dickinsen

- **Women:** There has been a significant surge in the number of women joining the organization globally since the constitution was amended to allow their membership in 1987?

**Active Recruitment & Incentives:**

- Clubs are encouraged to continually invite prospective members and utilize a " **Just Ask** " approach.
- They use an extensive **Membership Key Awards Program** to recognize and reward individual Lions for sponsoring new members.
- New **Family Membership** options and incentives are offered to encourage group participation.

In essence, while they are the world's largest service club organization and are experiencing solid growth in some regions, they are also actively working to address regional declines and improve members retention globally to meet their ambitious service goals.

Lions,  
1VDG Dave Dickinson

Second Vice District Governor Wendy Semans

Season's Greetings! Happy Holidays Lions of 25A.

I know we are all really busy doing service projects, holiday shopping and having holiday parties but remember to take time for yourself , check on your neighbors and the elderly. Reconnect with old friends and take time to make memories.

As the new year starts, get excited and rejuvenate yourself by attending Mid-Winter conference. This is a great time to have fellowship with other Lions and go to some informative seminars. This year Leo's are invited to attend Mid-Winter, please spread the word and if you or your club is interested in sponsoring a Leo to attend, please contact me.

As always, please let me know what your clubs are doing!



2026 District 25-A Elections

**Lion Barbara Toosley, PDG--Nomination & Election Chair**

**Members: Donna Worst and Jay Ferrell**

District 25A Officers and Elected Committees Members & MD25 Foundation Officers  
Nominating Committee Checklist

For Second Vice District Governor Candidate \* This checklist must be completed for each candidate and submitted to the Elections Committee.

Name of Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Candidate's Lions Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Nominating Committee Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Election: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate has submitted sufficient evidence showing that he/she has met the following Requirements:

**This checklist must be completed for each candidate and submitted to the Elections Committee (DATED) via US Mail to Barb Toosley, 13700 Lantern Drive, St John, IN 46373 or Email 30 days to lionbarb@comcast.net prior to the ELECTION, before or on February 5, 2026.**

- ☐ Candidate is an Active Member in good standing of a chartered Lions Club in Good Standing\* in his/her single or sub-district.
- ☐ Candidate endorsed by his/her Lions Club or a majority of the Lions Clubs in the District. (Attach minutes of club meeting or signed form by majority clubs to Nomination Chair)
- ☐ Club President: Year Served
- ☐ Club Board of Directors Two (2) Years Served
- ☐ District Cabinet (check one) ☐ Zone or Region - Year Served
- ☐ Cabinet Secretary and/or Treasurer) Year Served With none of the above being accomplished concurrently.
- ☐ Has not completed a full term, or majority portion thereof, as district governor

\*Please note that if the club has any outstanding dues, the candidate should be notified and provided up until fifteen (15) days prior to the close of credential certification to ensure that his/her club pay outstanding dues. I have reviewed this checklist and certify that the candidate listed above has met the requirements for Second Vice District Governor in accordance with the International By-Laws, Article IX, Section 6(c). Nominating Committee Chairperson Date Nominating Committee Member Date Any questions contact Chair Barb Toosley, 219-798-5950



2026 District 25-A Elections

**District & Multi-District Offices: If you are a current OFFICER, please check your term dates**

Each candidate must submit in writing to the Elections Committee (DATED} via US Mail to Barb Toosley, 13700 Lantern Drive, St John, IN 46373 or Email 30 days to lionbarb@comcast.net prior to the ELECTION, before or on February 5, 2026, 11:59PM, for your intent to run for any office listed below to be placed on the ballot. Election by your club is not a requirement.

Nominations will also be taken from the floor and be written on the ballot as a "Write-in Candidate".

State Projects & Foundation One Candidate from each Project or Foundation \*

**2026 – 2029 Indiana Lions for the Indiana School for the Blind & Visually Impaired, Inc.**

**2026 – 2029 Indiana Lions Speech & Hearing, Inc.**

**2026 – 2029 Indiana Lions for Leader Dog, Inc. 2026 – 2029**

**Lions Cancer Control Fund of Indiana, Inc. 2026 – 2029**

**Indiana Lions Foundation 2026 – 2029**

**Indiana Lions Eye Bank/Vision First**

**District 25A – Ed Paine Care & Helping Hands**

*One candidate from each Region Candidates must be a member in good standing from one of the Clubs listed below.*

2026 – 2029 – Region 1 FROM: East Chicago Evening, Gary NWI, Highland, IHEC, Munster or Whiting

2026 – 2029 – Region 3 FROM: Chesterton, Hobart, Lake Station, Ogden Dunes, Merrillville, Portage or South Haven

\*Please note that if the club has any outstanding dues, the candidate should be notified and provided up to fifteen (15) days prior to the close of credential certification to ensure that his/her club pays outstanding dues. \* All CANDIDATES must be a member in good standing of a club in good standing in this district. Delinquent dues may be paid, and good standing acquired up to fifteen (15) days prior to the close of credential certification, as such closing time shall be established by the rules of the respective convention. For the 2024 District 25A Election, closing is February 20, 2026.

