

LIONS DISTRICT 25 A NEWSLETTER

Coming Together to Serve

DISTRICT CONTACTS

District Governor

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Lion Jim Furlong
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Second Vice District Gov

Lion David Dickinson
daviddickinson20@yahoo.com

Cabinet Secretary

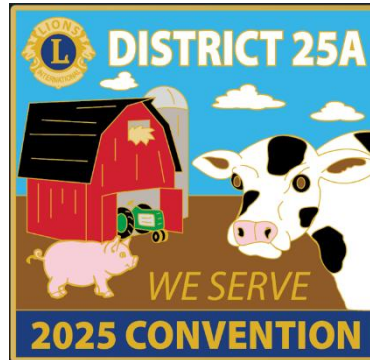
Lion Robin Smith
mswolfen@aol.com

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Newsletter

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**25-A CONVENTION IS ON MARCH 7TH TO 8TH
AT FAIR OAKS FARM**

District Governor: Patty Cooke-Furlong

Hello 25A Lions:

After the cold weather, I was very happy to see the sunshine and warm temperatures return! I am hoping for no more snow, but it is only the beginning of March and this is Indiana . . .

For now, I am looking forward to the Convention at Fair Oaks on March 8th. I am looking forward to seeing many of the 25A Lions there. The Convention Committee has been working hard to ensure that we have a great convention! Please come and meet International Director Steven Middlemiss and his wife Lion LeeAnn, visit with other Lions from the District and celebrate the great job you are doing to welcome new Lions to your clubs. We currently have 29 new members! Yea!!



While writing this article, I started listening to a podcast with PIP Brian Sheehan who always exudes enthusiasm. He said the Lions are a Team and the #1 thing we can do is to spread Lionism! We need to share the joy, passion and the great things we do. PIP Patti Hill says that the greatest privilege of being a Lion is to bring in new Lions. To give someone an opportunity to look at what you are doing.

So, what is your story? Know it!! Share it!!

Our service is the key. That is what others see, why they want to join us. If you need new ideas about service projects, contact GST Jay Ferrell. He has ideas for small and large clubs. Then make sure you are using Facebook or other social media to market your Club.

Also make sure that you are reporting on your service! This is not hard to do! If you need help with the Portal there are many Lions who can help you - starting with GST Jay or GLT Pat Greer.

This past month we visited multiple clubs and three zone meetings. This is where I get my enthusiasm – from seeing all the great ways that you are serving your communities! If you have not yet scheduled your OV, please contact me and set a date!

In addition to the 25A Convention, I hope to see a few of you at the State Convention in Shipshewana. See more information in the newsletter.

Thank you for all you do!

District Governor Patty Cooke-Furlong

1st Vice District Governor Jim Furlong



Jimfurl179@aol.com

630-699-4278

Wow, it seems like my time to be your District Governor is fast approaching. One thing I experienced as 1VDG was a trip to Leader Dogs for the Blind facility in Rochester Hills, MI just outside Detroit. It was very enlightening and here are some things I'd like you to think about as Lions.

Lions Clubs International and Leader Dogs for the Blind: A Partnership of Vision and Service

Since its founding in 1939, Leader Dogs for the Blind has been dedicated to empowering people who are blind or visually impaired with the skills and confidence they need to live independently. This mission has been supported and amplified by the unwavering commitment of Lions Clubs International, the world's largest service organization.

A Shared Vision

The partnership between Lions Clubs International and Leader Dogs for the Blind began with a shared vision of service and support for those in need. Members of the Uptown Lions Club of Detroit were instrumental in establishing the first school to train guide dogs for people who are blind. This initiative was driven by the determination to help a fellow Lion, Dr. Glenn Wheeler, who faced challenges in being accepted by other guide dog organizations¹.

A Legacy of Support

Over the years, Lions Clubs International has played a crucial role in the growth and success of Leader Dogs for the Blind. With over 4,900 Lions clubs contributing financially and offering various forms of support, the impact of this partnership has been profound. Lions members identify individuals in their communities who could benefit from Leader Dog's services, assist clients, and spread awareness about the programs offered¹.

Community Involvement

Lions members are deeply involved in the Leader Dog mission, serving as district chairs, puppy raisers, and advocates for the blind and visually impaired community. Their dedication extends beyond financial contributions, as they actively participate in the training and support of Leader Dogs¹.

