



# District 25-G



## *Our Pride is Lions*

**January 2021**

**Volume 14, No. 7**

### **A Message from District Governor Brian Thomas**

I assume this issue of the District 25-G newsletter will reach you after the Christmas weekend and shortly before the start of the New Year. I hope you all had the best possible Christmas season you could've had under the circumstances and influence of COVID-19. As we head into a new year, I wish for all of us a fresh start or restart. We need to make the most of this truncated Lions year and finish out strong.

This month's message is short and hopefully to the point. There seems to be a light at the end of the tunnel, but it remains a long, long tunnel. Several types of vaccines seem to be available, although for the general public it may be Spring before wide-spread distribution is accomplished. I hope these "cures" are effective in halting the spread of this killer virus. I also hope there is not a false sense of wellness due to a vaccination to the point we let our guard down and discontinue the common sense methods of safety we've become used to. We need to remain vigilant for many months to come.

It seems unnecessary and redundant to urge you all to remain Lions during this lull. Stay in contact with each other and think outside the box in implementing innovative projects to serve your community.

I remain available for visitations, whether in person or on-line. Visitations and maintaining communication between clubs remains the main function of a District Governor.

Keep the faith—stay the course.

Our Pride is Lions  
Lion Brian Thomas  
District Governor 2020-21



### **Thought for the Month**

Listen closely to the stories people are longing to tell. And tell your own stories to anyone who will listen. Stories are how we get to know ourselves, each other, and the World.

### **Simple Formula for Living**

Don't sweat the small stuff. It's all small stuff.

Have you scheduled the District Governor's visit to your club? Whether your club is meeting in-person or virtually, District Governor Brian Thomas would like to attend one of your club meetings, share his vision for our district, and hear your concerns. Check his calendar on page 11 of this newsletter, then give him a call at 574-596-7411 or send an email message to [brian10k@aol.com](mailto:brian10k@aol.com).

### **A Message From 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor Marlyn Fast**

Zoom, Zoom, Zoom, E-mails, E-mails, E-mails! As you can tell by my first comment, I am up to my neck with the new norm of communication. It is not my favorite way of communicating, but certainly it does have some advantages, like less traveling, for one.

My first assignment as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor is to establish a District Team that will help set goals for the district. I appreciate the push from on top to have a team approach. District 25-G needs a team to set goals, not just the governor by himself. Please consider how you would like to be involved and make a difference for District 25-G. What ideas or suggestions do you have? Let me know – send me an email at [mafast1107@gmail.com](mailto:mafast1107@gmail.com), or call me and talk with me at 574-538-1090.

A North America Membership Initiative (NAMI) Task Force is set up to work with each district to help set goals to increase Lions membership. A process has been set and tested to get new members and keep current members. These are: Build a Team, Build a Vision, Build a Plan, and Build Success. I am sure you will hear more about this process as time goes on.

This year is turning out to be a real challenge for all our clubs. I know we are up to it and I look forward to seeing all the unique ways we can serve to make a difference in people's lives, *one day at a time*.

**We Serve**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor Marlyn Fast



**SECRETARY**

## **Check your club's members' classification**

It may sound early, but it is a great time to check your club's roster with the listing of your club's members at LCI. Why? You might be paying TOO MUCH! For example, if you have family members in your club, if they are not listed as a family member at LCI, then you are paying the full amount of LCI dues. Changing this will reduce your dues liability at the next billing period in July. Another thing to consider is getting your dues billing for the 2021-2022 Lions' year ready now. Most clubs usually wait too long to send out dues notices. Consider sending them out in May, giving your members over a month to make payment. Remember, after July 1, you can no longer drop a member without paying the first half dues to LCI. If your club prints a directory of club members, giving yourself some extra time to review and update addresses and other information will help you have the directory ready to print and distribute by the time the new Lions' year begins on July 1.

PDG Marty Juel  
Cabinet Secretary

### A Message From Cabinet Treasurer Lion Ron Guth

Club Treasurers:

Please work with your Club Secretary to make sure your club's member count is correct as of December 31, 2020, so you are not billed for members who are no longer in your club.

