



State Convention is nearly here!

PDG Marlyn Fast
PDG Brian Thomas

Greetings, Indiana Lions!
Thanks to ChatGPT AI, we present a whimsical rhyme as your last notice concerning Indiana Lions State Convention on the weekend of April 25-27 in Shipshewana.

As of now, most available lodging is booked up unless you have connections in the area. However, if you are in driving distance to Shipshewana and want to make a day trip to the Convention, we can still register you for Friday Dinner hosted by the Dunlap Lions, Saturday lunch featuring local pundit Gary Sieber, and/or the Saturday evening banquet featuring Past International President Jimmy Ross from Texas.

Of course, anyone is welcome to attend the Convention seminars, silent auction, exhibits and vendors, and social interaction with fellow Lions. We would ask that you register with us even if you're not joining us for dining so we can have an accurate count of attendees.

As my co-chair and I say, it looks like this will be a successful Convention despite our best efforts and numerous missteps. Thank you to the Indiana Lions and District G for the opportunity to serve as your Convention chairmen.

Roar into Shipshewana – Don't Delay!

*The Lions are gathering – hear the call,
In Shipshewana, we'll have a ball!
Workshops, meals, laughter, stories to share,
A weekend of service beyond compare!
The 2025 Convention is drawing near,
A time for pride, a time to cheer!
Don't be the one who waits too late,
Or you'll be stuck outside the gate!
The Amish town, the sights, the fun,
But you must act now – don't be outdone!
Rooms fill fast, that's no surprise,
So register now – be wise, be wise!
Roar with the best, come take your place,
Join us for memories you won't replace!
So sign up now, don't drag your paws,
For Lions, For service, and a big applause!*

(TOP LEFT From left) 25B DG Jim Bush, 25C PDG Charlie Short, CC Julia Kozicki, 25D DG Rocky Simpson, and 25F PDG Ed Harper. (ABOVE LEFT) State Senator Scott Baldwin (left) listens to 25C PDG Charlie Short (right) as CC Julia Kozicki looks on. (ABOVE RIGHT) State Representative Alaina Shonkwiler was kind enough to take a moment for a photograph with CC Julia Kozicki.

Lions at the Statehouse Day



Council Chairperson's Corner

CC Julia Kozicki
julia@thekozickis.org

Hello Lions! My theme for articles this year is "Back to Basics," where I plan to highlight the basics of Lionism and share the joy of Lionism in Indiana.

I've had the pleasure of attending four of the seven district conventions over the last two months and I was inspired by our visiting international directors each time. Several outstanding Lions were honored with the International President's Certificate, the fourth-highest award in Lionism, and all of the conventions had great fellowship and fun.

Our state convention is coming up April 25-27 in Shipshewana. Our room block may be full, but you can still come up for the day on Saturday to hear from Past International President Jimmy Ross and share the joy of Lionism in Indiana. See Page 5 for more details.

During the 25D convention, International Director Judge Anthony Paradiso

talked about our Lions logo. Our logo has two different Lion faces. One faces backward, towards our proud history. The other faces forward, toward our bright future. The different lion faces are tied together as part of our Lions International organization. The 'L' in the middle stands for Lions, but ID Paradiso challenged us to think of it as standing for "Legacy" and to think about what legacy we are leaving for our communities and our world.

Our clubs have a proud heritage of service and philanthropy, but if we do not bring in new members to carry on that tradition, who will serve and give in the future? As Melvin Jones reminded us, "There's only one thing greater than being a member of a Lions Club, and that's helping build one." Whether it's building your own club or a new club in your district, now is the time to offer the privilege of membership.

In March each year, Lions International holds a Day at the United Nations to celebrate the Lions' contribution to the draft-



ing of the United Nations charter and to offer our assistance in addressing needs around the world.

Stemming from this idea, we had the idea to hold an Indiana Lions at the Statehouse Day, which occurred on March 13. Many thanks to District Governors Jim Bush (25B) and Rocky Simpson (25D) and Past District Governors Charlie Short (25C) and Ed Harper (25F) for joining our first effort and many thanks to State Administrative Secretary Lion Ann Ninness for her work in organizing our visit. We had a productive afternoon, meeting with state leaders, staff, and members of the public in the statehouse atrium. Our purpose was simply to remind legislators and state officials that the Lions of Indiana are ready to serve our communities and looking for opportunities to do so.

I hope we will continue this effort in the future and encourage Lions to connect with your local officials to make sure we are meeting the needs of our communities.

Yours in Lionism,
CC Julia



(LEFT) Lion Tom Iles of the Plainfield Lions Club screens a child. (RIGHT) Lions Ron Hinshaw and Gene Guffey of the Tipton Lions Club are helping make sure children can see.

Operation KidSight helps

Did you know the data Operation KidSight (OKS) volunteers have collected by going out into their communities and offering free, fast, and accurate vision screenings have impact beyond our Hoosier state borders?

Every result has the potential to make changes across lives, from the kid whose vision is saved by early detection of a problem, to organizations and universities using the data reported to Lions KidSight USA to improve screening techniques.

The Lions of Indiana are well-equipped to make significant impact in our communities and the world with Operation KidSight. We have the technology, we have caring volunteers, and not a day goes by where Lions across this state aren't thinking about ways to further help.

Every time a kid clumsily climbs onto the chair and faces a club or an OKS-owned camera is an opportunity to make a difference. Lions in every district are active year-round conducting screenings in daycares, schools, libraries, and local community spots.

As we get ready to finish the school year

with plenty of kindergarten roundups, let's take a moment to acknowledge what we've done so far this 2024-2025 year:

- 10,892 kids screened
- 55 clubs reporting results
- Over 470 screenings conducted
- 13 confirmed cases of amblyopia from returned evaluations

If your club has not been involved in Operation KidSight and wants to learn more, invite a VisionFirst/KidSight board trustee to your meeting! There is nothing a Lion involved in KidSight loves more than trumpeting the impact of this program. For the newly active and well-seasoned clubs, keep up the great work. The Operation KidSight board and coordinator are here to help screeners and clubs in every way, just ask! Schedule those screenings, check and charge the camera, and fulfill your oath as a Lion in an easy and oh-so rewarding way.

For more information, contact Karlene Roe, Indiana Lions Operation KidSight Program Coordinator, at kidsight@att.net or (317) 213-3902.

JIMMY M. ROSS PAST INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

Jimmy M. Ross of Quitaque, Texas, was elected to serve as 2006-2007 president of The International Association of Lions Clubs at the association's 89th International Convention, held in Boston, Mass., June 30 to July 4, 2006.



Ross

Past President Ross is a rancher and a retired judge.

A Lion since 1969, Past President Ross is a member of the Quitaque Lions Club.

He has held many offices within the association, including club president, multiple district secretary, state membership and extension chairperson, multiple district convention chairperson, multiple district council chairperson and international director. Additionally, he has taken part in eye-glass recycling missions to South America and been involved in chartering more than 500 clubs.