Global Impact

The collaboration between Lions Clubs International and Leader Dogs for the Blind has had a global reach, with significant contributions and support from Lions members worldwide. This partnership has enabled Leader Dogs for the Blind to continue its mission of providing life-changing services to those in need, free of charge¹.

Looking Ahead

As we look to the future, the partnership between Lions Clubs International and Leader Dogs for the Blind remains as strong as ever. Together, they continue to make a difference in the lives of people who are blind or visually impaired, fostering independence and enhancing quality of life.

For more information about how you can support Leader Dogs for the Blind and Lions Clubs International, visit their websites or contact your local Lions club.

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1: Lions and Leader Dog History - Leader Dogs for the Blind. Retrieved from [Leader Dogs for the Blind](<https://www.leaderdog.org/lions-club/lions-and-leader-dog/>)

MARCH 2025

PDG Nick Gonzalez—Annual Chant Contest

Hello fellow Lions! PGD Nick Gonzalez here. The annual Chant Contest is back again! You have seen all the fun your fellow Loins, I mean Lions have had participating in this event. You've seen the big blue megaphone the winner gets to keep for a year. The 2025 winner could be YOU!

The contest will be during the 2nd Business Session at the District Convention. If you are interested please email me at nsg1917@yahoo.com or call/text at 219-588-4893. Crown Point LC is a past winner and are confirmed for this year. Come join them!!

PDG Nick Gonzalez

219-588-4893

Nsg1917@yahoo.com



MARCH 2025

Conferences and Conventions 2025



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 APRIL 1, 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 April 7, 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@martyjuel.com or (574) 370-2475

Registration must be postmarked by Apr 7, 2025

Make checks payable to: **Indiana Lions State Convention**

MARCH 2025

Conferences and Conventions 2025



Click on **Convention** at www.lionsclubs.org for more information **and to register**.

Early Bird Pricing of \$190 Ends on March 1st !!!

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

Be inspired and entertained

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

Connect with fellow Lions

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

Get involved

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

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

GOVERNOR PATTY'S CALENDAR IS ON PAGE 18

MARCH 2025

State Convention in April in Shipshewana

Time Is Running Out to Register for the Indiana Lions State Convention in Shipshewana As I look out into my back garden, I can only envision the arrival of Spring. Surely under all that melting snow are flowers and green grass accompanied by rising temperatures.

While this may seem like wishful thinking, the one thing for sure is the arrival of the 2025 Indiana Lions State Convention in Shipshewana on April 25-26-27. While you can sit back and wait for the arrival of Spring you need to take action to insure your participation at the Convention. The deadline for room registration and Convention registration is March 26. This date is critical, if you wish to stay at the Farmstead Inn, due to the appearance of two well-known entertainers at another venue, the Inn will not take room reservations past the 26th.

The committee has secured several rooms at other lodgings in Shipshewana, but they are in short supply. We can hedge on the March 26 date for Convention registration, if you are not planning on overnight stays, but we need to give our caterers a definite number of attendees two weeks prior to the Convention. Thank you for your understanding of this request.

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

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

PDG Marlyn Fast PDG Brian Thomas



MARCH 2025

District 25-A Convention March 7th to 8th



District 25A Convention
District Governor Patty Cooke-Furlong
At
Fair Oaks Farms
856 N 600 E
Fair Oaks, Indiana 47943
March 7 & 8, 2025



Our Special Guests – International Director Steven Middlemiss and Lion LeeAnn

Make room reservation directly with the hotel: Fairfield by Marriott at Fair Oaks Farms

PLEASE RESERVE YOUR OWN LODGING BY February 5, 2025

Call: (219) 394-2100 for Reservations**Mention "Lions"

Room Rate: \$145/night plus tax – Double or King

Hot Breakfast Buffet included

Rooms and rates cannot be guaranteed after February 5, 2025

Please complete this form
(NO MORE THAN 2 PEOPLE AT THE SAME ADDRESS PER FORM)

Please Print or Type All Information



Name: _____
Lion/Leo Title First Name Last Name Name on Badge

Name: _____
Lion/Leo Title First Name Last Name Name on Badge

Address: _____
Mailing Address City State Zip Code

Telephone: _____ **E-Mail:** _____

Club: _____ **District:** _____

Special Dietary Needs: _____

Emergency Contact: _____
Name Daytime Telephone Evening Telephone

This is my FIRST District Convention (circle one) Yes No

Meal Prices Increase by \$5.00 / meal after February 7, 2025. – No Meal Reservations Accepted after February 24, 2025

		QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
Saturday Lunch	Box sandwich lunch (choose one) -Ham, Turkey or Roast Beef w/ chips, cookie and bottle water		\$20.00	\$
Saturday Night Banquet	\$5 of each banquet meal will be donated to State Projects			
	Chicken Marsala w/red potatoes, green beans, and salad		\$30.00	\$
	GLUTEN FREE – Grilled Chicken w/sauteed vegetables		\$30.00	\$
	VEGETARIAN – Pasta Primavera		\$30.00	\$
Banquet Child meal (under 12)	Chicken Fingers and Fries		\$20.00	\$
Convention Souvenir Pin			\$ 5.00	\$
	Total Amount Enclosed			\$

Make your check payable to: **District 25A Lions Convention** and mail to:

CS Robin Smith, PDG, 745-1 Capitol Road, Valparaiso, IN 46385
(Contact information: mswolfen@aol.com, (219) 916-4549)

MARCH 2025

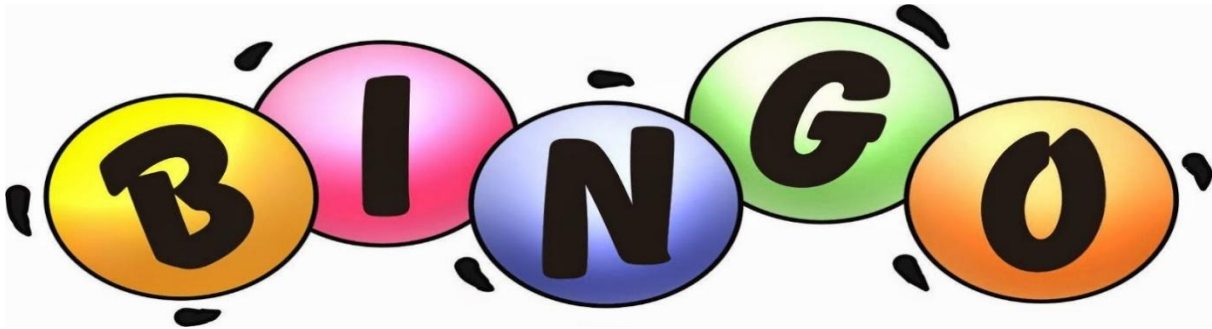
District 25-A Convention March 7th to 8th

2025 DISTRICT 25A CONVENTION SCHEDULE	
Saturday, March 8, 2025	
Registration & Certification 8:00 to 10:45 AM	Exhibits 8:00 AM - 11:00AM
SEMINAR Check Registration area for Room Assignment SEMINAR 9:00AM – 9:45AM	10:00AM – 10:45AM
"Bringing your Club into the Digital Age" Presenters: Dan Moynihan, Jennifer Niemeyer	"Becoming a 501(c)(3)" Presenter: ZC Carlyle Edwards
Strides Walk - 10:00AM	
11:00 FIRST BUSINESS SESSION	RECEPTION & BANQUET SCHEDULE
Call to Order DG Patty Cooke-Furlong	6:00 to 6:30 Reception - Cash Bar
Posting of Colors Indiana State Police	6:30 District 25A BANQUET
Pledge of Allegiance 1st VDG Jim Furlong	Introduction of Head Table
God Bless America 2nd VDG David Dickinson	PDG Randy Greer, Convention Co-Chair
Invocation Rev. Jason Kegebein	Introductions of Dignitaries and Family
Greeting Chair Chuck DeLasCasas	DG Patty Cooke-Furlong
Welcome & Introduction of ID DG Patty Cooke-Furlong	Banquet Sponsor PDG Kevin Roe
Rules of Order Lion Dan Moynihan	District 25A Eyeglass Recycling and Vision Svcs.
Peace Poster Winner Lion Carolyn Laviolette	Invocation CT Sally Davis
State & International Conventions PCC Mitchell Semans	DINNER
Memorial Service Rev. Jason Kegebein	Entertainment by Hobart High School Chorus
LUNCH 12:00-1:45 pm	Message from ID Steven Middlemiss
1:45 Banner Line Up	Awards/Presentations DG Patty Cooke-Furlong & ID Steven Middlemiss
2:00 SECOND BUSINESS SESSION	Voting Results GST Jay Ferrell
Presentation of Club Banners 1st VDG Jim Furlong	Introduction of VDGs and DG Elect
Club Role Call (2 min. per club) CS Robin Smith	DG Patty Cooke-Furlong
Reports: District & State (2 min) 1st VDG Jim Furlong	Closing Comments DG Patty Cooke-Furlong
Zone Reports (2 min) 2nd VDG Dave Dickinson	Silent Auction ZC Laurie Haussman
Message to Lions of 25A ID Steven Middlemiss	Tail Twisting & 50/50 Lion Jody Greer
Induction of New Lion & Leo Members	District Raffle ZC Carlyle Edwards
Lowell Lions Club	Announcements PDG Randy Greer
Resolutions Lion Dan Moynihan	Convention Co-Chair
Chant Contest PDG Nick Gonzalez	Benediction CT Sally Davis
Mission 1.5 PID Bob Block	Hospitality Room will open 15 mins. after Banquet
Constitution and by-Laws PDG Connie Roe	
Nominations Lion Carolyn Laviolette	
(2 minutes DG/VDG's demonstrations allowed)	
Voting Opens for Certified Lions	
PDG's Meeting with ID Steven after voting	