We have received state and district project donations from only six of the district's fifty clubs so far this year, which is understandable with the limits on fundraising due to Covid-19. Please remember the projects depend on donations, and rather than skip them this year you might just reduce your gift amount. A little less still goes a long way to help others.

If you have questions about this information, please call me at 765-460-7177 or send an email message to [guthron@comcast.net](mailto:guthron@comcast.net).

Please take care of yourselves and others during the holidays and into the new year.

It may be cold outside, but Lions have warm hearts.

Lion Ron Guth  
Cabinet Treasurer



### District Officer/Trustee Positions Open for Nominations

Letters of intent and club endorsement letters for the 2021 District 25-G elections are now being accepted for the following officer positions: **District Governor, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor.** Also to be elected at the District Convention will be trustees for the following state projects: **Indiana Lions Cancer Control Fund, Inc.** (there are two open positions : 3-year term and 2-year term); **Vision First Indiana Lions Eye Bank, Inc.** (3-year term); **Indiana Lions Speech and Hearing, Inc.** (3-year term); **Indiana Lions for the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Inc.** (there are two open positions : 3-year term and 2-year term); **Indiana Lions for Leader Dog, Inc.** (3-year term); and there is a 3-year term for a trustee for the **Indiana Lions Foundation.** Each candidate must submit his/her own letter of intent to run. Additionally, the Lion's home club must also submit a letter of recommendation. Both letters must be submitted to the Chairman of the Nominations and Elections Committee prior to the District Meeting on February 13th. Since this position is currently vacant, letters should be submitted to the *District Secretary, PDG Marty Juel, 3204 Village Court, Goshen, IN 46528.*

*Godt nytt år!    Happy New Year!    ¡Feliz año nuevo!*  
*Frohes neues Jahr!    Bonne année!    Bliadhna Mhath Ùr!*

## How To Lose A Perfectly Good Lion Member



"Not another one!" a Board member complains when yet another resignation letter is received and presented for action. "This is the fourth one already this year!"

Sound familiar? Unfortunately, it is all too familiar in many clubs, that sinking feeling that another good Lion has decided not to stay in the club. Sure, there are perfectly good reasons why Lions leave: moving away, illnesses, job changes, even death, for instance. But sometimes we don't do much to help entice members to remain. We even encourage them to leave. The 2011 Lions Clubs International Study done by the IU Center on Philanthropy found that the main reason people join a Lions Club is to make a difference in their local community (93% of men, 89% of women). Unfortunately, we don't always help maintain their motivation, and members leave. How are we encouraging Lions to leave?

1. Conduct unproductive meetings. How often do we sit around and hash out obvious answers without coming to a conclusion, or appoint another committee? Lions leave the meeting feeling that nothing was accomplished, or that the two most powerful people in the club were competing again.
2. Underutilize the skills and interests of club members. A new Lion may join due to promises that the Club would follow up with his ideas, and nothing ever happens. Or worse, simply resisting the contributions or ideas of new members. Watch the YouTube video of a Lions Club pancake breakfast: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6jJiaeuE-Q>. Recognize your own club there?
3. Create an atmosphere of club politics. Pressing the Lion to join one of the factions in the club if they want to get anywhere with their ideas. If you aren't for me, you are against me. Sit on my side of the room. Don't talk to those people.
4. Don't provide any more information than necessary. Board members may need to know, but "ordinary" members don't need to know the details of what's happening in the club or district. They aren't part of the privileged few. Don't spend the money earned by sales efforts.
5. Create lots of rules for club members to follow. This allows tradition to rule, even though younger Lions may not be interested in tradition yet. And it gives lots of opportunities for Tail Twisters to fine unsuspecting members.
6. Keep with "the way we always do it." New members can't be trusted to make good pancake batter or sell tickets, but they can wash tables and dishes. Don't allow new members to take over jobs from older or infirm members. Make them observers while they gain seniority.
7. Allow Tail Twisters to get too personal or vicious. Tail Twisting should be fun, not punitive, offensive, or allowed to fine for personal infirmities. Keep it light, informative, and good for laughs.
8. Provide criticism instead of constructive feedback. It's always easier to be critical than grateful or constructive. But if you continually undercut or criticize the efforts of Lions members, why would they want to stay?