Past President Ross has also been active in numerous professional and community organizations. He was a member of both the Water Control & Improvement Board and the District Juvenile Probation Board and chairperson of the board of the All Emergency Systems in 26 counties of Texas.

Past President Ross's special interests have been in membership extension, the strengthening of clubs, and community service. In recognition of his work on behalf of the association, he has received many awards, including District Governor Appreciation Awards, International President's Awards and the Ambassador of Good Will Award, the highest honor bestowed upon association members. He is also a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow.

Past President Ross and his wife, Velda, have three daughters, two granddaughters, and two grandsons.



Roars from District A

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Submit news, photos of club activities to:
PR Chairperson Jackie Katz
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Merrillville, IN 46410
jackiekatz@aim.com



What a wonderful convention for 25A

By DG Patty Cooke-Furlong
District 25A Governor

Hello MD25 Lions!
We had a wonderful day on March 8 for the 25A Convention at Fair Oaks Farms. I was happy to see so many 25A Lions there.
Plus, we had a few visitors from other districts: PID Linda Tincher, PID Bob Block and Lion Brenda, and PDGs Pat and Charlie Short. In addition, ID Steven Middlemiss of New Hampshire was our visiting International Director. ID Steve – with the help of the Lowell Lions – initiated four new Lions

at the afternoon session. He then gave a moving speech about his family and service at the Banquet. It was great to have some of my family there, also.
The Convention Committee did a great job in organizing this event! They have already booked the same location for next year for DGE Jim – he was elected to be the next Governor of 25A. Our 1st VDG will be Lion Dave Dickinson. Lion Wendy Semans was elected 2nd VDG. We will have a great team leading 25A in 2025-26.
Thank you for all you do!



Photos provided

Everybody loves spaghetti

The LOFS Lions held a Spaghetti Dinner on Feb. 25 at the Seasons Lakehouse. The donation-only event featured homemade sauce made by a team headed by our own Lion Denise. The dinner included pasta, meatballs, breadsticks, salad, cookies, and beverages.
The Chair, Lion Jenn, wanted a community event that allowed patrons to relax and enjoy some comfort food and chat with friends and neighbors. The donation-only payment was so

that anyone who wanted to have an affordable dinner out could do so.
The event ending up being a bigger event than expected, with 106 patrons turning out. The event was also supported by our local Boy Scout Troup, who have helped with many other events in the past.
At the end of the event, the club donated spaghetti dinners to the LOFS Fire Force who were doing training exercises that evening.

Supporting Honor Flight program



Photo provided

The St. John Lions had a gentleman from Honor Flight Chicago come and give a presentation during their last meeting. Unbeknownst to him, the Lions were about to give him a nice fat check in support of our veterans. (From left) Len Sherwinski, Lion Nancy, and Lion Al. What a great organization!

Convention fellowship & fun

The District 25A Lions held their convention at Fair Oaks Farms on March 7 and 8. 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 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 1st Vice District Governor, and Lion Wendy Seman will be the 2nd 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 for all who attended and see you again next year!





Roars from District B

Governor Jim Bush

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Photos provided

(TOP LEFT) International Director John Lawrence takes an early Dodge Brothers car for a test drive. (TOP CENTER) Lions Mike and Cheryl Okuly (center) check in with Lions Jim (left) and Peggy (right) at the District Convention. (TOP RIGHT) International Director John Lawrence (left) visits the Andrews Boys and Girls Club. Lions Mike and Cheryl Okuly and Director Karen Rice accompanied him. (ABOVE LEFT) Lion Jean Howard was presented with District Governor's Appreciation Medal. (ABOVE CENTER) Kynan, a fourth-grader at Sweetser Elementary School, received checks from Roanoke Lions Club and Indiana Lions Foundation totaling \$1,250 for his "Books for the Better" project. (ABOVE RIGHT) Jim and Karen Ottjes were awarded District Governor's Appreciation Medals.

Building on success & sharing the secret

By DG Jim Bush
District 25B Governor

District convention highlights

Our annual district convention was a resounding success, bringing together members from across the district to celebrate our achievements and plan for the future. The convention featured keynote speeches, workshops, and networking opportunities, all designed to inspire and empower our members.

We were thrilled to see such a strong turnout and high level of engagement from everyone who attended.

During the convention we recognized several Lions, had an excellent talk from International Director John Lawrence, heard a service project presentation, collected 84 food items for the food bank and assembled 74

hygiene kits to keep girls in school. Thank you to all who participated.

State Capitol visit Sharing our stories & amplifying our impact

Let's not keep Lions a secret anymore.

Our recent visit to the State Capitol was a remarkable experience that highlighted the power of community service and the importance of sharing our stories. As representatives of the Lions Club, we had the privilege of meeting with state officials, discussing our ongoing projects, and advocating for the causes we hold dear.

This visit provided us with a valuable platform to recount the impactful work we are doing in our communities. From organizing local clean-up efforts to supporting youth programs and fundraising for global initiatives,

our stories resonated with the officials and reaffirmed the significance of our mission. It was inspiring to see their genuine interest and support for our endeavors.

One of the most memorable aspects of the visit was the opportunity to connect with fellow Lions from different districts. We exchanged experiences, shared successful strategies, and brainstormed new ideas to enhance our service projects. This collaboration not only strengthened our bonds but also sparked a renewed sense of purpose and enthusiasm.

As we move forward, it is crucial that we continue to share our stories and spread awareness about the Lions Club. Let's not keep Lions a secret anymore. By showcasing our achievements and the difference we make, we can inspire more individuals to join our cause and contribute

their time and talents.

Together, we can amplify our impact and create a ripple effect of positive change. Whether through social media, community events, or personal conversations, let us all commit to being ambassadors for the Lions Club. The more people know about our work, the greater our reach and the stronger our community will become.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the State Capitol visit and for your unwavering dedication to service. Let's continue to share our stories and make the Lions Club a beacon of hope and compassion in our communities.

Upcoming event PIP Wayne Madden Historical Marker Dedication

As we celebrate our recent accomplishments and look forward to future en-

deavors, we have a special event on the horizon that embodies the spirit of service and community that defines the Lions Club. On April 25 at 1:30 p.m., we will gather at Auburn Rieke Park for the dedication of the Past International President Wayne Madden Historical Marker.

This dedication is more than a ceremony; it is a tribute to the lasting legacy of Wayne Madden, whose contributions and leadership have left an indelible mark on our organization. As Past International President, Wayne Madden exemplified the values of the Lions Club, and his memory continues to inspire us to strive for excellence in our service.

We invite all members to join us for this meaningful event, where we will honor Wayne Madden's

memory and remember the impact he had on our community and beyond. The dedication of the memorial marker is a testament to his unwavering commitment to service, and it serves as a reminder of the profound difference one person can make.