**All International, State & District DUES must be paid by February 20, 2026, 11:59PM**



DECEMBER 2025

Global Services Team (GST)

Dear District 25-A Lions,

Thank you for your Service reports in the Portal. Reported Service includes Club Meetings, Donations, Fundraisers and Service Projects. If you have a Leos Club, please encourage them to report their Service in the Portal.

If your Club is not reporting Service, I am willing to assist your Club to learn to report the excellent work your Club does for your local Community and the World.

Please contact me with any questions you have about Service Reporting and the Portal.

Sincerely,

Lion Jeanne De Las Casas, GST Coordinator

Crown Point, IN 46307

[tylersgrandma@comcast.net](mailto:tylersgrandma@comcast.net)      Cell 219-776-3021 (call or text)

# Indiana Lions Matching Grant Application

**INDIANA LIONS FOUNDATION, INC.  
MATCHING GRANT APPLICATION  
8780 Purdue Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46268**

**CRITERIA:**

1. The Project must be a Lions project. For instance, if your club takes on the project of funding equipment for the local fire department and raises funds from club projects, grants from non-Lion sources and solicitations in the Lions Club's name, the application will be considered. It will not be considered if the request is for a grant to be given as a part of the fire department solicitation.
2. Grants will not be given for the direct benefit of any one individual.
3. To assist 400 clubs and 10,000+ Lions, we encourage not more than one grant per Lions year per organization.
4. The applying Lions Club must give direct financial support to the project.
5. Grants are to match Lions Club direct financial support up to \$1,500.00
6. Club operation and routine maintenance expenses are not eligible for a grant: Capital Expenditures will be considered. The grant may be used for initial start-up costs and associated expenses for equipment, real estate, or improvements to real estate.
7. The club must be in good standing with the District, State and Lions Club International

We encourage organizations that receive a grant to assist the Indiana Lions Foundation Inc by one or more of the following.

- A. Purchasing a W. P. Woods Fellowship
- B. Selling tickets at the Indiana State Fair
- C. Purchasing an Indiana Lions license plate
- D. Purchasing a Brick Paver at the State Office Building

**SECTION I**

Name of Lions Club making the request	District	_____
Project title	Total project cost (attach copy of budget)	_____
Amount requested (max of \$1,500.00)	Title	_____
Contact person	City	_____ State _____ Zip _____
Address	Phone #	_____
Email Address		
Federal EIN		
Briefly describe the project		_____ _____ _____

Reason for the project. (Present the problems or needs that are to be met and how the project will meet those problems and needs.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Indiana Lions Matching Grant Application

### **Indiana Lions Foundation Matching Grants to Indiana Lions Clubs for Local Projects**

The major focus of the Indiana Lions Foundation is to support local club's community-based projects. Local clubs may apply for up to \$1,500 in matching grant funding for eligible projects. On-line application forms may be accessed at the Foundation's website ([indianalionsfoundationmd25.org](http://indianalionsfoundationmd25.org).)

All applications require the approval of the club president and the District Governor prior to submission to the Foundation. How are grant requests reviewed and approved? There are twenty-one trustees comprising the Foundation board: three from each of our seven districts in Multiple District 25. Those seven trustees in the second year of their three-year term make up the Grants Committee.

This Committee meets prior to each scheduled trustee meeting to review all grant applications submitted since the previous meeting. The trustees meet in February, April, June, July, September, November and December of each year.

Is there a limit to the amount of grants awarded each year? Yes, the trustees set an annual grant budget prior to each fiscal year. This budget is set based on the success of annual fundraising initiatives. The most recent grant budget was \$35,000. This amount may be adjusted upward depending on the number of applications received.

Are all clubs eligible to apply for a matching grant? Yes, as long as a club is current in meeting all of their financial obligations with their District, State and LCI. Also, each club will be limited to one grant per Lions fiscal year (July 1 – June 30).

What projects are eligible for matching grants from the Foundation? - - The project must be a club project where the club has committed funds from its fundraising activities up to \$1,500 to fund the project. For example, if your club takes on the project of funding equipment for your local fire department and raises funds for this project in the name of your club via club fundraising, grant applications and other solicitations; then a matching grant request would be considered.

If the grant is to be used only to match a monetary donation in response to fire department's charity campaign, then that request will not be considered. Grants may be awarded for initial start-up costs and associated expenses for the purchase of equipment, real estate or improvements to real estate.

## Indiana Lions Matching Grant Application

For example, a club has initiated a project to purchase a used food truck to sell hot dogs and drinks at local events for fund raising, but it is known at purchase that the HVAC is inoperable and the tires unsafe. The foundation will consider a matching grant to purchase the truck and to make the truck safe and operational up to an amount of \$1,500. Perhaps the club receives a grant from a local charity to purchase the truck and then could receive a matching grant from the Foundation to make it operational.

What are some examples of projects NOT eligible for matching grants? - - - - Any project benefiting only one individual will not be considered. On-going operating and maintenance expenses are not eligible for matching grants.

Grants will not be awarded for improvements to existing capital equipment or for the normal operating expenses of that equipment. Capital equipment is defined as a depreciable asset. For example, if the food truck noted previously was already a club asset, then the purchase of new tires or upgrading of the HVAC would not be eligible.

Grants will not be awarded to maintain real estate assets or rolling equipment. Examples include: roofing, HVAC equipment, windows, electrical upgrades for real estate and brakes, tune-ups, paint, tires and engine and transmission repair or replacement for rolling stock.