I can think of even more reasons and examples, and I know you can as well. Instead of business as usual, let's concentrate on keeping Lions rather than allowing them to exit from the back door almost as fast as they enter the front door. Let me know what's working for you.

Have a great holiday season.

PCC David Eisen  
Global Leadership Team

### Service To Others: The Ideal Gift At Christmas & All Year Long



As we approach the halfway point of this Lions year, the Lions of 25-G have done many wonderful projects in their communities. Let's all continue serving for the next half as well. There are many projects we can accomplish in our communities with limited funds. We can serve by building food baskets for those in need, supplying items or volunteering at local food pantries, or checking on our elderly neighbors, friends, or family members to ensure their safety as winter arrives.

Clubs are meeting in person or virtually to continue serving those in need. Everyone is commended for their efforts of keeping your clubs as active as possible during these trying times. All Lions Club members have the opportunity to help those in need, either as a group or individually. If a member volunteers in any capacity it is considered serving as a Lion and can be reported by your Club Secretary to LCI. But, it's up to each member to tell the Secretary about your service so it can be reported. Lions are doing many great things in your communities, but only your club members know what it is you're doing. We need to show our pride in our clubs by getting the word out about our projects. It might even help build club membership if people know what service we're doing in our communities.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season and stay safe. "WE SERVE"

Lion Al Beehler  
Global Service Team



### Eyeglass Recycling: Work Continues To Prepare for 2021 Mission



The 2020 eyeglass mission trip to Mexico was canceled due to the COVID-19 situation. More than 14,000 pairs of recycled eyeglasses were sent to the Lions in Huanimaro and Abasolo, Mexico and will be used by them at a later date. It is expected they will have a session sometime around May, if conditions are suitable. There will not be any Lions from Indiana participating at that time.

Work for the 2021 eyeglass mission is continuing, with the collection, sorting, washing, filing, and packaging of eyeglasses at the district's eyeglass processing center in Dunlap. Shortly, we will hold more ultrasound cleaning sessions, and volunteers will be needed. Each two-hour session requires five Lions. The district's eyeglass mission team leaders are starting to assemble a team to go to Mexico in late September through early October. Any Lion in the district who is interested in being on this team is encouraged to send their name and a short letter explaining their interest in the project to *PDG Marty Juel, 3204 Village Court, Goshen, IN 46528*. Potential participants need to be in good health and able to stand for prolonged periods during the daylong work sessions. The date being considered is September 25 through October 3, 2021. The mission will be held in Salamanca, Mexico in the state of Guanajuato.

PDG Marty Juel  
District Eyeglass Mission Team





# What's keeping you from this great offer?

Think about this - FOUR great seminars to help you and your club's officers (and even all your members!) improve their proficiency and knowledge of items of interest. **PLUS**, there is **NO travel** involved. You can attend one or all of these sessions from the comfort of your own home. **PLUS, PLUS**, you will have the greatest meals, since you'll do your own! **PLUS, PLUS, PLUS** there is **NO COST** to participate.

This year's Mid-Winter Conference will be a trailblazer on many fronts in Indiana Lions leadership history. Most significant will be the online format, being the first such leadership opportunity offered to Lions throughout the state.

Of course, there will be several items missing from the conference due the uncertainties of what restrictions the coronavirus might have by the January 23, 2021 date. Gone are the numerous displays by state projects, the silent auction, other Lion-sponsored programs and projects, as well as the opportunities for personal, one-on-one interactions among Lions and visitors to the MWC.

This year the conference will have four seminars, allowing all attendees to attend. Earlier this year, past MWC attendees were surveyed to help the organizing committee plan and schedule seminar topics that were identified as the most interesting and useful. The list was narrowed to four in an attempt to respond to the requests of nearly 100 previous MWC attendees.

The 2021 MWC will begin at 9:30 a.m. with an introduction by a special LCI guest. Seminars will be at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 2 p.m., with a one-hour break for lunch. The conference will conclude at 3:15 p.m., allowing all attendees to return home by, well of course, 3:15 p.m. There will be NO SNOW cancellations.