Let's come together to pay tribute to a remarkable leader and reaffirm our dedication to the principles he championed. Your presence will make this occasion even more special, as we collectively honor a legacy of compassion, leadership, and community service.

Thank you for your ongoing support and for making the Lions Club a beacon of hope in our communities. We look forward to seeing you at Auburn Rieke Park on April 25.

Roanoke Lions & Indiana Lions Foundation support young readers



Photo provided

The Roanoke Lions Club and the Indiana Lions Foundation have shown remarkable support for literacy by backing a fourth-grade reading project at Sweetser Elementary School. Their combined efforts raised \$1,250 and collected over 500 books for students who otherwise would not have access to them. This generous initiative is part of a broader commitment to education and community service, ensuring that young learners have the resources they need to thrive. (ABOVE) Lions Celia Bandolier, Marianne Peterson, Terri Edmiston, and Jim Bush present a check to Kynan (center) at Sweetser Elementary on March 7 for his Books for the Better project.

Young scholar earns assistance through community service

Photo provided
Monroeville Lions Club Scholarship Winner Brady Richman, a 2024 graduate of Heritage High School, was presented the Community Service Scholarship award for \$1,000 by Lion Colleen Grabner. The award is presented following completion of one semester of college. Each year the Monroeville



Lions Club members offer local seniors an opportunity to fill out an application and submit it listing community service activities they have participated in during high school. They then write an 400- to 500-word essay describing how one of those activities has influenced them in their lives. Richman attends Baldwin Wallace College near Cleveland, Ohio, and is studying for a degree in Sports Management and a minor in Sports Finance. He also plays baseball for the college. His parents are Jason and Sara Richman.

Roanoke Lions supporting first responders



Photo provided

The Roanoke Lions Club recently donated \$500 to the Roanoke Volunteer Fire Department to help support their project of enhancing their workout room to assist the firefighters with their conditioning. Lions Club President Terri Edmiston presented the check to Fire Chief Brandon Taylor, who was joined by some of the firefighters.

Plan to attend the DEDICATION

— of the —
HISTORICAL MARKER
— for —

**Past International President
Wayne Madden**

Friday, April 25, 2025

1:30 p.m. (EDT)

— at —

Rieke Park

1800 N. Indiana Ave.,

Auburn, Ind. 46706





Roars from District C

Governor John Waymire

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Submit news, photos of club activities to:

PR Chairperson Gail Robbins

1703 Arbor Way
Zionsville, IN 46077
gail45robbins@gmail.com



Be a Lion all year

By DG John Waymire
District 25C Governor

Hello March – in like a LION and out like a lamb. Time change, 75 degrees one day and snow the next, or all four seasons in the same day. Isn't it great to be a Hoosier?

District conventions are over and on to the state convention in Shipshewana. Time to renew old acquaintances and make new friends. There is so much to do in the Shipshewana area. Visit antique stores and see outstanding craftsmanship. Hear an inspirational message from PIP Jimmy Ross from Texas. Join the Strides Walk. Bid on silent auction items for a great cause. The business sessions discuss state business and the things that are happening in the state. See you at the Farm-

stead Inn & Conference Center.

Like the month of March, we need to be a LION all year long. Always on the prowl for more members. Always on the prowl for more service.

We have about three months to finish the year strong. My goals are to have EVERY club report SERVICE every month. That is what we do as Lions – we serve. Let the public, and LCI, know what we do. Spread the news.

I also want to increase our membership. We cannot provide service if we do not have the members to provide that service. Ask a friend or relative to join Lions when you take them along on a service project. The equation is simple: More Members = More Hands = More Service.



Photo provided



Photo provided

Disaster Training day for District C

On March 1, eight Lions from three districts were joined by four community members in participating in a day-long disaster case management training workshop at the Zionsville Lions Clubhouse.

Following the training, each participant was awarded a certificate of completion authorizing them to serve as disaster case managers assigned to survivors of upcoming state disasters. The case manager will assist each assigned client in obtaining the necessary resources to rebuild their lost or damaged home and possessions

so that they can resume their lives in a safe, sanitary and functional home.

The training was organized by the state Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Assistance Committee Chair, Lion John Wilkins. The instructor was Jane Crady of Catholic Charities, the Chair of the Board of the Indiana Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (INVOAD), of which the Lions of Indiana is a member.

Please contact Lion John at jw6222@earthlink.net if you would like to attend a future disaster case management training workshop.

\$20k raised at convention

After a discussion between DG John Waymire and ZLC Lion Gail Robbins, Auction Chair, they decided that pediatric cancer research would be the beneficiary of funds from the District C Convention.

Thanks to those who brought items to auction and to those that let us auction their vacation spots and a donation of a QCD, plus

those who dropped a check or cash in the donation dish, the auction wasn't only fun and competitive but SUCCESSFUL!

All the money from the auction, \$9,630, is being sent to our very own District C Cancer Control Fund of Indiana, Inc., which will go to the Riley Challenge at the Riley Pediatric Research Hospital, which will

be matched by the Walther Cancer Foundation dollar-for-dollar.

So... \$9,630 just became \$19,260!

Even more excited, after the auction, Robbins was surprised by DG Waymire and his Jamestown Lions Club with a check for \$370, bringing the total to \$10,000. That means after the Walther Cancer

Foundation's dollar-to-dollar match, District C will donate \$20,000 to the Riley Challenge.

Here are some words of gratitude for all who donated:

"There's a quiet strength of helping someone who can never repay you." – Audrey Hepburn

Thank you for helping a child you will never meet.

Brownsburg Lions Club Get to know your District C Lions Clubs

Ninety-six years ago, on Jan. 18, 1929, the Plainfield Lions Club sponsored 38 members into the Brownsburg Lions Club. Our Charter President was Lion Cleo L. Hunt. Our first known recorded service project was to organize a Community Chest and Christmas Fund for the town in 1931. To this date we have 60 members with our highest membership of 95 in 1982.

The Club has had many service projects that have benefited the Town of Brownsburg, and since 1988 we have continued to present scholarships to high school students. In 2003, Lions Larry Timko and Billy Chastain (now PDG) began our vision "photo screening" project and we have been screening children ever since.

In July 1966, we started what is now called the July 4th Extravaganza, which is our major fundraising event for the year. We began the July 4th Parade the following year and PID Nick Xinopoulos has been the chair of this parade for over 25 years. He has even had the Governor of Indiana call him to ask to be in the parade.

The club accepted the first female member in 2000, and in 2003 she became the club's first president. As of this year, we have 24 women in the club and have had two more female presidents (coincidentally, both named Gretchen).

The Club has had the honor of having eight members hold the office of District Governor: Cecil Sharpe – 1968-69, William Lew-

is – 1972-73, William Birk – 1983-84, Billy Chastain – 2005-06, Nicholas Xinopoulos – 2009-10, John Sabol – 2010-11, Eric Ahlbrand (Oxford Lions Club) – 2011-2012, and Larry Graden – 2015-2016.