Exceptions to this include replacement of equipment such as HVAC or windows if that replacement will result in energy savings exceeding 10% of past energy usage. A matching grant will not be awarded when it is intended to match a charitable monetary donation from a club to another local charity such as the fire department charity example used above.

Can a club receive two matching grants for the same project? Maybe. As an example, a club receives a matching grant for initial start-up costs for a new festival in their community. Grant requests to match a club's start-up costs for that festival in subsequent years will not be considered. However, another club took on a project to build new dug-outs at the local ball fields and received a matching grant to complete this project. The next year, the club took on a project to replace the fencing at the same ball field. This second project would be considered for a matching grant because it is effectively a new project even though at the same location.

When should a club apply for a matching grant? A club should apply during the planning and budgeting portion of the project, which presumably would be several weeks or even months before the execution of the project. The Committee may reject a request if the request is received more than six months after the project has been completed.

## Indiana Lions Matching Grant Application

Should a club give recognition to the Foundation for a successful grant? Yes. The Foundation would appreciate any local publicity such as a check presentation at a club meeting made by one of that District's Trustees. In the case of the food truck example, perhaps a small decal or marker on the side of the truck acknowledging the Foundation's participation in the project could be placed.

Is there any follow-up required after a matching grant is received? The Foundation greatly appreciates receiving photos or accounts in local media about the finished project. We would appreciate receiving these within six months of project completion.

How can a club assist the Foundation? - - - - Clubs can assist the Foundation's fund raising by selling tickets at the State Fair Lions may purchase Indiana Lions license plates through the BMV Individual Lions or clubs may purchase a brick paver placed at the Lions State Office Building Purchase a W. P. Woods Fellowship Donate to a Foundation project.

Are matching grants available for disaster assistance? Yes. Grants not to exceed \$1,500 for Districts impacted by a natural disaster that has affected at least 100 people, including tornadoes and floods, are available. The grant applications must be made by the District Governor of the affected area within 30 days of the occurrence with funds spent within 30 days of receipt of funds and may be used to help meet immediate relief needs such as food, water, clothing and medical supplies. Given the urgency of these situations, the process for approval is a verbal conversation between the District Governor and the Foundation President, who will urgently poll the Foundation Board via email for rapid action.

Please visit [www.indianalionsfoundationmd25.org](http://www.indianalionsfoundationmd25.org) for more information.

## Leader Dogs for the Blind



Since 1939 Leader Dogs for the Blind has provided services to persons in need at no cost. The 2025-26 District fundraiser is reselling yearbooks. We have sourced a third party reseller who will offer \$CASH\$ for all high school yearbooks – the more signatures the better. So clean out those closets everyone! This low investment project will encourage less clutter at home for a great cause – supporting Leader Dog!



[donorsupport@leaderdog.org](mailto:donorsupport@leaderdog.org)



<https://www.leaderdog.org>

**\*Please let us know if you are interested in collecting at an event**

If you have more than can be reasonably brought to a cabinet meeting, I am happy to pick up – also can send a nice flyer for posting or hand out

Lion Joy Robinson  
219-973-3457  
[jrobinson28@hotmail.com](mailto:jrobinson28@hotmail.com)

GLT District Coordinator-Global Action Team

**GLT District Coordinator**

GLOBAL ACTION TEAM



GLT Pat Greer - 219-928-3618 - [patricia.agreer@gmail.com](mailto:patricia.agreer@gmail.com)

**Qualifications for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor in compliance with the International Constitution and By-Laws**

Applications may be submitted to PDG Barb Toosley [lionbarb@comcast.net](mailto:lionbarb@comcast.net)

A candidate for the office of second vice district governor shall:

- (1) Be an Active Member in good standing of a chartered Lions club in good standing in his/her single or sub-district.
- (2) Secure the endorsement of his/her club or a majority of the clubs in his/ her single or sub-district.
- (3) Have served or will have served at the time he/she takes office as second vice district governor:
  - (a) As president of a Lions club for a full term or major portion thereof, and a member of the board of directors of a Lions club for no less than two (2) additional years; and
  - (b) As zone chairperson, region chairperson, district global extension team coordinator, district global leadership team coordinator, district global membership team coordinator, district global service team coordinator, LCIF district coordinator, or cabinet secretary and/or treasurer for a full term or major portion thereof.
  - (c) With none of the above being accomplished concurrently.
- (4) Has not completed a full term or major portion thereof as district governor.



## Lions Recycle for Sight



### ***Calling All Lions-Can You Help?***

We make a living by what we get, but we help a life by what we give.

#### **But First, A Story...**

It was a chilly early morning when a family brought their little boy—about 8 or 9 years old—to our eyeglass mission worksite. It was clear he needed new glasses. The pair he wore was thickly taped together, the lenses scratched and thick like coke bottles. It was also evident that he faced some physical challenges. Still, he and his parents waited patiently, appearing hopeful we could help.

When it was finally the little boy's turn, we discovered his eyesight was extremely poor—legally blind. I feared we wouldn't have anything close to what he needed. But thanks to the generosity of the Lions in collecting and donating eyeglasses, we found a pair that worked for him! Seeing him leaving with his parents, relieved and smiling, was a reminder of why we do what we do: to serve, no matter who, how, or where.