The four topics follow.

**Conducting and attending online meetings and seminars** - Lion Jennifer Drapalik, a seasoned organizer and moderator of several online meetings, including Zoom, the one that will be used to host this year's MWC, will de-myth the mysteries of setting up, hosting and handling other details in holding a successful online meeting.

**Everything you want to know about recruiting new Lions** - PDG Charles Short will moderate this panel discussion, featuring winning programs and tactics from successful club marketers, area specialists, and recruiters from around Indiana and the Great Lakes Region. Special guest Dave Wineman, LCI's North American Membership Initiative Regional Chair will be on the panel.

**The 'magic' of membership retention** - PCC Ross Drapalik will talk about the two most significant reasons Lions leave our organization: They are either 'pulled' away or we 'push' them away from our organization. His powerful presentation has received recognition from those groups where his seminar was given.

**Putting 'FUN' in FUNdraising** - Even with restrictions imposed on clubs by the Covid-19 pandemic, PDG Mary Jane Bodnar will moderate this discussion that will feature several innovative fundraising projects that have proven to be profitable as well as FUN. MWC participants are encouraged to share their experiences.

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Mentioned earlier was the 'no registration fee' feature of this year's MWC. Holding our conferences previously was extremely costly. Several years ago, we were forced to move our conferences from the school buildings in Plainfield, which severely restricted our ability to expand the conference and required travel from hotel facilities to the conference location. Few hotels matched our needs in terms of meeting rooms, banquet areas and affordable overnight accommodations. In addition, hotels required our use of their food service. The MWC had to highly subsidize previous conferences to bring the cost to their previous registration fees. This year's MWC virtual conference eliminates all these associated costs and will allow the first NO FEE conference of its type in Indiana Lions history.

Even with no fees required, ALL MWC ATTENDEES must pre-register for the conference, so the committee can ensure there is enough capacity in the Zoom meeting to accommodate those who want to attend. An online registration form is available at <https://bit.ly/in-lions-mwc-2021-reg>. Facebook posts on the MWC page, <https://www.facebook.com/IndianaLionsMidWinterConference>, will also have links to the registration form. All Lions who register will receive additional information about how to login to the MWC, including the password required. For those who need additional information about how to participate in a Zoom meeting format, a FAQ sheet will be available. The MWC Zoom meeting is available to Lions via either a computer, a tablet or smartphone with an internet connection, or through a regular telephone.

Black tie or pajamas, the choice is yours! But the decision to attend the virtual MWC requires registration. Make your decision and complete your online registration NOW.

**2021 Indiana Distinguished Lion Award  
The Indiana Lions Foundation, Inc.**

Nominations must be in by JANUARY 31, 2021.

Apply online through the website:  
<http://IndianaLionsFoundationMD25.org/>

Or mail completed applications to:

PDG Don Cooper  
1922 Kelley's Landing  
Fort Wayne, IN 46825

Phone: 260-615-5350

Please complete all information on the application form before submitting.





## PROJECT IDEAS DIABETES

### LEARN

- Work with a healthcare professional to organize an educational talk about diabetes, pre-diabetes, prevention and management at your club or district meeting.
- Facilitate a discussion about diabetes to encourage club members to share their personal connections to the disease.
- Visit/explore the website of your national diabetes association and other organizations to learn more about diabetes.
- Share a low glycemic index snack at your club meeting and ask a nutritionist or diabetes educator to teach club members and their families about interpreting food labels.
- Sign-up for MyLION and learn how Lions and Leos are getting involved in diabetes service.
- Download an app that educates and encourages healthy lifestyle choices. Invite club members to participate in a healthy lifestyles related challenge.

### ACT // BEGINNER

- Donate a diabetes magazine subscription or diabetes-related books to your local library.
- Invite a role model with diabetes to a local school to talk about healthy lifestyle choices.
- Sponsor a child to attend a diabetes camp and/or supply a camp with needed supplies.
- Post monthly notices on your club or district website and social media accounts, sharing available community resources for people with or at risk of diabetes.
- Write about healthy lifestyle choices in your community or school newspaper.
- Organize a Strides: Lions for Diabetes Awareness event in your community.
- Develop a list of patient resources and services and distribute them to Lions and the public.