In 2017, Past District Governor Nick Xinopoulos was elected as a member of Lions Clubs International Board of Directors to serve a two-year term.

Throughout the years, the Club has participated in many services to their community. We have been vision screening for children age 6 and under and school-age children since 2003, and we purchase exams and eyeglasses when needed. We support the many local food pantries, support all Indiana Lions State Projects

and Vision First – Indiana Lions Eye Bank, Diabetes Youth Foundation for Campers, Indiana Winter Special Olympics, Sheltering Wings, American Legion, Brownsburg Public Library Summer Reading Program, National Night Out Against Crime, Fight Back Fitness, Project Angel at Christmas, Brownsburg Older Adult Alliance (BOAA), The Willow Center, Lions Clubs International Foundation, and the Partnership with the Town and Parks Department – Trails & Treats, Easter events, coat check at the Father Daughter Dance, and the July 4th Fireworks.

We will soon be planning our 100th anniversary and hope we can continue to serve our community for 100 more years.



Photos provided

(TOP) PDG Charlie Short eats pancakes with Frankfort Lions Club President Chuck Tedrick. (ABOVE) Lion Nick Atchley talks about the maple syrup process utilizing an evaporator.

Scouting out lessons at Camp Cullom

On Sunday, March 9, PDGs Charlie and Pat Short had a fun morning just outside Frankfort at Camp Cullom, Scout camp providing outdoor education and recreation opportunities for Clinton County youth. Several members of the Frankfort Lions Club sit on the camp's board, and the club assists with fundraising, activities, and hands-on work at the camp.

The local Atchley Farm, operated by Frankfort Lion Nick Atchley, recently set up a Sugar Shack to house

its maple syrup evaporator on the grounds. Thanks to the efforts of Atchley and fellow Frankfort Lion Chuck Tedrick and others, Camp Cullom now houses and runs its very own maple syrup operation, collecting sap from around the 90-acre property. This site is now one of the Indiana Maple Syrup Weekend events.

The Shorts attended its Klondike Pancake Breakfast that morning and tasted syrup just made the prior day.

Park partners



Photo provided

At the Feb. 25 Zionsville Lions Dinner meeting, they were honored to have a new Partner in the Park join, Phelps Creative House. (From left) ZLC Chair of Partner in the Park Sue Bowron-White with Joshua and Maggie Phelps.

End of the rainbow



Photo provided

Zionsville Lion Mike Moran enjoyed a St. Patrick's Day soccer game in Cincinnati. Mike has a suit for every occasion.



Roars from District D

Governor David 'Rocky' Simpson

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Submit news, photos of club activities to:

PR Chairperson Cindy Hurst

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Living the Lions Clubs' charge

First Aid for the Blind offers life-changing skills

Kurt Deichmann, a member of the Westfield Lions Club, walks the talk of Lions Clubs International's charge to be "Knights of the Blind."

Not only does Deichmann regularly serve alongside his fellow Lions, but he does so while being 100 percent blind and running his own business. He started First Aid for the Blind (FAFTB) in 2023 to help those on a journey of vision loss to learn valuable individual living skills.

On March 6, Deichmann was the speaker at the Westfield Lions' monthly "Program Night" to introduce his FAFTB efforts. FAFTB provides training and tools to help blind and visually impaired people learn to live life to the fullest. The training includes 25 lessons taught over Zoom by blind trainers who bring unparalleled compassion and knowledge to each session. The program also allows for a "training buddy," usually a family member or friend, who can attend the lessons with the client to offer moral support and get a first-hand look at the new skills and adaptations that are possible for blind folks. The ultimate goal of FAFTB is to replace fear of the



Photo provided by Westfield Lions Club
Kurt Deichmann was the speaker at the Westfield Lions' Program Night.

unknown with feelings of hope and confidence.

FAFTB-approved devices include an \$800 iPhone with unique software, an Amazon Echo device, and a digital recorder. The devices FAFTB provides, along with the training fees, run \$3,500. So far, the majority of his clients have been able to obtain grants for the training from the State of Indiana's Vocational Rehabilitation department, meaning they have received FAFTB assistance without needing to front the cost.

Deichmann's original goal when he started FAFTB was to help 10 clients during his first year. He ended up completing training for 50 clients lo-

cated across Indiana. He is now looking to expand his service and impact further by developing a 501(c)(3) organization that will raise funds to provide scholarships that can help cover the costs of the training and the equipment.

Deichmann, who suffers from retinitis pigmentosa, has embraced the challenges of his blindness and found ways to utilize technology to significantly improve his quality of life. One of his favorite devices is the high-tech Ray-Ban Meta Smart Glasses, which have built-in cameras and speakers and connect to the internet. The glasses can tell him what he is looking at and take pictures of the scene

in front of him, while also telling him the weather forecast, the score of the Cubs game, and more.

In 1925, Helen Keller challenged Lions Clubs International to become "Knights of the Blind" – to assist those with vision-related issues and to help fund ways to eliminate the causes of blindness. Kurt Deichmann has risen to the challenge.

Deichmann is available to speak at events and programs to spread the word on FAFTB's life-changing service. If your club or organization is interested in having him speak at one of your meetings, please contact him at admin@faftb.com or visit FAFTB's website at faftb.com.

Underway for Service

By DG Rocky Simpson

District 25D Governor

March is here and I'm happy to say we may see warmer weather and more people out and about. It's hard to be in a positive mood when you're always cold.

I have the honor and privilege of hosting the Internal Director Judge Anthony Paradiso to our District Convention. Greentown Lions Club members have pulled out all the stops and are planning for one wonderful day to review and Listen to Judge Anthony talk about his experiences in the Lions Club in New York. I have talked to the International Director on two occasions and he is a Lions Lion. Ready to talk about the role we play in the District, State, Nation and the world.

"We Serve" is our motto and District 25D does just that. We are the first district to get 100 percent participation by all our District Lions Clubs. Goal completed for this year on our reporting of our service. Lion Anita Hines is Global Service Team (GST) Chairman for our District and for the State. I'm so happy we completed that goal. Lion Anita said that most of our clubs had Christmas Projects that were easy for us to meet that 100 percent goal two years in a row. Thanks Lion Anita.

Now the other goals on my list are that of membership. "Mission 1.5" Wish I could say we are still leading the state but we're not. We had a great run till the New Year, but we have decreased membership down to 20. Let's not get discouraged and want to stop there – we have good stuff happening. Gas City is coming together as this weather breaks and we will be running around Fishers here soon, too. Fellow Lions, we have a plan, you are not left out, you can jump in with new members anytime you have the opportunity. Lion Jeff Kozicki (765-481-0822) will be happy to give you tips of how to get new members. Remember, Noblesville had 11 new members just in the first half of the year. So please continue to push forward. Remember, all it takes is "Hey, you want to be a Lion?"