**But the story didn't end there.** That afternoon, I glanced toward the waiting area and saw the little boy and his parents again. My heart sank. I imagined a dozen reasons why they might have returned—and feared the worst: that the glasses didn't work. Bracing myself, I walked over, unsure what I could offer next.

To my surprise, the little boy beamed at me. He tugged on my shirt, and when I bent down, he wrapped his arms around me and said, "Gracious, Señor. Gracious." Fighting back tears, I realized they had returned not with a problem, but with gratitude.

**This is why your support matters.** For over 20 years, the Lions of District 25A have served hundreds of thousands through eyeglass missions. Lions from across our district have experienced the joy of transforming lives—both here at home and around the world and have their stories too. Just ask them!

**Now, our mission needs your help to continue.** The equipment we rely on—autorefractors and lens meters—must be replaced to keep serving those in need. We are currently seeking a matching grant from Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) to purchase new equipment. To secure this grant, we must first raise roughly \$11,000.

***Here's how you can help:*** Your donation—of any amount—will help us reach this goal and touch even more lives. Every gift you give has twice the impact through the LCIF match, helping people see the world clearly for the first time, or perhaps in a long time.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to change lives. Your generosity will be felt around the world—by those who receive the gift of sight and by those of us who have the privilege to serve.

For questions, feel free to contact me and my information is listed below. Pledges are also welcome!

**Make checks payable to: District 25A Eyeglass Recycling**  
**Mail to: PDG Kevin Roe, 701 S Huddleston Rd, Winamac In 46996**

Warm Regards,

Lion Kevin Roe, Chair, District 25A Eyeglass Recycling and Vision Services, Inc.

E: [lionkevroe@gmail.com](mailto:lionkevroe@gmail.com) C: 574-946-4701

## News Around the District—Oregon Davis Leos and Cubs

Oregon Davis Leo's and Cubs made a Thanksgiving menu, shopped for the ingredients, made up two baskets and delivered baskets to two needy families. These are a great group of young service minded youth serving their communities. No matter how old, We Serve!



Leo's pictures Alexis Earnest, Kinley Earnest, Addison Zoliner, Autumn Fletcher, Alicia Reem. Cubs pictured, Remington Maker, Alana Mevis, Ariana Mevis and Aspen Zoliner. Advisor 2vdg Wendy Semans.

## News Around the District—Munster Lions

The Munster Lions volunteered at the Foodbank of Northwest Indiana on November 1, 2025. Over 700 families were helped on this day.

The Munster Lions presented a check for \$1,000.00 to the Foodbank of NWI to further assist this organization.



## News Around the District—Schererville Lions

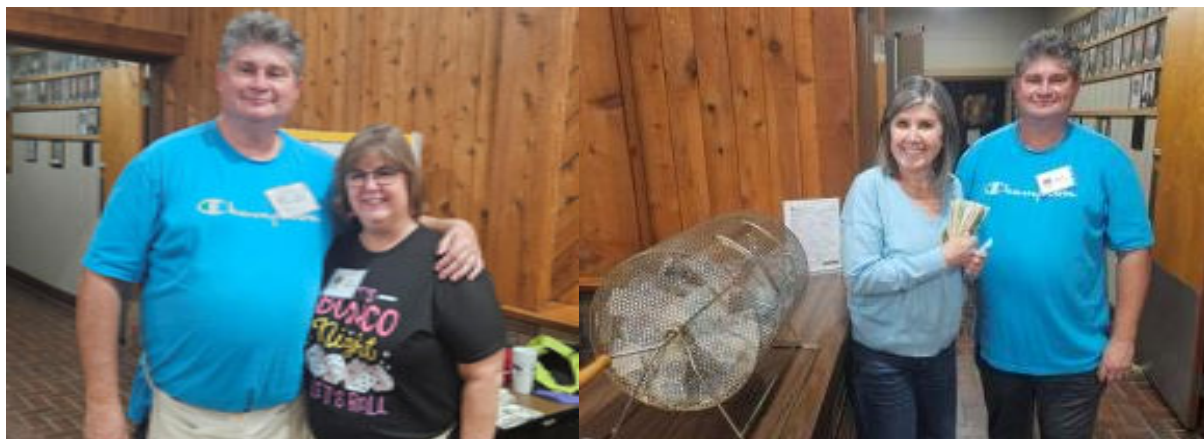
The Schererville Lions have decorated their tree at the Town Hall with pink and purple ornaments, eyeglasses, and lions. We are looking forward to the big lighting ceremony on November 28th. We will be bringing donations for the Toys for Tots collection.





## News Around the District—St. John Lions Bunco

Successful bunco fundraiser on Saturday! 😊 Lion Nancy Moneta, Lion Nancy and Lion Mitch in the first picture... then Lion Mitch with the winner of the 50/50... other Lions Gail, Vicki, Lark and Kaitlin ... Lions Patty, Jim, Jeanie and Chuck! 😊 A great time was had by all and we made some great money for projects!



News Around the District—St. John Lions Bunco



Also, at the bunco, we asked people to bring in non-perishable food items for our local food pantry at the St. John Township Center... and BOY DID THEY LISTEN! We had over 20 bags of stuff the guys took to the Township Center this morning!