MARCH 2025

News Around the District—Crown Point Lions



Crown Point Lions Club Spring Bingo

Thursday, April 10, 2025

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

St. Elijah Church 8700 Taft Street - Merrillville, IN

Tickets are available at the door or presale from a

Crown Point Lion

\$6.00/Person

Bingo and Door Prizes

Bring used eye glasses and receive extra Bingo cards

Tip Boards for Bacon, Sausage, Hams, etc.

50/50

Money Bingos

Loads of Prizes and Fun.

License #001729 - Event #162109

News Around the District—St. John Lions

St. John Lions had a gentleman from **Honor Flight Chicago** come and give a presentation during our last meeting. Unbeknownst to him, we were about to give him a nice fat check in support of our veterans. Pictured below: Lion Nancy, Lion Al and Len Sherwinski from Honor Flight Chicago. 😊 What a great organization!





**CEDAR LAKE LIONS CLUB
Annual Pancake Breakfast**



April 13, 2025

Palm Sunday

7:30 AM until Noon

Location:

Hanover High School

10120 W. 133rd Ave.

Cafeteria Door E

Cedar Lake

Carry-outs available

Cost: Free will offering at the door

Proceeds to benefit:

Hanover 8th Grade Washington DC Field Trip

and

Cedar Lake Lions Club Community Outreach

News Around the District—LOFS Lions

The LOFS Lions held a Spaghetti Dinner on February 25th 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 turned out to be a bigger event than expected, with 106 patrons turning out on a Tuesday evening. 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.



Lion Sally drops off spaghetti dinners to a member of the LOFS Fire Force



The Schererville Lions

Pancake Breakfast

Sunday Morning, May 4th, 2025

From 8:00 to 12:00

At the

St. John Township Community Center

1515 Lincoln Hwy.

Schererville, IN 46375

Pancakes, Bacon and Scrambled Eggs

Juice, Milk, Coffee

Free Will Offering



All Proceeds go to the

Downs Syndrome Association

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

MD-25 LIONS

2026

International Pin Design Contest!



2024



2025



What
will be
2026?

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

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

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

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

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

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

State Pin Committee Contact: PCC Michael Gutyan

MARCH 2025

Membership

District Membership—Welcome New Members!

Chesterton	Corie E. Shultz	Thomas Lee
Hanna	Nicole M. Brooks	Teresa Bals-Elsholz
Valparaiso	Donna Cummins	Gerald Newman
Valparaiso	Julia Young	Tom Cath

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

MARCH 2025

Governor Patty Cooke-Furlong's Calendar

25A Convention		3/7/2025	3/8/2025
Wheatfield OV	Thursday	3/13/2025	
Wanatah OV	Monday	3/17/2025	
CP Bingo	Thursday	4/10/2025	
Michiana OV	Wednesday	3/26/2025	
South Haven Chili Dinner	Saturday	3/29/2025	
GAT Zoom Meeting	Monday	3/31/2025	
Cedar Lake Pancake	Sunday	4/13/2025	
MD25 Convention / 4th Council Meeting		4/25/2025	4/27/2025
5th Council		4/27/2025	
ScherervillePancake	Sunday	5/4/2025	
IU Graduation in Bloomington	Thursday	5/8/2025	5/10/2025
Last Cabinet	Sunday	6/8/2025	
LOFS Installation	Wednesday	6/25/2025	
PreConvention Vacation	Saturday	7/5/2025	7/11/2025
International Convention in Orlando	Saturday	7/12/2025	7/17/2025