The Global Extension Team Chairman 2VDG Mike Careins is hard at work setting up the Gas City annual planning meeting. He's having it at a pizza place so I'm sure he'll have some attendance. The District Cabinet has come up with cities and towns who need a Lions club. I'm sure 2VDG Mike would be happy with other suggestions and Lions to assist in putting together a crew for a certain Town. Meet a lot of nice people too.

For all the clubs who have not reported giving to LCIF, "Lions Clubs International Foundation", we are just \$3,500 away from this year's goal. I'm happy to say that with just a few months left on my tenure as DG that our goal is within sight. If you have any questions, please feel free to call PDG Steve Holtzleiter at 765-425-1473 or PDG Mike Imbler at 765-776-0424 to arrange an LCIF workshop or more information on LCIF and the legacy program.

I have been researching my plans for the May environmental project, taking on an old run-down park and giving it a shot in the arm. May is not that far away. Every Saturday in May we will mow and cut and re-process the park to good working order. May 10 is our Cabinet meeting in Upland and the work will continue at the park as the canoe and kayak landing will be done by Scouts.

The State Convention is a place where Lions can see and meet the Lions of tomorrow. That could be you! The events for that weekend will keep you busy but there will be time for shopping at Shipshewana. I have to say, when 300 or more Lions get together, it's a good time.

Lions District 25D continues to work hard in every community and town. The accomplishments of our Lions have made big differences in our communities. I hear it a lot as I go from community to community to community how local Lions have done many projects and fundraisers for their community. "We Serve" is alive and working, and I want to thank all Lions for their efforts.

Greentown fries fish for scholarships



Photos provided

The Greentown Lions Club's annual Fish Fry was held at Eastern High School. Club President Mark Everling put together a team to serve over 500 people. Profits for this fish fry go toward the annual scholarships the Greentown Lions present at the end of the school year for Eastern students.

Good time for an Elwood visit



Photo provided

The Elwood Lions Club presented DG Rocky Simpson with a Lions Clock when he visited their club meeting.

Tipton helps Special Olympians



Photo provided

Amy Bullick, Acting President Tipton Lions Club, hands a check for \$1,600 to District Governor Rocky Simpson. This money will go directly into Lions State Projects and to the Special Olympics fund drive.



2025 Indiana Lions 104th State Convention

Hosted by District 25-G

April 25-27, 2025



Farmstead Inn and Conference Center, Shipshewana, Indiana
With Special Guest PIP Jimmy Ross

PLEASE RESERVE YOUR LODGING BY MARCH 26, 2025
Farmstead Inn and Conference Center, 370 S Van Buren St, Shipshewana, Indiana 46565
Call (260) 768-4595 and reference LIONS
Room Rate: \$159 + taxes per night (includes hot breakfast)

Please use one form per person

Deadline: All registration forms must be postmarked by March 26, 2025
Please clearly print name and Lion title as desired to appear on Name Badge:

Name and Lion Title: _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

District: _____ Club: _____

Is this your FIRST Indiana Lions State Convention? (please circle one) YES NO

Please list any Special dietary needs here: _____

Friday Evening Dinner \$15 _____

Authentic Amish Haystack Dinner, hosted by Dunlap Lions Club

Saturday Lunch \$25 _____

Buffet: baked pineapple ham, meatloaf, cheesy potatoes, mixed vegetables, salad, pie

Saturday Strides Walk T-Shirt: \$20 _____

Size: S M L XL 2XL 3XL (please circle one)

Saturday Dinner: \$35 _____

Plated: roast beef & poppy seed chicken, mashed potatoes, noodles, green beans, salad, pie

Total Registration Due: _____

Mail this form with payment to:

Lion Jeanine Juel, 3204 Village Ct, Goshen, IN 46528

jeanine@martijuel.com or (574) 370-2475

Registration must be postmarked by March 26, 2025

Make checks payable to: Indiana Lions State Convention



Roars from District E

Governor Erica Thomas
202 East Kennedy Avenue
Petersburg, IN 47567
ericadthomas@yahoo.com

Submit news, photos of club activities to:
PR Chairperson Carol Donner
5112 S. Lincoln Street
Oakland City, IN 47660
donnerspass1@gmail.com



Convention roller coaster

By **DG Erica Thomas**
District 25E Governor

Hang on for the ride! What a roller coaster the last few weeks have been. All of the districts have now completed their Spring Conventions and held elections. Hopefully those who attended reconnected with friends that hadn't been seen in a while, met new friends, and learned several things to take back to their respective clubs.

Clubs are preparing for their officer elections, getting them submitted into the portal, and getting the dates in their calendars for the last of the district events including member learning and officer training. So many things are changing so quickly that it is a challenge to keep up, and that is with going to events all the time for the latest information. Please send someone!

The Lions of Indiana saved the best for last, with District E just finishing its convention March 21 and 22. Thank you, International Director Guy Hollander and Lion Carol, for your inspirational and eye-opening messages! Thank you to all the Lions who brought donations for all the service projects that occurred during the Convention! Stuffed animals were brought and distributed to clubs to take back to give to emergency personnel to give to children during emergency situations; material was brought and cut for a joint effort with District B's project reusable feminine hygiene products; birthday party kits were sorted and put together; card packets were gath-

ered and labeled for each club to have a ready-made service project; and plastic bags were sorted and prepared for the sleeping mat loom. Laughter and talking and fun OH MY! I have so many people to thank for making this year successful that I did NOT make it through the list without crying!

On a more somber note, most of you will recall that there were several very intense storms on Saturday, March 15. During those storms in the early morning hours between 4 and 5 a.m. there were several tornadoes that touched down all across District E from Gibson and Pike counties over to Loogootee, Shoals, Fayetteville, Bedford, Orleans, Brownstown, and other areas. We were very blessed that there were only minor injuries and no deaths. Many homes, farms, buildings, and businesses have been impacted. We have just learned that District E has been granted LCIF emergency disaster funds to help in the recovery of those affected by the storms on the 15th and further impacted by the winds and torrential rains on the 19th just days later. If anyone wishes to contribute to these recovery efforts, please contact me for more information by texting me at (812) 766-0159.

As International Director Guy reminded us several times during the convention that "we are all in this together!", we need to remember that Lions all around the world are part of this big family and that when we help one person, we are helping the world.



Photo provided

Jessica Nieves Jerger has found yet another way to serve others. What a truly great Lion!



be my eyes

Be My Eyes

A deep passion to help others drives Jessica Nieves Jerger each and every day. It fills her heart to serve the community, displaying kindness and compassion.

This is why she is a Memory Care Support Specialist at Good Samaritan Home & Rehabilitative Center. This is also why she joined the Oakland City Lions Club. And as if that's not enough to place her at the top of the good deeds list, now she has found and been using a phone app which relates strongly to a Lions of Indiana state project. The app is called Be My Eyes.