That's Lion Karl (w/Ozzy), Lion Al and Lion Wayne in the picture. 😊



## News Around the District—Door Village Lions Bingo at Nursing Home

Members of Door Village Lions club voted to present Bingo Games at the Brickyard Nursing Home again this year as one of the club's many projects.

Lion Bonnie Olson and Lions Dennis and Cindy Fischer purchased the prizes for winners and Lion Bonnie made arrangements with the Activity Director Lisa Hindsley at the Andrew Avenue Brickhouse facility. Lions Bonnie Olson, Dennis Fischer, Gene Flickinger, George Morley, Cindy Fischer, Carol Pahs and Sue Kaiser, and volunteer Dory Morley conducted a fun Bingo Party for residents.

Residents filled the tables in the dining area and for the next hour enjoyed winning prize after prize delivered to each winner by Lion Dennis Fischer and selected with great care from his cart full of a variety of sweets and sundry items.

Lion Cindy Fischer called the numbers and kept the games fun for everyone. Lions Bonnie Olson, Carol Pahs, Gene Flickinger, George Morley, Sue Kaiser, and volunteer Dory Morley assisted those residents who needed some help with their bingo cards, they also called the numbers of the winners to verify each win.

After the last prize was won Activity Director Lisa Hunsley and Activity Assistant Jullie Jones thanked Lions for coming and several of the residents thanked Lions too. It was a fun time for all involved and Lions were quick to let residents and staff know they were glad to see that so many enjoyed the games.



## News Around the District—Door Village Lions Charter Night

Last Monday evening members of the Door Village Lions club celebrated their 49th anniversary of their club charter.

The celebration took place in the fellowship hall of the Door Village United Methodist Church with a catered meal and delicious desserts made by several of the Lion members bringing their favorite recipes. After the meal and a few items of business, Immediate Past President Bonnie Olson and President Sue Kaiser proceeded to present awards to members in recognition for participation in the many projects the club undertook during the past year.

Receiving certificates for Outstanding Service and 100% Attendance were Lions Dennis Fischer, Cindy Fischer, Gene Flickinger, Matt Fischer, George Morley, Sue Kaiser, Joe Pahs, Carol Pahs and Nancy Weaver. And the very coveted Lion Of The Year Certificate was awarded to Lion Sue Kaiser who was chosen by the votes of her peers for work above and beyond what is expected of a member.

One of highest honors a club member can receive is the Melvin Jones Fellowship award was presented to Lion Joe Smith for continued service over many years served as a dedicated Lion member.

The last award presented was the Progressive Melvin Jones award, awarded to Lion George Morley. The Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowship award is more often awarded to members with a long history of dedicated service to others. Lion George's participation in nearly all projects conducted by the club and serving as an officer in all offices within the club structure over the past 48 years that he has been a Lion member.



Left to right; Lion Sue Kaiser, Club President; Lion Bonnie Olson, Immediate Past President; Lion Joe Smith, Melvin Jones Fellowship Award Recipient ; Lion Carol La Gard, Mother of Lion Joe and full time driver for Joe who is legally blind.

## News Around the District—Door Village Lions Charter Night



Left to right: Lion Bonnie Olson, Immediate Past President; Lion Sue Kaiser, Recipient of the coveted Lion Of The Year Award.



Left to right: Lion Bonnie Olson, Immediate Past President; Lion George Morley, Recipient of Progressive Melvin Jones Fellowship Award receiving diamond studded lapel pin.

- Door Village Lions Donate to Salvation Army Food Bank

## News Around the District—Door Village Lions Salvation Army Donation

Members of the Door Village Lions met on Monday October 27 and discussed the subject of those who would soon be going without food due to the SNAP program being affected by the Government shutdown.

The Club voted to make a donation of \$500 in needed items to the Salvation Army Food Bank. Lions Dennis and Cindy Fischer proceeded to purchase the items they knew would be appropriate for those needing to make nourishing meals and stretch thier grocery resources.

On Wednesday at 9 AM, Lions Cindy and Dennis Fischer, Bonnie Olson, Gene Flickinger and George Morley delivered the purchased items to the Food Coordinator Linda Neess at the La Porte Salvation Army building on Monroe Street. Linda thanked the Lions and informed them that the items would be so appreciated by those regular and the already increasing number of community members who have been coming to the food bank recently, an increase of approximately 40%.

Lion Cindy assured Linda that Door Village Lions are pleased to be in the position of making this donation and knowing that their combined effort with the Salvation Army staff and volunteers is touching the lives of those in the community who need assistance with something as important as food on their table.

This project was completed as planned along with the many projects Door Village Lions do throughout the year, year after year. If you would like to assist with one of these projects and join members in helping those in need in so many ways, please call George Morley at 219-575-3575.



Door Village Lions delivering Donated items to the La Porte Salvation Army Food Bank; Left to right Lion Gene Flickinger, Lion George Morley, Lion Bonnie Olson, Lion Cindy Fischer and Lion Dennis Fischer.



## News Around the District—LaPorte Lions

La Porte Lions gave almost 400 dictionaries to third graders in La Porte in October. Pictured with Anna Hernandez's class at Crichfield Elementary School are Lions Dwight Graham, Sandy Burkhardt and Tom Ruda.