### ACT // INTERMEDIATE

- Partner with healthcare professionals to organize a screening for diabetes, diabetic retinopathy and diabetic foot.
- Promote diabetes prevention through social media campaigns or radio announcements.
- Volunteer for a day at a diabetes camp. Visit [www.diabetescamps.org](http://www.diabetescamps.org) to find a camp near you.
- Sponsor a healthy cooking demonstration for people with diabetes and pre-diabetes.
- Organize a weekly walking club at your place of work and share a healthy snack afterwards.
- Bring fresh fruits or vegetables to an elementary school classroom to encourage children to try a variety of healthy foods.
- Collaborate with a healthcare professional to organize a physical activity and promote exercise.
- Donate needed exercise equipment to a community center or school.

### ACT // ADVANCED

- Organize a community support group for people diagnosed with diabetes and their families.
- Work with a healthcare professional to organize a mentorship program, pairing a younger person with diabetes with an older mentor.
- Organize a school or community vegetable garden to encourage healthy eating.
- Establish a fitness room or ongoing fitness class at a community center or school.
- Sponsor a training program for community healthcare workers to learn about screening, community support programs and prevention of diabetes complications.



### Madison Township Lions Club Provides Thanksgiving Dinners

The Madison Township Lions Club, in conjunction with our Township Volunteer Fire Department, donated supplies for Thanksgiving dinner to 11 area families. Each box included a turkey, all the fixings, and dessert. We hope all the recipients had a great Thanksgiving. We also made monetary donations to five local charities: Reins of Life, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Michiana, Center for the Homeless, Hope Ministries, and the Food Bank of Northern Indiana. All donations were made possible from funds raised by our Club's Pork Chop Sales.



Lion Al Beehler  
Madison Township Lions Club

### Elkhart Lions Club Assists Church Community Services Food Pantry



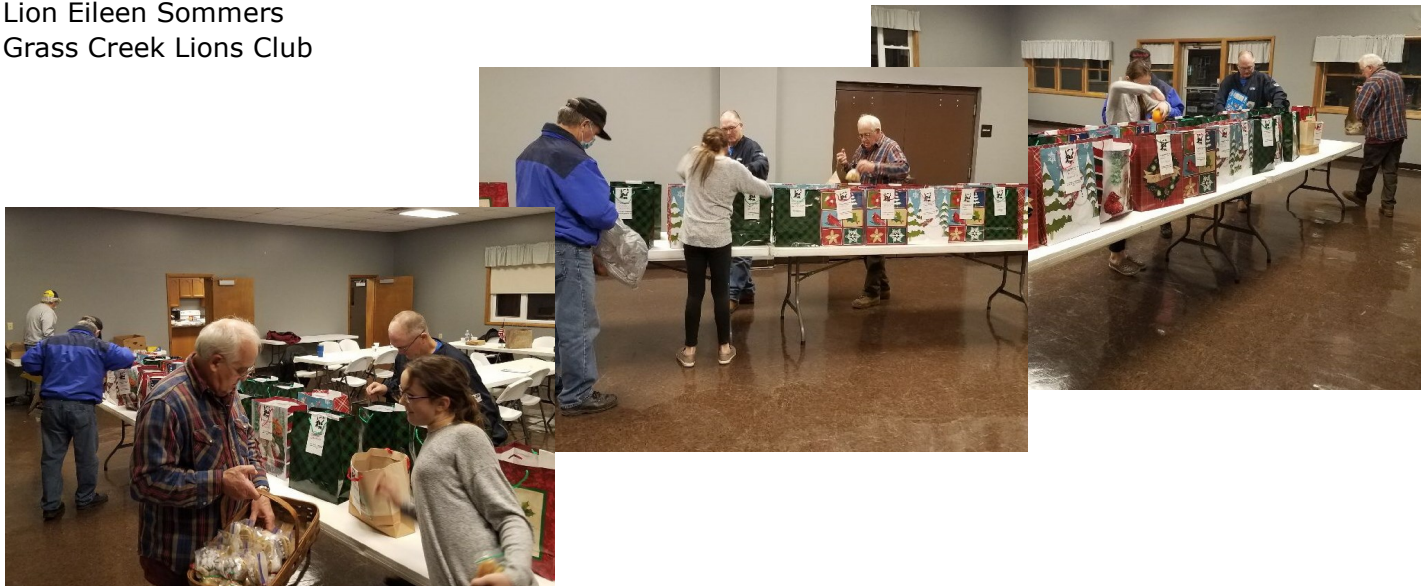
Lions from the Elkhart Lions Club have been working Tuesdays at the Church Community Services (CCS) doing 'hands-on' service. The CCS needs volunteers to help package food items that will be distributed through its food pantry. Shown here are (L-R) Lion Larry Morr, Lion Karen Terlap, Lid Morr, and Lion Terry Vantine. They are packaging cookies in bags for distribution. Each person receiving food will receive four packages of the cookies. Other jobs done by Lions volunteers included packing eggs into egg containers; dispensing bulk dish detergent into smaller plastic bottles and packaging other food as needed. The work sessions last from 12 Noon to 3 p.m.