Be My Eyes' mission is to make the world more accessible for 340 million people who are blind or have low vision. It is a free mobile app that connects blind and low-vision individuals to sighted volunteers through

a live video call. The app launched in 2015 and has over six million volunteers. Users needing help can request assistance in over 180 languages. When volunteers have time availability, they can sign on to the app then wait for a call to come in.

Jessica has had around six or seven calls come in to her phone. Most have been simple video calls, such as help setting the oven at the correct temperature or assist in reading a thermostat. And she helped one person with grocery shopping by locating the desired items in the store. Generally, her calls only last a few minutes.

She says it is a blessing to help these people and she would highly recommend this app to anyone who has a heart for serving others.

Be My Eyes – check it out Lions!



Photo provided

25E Spring Convention

Lions International District 25E held its 2024/25 Spring Convention on March 22. The event took place in Montgomery at the Gasthof Amish Village.

The banquet hall was full of district members from various clubs, and 25E felt honored to have guests from other districts as well: DG Jim Bush from 25B, PDG Ken Faulkner with wife Lion Cheri from 25F, CC Julia Church Kozicki and Lion Jeff Kozicki of 25D, PID Doug Lozier and wife PDG Kathy Lozier, also from 25D.

The district also had guest Reed R. Fish, International Candidate for ID, as well as Indiana Lions State Comptroller Robert Yunker and wife Betty. The Keynote speaker for the day was International Director Edwin Guy Hollander, who was accompanied by his wife, Lion Carol.

The fun-filled day started off with a walk, then registration began. DG Erica Thomas welcomed the group before pledge, prayer, and a Veteran salute was given. Brief cabinet and state projects reports were presented before awards and elections began. During

brief breaks, silent auction items could be viewed, 50/50 tickets purchased, and LCIF had a board full of squares in which you could buy a square, place your name and possibly win a Melvin Jones once the board is full and a numbered square is pulled.

After lunch ended, service projects began. People scattered around the room to find a project they were interested in. Serving on projects lasted approximately an hour, then a memorial service for passing Lions was held.

Election results and silent auction results came next. PID Linda Tincher introduced the day's speaker, ID Guy Hollander, who spoke of disasters and how Lions pull together to serve those in need. Once election speeches were over and door prizes given out, DG Erica Thomas gave closing remarks and Lion Lowell Thomas gave the final benediction.

DG Erica Thomas and the 25E Cabinet would like to thank everyone who helped make the day such a success. The day proved District 25E does Serve with Kindness and Fun!

2025/26 Election Results

District Governor – John Spurgeon
1st Vice DG – Brad Nolan
2nd Vice DG – Eddie McKim
Special Projects – Dwayne Donner
Cancer Control – Julia Terry
VisionFirst – Dr. David Hyndman
Indiana Lions Foundation – DG Erica Thomas
ISBVI – PDG Glen Georges
Leader Dogs for the Blind – Don Allen
Speech and Hearing – Monica Clemons

Awards

- PDG Mark Clark and Cancer Control Chair Bev Coombs presented PDG Bill Willis a specialized crystal cube for serving 29 years on that project.
- VisionFirst trustees (Dr. David Hyndman, PCC Keith Thomas and CS Christy Nolan) presented three Melvin Jones to: Cheryl Barning, Sara Glass (accepted by Donna Robinson) and DG Erica Thomas.
- DG Erica Thomas presented three International President's Certificates of Appreciation to Laura Davis, Carol Donner, and Eddie McKim.
- DG Erica Thomas presented ID Guy Hollander and Lion Carol with an Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired Fellowship vase and braille overlaid certificate thanking them for being District E guests.

Special Projects Drawing

- 1st Place for \$300 – Angelita Silver, New Albany Lions Club
2nd Place for \$100 – Ireland Lions Club

Service Projects

- Stuffed animals for First Responders
Signing greeting card packets
Plastic grocery bag/loom sleeping mats
Birthday party kits for pantries
Cutting material for feminine hygiene pads

Small club does big things

Elizabeth, Ind., is a very small town outside of Louisville, Ky. In 2023, the population was only 202. Out of this number, 18 are members of the Elizabeth Lions Club, but only about eight members are actually able-bodied to physically help with the club's activities.

Sheila Dodds, Secretary of Elizabeth Lions, is very proud of her club and what it accomplishes, such as:

- Annual Golf

Scramble and Chili Cook-off/Silent Auction. This is their biggest fundraiser.

- Support of the local food pantry with money, supplies, and time.
- Gives out candy by using the club trolley in the July 4, Halloween, and Christmas parades.
- Participates in Halloween candy giveaway.
- Helps ASAP toward community in need (e.g. medical equipment, build

ramps, money, clean homes, help move, assist with home repairs or support after loss from disaster).

- Buy for children from the community Gingerbread Tree (like Angel Trees). They usually buy for three to five kids, but in 2024 this increased to eight children at \$200 per youth.
- Assisted with the purchase of three Veterans vans.
- Support the Community Foundation.

- Donate annually to the local school, including scholarships.
 - Collects eyeglasses, cell phones and keys by way of two Lions boxes.
 - Annual meat raffle, supplied from a local farmer.
 - Video about Lions plays at each community event in hopes of getting people interested in joining the club.
- "We are small but we are mighty as we SERVE!" Dodds said.

Affiliate organization that roars

Dolly Sowder, Secretary for the Bedford Noon Lions Club, wishes to share the following:

The American Council of Blind Lions (ACBL) is a special-interest affiliate of the American Council of the Blind. ACBL gives Lions across the country who are blind and visually impaired a chance to share ideas and experiences. We encourage people who are blind or who have vision loss to become Lions and participate in service projects in their local clubs and communities.

ACBL holds virtual meetings on the first Thursday of each month at 8:30 p.m. Eastern. Lions from many states join the call, and there is usually time to ask questions and share ways we participate in our local clubs. Calls are held on the Zoom platform, so you

can participate from any cell phone, landline or computer.

ACBL sponsors two email lists. Join the acb-lions email list, open to all interested persons, by sending a blank message to acb-lions+subscribe@acblists.org. When you become a member of ACB Lions and share your email address with us, you will be subscribed to our members-only list.

If you are already a Lion, have been a Lion in the past, or would like to become a Lion, you are invited to be part of our organization. Membership is open to people who are blind, visually impaired or sighted. One-year membership is just \$15.00; life membership is \$150.00.

Pay dues and/or make a tax-deductible donation now and help us

continue our good work. Pay by credit card by calling (502) 897-1472 or visit [paypal.com](https://www.paypal.com) and send money to lions.acb@gmail.com. Or you may choose to make a check payable to ACB Lions and mail to:

American Council of Blind Lions
148 Vernon Ave.
Louisville, KY 40206

When joining by PayPal or by check, please be sure to include your up-to-date contact information, including your name, address, phone number, and email information.

Come roar with ACB Lions. We serve.

For more information on the American Council of Blind Lions, contact Carla Ruschival at (502) 897-1472, or email carla40206@gmail.com.