## News Around the District—LOFS Lions

The LOFS Lions have spent the fall serving our community. In Mid-November, the Club held a Veteran's Celebration. Club members put on a program recognizing the Veterans for their service and dedication to our community and country. The evening also featured music, hotdogs and apple pie.

Also, in November the Club answered the call by local food pantries, which were challenged to serve all those in need due to the impact on SNAP benefits. Each pantry noted that the demand was up 30% to 50% and one had already gone through its emergency funding. The Club donated over \$2,000 to three of the local food pantries.

The Club takes in food and funding at the majority of their public events for the food pantries. At the Annual Holiday Event on November 29th, Lion Chair Shannon and President Lion Jenn organized a funding drive for the Winfield Pantry by holding a "Grocery Store," where community members could donate money to "buy" anything from a can of green beans to a full dinner for a family of two to four. The idea behind the funding drive is that our food pantries have buying power, therefore, the funds they receive go farther than if our club did the purchase. A clever idea which raised enough funds to feed several families.



Front: Lion Shannon, Lion Christi  
Back: Lion Jackie, Lion Pat  
"Grocery Store" Fundraiser for Food Pantry



LOFS Lions with members of the Hebron Country Food Pantry

News Around the District—Crown Point Lions

**CROWN POINT LIONS CLUB HIGHLIGHTS**



**Welcome new Lion Phillip Mayer**

Lion Phillip is pictured left with his sponsor Lion Ed Schlessler and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Julie Wendor.



Lions Phyllis Porio, Chuck McKean, Coleen McKean, Mary Jane DiMichele and Carla Smolek (pictured right) did eye screening for the YMCA Preschool and other local preschools. 124 children were tested.

**Lions Kidsight** is now an international vision screening and correction campaign to help clear the backlog of the MILLIONS of children – aged 6 months and through early grade school - who are going without a basic vision screening.



**FAST FACTS:**

- According to educational experts, 80% of learning is visual. If children can't see well, they will have more difficulty learning.
- 1-in-3 young children have poor but correctable vision - often just needing eyeglasses.
- Vision problems undetected by the age of 7 can become permanent.



The Crown Point Lions Club is proud to announce its newest project – **Diabetes Awareness A1C Testing Program**.

The testing will take place at four churches with a certified A1C Testing Nurse starting January 22, 2026. Lions will organize the event and present informational handouts. Watch for more development of this program. For more information contact any of the committee members:

Lions Mary Jane DiMichele, Beata Eagen, Carla Smolek, Aaron Whitten, Toni Kosaris, Phyllis Porio and Pam Gray. (pictured left).





## News Around the District—Crown Point Lions

### “O, What A Night!”

It starts with a lot planning and work. Putting out signs all over town, shopping for supplies, preparing raffle baskets, soliciting for door prizes, tearing tickets, and so much more.

#### And We Love to Do It.

Another great Holiday Bingo. Nearly 500 people attended this year. Some come just to play, but others come for the meat raffles, 50/50 raffles, basket raffles and door prizes. We do have amazing door prizes, over 100 this year. There was also a money tree raffle and other basket raffles.

There were a lot of new faces this year as well as many regulars. This is a night of crazy raffles, games and just plain fun.

As you can see by the smiling faces, everyone, Lions and Guests alike, have a great time when they come to our Annual Holiday Bingo.

Big thank you to Lions and Guests who made this a wonderful event.



Congratulations to Kinzie Grant the winner of the Crown Point Lions Club Peace Poster Contest.

The theme this year was “Together As One”. Kinzie’s poster personifies the world coming together.



**Members Who Have Completed Their Service**

**Francisville**

Gregory Stone      September 24, 2025

**South Haven**

Richard Altenhof      November 1, 2025

**Welcome New Members!**

**Rensselaer**

Troy Rahmoeller sponsored by Brad Miller

## The Member Who Never Came Back

### THE MEMBER WHO NEVER CAME BACK

It amuses me to think that your group spends so much time  
looking for new members when I was there all the time.

Do you remember me? I'm the person you asked to join.  
I paid my dues and was asked to be a loyal and faithful member.

I'm the person who comes to every meeting, but nobody paid  
any attention to me. I tried to be friendly,  
but everyone seemed to have their own friends to talk and sit with.

I sat with different people several times, but they  
did not pay much attention to me.

I hoped somebody would ask me to join one of the  
committees or do something but no one did.

Finally, because of illness I missed a meeting.  
When I came again, no one asked me where I had been.  
I guess it did not matter much whether I came or not.  
Next time I decided to stay home and watch a good TV show.  
When I came back again, no one asked where I was the month before.

You might say I'm a good person, fun loving and religious.

You know what else I am?

I'm the member who never came back.