PDG Marty Juel  
Elkhart Lions Club

### Grass Creek Lions Club Packs Christmas Baskets

The Grass Creek Lions Club prepared Christmas baskets to be distributed to the elderly, widows, and widowers in Wayne Township. The baskets will be delivered before Christmas. This is an annual project.

Lion Eileen Sommers  
Grass Creek Lions Club



## Lions Clubs Join Forces For Fund-Raising Effort

Customer pickup for the Mishawaka Lions Club's annual fruit and candy sale was held at Zolman Tire in Mishawaka, Thursday through Saturday, December 10-12. The Clay-Granger Lions Club, Lydick Lions Club, and South Bend Lions Club participated in this fund-raising event. In between customers, members of the Mishawaka Lions Club honed their multi-tasking skills by preparing Christmas cards to be given to residents of area nursing homes.



Top left: Lions Trellis Porter, Colleen Hesch, Laurine Ringer, and David Straughn assemble orders.



Top right: Lion Laurine Ringer prepares Christmas cards for the Nursing Home Project.



Center left: Lions David Straughn, Colleen Hesch, and John Hesch assemble a large order for customer pickup.

Lower left: Fruit ready for pickup.



Lower right: PCC David Eisen prepares Christmas cards for Nursing Home Project.



## Rochester Lions Club Christmas Projects

Rochester Lions Club members will help "Ring the Bell" for the Salvation Army at our local Kroger store in December. The Club has also contributed to the United Ministries Christmas Basket Project, which will provide food and toys to 155 families in Fulton County. Members who have trucks will help deliver the goodies. Christmas blessings to you and your family.

Lion Phil McCarter  
Rochester Lions Club

# January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 New Year's Day	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 Mid-Winter Conference
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

# February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 District Meeting
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						



## District Officers

### District Governor

Lion Brian Thomas  
914 Strong Avenue  
Elkhart, IN 46514-2547  
574-596-7411  
brian10k@aol.com

### 1st Vice District Governor

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## District Global Action Team

### Global Leadership Team (GLT)

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### Global Membership Team (GMT)

Vacant

### Global Service Team (GST)

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## Do you need help with MyLion?

If you have questions about using MyLion to submit reports for your club, we have several Lions who can help you learn the process. If you need help, please contact any of the following individuals:

PDG Mary Klempay  
H: 574-243-8046  
C: 574-286-4499  
maryrsb@comcast.net

PDG Ann Haffner  
H: 574-457-3054  
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Lion Alan Beehler, GST  
H: 574-633-4914  
C: 574-707-2937  
mtlcsecabee@aol.com

## Mark Your Calendar

January 23: Indiana Lions Mid-Winter Conference  
Virtual conference presented via Zoom

February 13: District Meeting  
Hosted by Laketon Lions Club

March 12: District Convention Evening Dinner  
Christo's Banquet Center, Plymouth

March 13: District Convention  
Argos United Methodist Church, Argos

April 30 - May 2: State Convention  
Wyndham Hotel, Indianapolis

May 8: District Meeting  
Hosted by Baugo Township Lions Club