Roars from District F

Governor Nancy Baxter

9005 Robey Dr.

Clermont, IN 46234

nancybaxter1011@yahoo.com

Submit news, photos of club activities to:

PR Chairperson Sue Topf

9152 Key Lane

Clermont, IN 46234

pccsue@indianalions.org



Highlights from 25F District Convention

By DG Nancy Baxter
District 25F Governor

Lions from District 25F, our annual convention was a great success. Lions from all over the state came together to celebrate our achievements and reinforce our dedication to service.

We thank International Director Guy Hollander and his wife Lion Carol from Lawrenceburg, Ky. He was a great keynote speaker and added a lot of humor to our convention.

I would like to thank Lion Andrea Feeney for all the hard work that went into the planning of this event. She did a great job along with Cabinet Secretary, Lion Angie Crouch, who made sure all the dots were dotted, and all the t's were crossed. They were both awarded progressive W. P. Woods Awards at the convention, along with DGE Angela Locke for the time and effort she puts into the district newsletter. Lion Joe Shead was introduced as our incoming 2nd Vice District Governor after our election, followed by ID Guy Hollander presenting distinguished Lions with the Presidential Appreciation Award to PCC Ron Bigham and Lion Pauline Ulrey for their dedication to Lionism.

I want to thank everyone who attended the convention, with a special thanks to PID Nick and Lion Gretchen Xinopoulos, PID Doug and PDG Kathy Lozier, and PID Linda and PDG Vern Tinch for spending the weekend with us.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the State Convention in Shipshewana on April 25 and 26.



ID Guy & Lion Carol Hollander.



DG Nancy at the opening of the Convention.



A gift for DG Nancy from ID Guy and Lion Carol Hollander..



DG Nancy presents a W. P. Woods Award to the ID and his wife, along with a donation to LCIF.



PDG Scott receiving his progressive award.



Meet your 2025-2026 DGE Angela Locke, 1VDG Brenda Wilson, and 2VDG Joseph Shead. Congratulations to all of you!



ID Hollander and DG Nancy present Distinguished Lions PCC Ron Bigham and Lion Pauline Ulrey with Presidential Appreciation Awards.



Welcome, new Southport Lion



On March 5, PDG John Brown installed Stephen Zahm as the newest member of Southport Lions Club, with President Wayne Orkin as his sponsor.

Photo provided

Visiting Vevay



DG Nancy Baxter (center) visited the Vevay Lions Club at one of their recent meetings.

Photo provided



Roars from District G

Governor Warren Allender
30009 County Rd 16
Elkhart, IN 4616
warrenallender@comcast.net

Submit news, photos of club activities to:
Newsletter editor PDG Paul Russell
P.O. Box 31
Lakeville, IN 46536
pdrussell@gmail.com





Photo provided
Congressman Rudy Yakym (left) and Lion Karas with her prestigious Sagamore of the Wabash Award.

Gail Karas honored with Sagamore of the Wabash Award

The Rochester Lions Club is proud to celebrate one of its outstanding members, Gail Karas, who was recently honored with the Sagamore of the Wabash Award, one of Indiana's highest civilian honors.

The award was presented by Congressman Rudy Yakym (Ind.-02) in recognition of Karas' exceptional service and dedication to the community.

Karas has been an active member of the Rochester Lions Club, always willing to serve in any capacity. Her servant's heart and commitment to public service have been evident throughout her career, including her tenure as the Fulton County Emergency Management Agency Director and 911 Communications Director.

"Gail has really been the tip of the spear here in Fulton County to make sure that those services operate seamlessly," Congressman Yakym said in his remarks during the award presentation.

The Rochester Lions Club is filled with dedicated individuals who work tire-

lessly to support the community, and Karas stands out as a true leader and role model. Her efforts, both in her professional life and as a Lions Club member, have made a lasting impact on Fulton County.

"We are incredibly proud to have Gail as part of our Lions Club family," said a club representative. "Her dedication to serving others does not go unnoticed, and this recognition is well deserved."

The Sagamore of the Wabash award is a prestigious honor bestowed by the Governor of Indiana to individuals who have demonstrated distinguished service to the state. Gail Karas joins an esteemed list of Hoosiers who have made a significant difference in their communities.

The Rochester Lions Club is dedicated to serving the local community through volunteer service and charitable initiatives. As part of Lions Clubs International, the world's largest service organization, the Rochester Lions Club focuses on making a difference in the lives of those in need.



Photo provided
Members of the Lake City Lions who attended the presentation of the Melvin Jones Fellowship to Lion Richard Sisk (seated) were: Lions Paul Fribley, Sherri Reeve, Jon Garber, Duane Griner, and Diane Savage. On the right is District 25G Governor Warren Allender from the Baugo Lions Club.

Lake City Lion Richard Sisk honored with prestigious Melvin Jones Fellowship

The Lake City Lions Club is proud to announce that longtime member and past president Richard Sisk has been awarded the Melvin Jones Fellowship, the highest form of recognition bestowed by the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF).

This distinguished honor is reserved for individuals who have demonstrated outstanding dedication and service within their local Lions Club, as well as in activities that extend beyond their immediate community.

A devoted Lion, Sisk has played a pivotal role in the Lake City Lions Club, serving in various leadership positions and contributing his time and talents to numerous service initiatives. However, his impact extends far

beyond the local level. For several years, he was an integral part of District 25G's eyeglass missions to Mexico, where he supervised the operation of three autorefractors – specialized devices used to assess vision and determine appropriate eyeglass prescriptions. His leadership in this effort helped provide much-needed vision care to individuals who lacked access to proper eye care resources.

Through his unwavering commitment to service, Sisk has embodied the true spirit of Lionism – selflessness, leadership, and a passion for making a difference. The Melvin Jones Fellowship is a fitting tribute to his years of dedication, and the Lake City Lions Club celebrates this well-earned recognition.



(TOP LEFT) Warsaw High School Army Junior ROTC. (TOP CENTER) International Director Marie Cuning giving her Keynote speech. (TOP RIGHT) 2VDG Steve Weld receiving a Presidential Certificate from ID Cuning and PID Nick Xinopoulous. (ABOVE LEFT) Melvin Jones Award given by PDG Tom Polk and Nick Xinopoulous to Lion Wendy Yuhasz and Annette Osborn. (ABOVE CENTER) 1st VDG Jackie Kurley presenting the Model Club award to Middlebury Club President Heather Cameron. (ABOVE RIGHT) DG Warren Allender and ID Marie Cuning.

Welcome to convention season

By DG Warren Allender
District 25G Governor

Here it is already, Lions convention season, and I'm happy to report that District 25G has completed that task. Our convention was on the weekend of March 8, and what a weekend it was: perfect.

Friday started off sunny and warm – perfect for pre-convention setup at Oakwood Resort in Syracuse. Yet, it is northern Indiana and it is March, so by midday the sunshine had given way to clouds and the snow was not far behind. Perfect.