**Where's Waldo?  
DG Jim's upcoming schedule**

12/6 Indiana Lions Council Christmas Party, Indianapolis

12/7 ISBVI Christmas Party,

12/11 Official Visit South Haven 6:00pm

12/16 Official Visit Star City (Winamac)

1/8 Official Visit Crown Point

1/16-1/17 Midwinter Conference Indianapolis

1/18 Council Meeting Indianapolis

# Holiday Luncheon Form



## Indiana Lions Speech and Hearing, Inc. Annual Holiday Luncheon



You are invited to attend! The Indiana Lions Speech & Hearing, Inc. Board of Trustees will have our annual holiday luncheon on **Sunday, December 7, 2025**, at the Indiana School for the Deaf Brown cafeteria, 1200 East 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, Indianapolis, across from the State Fair Grounds. Activities will begin at 12:30 p.m. Plan to arrive early to check in at the registration table and visit with friends. The cost per person is **\$25 in advance and \$30 at the door.**

Our special guests will be the deaf high school students, your donations helped sponsor, who attended the Deaf Youth Leadership Camp for four weeks in Stayton, Oregon last summer. As a highlight of the luncheon program, the students will report on their experiences while attending the Leadership Camp.

Also attending will be staff members of the Indiana School for the Deaf, staff members from the Riley Children's Hospital Audiology & Speech Department, and Riley Children's Foundation. Faculty representatives from our four state universities as well as scholarship recipients will be in attendance.

In support of your project, the Indiana Lions Speech & Hearing trustees hope you will join us for this inspiring occasion. We encourage you to bring other Lions and friends to experience the excellent work we do in fulfilling our motto "We Serve." **Please complete the form below and return it with your check to arrive at the address shown below no later than November 28, 2025.** Thank you for your support.

**We will be having a Silent Auction**, if you have an item you would like to donate, please bring it with you on December 7th.

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ dinners at \$25.00 each. (Children under 4 no charge)

Amount enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_ Make check payable to Indiana Lions Speech and Hearing, Inc.

Name	Title	District	Club
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

**Mail to:**  
**PDG Stephen J. Helmken**  
 1203 S. Roosevelt Rd.  
 Knox, IN. 46534  
 (c) 219-561-3561  
[lionstephenjh@gmail.com](mailto:lionstephenjh@gmail.com)

**"CALLING ALL LEOS!"**

YOU'RE INVITED TO  
MID-WINTER  
CONFERENCE!

**FUN**  
CHANT COMPETITION!

TEAM BUILDING EXERCISES!



STATEWIDE SERVICE PROJECT  
LEOS ARE WELCOME TO FRIDAY NIGHT, THE ROOM  
RATE IS \$126.00+ TAX AND BREAKFAST/LUNCH ON  
SATURDAY IS \$65.00. LEOS CAN SHARE ROOMS. IF  
YOU NEED HELP WITH PAYING FOR YOUR ROOM/  
FOOD, SPONSORSHIP/FUNDS AVAILABLE TO HELP  
YOU ATTEND

**January, 16th-17<sup>th</sup> 2026**  
Crown Plaza, Indianapolis, IN  
COME SEE WHAT YOUR FELLOW LEOS ARE  
DOING IN THEIR DISTRICT!  
FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL:  
WENDYSEMANS71@GMAIL.COM

# Silent Auction

2026 Mid-Winter Conference – January 17, 2026

2

We are in need of items for the silent auction at the 2026 Mid-Winter Conference. If you would like to donate something, please contact either Co-Chair Lion Gretchen Xinopoulos at [liongretchen@att.net](mailto:liongretchen@att.net) or PDG Linda Scott at [lindamscott@comcast.net](mailto:lindamscott@comcast.net). Funds raised from this silent auction will go toward support of the MidWinter Conference, to better help defray the costs. Thank you for your willingness to make this event a success.



All of this information is on the home page of the [MD 25 website](#).



# Indiana Lions Mid-Winter Conference



**Saturday, January 17, 2026**

**Crowne Plaza Airport Indianapolis**

**2501 S. High School Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46241**



**For overnight reservations Friday or Saturday night, CALL (317) 244-6861 and mention LIONS OF INDIANA — or book online here. Overnight rate is \$126 plus tax.**



## KICK OFF DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT

**FRIDAY NIGHT - JANUARY 16<sup>TH</sup>**

**Price: \$50 Social Time: 6:00 PM Dinner: 6:30 PM**

Menu: A plated dinner that will include CHOICE OF Beef Tips or Chicken Marsala with House Salad, Roasted Potatoes, Garlic Green Beans, Dessert, House Bread and Butter, Coffee and Tea.

## FOLLOWED BY GAME SHOW BATTLE ROOMS!

Get your teams ready for Wheel of Fortune, Family Feud and more!

## PLUS - ANNUAL SERVICE PROJECT

We will again assemble our Care-ing Cases, which consists of first aid kits using new eyeglass cases and toiletry kits made up of personal hygiene items. These cases will be given to the District Governors who will share them with the needy people in their district.

## LUNCH SATURDAY FOLLOWED BY KEYNOTE SESSION PRESENTED BY

**AMBER COX, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER**

**AND GENERAL MANAGER FOR THE INDIANA FEVER.**



Menu: Siesta Buffet - Mexican Salad with Cilantro Lime Dressing, Latin Seasoned Ground Beef and Corona Marinated Grilled Chicken Fajitas with Peppers and Onions, Assorted Tortilla and Taco Shells, Lime Rice and Refried Bean, Churro Doughnuts

## SATURDAY CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## SPEED LEARNING TOPICS

Registration & Continental Breakfast	8:00 am – 9:00 am
Displays & Silent Auction	Open until 3:00 pm
Opening Session	9:00 am - 9:30 am
First Session Seminars	9:45 am – 10:30 am
Second Session Seminars	10:45 am – 11:30 am
Lunch – Siesta Buffet	11:30 am – 12:15 pm
Program & Keynote Speaker	12:15 pm – 1:15 pm
Third Session Seminars	1:30 pm – 2:15 pm
Speed Learning	2:30 pm – 3:30 pm
Closing Session	3:45 pm – 4:15 pm

Indiana Lions for Leader Dog,  
Vision First/Indiana Lions Eye Bank,  
Indiana Lions Speech & Hearing, Inc  
Indiana Lions for ISVBI  
Cancer Control, Indiana Lions Foundation,  
USA / Canada Forum and Lions University,  
International Conventions- Hong Kong &  
DC, Having Fun in your Club,  
LCIF—How Our Foundation Helps the  
World, Special Olympics, Lions Quest

**COMPLETE NEXT PAGE TO SELECT SEMINARS AND COMPLETE REGISTRATION**





DECEMBER 2025

# Indiana Lions Mid-Winter Conference

## REGISTRATION FORM

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ This is my first Mid-Winter Conference.

( ) \$65.00 Early-bird (Before 11/30) ( ) \$75.00 (After 12/1 or Onsite)  
 ( ) \$35.00 Conference Only - No Lunch  
 ( ) \$50.00 Friday Dinner (Circle) Beef Tips or Chicken Marsala \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 ( ) \$20.00 Friday Entertainment Only (No Friday Dinner)  
 ( ) LESS \$10 for First Time Attendees!

Total Amount Due  
Per Registration:

Any food allergies or special requests? ☐ Gluten Free ☐ Vegetarian Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTER ONLINE ([www.indianalions.org](http://www.indianalions.org)) or send completed registration form with payment to:

Registrar Lion Cheri Faulkner, 1021 Woodpointe Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46234

E-mail: [clermtionlady58@yahoo.com](mailto:clermtionlady58@yahoo.com) or questions call: 317-271-3314

Make Checks Payable to: Lions of Indiana, Inc. OR Card Type: ☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ Discover

Card#: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Review the Seminars offered and note the session time each seminar will be offered. Please circle your selections for each session to help us plan sufficient seating and handouts.

9:45 – 10:30	Seminar Session 1	1	2	3	4
10:45 – 11:30	Seminar Session 2	5	6	7	8
1:30 – 2:15	Seminar Session 3	9	10	11	12
2:30 – 3:30	SESSION 4: SPEED LEARNING				

### Seminar Session 1 9:45 - 10:30

Seminar 1  
Lion Membership Orientation  
Presenter: PDG Tom Robbins  
Description: Whether you are a new or "seasoned" Lion come and more about Lionism and how to help new Lions.

Seminar 2  
Using the Lions Portal  
Presenter: Lion Anita Hines  
Description: As the Portal continues to expand and improve, learn the ins and outs of putting it to work for you.

Seminar 3  
Inviting Made Easy  
Presenter: PDGs Jim Bush & Charlie Short  
Description: We all want to expand our membership and be able to do more service. Learn how to get past the fear of the ask.

Seminar 4  
Serving your Club  
Presenter: PDG Mark Clark  
Description: Does the thought of being a club officer scare you? This informative session will go over the various positions and give you the tips and skills to do a great job and make your club even stronger.

### Seminar Session 2 10:45 - 11:30

Seminar 5  
Zeffy and Your Club  
Presenter: Lions Dan Moynihan & Jennifer Niemeyer  
Description: Learn how Zeffy can be used by your club to take online payments with no fees and can do so much more. This session will show you how to start using it in minutes.

Seminar 6  
Using AI to Promote your Club  
Presenter: TBD  
Description: Ever has issues writing an article or a follow-up letter? With finding corporate or work partners? Learn how AI can be used to help simplify these tasks.

Seminar 7  
How to Build a Leo Club  
Presenter: 2VDG Wendy Semans  
Description: Leo Clubs are an exciting way to get younger people involved in service. Come learn how to start and grow a club with Leos from across the state.

Seminar 8  
The GMA Approach to Revitalizing Your Club.  
Presenter: IPCC Julia Kozicki  
Description: The Global Membership Approach (GMA) can be used to revitalize a club. Come and learn what PIP Brian Sheehan calls "the secret sauce" of Lionism.

### Seminar Session 3 1:30 - 2:15

Seminar 9  
Gaming Rules  
Presenter: Mark Mason  
Description: Does your club host games? Learn what you need to stay legal from the Assistant Director of the Indiana Gaming Commission.

Seminar 10  
Creating a Great Newsletter  
Presenter: PDG Marty Juel  
Description: A well-crafted newsletter is a critical communication tool for all Lions. Learn how to create engaging articles for your own newsletter and for all media to tell the story of your club to your community.

Seminar 11  
Creating a Club Google Profile  
Presenter: Peter Brown of Ash Interactive  
Description: Learn why your club needs a Google business profile and how to set it up.

Seminar 12  
Pediatric Cancer Update  
Presenter: Dr. Jennifer Belsky  
Description: Last year, Dr. Belsky of Riley Hospitals gave an inspired talk on her work in pediatric cancer research. Join us for an update of this critical work.