By the time we, Susi and I, arrived at the South Bend Airport to meet and greet International Director Marie Cuning flying in from sunny Phoenix, it was that nice, wet, heavy snow. Perfect.

That snow would stay with us for the trip back to Oakwood and gave way to great conversation with Director Cuning. We learned that while her home was in fact in Phoenix, most of her convention travels had been in the northern tier of the States, and she was no stranger to the cold and snow. Perfect.

Our Friday night reception dinner was at the Back Porch and Pier, also at Oakwood. We were able to watch the snow continue to fall as the sun set. No outdoor travel, the food was spectacular, and conversation was fantastic. Perfect.

Saturday morning broke sunny and clear, Lake Wawasee was covered in a fresh blanket of snow, and the trees on the shore shimmered in the morning sunlight. Perfect.

A big thank you goes out to Past International Director Nick and Gretchen Xinopoulous, already good friends with Director Cuning, for accompanying her to breakfast and the convention hall across the street. There are

always those last-minute details for the District Governor to attend to. Perfect.

Our convention itself was well attended with around 80 Lions in attendance from 19 clubs. Something done this year a little differently than in the past was having the Clubs display their banners and flags. It was very inspiring and made the point that this convention was in fact OUR convention. Special recognition needs to be made for District Governor Jim & Peggy Bush visiting from District B, and Past Council Chair Reed Fish arrived later in the day. Perfect.

Once the convention was called to order, the colors were presented. That was done by the Warsaw High School Army Junior ROTC cadets, sharp and disciplined. What an honor. If ever you doubt our future, look no further than the youth of today. They are our leaders for tomorrow.

Our Necrology Service led by Chaplin Lion Laura Doty, while somber, was also a celebration. A time to remember some 19 Lions with over 652 years of service. Lion Laura highlighted the life of President Gerald Ford, who was a Lion, and President Jimmy Carter, also a Lion. We Lions leave a legacy. Perfect.

Of course, one of the main functions of the convention is to elect new district officers/leaders for the next year. Congratulations go out to Lion Sopheap Long for conducting her first ever election.

Wait, we need to congratulate the winners!

That would be Lion Steve Weld from the Dunlap Lions, as he was elected to serve as 1st Vice District Governor. Congratulations Lion Steve.

Next in line was Lion Jackie Kurley, also from the Dunlap club, elected District Governor 2025-26. Lion Jackie gave a very exciting

and inspirational speech. Get ready Lions in 25G ... Lion Jackie is on her way to make OUR District "G" in her words "perhaps the GREATEST district in the world." Congratulations Lion Jackie. Perfect.

Also during our morning activities, we had two outstanding presentations. The first was given by Past District Governor Tom Polk, talking about artificial intelligence (AI). He expressed how it has been developed and how it can be used to help Lions build new clubs and grow existing clubs. A powerful genie out of the bottle and into our laptops.

The second program, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, was given by Lion Mike Webber and Jack LaFollette. This program was heart-touching as its focus is on making beds for children who don't have one to sleep on – something so many of us take for granted, yet for many children it is not a reality. The beds are constructed during a "build" utilizing at least 30 volunteers to cut, sand, stain, drill, and assemble the beds. Not only does Sleep in Heavenly Peace supply the bed frames, they also supply the mattress, sheets, comforter, and pillow. All with a focus on what the child enjoys the most, from action heroes to fairy tales. No child should sleep on the floor and with Sleep in Heavenly Peace no child will. If ever there was a SERVICE project worthy of doing, this is the one. Satisfaction and fulfillment will be achieved by all who participate. Perfect.

Lunch was followed by an inspirational speech by Director Cuning. As you would expect, her focus was on Mission 1.5, Lions service, and how that is empowered through the use of Lions Foundation Funds. An extremely powerful visual was that of Lions serving in the Philippines after three ty-

phoons struck. Service came in many ways, from vision screen to a mobile hospital. Truly where there's a need in this world there's a Lion. Never doubt that being a Lion isn't making its mark on the world one good project, one good deed, one good Lion at a time. Perfect.

International Director Cuning and Past International Director Xinopoulous did the awards presentations. 2nd Vice District Governor Steve Weld was presented with a Presidential Certificate as was Lion Jill Neidlinger from the Culver Club.

Lydick and Dunlap Lions clubs were awarded banner patches recognizing their clubs as Premier Clubs.

Past District Governors Ron Guth and Tom Polk recognized Lions Wendy Yuhasz and Annette Osborn with Melvin Jones Fellowships.

District Governor Elect Jackie had the honor of presenting a Model Club award to Middlebury Lions Club President Heather Cameron. Perfect.

The convention was closed with a District Cabinet Meeting. Proceeds from the 50/50 drawing went back into the bucket supporting cancer control. To date over \$5,000 was donated to the Walther Cancer Matching grant. Lest we forget the Tail Twister, PDG Ron, standing in for Past Council Chair Dave Eisen collected around \$250, which is going to be donated to Sleep in Heavenly Peace. Perfect.

"Perfect."

I've used that word a number of times and I can assure you that OUR convention wasn't perfect. Yet it was OUR convention, our way. We are not perfect; we are Lions who chose to serve and celebrate OUR district achievements at OUR convention. Thank you to all who attended and made that possible.



Photo provided
(Front row, from left) Vickie Jones, Stephanie Szczepankiewicz, Heather Downey, Marcia LaBelle, and Teckla Lane. (Back row, from left) Bernie Ferro, Steve Downey, Cindy Finney, Jim Day, Howard Morse, Cathy Day, Karen Swisher, Elaine Gaulini, Mike Lane, Leroy Wise, and Lori Ferro.

Huge help in 2024

In 2024, the Lydick Lions club volunteered 10 times at Cultivate Food Rescue in South Bend and packaged 12,599 meals! That's enough meals to feed 2,100 children for an entire weekend! Thank you to our members, along with members from Lakeville Lions

and Granger/Clay Lions and our friends for helping us accomplish this.

We continue to volunteer in 2025 once each month, and we hit a new record of 1,822 meals packaged in one night. Way to go Lydick Lions! Great teamwork!

Vision screenings for preschoolers

On Tuesday, Feb. 25, members of the Lydick Lions and Clay-Granger Lions conducted a vision screening as part of Operation KidSight at Clay United Methodist Church Preschool. The event aimed to identify potential vision issues in young children, ensuring they receive early intervention if needed.

49 children were evaluated, with three referrals made for further testing. The effort was led by Lydick Lion Wendy Yuhasz and Clay-Granger Lions Andy and Kelly Edelbrock, along with Dave Coffman.

Their dedication to children's eye health reflects



Photo provided
(Back row, from left) Kelly Edelbrock (Clay-Granger) and Wendy Yuhasz (Lydick). (Front row, from left) Dave Coffman and Andy Edelbrock (Clay-Granger).

the Lions' ongoing commitment to community service and improving lives.